
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #42 -- June, 1981
Edited by Jean Warholie

Summer seems to be upon us in full swing, now that spring activities are behind us (such as Wool Day!). Hope you have all had a good crop of lambs, the garden is nearly in, and that somewhere along the line you've had a chance to do a little spinning...

JUNE 8 GUILD MEETING. "Spinning for a Project" with Suzy Hokanson, Maria Steve, and Chris Matijas. Now is the time to bring those problems you struggled with, projects that didn't work out, and questions you've always wanted to ask. Program begins at 10:30 a.m., Tin Can (near Stewart Park).

We will also talk about Wool Day and discuss improvements for next year. As usual, bring your lunch and something to do -- as well as those show-and-tells! Items (including dyed skeins) left from Wool Day will be brought for you to sort out and take home. Coffee, tea provided; how about some goodies and munchies? We look forward to seeing you -- bring a friend, too!

June 20 Saturday Group Meeting. Pot-to-Pass Dyeing at Mary Ann Sumner Vogt's (107 Neimi Road, Freeville), noon to 4 p.m. Dish-to-pass, as well! Should be a nice afternoon of colors! To get to Mary Ann's from Ithaca, take Rt. 13 east to Hanshaw (next left after airport runway), pass Etna Road, turn right on Neimi, and it is the first house on the right. (257-2434, if you get lost.) See you there!

JULY 13 GUILD MEETING. Indigo and Cochineal Dye pots, at Marion Wikoff's home, 544 Iradell Road. Dish-to-pass, with the meat dish to be a surprise! Bring skeins to dye (tagged with your name, please) and plan to have a nice day of it!! Coffee, tea provided. Plan to arrive about 10:30 a.m. -- and you might want to car-pool it from Ithaca. To get to Marion's, take Rt. 96 out of Ithaca going toward Trumansburg, turn left onto Iradell Road (road after Hayts School Road; if you get to Wilkins or Perry City Roads, you've missed it) and follow on out several miles -- watch for signs (and sheep!), house is on the right. (If lost: 387-5410.)

July 25 Saturday Group Meeting. Again at Mary Ann Vogt's. No special spinning program planned as of yet. "Swap-shop" with surplus garden produce. See you there!

Coming up: August 10 Guilding meeting will be dyepot-to-pass at a member's home. August 29 Saturday Group meeting will be an indigo dyepot day at Jean Currie's, one dyepot from scratch (going on at 10:30 a.m.), and dish-to-pass (?).

GOOD NEWS -- Gretchen Sachse had a baby girl on Friday, May 29! Hope we see you both on Monday!!

WOOL DAY went very well -- we had lots of people (constant stream); although we could have put more guild members to work, we were pretty well covered, and a nice day was had by all! Our treasurer, Daisy Kirkpatrick reports that we grossed \$429 and netted \$117 (\$60 from the shawl, \$20 from sales table, \$30 from fleeces, and \$6 from ind. sales). We sold 19 fleeces out of about 46 that came, plus there were some angora sales. The sales table was not very busy in terms of sales, but plenty of talking went on! There was a lot of interested in the dyepots and we got some lovely colors. Brian Magee sheared a number of sheep and was quite the center of attention outdoors! Our first sheep-to-shawl contest/demonstration was great fun and went quite well -- bravos to Chris Matijas for organizing it, and to Daisy Kirkpatrick, Anne Jones, Linda Olds, Gretchen Sachse, Toshia Napier, Cindy White, and Suzy Hokanson for their monumental efforts! There was considerable interest in it until the end when the crowds evaporated and we almost weren't able to have it auctioned off. It was a happy ending when auctioneer Garth Jackson

(Daisy Kirkpatrick's husband), Daisy's brother David and sister Mary bought the shawl for Daisy's mother! (Incidentally, the shawl was beautiful: handspun weft, soft natural brown striped warp, and it was washed and dipped in the indigo dye-pot to become a light blue with stripes. A wonderful first effort, spinners!)

MANY THANKS to all who came and participated in our 6th annual Wool Day -- from the sales table, to the fleece tables, displays, do-it-yourself corner, dye-pots, shearing/sheep, sheep-to-shawl, and to everyone who helped in all sorts of ways! Sometimes we all wonder if it will be worth it, and of course it always is! And we could not do it without all the help we get from YOU, each and every one!!

AND WELCOME to some new (and renewing) members! We are delighted to have you join us and hope to see you at meetings sometime soon... Add them to your list.

