

ALICE & CLYDE MARTIN

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #2 - June 1976
Edited by Jean Warholie

Hope you all have your gardens in by now and are ready for all the summer's activities! As you can see from the list of BSHG programs and forthcoming events (enclosed in this bundle), there is a LOT coming up!!

First of all, there is a change in the June 14th program. Monday's program will begin promptly (be on time!) with a talk by Mrs. Ruth Davis, Director of the Expressive Arts Center, also housed at the Tin Can. It should be an interesting session -- she is in charge of arts in the schools among other things -- and she will also discuss a bill before the New York State Legislature dealing with a controversial subject near and dear to our hearts, licensing of craftsmen in the State. In addition, we will not be having the "Market What You Make" program (that has been postponed to a future date to be announced), but it will be *Demonstrating Techniques*. Due to the increasing number of new spinners (and others) demonstrating this summer and being faced with some unexpected situations and questions, the Executive Officers decided that it would be more timely and worthwhile at this point to have this particular program. We hope that the more experienced members of the Guild will think about specific points they would like to make and perhaps be able to generally describe how they like to demonstrate (and how they don't like to demonstrate under some circumstances), and that the beginners be thinking about the problems they have run into (you've got your best carders and prime wool and 30 second-graders want to "help you"), questions you've been asked and the answers you would have liked to have given. ASK and TALK, and learn from this! And bring your wheels, whatever they may be -- this part of the program will also be a good time to try spinning on some different wheels, as well as your own. And the demonstrating techniques discussed will be for the weavers and dyers too, not just spinners!

Secondly, the new members should have received all the recent handout material, but the more seasoned members might not have. There are some seven important Guild handouts you should have and if you don't, they will be available at the June meeting from Karey Solomon or myself (or let us know and we'll make sure they get to you). These are: 1976 BSHG Membership List; BSHG Constitution; "Dye Plants That Can Be Seen at the Robison York State Herb Garden" (if you received one last year, it is old; the new one out in March is far better and more complete); "Natural Dyeing Bibliography," "Knitting With Your Handspun," "New York State Conservation List," of protected native plants; and the seven-pages of charts from Alma Lesch's VEGETABLE DYEING: 151 Color Recipes for Dyeing Yarns and Fabrics with Natural Materials (Chart XII, Color Information Chart + Chart XIII, Dye Substances Information Chart). We also have some small Guild descriptive handouts for easy distribution at events -- pick some up if you will be demonstrating. And don't forget to add the list of new members (and corrections) to your current membership list! Henceforth, we will try to see that all new members receive a "package" of the above plus anything else current when they join the Guild.

Thirdly, the WOOL DAY Report (also enclosed) is perhaps more detailed than some would wish to wade through, but it seemed important to get everything down on paper so that we could talk about it at the June meeting (especially see page 4) -- so bring it with you! Also, in connection with this, there is a definite need to further discuss (and make some decisions) about money-making projects for the Guild and displays at events where we demonstrate as a Guild. Several people have created some lovely last-minute exhibits--should we go one step further and make several permanent ones that we could not only use but possibly rent out? Bring your ideas on these -- we WANT to hear from YOU!!

OVER-THE-BACKYARD-FENCE DEPARTMENT: We are very sorry to report that Meredith Wood became ill while visiting in Kentucky and was hospitalized in Lexington. She was due home over the weekend and would appreciate hearing from her friends (2509 Slaterville Road, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881, 539-7436). She will need to be quiet and

is restricted from her usual jumping around so we may not be seeing her out much for awhile. // Sally Marx is making some very attractive prairie bonnets that tie under the chin, for sale -- perfect for those Bicentennial events! -- ask her about sizes, prices, colors. // Congratulations to Joan Johnston on the arrival of her baby boy! // As of this weekend (the 5th), Ellen Harrison's twins seem to be taking their time to make their grand entrance, but it will be soon... // Susan Andrews is having a baby of another sort: her show opens at Bosworths on June 14th -- we all look forward to stopping in to see it! // We will certainly miss Colleen Stone -- they have gone (sooner than they expected by far!) to New Mexico to begin her husband's new job. As soon as we have an address, we'll let you know. She definitely wants to keep in touch with her BSHG friends! // Larry Hunt was given the handspun knitted cap even though he wasn't able to judge at our WOOL DAY as hoped -- while it was to have been a present from the Guild for his part in judging the Golden Fleece Contest, several of us felt that he'd been so nice to Guild members in the past that this was a good way to help show our appreciation. And was he pleased! (I knitted his name on it, along with the year and Guild initials, with yarn from a fleece Joan Johnston had gotten from him.) This is also a good spot to mention that Larry also has several gray and black fleeces to sell (\$1.00/lb), but he warns you that they are small fleeces and short. If you are interested anyway, call him at the Sheep Barns (272-5670) before going out.

Due to Ora Koch's success with her weaver's Newsletter, she felt that she should resign as Vice President of the Guild. The Executive Officers have asked me to fill out her term (until late fall), which I am pleased to do. Among other things, that makes me program chairman. If you have signed up for a program but can't quite remember which one, or if you are new and want to participate in a particular program (take a look at the enclosed yellow sheets -- we have some pretty interesting programs ahead) -- SEE ME! And we will also refresh a few memories at the June meeting as to who has signed up for what program...

Looking ahead to the July meeting, *Flax Spinning*, it should be great fun!! Jean Frink and Jean Steiber are two lively ladies and you will learn a LOT. For those of you without distaffs and/or flax, I hope to have more information from Jean F. at the June meeting -- she sells distaffs and perhaps we can obtain them from her. July will also mean that the March order of Ashford wheels will be arriving (along with the order of 60 additional bobbins [56 of them are spoken for]). HOORAH! The order for wheels that went out in mid-May after WOOL DAY should be arriving sometime in October.

WHAT-WILL-THEY-THINK-OF-NEXT DEPARTMENT: Spotted at the A&P recently, Vanity Fair toilet paper with "lanolin added." (I kid you not, my husband even bought some he was so flabbergasted -- and we leave you to speculate as to why it was added...) Upon hearing this, Jean Nowack gently reminded me that she washes her wool in Lanolin-Plus shampoo... Any other gems you've heard of? Of course, there are also those pretty U.S. Postal Service envelopes with the spinning wheels (wool wheel) on them...

I was pleased to see that the Tompkins County Public Library has just acquired a copy of A Pictorial Guide to American Spinning Wheels by D. Pennington and M. Taylor. (pub. by The Shaker Press, Sabbathday, ME). It is on the 2-week, new book shelf, which means you might actually have a chance to take it out. And while you're there, DO go look at the books they have on spinning/weaving/dyeing, and textile/fibers in general. With the crafts courses mostly over, many books are back on the shelves!

We will be seeing you on the 14th! DEADLINE for copy for the next newsletter is August 23. (But the sooner you get it to me, the better!)