



NEWSLETTER SPRING 2010

Our annual meeting was held January 17, 2010. The amended by-laws were approved by the members attending the annual meeting. We had pretty good attendance and sure missed those of you that couldn't make it to the meeting. We had several fun door prizes that were drawn and given out to members' before they left. Kathy McClure brought some beautiful narcissus and purple crocus to liven up the tables. They were drawn and given as door prizes too! Thanks Kathy!

Retail Outlets

In addition to Esther's Place located in Big Rock, IL. <http://www.esthersplacefibers.com/>. We are branching out to another retail outlet. It is called The Fold located in Marengo, IL. Her website is <http://www.thefoldatmc.net/>. Jane Zeien is the sale representative for The Fold. To have your fiber displayed and sold in the store you need to make arrangements with Jane to get your product to her to take to The Fold. Jane's phone number is 815-544-9582. We are excited to offer you another outlet to sell your product.

As a board, we have decided to have sales representatives to work with the retail stores as liaisons between the members and the stores. Jane Zeien is the Sales Representative for The Fold. Her phone number is 815-544-9582. Julie Barr and Alda Behm are the Sales Representatives for Esther's Place. Julie's phone number is 815-758-5414 and Alda Behm's phone number is 815-496-9583. Please contact them if you have fiber ready to go to Esther's Place. We are trying to make things easier for the store owner's plus keep track of inventory going in and out. This doesn't mean you shouldn't go visit the stores or check on the status of your inventory at the stores. We encourage you to be as active in the process as possible.

We welcome any comments from you as we move forward with this new way of handling the product. Please let us know how it is working for you so that we can continue to improve upon our relationships with you the producer members and the retail store owner's.

Show Season

We have shows coming up soon. Please make a note of these dates and if any of you can help at any show please call one of the board members and we can give you the details. We would love to have you participate!

Up Coming Shows

2010 Show Schedule

Show Coordinator

June 19, 20 Cantigny Fine Art Festival www.cantigny.org/ Deb Rock

July 16-18 Midwest Fiber Festival www.fiberandfolk.com/ Sandy Schrader, Jane Zeien,

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| July 31, Aug 1 | The Chaplin Creek Fiber Fair | http://www.chaplincreek.com/fiberfair.html | |
| Sept. 10-12 | Wisconsin Fiber Festival | www.wisconsinssheepandwoolfestival.com | Steve Riddle, Jane Zeien, Connie Gustafson |
| Sept. 18 | Fiber in the Park (Earlville) | www.fiberinthepark.com | Julie Barr |
| October 16 | Bishop Hill Fiber Show | www.bishophillfiberguild.org | Connie Gustafson |

We have been to several shows this Spring and all have been quite successful! We have increased our member's sales. In many cases we have doubled the amount from the year before. This is exciting for all of us. We are getting our fibers out there and people are buying them.

Connie Gustafson and Julie Barr attended The Fiber Event in Greencastle, Indiana. The weather was much better than last year—it was warm!!! We talked with many people about the co-op. They were asking questions about how it works and if they can join. We had repeat customers from last year that came back and showed us what they had made with the fiber they bought. It was quite fun! We met a lot of interesting people and some other sheep and fiber producers. It was fun to swap information and learn how others work with their fiber.

Judy Maierhofer, Jane Zeien, Connie Gustafson, Steve Riddle, Suzy Beggin, Kathy McClure and more attended the Stephenson Co Fiber Arts Fair. We helped do a felted soap demonstration that went really well. We had a booth in the back by the demos and so we didn't sell a lot of product but it was a way to get into the fair so next year should be much better.

Garfield Farms was a big success! We sold over \$300 worth of product for the member's in just 4 hours.

Kline Creek had lots of visitors and there were hands on education for the public with different producer fibers, information on the different fiber animals. It was successful.

Illinois Green Pastures Fiber Co-op was in the Chicago Tribune! Here is a link to the article.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/ct-x-w-0514-fiber-co-op-20100514,0,5324378.story>

This was a nice article and gave us good coverage. We received some inquires from the article. It was brought up by customers at Garfield Farms and Garden Day. Consumers are looking for locally produced fibers to spin, knit, and use. This should encourage all of us to market our products!

If you are in need of tags, please contact Connie Gustafson to let her know how many tags you need. We are sending out the number that has been used each month with the checks.

Membership Involvement

We are looking for help at various shows that are listed above. You can come help work the booth, set up/tear down, demonstrations—knitting, felting, crocheting, spinning etc., or we need help with committee work, we always need people willing to serve on the board. January will come up soon and there will be opportunity to

serve on the board of directors. If you are interested please call or email Steve Riddle, president, to let him know. His phone number 618-447-3276 or email address roldfarm@madisontelco.com.

If you have any comments or questions please feel free to email them back! Thanks. Have a great day.

Julie Barr

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