Barbara Gates, 2861 Lodi Road, Interlaken, N.Y. 14847. (Telephone?) (Inact.)

Billie Hall, RD #1 - Box 178A, Newark Valley, N.Y. 13811. (862-3082)
(Weaver, dyer.) (Inactive)

Marianne Horchler, RD #1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. (315/497-1542) (Sheep)
(Inactive)

Gail Landowski, 23 Mineah Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (347-4209) (Shearer;
knitter, crocheter.) (Student)

Katherine Osip, RD 2 - Morgan Road, Interlaken, N.Y. 14847. (532-4855)
(Knitter, crocheter; sheep.) (Inactive)

Annet Stykel, 506 Hanshaw Road, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. (257-7784) (After July
1st: 104 Pine View Terrace, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850.) (weaver, dyer; sheep,
black sheep, angora rabbits, goats, other spinnables.) (Student)

And now on Newsletter Exchange (watch for their interested newsletters, etc. in our library!): Bloomington (Indiana) Spinners & Weavers Guild, c/o Yarns Unlimited, 405 East 4th Street, Bloomington, Ind. 47401. And the Leatherstocking Spinners, c/o Gary Aney, Box 396 - RD 2, Mohawk, N.Y. 13407.

What's coming up -- get out your calendar! (List will be up-dated in next newsletter.) Do let Jean Warholic know of any events like this, for the newsletter...

June 5,6, 7 - Ithaca Festival. Spinners are still needed for the 6th; please call Maria Steve (387-5559) if you can come.

June 14 -- Linen Project Lecture, sponsored by the DeWitt Historical Society, Ithaca. Martha Coons will talk about "Linen Textiles and the Impact of Technology" (19th century linen economy, attempts at mechanization, and the impact of cotton). Free. 3 p.m., The Clinton House.

June 21 -- Linen Project Lecture, DeWitt Historical Society. Ruth Kerr will talk about "Linen and Linen Weaves." You are invited to bring woven linen pieces for discussion; there will also be an exhibit of 19th century domestic linens opening at the DeWitt on June 14. Free. 3 p.m., The Clinton House.

July 22 -- Troy Fair Sheep and Wool Day (11th?). Always a nice day, and a good chance to meet spinners from south/central New York as well as northern Penna. Lamb barbeque/Greek food; sheep dog demonstrations; variety of activities, including (this year) a sheep-to-shawl contest with us New Yorkers represented by the Cherry Valley Country Spinners (let's cheer them on!). Open to guild members, but you must let either Jean Warholic or Maria Steve know that you are coming... This is an all-day event; car-pooling a good idea.

August 6-9 -- Upstate Crafts Fair. Jurying rules and information are now out -- we'll have the scoop at the next meetings. This is an important opportunity for those who are production-inclined. And the Fair can use all the support it can get from ALL of us!!! There are many volunteer positions needing to be filled still...

THE STATE FAIR BOOKS are out. If you did not receive a copy (those entering each year usually do), Jean Warholic will have extras at the June and July meetings. Ask and ye shall receive! Deadline for entry forms (with exhibitor's fee) is August 3. Items entered are due August 13-15. Categories this year as like last year: any fiber, 3x5 card attached with use plan, skeins approx. 2-oz. in weight, previously entered yarn not acceptable. To wit... Proficiency of Spin - 2 ply (evenness of spin, evenness of ply), any color. Yarns for Clothing - 2 skeins for use in weaving, knitting, crocheting, macrame, etc. Heavy Duty Yarns - 2 skeins for use in rugs, wall hangings, pillow and upholstery material. An Adult Garment made from handspun yarn (knit, crocheter, etc.). 1st place, \$10; 2nd place, \$7; 3rd place, \$5; and 4th place, \$3 in each of the four above. (Remember, all you have to do is place 3rd in one of them and you've made back your entry fee of \$5!) There are additional awards, too: WOOLHAVEN is donating a \$10 gift certificate to the first place winner in Adult Garments; The Empire State Shepards Association is giving a \$25 cash award for best 100% wool yarn in the first three categories; and the HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP is giving a \$15 gift certificate to the first place winner overall. Get going, folks! It is FUN and there is more good competition every year. Our guild has done well in the past; let's keep up the effort!

Our August meeting will be the 10th -- bring your handspun entries and we will have someone drive them up, saving you some postage. (That goes for the Saturday groupers as well!)

