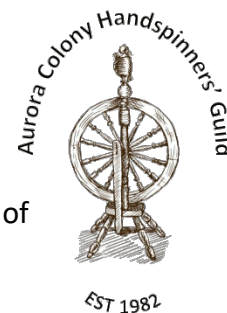


Aurora Colony Handweavers Guild Report

<https://auroracolonyhandspinners.com/>

WeGo Report for the period April 2025 to October 2025



Mission: The Aurora Colony Handspinners strives to be a welcoming venue for all who attend and participate in our guild and its events. Our mission is to promote awareness of the art and craft of hand spinning in the community at large, and to give spinners an opportunity to share, learn, educate and study. We will accomplish this mission with a caring attitude, and we expect and encourage everyone to be kind and respectful in their intentions with each other.

Meetings: The guild meets monthly on the 4th Thursday except for June, July, November and December. Guild meetings are held at the Canby United Methodist Church, 1520 N Holly St in Canby, OR. Meetings run from 7pm to 9pm, with a business meeting generally preceding a guest speaker or other activity. The space is open at 6:30 for spinning and socializing.

Library: The guild maintains a lending library for members.

Guild Activities:

General:

Our meeting location, the Canby United Methodist Church, has been sold to the City of Canby to be used as a Community Center. Fortunately, they are supportive of our guild continuing to meet there and continue to store our library as well. We've built up a nice library over the years and members use it frequently.

Membership Meetings

April - Casey Newman, a natural dye and fiber artist, shared her dye work and the ways it reflects the intersection of art and nature. Casey lives on a small farm where she raises Shetland sheep, and Angora rabbits and grows and gathers many of the natural dyes she uses. She gave us valuable tips for spotting dye plants in our neighborhoods and what plants can be grown in our gardens.

May - Fiber Challenge reveal. The annual guild Fiber Challenge reveal was May 22nd. This year the focus is reusing and recycling. Rather than offering bags of fiber, we asked you to dig deep into your stash for all the leftover bits and unused scraps, and unusual fibers.

Everyone was so creative! We had 13 entries and several more people who gave it a go but didn't enter their results. Meeting attendees voted and here are the members' choice award winners for various categories:

- **Crochet** - Rachael Grow spun her yarn from scraps of several other projects and crocheted an Emotional Support Chicken from Annette Corsino's popular pattern. [Crochet version](#) [Knit version](#)
- **Felting** - Joy Haynes is a felter who, after many projects, had plenty of scrap fiber. She made an interactive felt sculpture that could be taken apart and put back together in different ways to get different shapes and looks. Very creative!
- **Knitting** - Trish Anderson spun up a combination of a surprisingly expensive braid, border collie undercoat, and a bit of stash fiber and then knitted a small but beautiful shawl. She barely finished in time for the meeting!
- **Skein** - There were quite a few entries in the skein category. Diane McKinnon narrowly beat out the other entries with her 'personal product packaging material' skein. It came in small sheets, so she cut it up in strips, spun the strips and made a two-ply yarn. She has not yet decided what the yarn will become.
- **Misc.** - Cydne Pigeon used bits and bobs of a variety of stash fibers to spin small amounts of yarn in various colors. She knitted Algernon the Lab Rat from the [pattern by Emily Stoneking](#).
- **Weaving** – We did not have an entry for the weaving category this year.

June – There was no meeting in June due to the ANWG conference and Black Sheep Gathering. Many members were either vending or attending either or both events.

July – There is usually not a meeting in July, however this year, Suzanne Campbell, one of our members, hosted a potluck and spin-in at her home in Sherwood. We even got to see some alpaca babies!

August – Instead of a presentation there was a Fiber de-stash social and spin-in.

September – Elections were held to vote in our new slate of officers. Diane McKinnon gave a presentation on fiber identification. We learned how to tell plant fibers and protein fibers with a burn test. Part of the presentation included good safety practices.

Special Interest Groups

Dye Day – We have changed our annual Dye Day to an ongoing Dye Study Group format. The annual Dye Day was held outdoors in July and has been getting increasingly uncomfortable, with fewer attendees. Trish Anderson, a member, has offered her dye studio as a location for learning. We have had two dye events so far with very enthusiastic participation.

Sheep to Shawl - The sheep to Shawl Team is going strong this year. They've had a full schedule of 14 events this year. Black Sheep Gathering was a great highlight. There were two teams from Aurora guild competing at Black Sheep this year. There were five teams, our two plus a California team and 2 Washington teams. Our group won first and third place. This is always a fun and interesting event for the public to watch us create a beautiful shawl in only five hours.



- Antique Spinning wheel Showcase demo in March, 2 days
- Gathering of the Guilds demo in April, 1 day
- Willamette Heritage Center demo in May, 1 day
- Fat Lamb Fiber Festival (Scio, OR) demo in May, 2 days
- Multnomah County Fair competition in May, 1 day
- Lady Hill Winery demo at the sheepdog trials, June 14, 1 day
- Black Sheep Gathering competition, June 28, 1 day
- Hood River County Fair demo, July 26, 1 day
- Clatsop County Fair demo, August 1st & 2nd, 2 days
- Polk County Fair demo, August 9, 1 day
- Clackamas County Fair demo, August 15, 1 day
- Oregon State Fair demo, August 23rd & 26th, 2 days
- Eastern Washington Fair competition, September 13, 1 day
- Oregon Flock & Fiber Festival demo, October 18th, 1 day



Knitting/Spinning Study Group – Over the summer, the knitting study group met at members homes, gardens and studios, and even a winery!

Events

Fiber Faire – We held our annual Fiber Faire at the beginning of April. It was a challenging year. Picking a date that didn't coincide with other fiber events proved difficult. Vendors did not do as well as we'd

hoped, attendance wasn't where it needed to be, and it was difficult to get enough volunteers. We have made the decision not to sponsor a Fiber Fair in 2026. It was originally started as a way for members to have a place to sell their wool. At the time, there weren't many places to sell wool. In 2025, there are many fiber fairs, sales and events, as well as opportunities online. It may come back if there is enough interest.

Guild Promotion -

We have had a presence at many fairs and events. The Sheep to Shawl team has flyers and information at their events, and we have had booths at both Black Sheep Gathering and Oregon Flock and Fiber Festival (OFFF). We sell raffle tickets for an antique spinning wheel and promote our guild and the Fall Workshops, coming up in November. We try to have our Fall Workshops after OFFF so that attendees have an opportunity to take our Beginner Spinning class.