

Spinning? People *still* do that?

With the recent resurgence of fiber arts, more and more individuals have learned the art of spinning. Whether it be to gain a better appreciation for the yarns we use, a desire for a more custom product than can be found in store-bought yarns, or simply just because we find it enjoyable, handspinning has become a part of our daily routine.

Due to the increased popularity in the last few years, more resources than ever before are available to beginning and experienced handspinners. Books, magazines, entire websites and forums are all dedicated to the art of spinning—but nothing quite replaces the advantage of face-to-face meetings with other members, all of whom understand and share your interest.

Informal, but informative

We're all spinners, or at least interested in the fiber art of spinning. We're also weavers, felters, knitters, dyers, crocheters, or simply just enjoy creating yarn for its own sake.

Illinois Prairie Spinners was first organized in the fall of 1982 by several members of the Joliet Weavers Guild (now known as the Illinois Prairie Weavers). Our monthly meetings may have a theme or workshop, or may just be a spin-in, perfect opportunities for members to share techniques or seek assistance with problems. Past workshops have been held with renowned artists in the handspinning community, including Patsy Zawistoski, Sara von Tresckow and Carol Huebscher Rhodes.

Meetings

Most meetings are held at the historic Warren Tavern (35540 Second Street, Warrenville, IL 60555). Occasionally, meetings are held at members' homes, but still in the general suburban Chicagoland area. We meet nine times a year, typically on the fourth Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. We typically do not hold meetings in either December or July.

Membership

Membership is open to anyone interested in the art of spinning. Dues are \$15.00, paid annually. We welcome new members to attend a meeting before joining.

With membership comes the advantages of our newsletter (via regular mail or email) and use of our guild library.

Contacting the guild

For further information, see our website:

<http://ips.chicagolandspins.org>

or email Jane Paula Plass at:
ipsinfo@chicagolandspins.org
or via postal mail:
2N181 Addison Rd., Villa Park, IL 60181

Newsletter samples are also available on request by emailing Jane at the above address.

In addition, we also have a Google Group that members utilize to stay in touch or organize meeting details. Further information on joining the message group is given upon membership.

Resources

Can't wait for the next meeting and want to learn more now? Beginning spinners are at a wonderful advantage today, with plenty of excellent information right at their fingertips:

www.spinoffmagazine.com

Spin-Off is the spinning magazine, published quarterly. Various sections include forums, free patterns, articles and videos. Don't miss the how-to's listed under Free Resources for instructions on building your own spindle with inexpensive materials and numerous introductory level articles to get you spinning in no time!

www.joyofhandspinning.com

A website devoted to numerous aspects of the fiber art of spinning — learn not only how to spin, but different fibers, techniques and preparation methods. While the videos presented are small by today's standards, they still pack a lot of information.

And speaking of videos, make sure to visit **www.youtube.com** for informative video tutorials.

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Other Northern Illinois Guilds

Moonspinners Spinning & Weaving Guild

Contact: Nancy Jones
P.O. Box 5
Cedarville, IL 61013

Chicago Flockettes

Contact: Virginia Czebotar
2216 S. 23rd Ave.
Broadview, IL 60155-3817
vjcebotar@aol.com

Heritage Corridor Spinners

Will and DuPage Counties
Contact: Janice Petrukovich
Janicepet@aol.com

Esther's Place Fiber Arts Guild

Contact: Natasha Lehrer
P.O. Box 185
Big Rock, IL 60511
info@esthersplacefibers.com
Phone: 630-556-9665

Hollow Tree Spinners

McHenry County
Contact: Toni Neil
3316 Millstream Rd.
Marengo, IL 60152-9494
thefold@mc.net
Phone: 815-568-5730

West Suburban Chicagoland



Spinning Guild