SPEAKING OF THE STATE FAIR, plans for the Wool Booth are uncertain at this time, with our trusty annual spinner Madaline Adkins still recovering from a heart attack. She will not be at the Booth this year. How about the guilds taking one or two days each to demonstrate at the Fair? We should have started doing this long ago -- Madaline has done such a good job in the past, and been so willing all this time, and where have we been? Can we do it? Are YOU willing? Let's talk about it... The hours are long, and the Fair is on for 10 days again (ugh), but it would be a nice gesture and long overdue...

THE HIGH LLAMA, owned by Jackie Pearson, on 14 State Street Mall in Auburn, is closing its doors June 20. Jackie is offering great savings on a number of things, from looms, to yarns, to all sorts of needlework supplies. Hurry! Hours are 10-5 daily, evenings by appointment. (315/253-5235)

THE MANNINGS are offering three workshops on June 10-12 -- call them for details as time is short. Brother Kim Malloy is teaching "Weaving with Your Homespun." Rhea Silber, "Beginning Spinning." Juanita Wolfe, "White Oak Market Baskets." And, as usual, Mannings will have their wonderful 14th Annual Spinning Seminar on June 13 (Sat.), all day and free, and with many good demonstrations going on during the day. (And it is good to see that both Ed and Dora Swart will be there -- could it be their 14th year there as well?) Mannings will also have a variety of summer weaving workshops going on -- ask for more information. (717/624-2223)

IT IS WITH SORROW that we note the death of Marjorie Ruth Ross, long-time weaving teacher in this area, on May 23 at the age of 86. She leaves many friends and students with special memories and inspiration. An exhibit of her students' work is scheduled for Aug. 6-9, in conjunction with the Upstate Crafts Fair. Miss Ross is the featured crafts teacher. If you took weaving with her, or know of anyone who did, please contact Jean Warholic (539-7648) or Jean Nowack (564-9241) immediately.

A LACE DAY will be held sometime in late June or early July at the Dewitt Historical Society in Ithaca, to give us all an opportunity to learn more about bobbin laces and their techniques. Interested? Give Jean Warholic your name, or else keep your eye on the newspapers for more information... It is hoped that bobbin lace classes, or even a guild, may be formed out of the interested persons who come to this nice afternoon!

AD SECTION

FOR SALE: White Romney ram lamb (purebred), born May 3 and available mid-July. Asking \$150. Ezra Wolcott, Box 456, Big Flats, N.Y. 14814. (607/562-8875) 1/3

TOP QUALITY, HANDMADE ITEMS taken on consignment at "The Sunshine Shoppe," Danby School Building, Gunderman Road, Ithaca. Seasonal items wanted; 25% consignment; payment for sold items on 15th of each month. Bring in items during shop hours: Mon.+Wed., 7-9 p.m.; Tues.+Friday, 12-4 p.m.; Sat., 10-3; Sunday, 1-3 p.m. For more information, call Gay Huddle, 607/273-6530. 2/3

SPIN A BUNNY - Angora rabbit wool for sale! Softer and warmer than sheep's wool -- one ounce will make a baby's hat, 1½ oz. will knit a pair of gloves. Colors available: white, fawn, and blue. \$2.50 per generous ounce. Very clean and without mats. Also selling Bartlett yarn: singles (good for warps) and 2-ply. Takes nat. dyes beautifully. \$10.00 per pound. Call Erica Rowe (607/863-3554) or see at the Saturday group meetings. *3/3*

FOR SALE: Black lambs from Lincoln, Border Leicester, and Romney breeding. From a spinner's flock. Gloria Scannell, RD #1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. (518/732-2916) 2/3

WE ARE ALWAYS READY AND WILLING to help with your fiber needs -- spinners, weavers, knitters, quilters, and rug hookers alike! Try the new Clemes & Clemes castle wheel, or the nifty Louet "wool picker carding board" (you saw it at the Paula Simmons workshop). We have new cotton flake yarns in now, as well as the new 8-harness Minerva loom for you to see. Don't forget our good selection of books, quilters' stencils and templates, Moshimer rug patterns, marking pens, knitting patterns and yarns, notions. Dyes for any fiber. And spinnable fibers for all seasons and projects. THE HERITAGE CRAFT SHOP, Dryden, N.Y. (607/844-4381) Hours: 10-5 p.m., Monday through Saturday. 2/3

BEGINNING SPINNING and natural dyeing workshops taught by Maria Steve, in June. Call or write: Maria V. Steve, RD #3 - Cold Spring Road, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886. (607/387-5559) 2/3

MAKE IT A SILKY SUMMER -- luxuriously beautiful white and tussah silk in combed and carded rovings. Also, books, cocoons, waste silk, "mawata" silk hankies, spindles and MUCH more! Send \$3.50 for directions, information, and samples; price list only is free. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, N.Y. 16947. (717/297-2498) *9/9*

CHEAP is what our ads are! Four-line ad is 50¢ for one run; or three runs for \$1.00. Payment with ad copy to: Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648) Deadline: 2nd Monday of each month. Reaches 120+ spinners.

