

Algonquin Mill Spinners and Weavers,
and Great Lakes Wool Show
Judges School For Hand Spinning Fleece

This program is specifically designed for those who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the hand spinning fleece. This experience would be appropriate for those wishing to judge a wool show or for those who want to develop a better understanding of wool fibers and fleece for the hand work crafts be it spinning, weaving, needle felting or other fiber arts.

Sponsors –

This school is co-sponsored by the Algonquin Mill Spinners and Weavers Guild (<https://www.facebook.com/AlgonquinSpinnersandWeavers/>) based at the Algonquin Mill Complex in Carrollton, Ohio and is a part of the Carroll County Historical Society (<http://carrollcountyhistoricalsociety.com/>). The guild has over 60 members engaged in almost all aspects of the fiber arts.

The school is also co-sponsored by the Great Lakes Fiber Show (<https://greatlakesfibershow.com/>) which is part of the Great Lakes Fiber Festival held at the Wayne County Fair Grounds in Wooster, Ohio on Saturday and Sunday of the Memorial Day Weekend.

History-

The school was developed to fill a need for highly trained judges who are specifically qualified to judge hand spinning fleece regardless of breed. While these judges are trained in the fine points of spinning fiber, they are also trained in the skirting, washing and processing fleece, spinning the fiber and using the fiber either by knitting, crocheting, weaving or other fiber art. We believe part of the value of a hand spinning fleece is the ease of processing.

The original development team consisted of Dave Lewis – head instructor, Diane Schrader – assistant instructor and in charge of the Great Lakes Wool Show, Kate McMahon, spinning and weaving instructor and Connie King – Leader of the Great Lakes Fiber Show. All of these people have years of experience processing fleece by hand and are accomplished spinners.

The first class consisted entirely of members of the Algonquin Mill Spinners and Weavers Guild. Their instruction lasted for 5 months starting in January of 2018. The curriculum can be found elsewhere on this site.

The Future -

The school for 2019 will include members of the Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild (<https://medinaspinweave.wordpress.com/>). That class will run from January to May with their final judging experience being at the 2019 Great Lakes Wool Show.

The plan is to open the school to the public in 2020. Part of the instruction and student experiences will be in an online format with some final instruction and experiences at the 2020 Great Lakes Fiber Festival. At that time, the school will be open to anyone who would wish to gain an in depth hands on experience with sheep's wool either to judge fleece shows or just to improve their personal skills.