

Guild Activity Report  
Guild: Aurora Colony Handspinner's Guild  
Representative: Carrie Rohn  
From: April 2018 to September 2018

### **MONTHLY MEETINGS:**

**April** - We didn't have a meeting because our facility was unavailable.

**May** – There wasn't a speaker so we had more time to spin and chat.

**June**- Galina Khmeleva gave a talk about how she became interested in the lacework of Orenburg knitters and the spinning techniques used to make the gossamer yarns used in their hallmark shawls.

**July** – No meeting was held.

**August** – Shannon Welch from Pacific Northwest Cascade Fibershed spoke about regenerating the flax industry around a fiber processing facility in Oregon. She was a clothing designer but became disillusioned with the current state of the apparel industry. Upon learning that synthetic fibers don't decompose at all and we currently buy five times more clothing than we did in 1980, natural fibers seemed the way to go.

**September** – Jane McDonald gave a funny talk explaining, teaching and proselytizing about entering fairs! Her strategizing begins a year ahead, when she starts to plan projects for the following season. She pointed out you don't have to be a resident for most county fairs. Counties and State all have differing rules, so read the entire program. She gave lots of tips, shared some of her winners and losers, and how the process has challenged her to be a better maker and maybe even a bit competitive. She lost a couple big ones to her nemesis, but Gladys better look out, because Jane's already planning for 2019.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS:**

**Fiber Fair** - This annual April event combines an open-to-the-public spin-in with vendors, a beginning spinning class, craft demos and presentations, door prizes and a couple of spectacular raffle baskets.

**Spin-In, Tea, and Potluck** - Our annual tea was held in April at the Butteville Store and was attended by around 50 people wearing hats sporting this year's theme, lady bugs. It was just a day of visiting with someone you hadn't met before, spinning and good food.

**Picnic and Dye Day** – A full day of spinning and dyeing in July was held at the Aurora Colony Museum with several talks about dyeing techniques. People, vats and drying racks filled the courtyard.

**Orenburg Lace Workshops** - In June the guild hosted Galina Khmeleva and she taught five classes over 3 days. The classes were Spinning the Orenburg Way (on a supported spindle), Plying Orenburg Style, The Fundamentals of Orenburg Knitted Lace, Dimensional Stitches Russian/Estonian Style and The Perfect Edge-Knitted Lace Embellishments. 24 students took 84 classes.

**October Workshops** - The all day class was Beginning Spinning. The Half day classes were Steps to Spinning with a Turkish Spindle, Dyeing around the Color wheel, Navajo Spindle, Spinning 201 (how to get more from your wheel), Felted Soap and Using the Blending Board. There was a spin-in, potluck and vendors tables.