

Today is the first day of Spring, but do you think anything will ever grow again in that horrible slushy mess in your back yard? This seems the worst part of the Spring - the snow has almost gone but the crocuses haven't quite made it yet. Still there are lambs in the barn (some I hope - I heard some of you didn't have such good luck this year) and there is some pussy willow so perhaps there is hope yet!

Spring Fever was a great success according to all reports. Saturday saw over 450 people, many from out of town and even on Sunday when the weather was awful, there were 160. All of the Guilds sold well, but individuals overall did not do so well. Many, many thanks to all the BSHG members who helped out. Maria Steve, Guild Coordinator for the event, was delighted with the response to her appeals for help. Particular thanks go to: Doris Brown for putting together the whole affair, Jean Warholic for great publicity and Mary Anne Sumner for keeping the financial affairs together. We were very pleased to have Suzy Hokanson as the featured craftsperson. The local newspaper did a fine article on Suzy - I liked her comment on being creatively incompetent at farm chores to allow time for weaving, but was puzzled at how she could weave in the car!

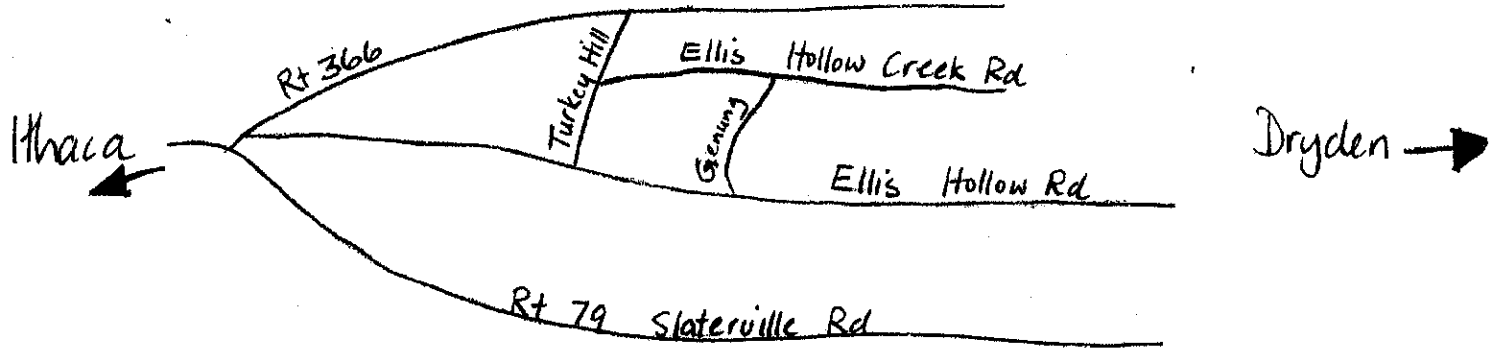
The Lichen Dyeing Workshop was also a great success. 39 people attended, many of them bringing lichens for identification. Some dye pots were started with mixed success but it was a very informative day. Thankyou to Erica Rowe for arranging this workshop, & Jean Warholic for lots of help.

Both events made some money for the Guild which pleases our Treasurer!  
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GUILD NEWS

MONDAY GROUP: Next meeting is at the Tin Can on April 12. Gretchen Sachse will cover blending of vegetable fibers - flax, ramie, cotton, hemp, milkweed etc.

SATURDAY GROUP: Thanks to Dora Swart, the Saturday Group may have found a permanent home. The Ellis Hollow Community Center has graciously allowed us to use their premises at no charge, in return for opening the meeting to the community, which of course we are most willing to do! So the next meeting will be on March 27, Ellis Hollow Community Center, 111 Genung Rd., Ithaca. Come at noon, bring your lunch.



Call Dora Swart at 272-3370 if you can't understand the map!

Here is a summary of the minutes of the meeting of BSHG on March 8:  
Guild Library - Suzy Hokanson moved & Gretchen Sachse seconded that the proposals of the committee be accepted (see last months newsletter). Passé Logo - Virginia Lance clarified the requirements. The sheep need not be eliminated but it should include spinning. Bring entries to the next meeting.

