

Exciting News, Spinners!!

Workshop Opportunity!!

We have a few openings left in a workshop with Amy Tyler of Stone Sock Fibers which is scheduled for April 26-27, 2025 at the Solon Public Library. She will be giving us four three-hour classes as follows:

Saturday will include Variations on Long Draw and Variations on Short Draw (see descriptions on back). For both workshops:

Participants to Bring: hand cards, hand combs, spinning wheel (or e-spinner) in good working order, 3 bobbins, lazy kate.

Instructor to Provide: samples for examination; fibers for carding, combing, and spinning; notebook with handouts, sundry supplies.

Sunday will include Plying Balanced Yarns and Plying for Texture (see descriptions on back). For both workshops:

Participants to Bring: spinning wheel (or e-spinner) in good working order, 2 bobbins filled with Z-spun singles (they should be about the same thickness and twist, but of different colors), plus 1 empty bobbin, lazy kate.

Instructor to Provide: samples for examination, fibers for spinning, notebook with handouts, sundry supplies.

Cost for the workshop is \$250, which includes lunch both days and materials fees.

I am really looking forward to this workshop to polish up my skills. Please email me if you would like to join us.

Terry Jones, Spinners' Chair, Iowa City Area Craft Guild, jonesterry4@gmail.com

Final note: If you would like to participate in this workshop please note that we are to arrive with two bobbins filled with Z-spun singles (in two different colors), so you might want to get started now to alleviate any last-minute scrambling.

Variations on Long Draw (3hr)

"Long draw" spinning techniques are often used to create "woolen" yarns -- yarns that are airy, lofty, soft and warm" We will cover three variations of long draw using commercially-prepared rovings, drum carded batts, and hand carded rolags. We will create samples of thick, lopi-style singles yarns, as well as thinner, plied woolen yarns. In the process we will discuss the types of fiber that work best for different long draw techniques, how to create a hand carded rolag, and how best to use woolen yarns.

Variations on Short Draw (3hr)

"Short draw" spinning techniques are typically used to create "worsted" yarns which are smooth and strong. In addition to covering variations on this spinning technique, we will cover influences of fiber types and fiber preparations on the worsted nature of yarns. We will focus mostly on combed fibers, and we will cover techniques for hand combing wool. Finally we will cover advantageous uses of yarns that have been spun with short draw.

Plying Balanced Yarns (3hr)

Consistent and even plying is as important to a high-quality, hand-spun yarns as is the spinning of singles. Matching the twist in plying to the twist in the spun singles is the key. In this workshop, we will cover issues related to controlling tension on the singles while plying and the amount of twist in both spinning and plying. We will practice techniques for plying from one source (Andean plying, Navajo plying), and from two or more sources.

Plying for Texture (3hr)

In this workshop, we will practice making textured yarns by manipulating the way we ply singles together. We will spin snarl yarns, cabled yarns, two kinds of knot yarns, and two kinds of spiral yarns. These are all yarns that can be created with "ordinary" Z-spun singles. Along the way, we will discuss how to create a smooth, balanced two-ply yarn.