

# WEBS Spring Training for Spinners

March 12, 2017

10 am – 4 pm

## Training Clinic Descriptions

### **Spinning from a Woolen Prep** 10am – 12pm Instructor: Pamela Darrow

Learn to prepare your fiber into rolags for creating a woolen spun yarn.

Students should bring their wheels and hand cards if they have them. The instructor will provide fiber for \$10. per student.

### **Beyond Your Default Yarn** 10am – 12pm Instructor: Deanna Moore

So it happens to most of us. Once we have mastered the basics of spinning a good worsted or semi-worsted yarn, we fall into spinning a default yarn. Spinners often lament that they find it hard to spin consistently outside of this default. It's part of our human nature to have a rhythm to our movements and it's challenging to change that inherent rhythm. So instead of treadling faster or drafting faster than we do for our default yarn, it's easier to change the setup of your wheel. I'll be teaching an exercise in using the setup of your wheel to help you spin anything from thread to bulky yarn without having to worry about whether you are treadling fast or slow enough consistently throughout your project.

For advanced beginning spinners who can spin a worsted or semi-worsted single. This is not the ideal class for an electric spinner, though some of the general concepts will apply.

Materials: bring 4-6 oz of combed commercial top- merino or BFL are good options  
Wheel in good working order, with any additional whorls you may have.

### **Corespinning with wheel and spindle** 10am – 12 pm Instructor: Ashley Flagg

Learning to corespin can be tricky and using a spindle to hold the core yarn is an amazing technique to eliminate overspinning so your finished yarns are balanced and beautiful!

Materials: spinning wheel, spindle; hand-dyed locks and practice fiber will be provided for a \$4 materials fee.

### **Make dyed braids and batts work for you!** 10am – 12 pm Instructor: Sara Delaney

In this two part workshop you will learn basic fractal spinning techniques, and how to hand card for a gradient yarn. In the first hour you will learn how to divide your fiber for 2, 3 or 4 ply yarns with simple processes, based in abstract mathematical theories, to create seemingly complex striping patterns. In the second hour you will learn how to break down your fiber into single color components and prepare these with hand cards to spin a gradient single. No spinning instruction will take place in this class.

Materials: 1 fiber braid or batt with clear contrasting colors or a selection of fibers in contrasting colors, hand carders, multiple bobbins (at least 3), lazy kate for plying, note taking supplies.

## **Handcombing 101** 2 – 4 pm Instructor: Liz Pease

We hear the terms 'Worsted' and 'woolen' in regards to fiber preparation, but what's the difference you ask? We will answer that and more in this informal class on the history of handcombing and how it is used in preparing fiber for worsted spinning (as opposed to woolen). I will be demonstrating combing using English 5 pitch combs, with emphasis on proper techniques and SAFETY, and an English Longwool breed (for which this style of tool was developed for). Combs are a niche specific and specialized tool, you aren't required to have a set, but if you do, please bring them.

Materials: Please bring a wheel or spindle to the workshop. Fiber packs (containing lock, combed sliver and 'planked' sliver for spinners to spin with and see how this type of prep differs from top and batts that are commercially prepared) will be available to purchase for \$12.

## **Blending Board and Spinning from Rolags** 2 – 4pm Instructor: Pamela Darrow

A great tool for blending unlike fibers into beautiful rolags to spin one of a kind yarn. The instructor will demonstrate blending techniques for several preparations to spin.

Materials: Students should bring their wheels. Instructor will provide the rolags for spinning.

## **Plying for Texture and Strength** 2 – 4 pm Instructor: Ashley Flagg

2 plies? 6? Navajo plying? We will explore what happens to the yarn and how to achieve the best ply structure for your project.

Materials: notebook and pen for taking notes, lecture style class.

## **Spinning Tips and Tricks** 2 – 4 pm Instructor: Deanna Moore

This class will cover tips and tricks to improve your spinning and help you produce the best yarn you can. I will teach you techniques that really make a difference in the quality of your end product. The class will address topics like organizing and planning your spinning to obtain a more consistent yarn when working on larger projects, rewinding singles before plying, setting up your lazy kate for optimum plying, changing your string drive band, general wheel maintenance, and more. Bring your questions and any general spinning and wheel maintenance issues you have and we can troubleshoot. This class will help you understand not just the how-to aspects of spinning, but also why they matter and how they affect your final yarn.

Materials: bring a wheel in good working order, a lazy kate, a niddy noddy if you have one, and any whorls and extra bobbins you have. Please also bring 4-6 oz of prepared fiber such as roving and combed top. Good options for fiber would be Blue-faced Leicester, Polwarth, Merino, or the space-dyed preparations that can be purchased from WEBS.