Wool Day - There are chairpersons for all areas according to Daisy Kirkpatrick BUT MORE VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IN ALL AREAS!! Please call Daisy (539-7941) or Jean (564-9346) if you can help.

Wool Pool - this year it is on May 29, which is excellent timing for us. Unsold wool from Wool Day can still be taken to the Wool Pool.

Supplies Directory - Chris Matijas has a notebook of Guild members offering supplies for sale. Please enter yourself if you have regular spinning, dyeing or weaving supplies for sale.

Inventory Directory - Virginia Lance is keeping track of Guild materials and supplies held by members. If you have any (yarn, wool, equipment, dyeing supplies etc.) please call Virginia.

Retail sales policy - It is Guild policy that members selling at Guild events will pay a commission of 10% of the gross to the Guild. However at Guild workshops where members are asked to sell supplies, the commission will be 5%.

Pricing of handspun products - There was much discussion of the Guild policy of pricing handspun yarn & garments. Prices set in 1979 are now considered too low. A motion by Dora Swart to set specific prices for yarns was not passed and Mary Anne Sumner suggested a committee be formed to investigate and formulate pricing policies, & submit these to the Guild for approval. Maria Steve, Dora Swart & Joan Johnstone were appointed to the Committee and they ask that you send comments to any one of them as soon as possible. Items marked at lower than the approved price should be marked SALE and items donated to the Guild, become the property of the Guild to be disposed of at the Guild's discretion, were both ideas suggested during the discussion.

Spring Fever - as mentioned above this was a rousing success. There was some discussion on what to do with the profits & whether and how much money should be handed on to the Guild sponsoring next year's show. This will have to be discussed with the other Guilds before it can be settled.

If you want to see the full minutes contact Joan Johnstone or Jean Currie. We hope to summarize the Minutes in the Newsletter each month to keep you up<sup>on</sup> the latest happenings.

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#### MORE GUILD NEWS

Welcome to 2 new members - Pam Arquette, Millport and Marge Meyer, Watkins Glen. Which reminds me - the Membership List will be coming with your next newsletter. So if you haven't paid your dues, or you want your listing changed, NOW is the time to do it!

Virginia Lance asks if anyone picked up 2 bags of Angora wool (1 white and 1 grey) at Rock Day. She bought them then, but has not seen them since. Please check your stuff for these!!

The Guild's Dorset fleece (18lbs), washed thanks to Gretchen Sachse, went up to Sunny Bixby's famous, fabulous carding machine on March 16 and is now fluffy and beautiful and ready for all those Guild Projects everyone has been dreaming up. Jean Warholic has it and can hardly wait for everyone to use it up! She'll bring it to the next meetings.

The trip to Sunny's was great fun - Jean Warholic and Daisy Kirkpatrick had a busy day putting about 90lbs of wool through the machine in 6 hours. It was a tight squeeze in the car coming home! As anyone whose been there will tell you, it is a wonderful educational experience to go there and put your wool through - don't pass it up if you have the chance to go!

AND YET MORE GUILD NEWS

There have been some questions about the need for the self addressed envelopes for the Newsletter, particularly by inactive members who quite rightly point out that the Constitution says the extra \$2.00 for inactive members is to help defray postage and copying expenses. There are several reasons why we asked members for envelopes. The Newsletter is an expensive service of the Guild - the postage alone was costing the Guild \$26.00 a Newsletter. For various reasons, the Guild Treasury has not been in a healthy state and it was felt that, in order to keep the dues at the same level, asking for help with postage would reduce the strain on our finances. As we are all aware, costs are rising, and the Guild cannot continue to provide the same level of services at the old dues level. As an interim measure, we request 10 envelopes for this year. This year also, the Guild will need to consider the dues structure, or decide to continue the request for stamped envelopes each year. We apologize to those who think this move was hasty or not done with enough membership input - however we hope you understand and will be willing to send your envelopes anyway.