NATURAL COLORED WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION has its annual meeting on Sept. 26-27, at Altamont (near Albany) this year. Marianne Horchler has sent us the details. Space does not permits its reprinting in full here, but suffice to say that it promises to be packed full of events in addition to the meetings: colored sheep show and auction (Kevin Hall, judge); colored sheep fleece show and sale (Florence Hall, judge); various spinning, weaving, dyeing demonstrations; sheep-to-shawl contest; sheep dog trials; old and odd pieces of sheep and wool equipment; sheep photography exhibit; commercial exhibits; and MORE.

For further information, write or call: Ken or Cindy Kessler, RD #1 - Lang Drive, Amsterdam, N.Y. 12010. (518/922-6681, evenings.) Or check with Marianne Horchler or Erica Rowe at meetings. It looks as though various people will be going from this area; car-pooling a possibility...

It certainly sounds like fun! Let's give NCWGA our support!

FLAX SEED for planting your flax this year is still available from Gretchen Sachse, at cost. You may broadcast it in a plot, or plant it in a flowerpot, depending on your time and ambitions. Do hurry, though, you should be getting in now (if not before!). Call Gretchen (347-4396) or see her at a Monday meeting. Her flax/linen project is going well -- although temporarily delayed, thanks to taking time out to have her child -- and we should have some interesting information available in late summer or early fall.

THE TED CARSON WORKSHOP was fun and we were all glad to have the opportunity to take it (either through the Cherry Valley group or Thistledown). Carding and blending will never be the same again, nor will fiber combinations for various effects! And it was nice to have a chance to see other guilds' members and what they have been doing these days...

THE BIXBY SUPER CARDING MACHINE has been producing great quantities of incredible stuff! YES -- at \$2.00 per pound, your washed wool comes out in fluffy bats ready to spin. Sunny says to please call them several days in advance of when you want to come (they are busy people, too) and that several pounds or more is preferable as the more you bring, the less will get lost on this big machine. The Bixbys will still have several specific days on which we can come, through the summer (on weekends?), but give them a call and make arrangements -- they are up near Verona, N.Y. (315/337-7217). We do have 20-lbs. of Guild wool ready to go (stored at Gretchen Sachse's); take it with yours or send some of yours with us...

1981 OFFICERS: Jean Steiber is again president of the Thistledown Handspinners Guild of Norwich. Mildred Scudder is the new president of the Seven Valley Weavers Guild. Congratulations to you both!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL in the Tompkins County Arts Council is due in June. Will we be renewing for another year? Please give Maria Steve your opinion on this subject -- \$35 per year is a hefty sum. What do we get out of it? What does our membership mean? (And have you been reading our TCAC Artsletters in our library?)

SPEAKING OF OUR LIBRARY, have you checked out anything lately? We have some good dye books that will give you some ideas this summer for dye projects. And the usual good selection of fiber and spinning books. Or how about a weaving book? Please take advantage of our little library, and make it worth toting those heavy boxes!

SIGN UP for the carding machine or spinning wheel (both available to members of the guild for a small sum per month) with Marion Wikoff (387-5410). She is a busy lady these days, so persist! And our drop spindles (holding up well after several years of hard use and abuse, with a nod of thanks in the direction of Ed Swart who made them for us) are available for demonstrations -- call Linda Olds (844-4381) to get them. These are all for your use as members!

SHOW-AND-TELLS are an important part of all our meetings! We all LOVE to see what you've done, experienced spinner or not!!! Please don't feel inhibited about bringing projects, even unfinished ones, and if a meeting gets hectic and somehow a show-and-tell gets passed up, then SPEAK UP and insist upon it!!! We learn so much from looking and thinking about these projects... Don't be so modest!!!

DEADLINE for next newsletter: July 13 meeting. Into mail about the 20th, we hope!

Hope to see you all at meetings and spinning events this summer! And to our long-distance members, do drop us a note and tell us what you are doing this busy, hot summer! And keep spinning...

-- Jean Warholic