It has been suggested that later in the year (perhaps the September meeting?) we have a Guild Swap n' Shop. Bring along anything you have related to spinning, fibers, dyeing etc. which you could swap, barter, sell, give away. Books, equipment, fiber, yarn, dyes, finished items - everything perhaps except live animals? What a great opportunity to find a home for that whatzit and replace it with someone else's whozit!

As of March 20, there were 79 members (active & inactive & student) and \$494 in the bank (some of which is on its way out to pay expenses for the two recent events).

Jean Warholic had a lovely long letter from Anne Jones, who has returned to England to what she says is a dream job at the London Museum. She and David have a lovely house in the Hampshire countryside and while waiting for her spinning wheel to come, she has been engineering a combination glove/mitten. The whole thing sounds very ingenious and Anne has promised to send the design when the design flaws are worked out. Great to hear from you Anne!

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WOOL DAY    MAY 23    at STEWART PARK, ITHACA

As mentioned elsewhere, Wool Day Plans are well underway but there is a need for more help. One of the pages of this Newsletter (at this point it is such a muddle I can't tell where yet!) has the layout for the Pavilion at Stewart Park. For those veterans who have been there before, you will know that the tables and benches have to be moved around to make spaces, so help in doing that, from about 10am will be very much appreciated. If you know of anyone who has fleeces to sell, remind them to bring them along and please also remind them to have clean looking fleeces, well labelled with type, weight, price and their name and address. Demonstrators are still needed - bring your spinning wheel, drop spindle and wow the public with your skills! Jean Warholic would like skeins to dye in her indigo pots and there will be other dye pots going too, so see what you can find to help out there. Suzy Hokanson will be putting together a display of handspun products - please bring some things she can work with. They are well looked after, so you need not fear for your precious items. There will be a sales table for both Guild items and personal sales (10% to the Guild) and both help and items are needed here. And then it would be really nice if a good number of folks stayed to the bitter end to clean up and replace the tables! Remember to bring something to eat, and some warm clothes - it can get very cold down there by the lake. So come on down - we always have a good time!

OTHER BITS AND PIECES OF NEWS

There was a nice report in the New York Times Travel Section on Feb. 28 about handspun products from New Zealand. It did note however, that "some avant-garde spinners go so far as to extract natural colorings from bark and berry". You didn't know you were so far out, did you?!!

The Handweavers Guild of America is currently revising their guidelines for the Certificate of Excellence in Handspinning. If you write their publications department at 65 La Salle Rd., West Hartford CT 06107, they will send you a copy of their new guidelines when they're ready. For those spinners who have been at it a while, this might give you some standard to see how you're doing; for newer spinners, a goal.

Another interesting report in the New York Times relates to some work being done in San Francisco on scrapie. Apparently the agent causing the disease is similar to a virus but it has little or no nucleic acid. If this is the case, then it is a new organism and one that is a puzzle, because without nucleic acid and genes, it is not known how this new organism reproduces. Work on this disease will be of help not only to sheep farmers, but to those suffering from similar degenerative disorders such as multiple sclerosis.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

March 24 Bonnie Cashin, world famous designer will speak on "Our designed environment; where do we go from here? At Cornell, in Martha Van at 7pm

Tompkins County Arts Council is now asking those who wish to apply for United Arts Funding to get in contact with them - call 607/277-4906

July 23-25 The Erie Canal 2nd Annual Arts Festival will be held at the Erie Canal Art Village, Rome, NY. See Virginia Lance for details about renting space for craftspeople.

The Golden Fleece Spinners Society, Baldwinsville, NY will hold a Sheep to Shawl Competition on June 19. Entries must be in by May 1. Contact Marilyn Brown, 315/638-2132 for details of the rules etc. or Jean Currie

The New York Historical Association in Cooperstown has an exhibition called "From Rags to Britches", covering textiles from the 18th and 19th centuries. It focuses on domestic and factory production and includes textiles as well as equipment. Sorry, don't have times of opening.

The Arnot Museum in Elmira is holding "A Public Hanging" arts and craft show, April 1-May 2. All media including textiles are acceptable, there are cash awards, you can sell and items are juried. Contact the Museum at 235 Lake St., Elmira, NY 14901.

The Rochester Folk Art Guild will hold their Spring Exhibition & Sale on April 2-4, at the Wilson Art Center, Harley School, 1981 Clover St., Rochester, NY.

A "Fibers to Fashion" program has been planned at the Catskill Art Society, Sullivan County Cultural Center, Hurleyville, NY through this summer. It looks fascinating - there are events from July 4 - August 20 covering spinning in Colonial America, color and fabric design, fashion for your figure, tartan plaids, loom shaped garments, ikat, batik, design and much, much more. Contact Jeans Warholc and Currie for the full program.

Cornell Springfest Craft Fair will be May 7-8, in Willard Straight. Sign up soon if you want a space - they are limited. \$20/day for 5 X 8 space. Contact William Brown, Willard Straight Hall, Cornell, Ithaca, NY 14853

THE CLASSIES

FOR SALE: Morlamb ram, excellent breeding, beautiful long staple fleece, also pure black Finn rams and black fleeces. Will barter.  
WANTED: Beginners spinning wheel in good condition. Call Marge Meyer, 607/535-7526 1/3

INDIGO DYEING SUPPLIES are available - natural indigo patties, synthetic or pure indigo, and Spectralite - may be purchased at BSHG meetings. Get in gear and dye those State Fair entries! Jean Warholic, 607/539-7648

ISLAND FLEECE - from wild sheep roaming rocky cliffs and forests of and island off the coast of Maine. Spin this "fog-washed" fleece without carding. Sold out for this year, but will accept orders for next year. ISLAND WOOLS, Sue and Doan Trevor, 7170 Rosewood Circle, No. Syracuse, NY, 13212. (315/458-8311) 2/3

CUSTOM HANDCRAFTED SPINNING WHEELS - traditional Saxony Production Wheel or upright wheel for travelling. Free brochure. ISLAND WOOLS, Sue and Doan Trevor, 7170 Rosewood Circle, No. Syracuse, NY, 13212. (315/458-8311) 2/3

FOR SALE - a few Romney white and black fleeces. Also Southdown crosses, Tunis crosses, Finn/Rambouillet crosses are in the pipeline! DEERING HILL FARM, Ez Woolcott, Box 456, Big Flats, NY 14814, 607/562-8875 1/3

SOFT, FLUFFY ANGORA WOOL - in white or natural black, fawn, and blue. Fine quality breeding stock also available. SUNRISE FARM, Erica Rowe, 607/863-3554. Also for sale - 36 inch, 10 dent reed, never used. Very reasonable. 1/3

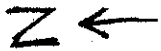
BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES - Silas' great grand pups. All shots, ready to go, from \$75.00. Very clean fleeces (I was given 40 acres of wheat straw!) - American Cheviot (excellent beginners fleece), Oxford, Romney, Black Finn and Finn/Rambouillet, NC Cheviot/Finn/Rambouillet and others. Over 70 to choose from, skirted. White, \$2.00/lb, black \$3.00/lb. LIBBY LLOP, 3079 Fowlerville Rd., Caledonia, NY 14423. 716/226-2788 1/3

SILK - 1982 catalog includes: 1. Basic silk information, 2. Description of silk fiber forms and equipment from FALLBROOK HOUSE, 3. Directions for spinning, reeling degumming, softening cocoons, making Mawata, using thrown waste, blending and natural dyeing, 4. Generous samples of Italian rovings, thrown waste, Mawata, and China silk fibers. (Countries other than US and Canada, add \$2.30 pp) \$4.75 If you have the 1981 catalog and want samples and descriptive information of the new items for 1982: 1. China silk fibers (white and Tussah bricks, wadding strips, 4 types of noil, degummed cocoons), 2. Silk and wool top (50/50 blend of combed Bom. Mori and lambs wool) Send SASE (9 1/2" envelope) and \$1.50 to FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2, Box 17, Troy PA 16947, 717/297-2498 1/9

FOR SALE - Ashford Jumbo Flyer unit, stained brown, ready to go, \$25.00. Contact Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Rd., Freeville, NY 13068. 607/539-7648 1/3

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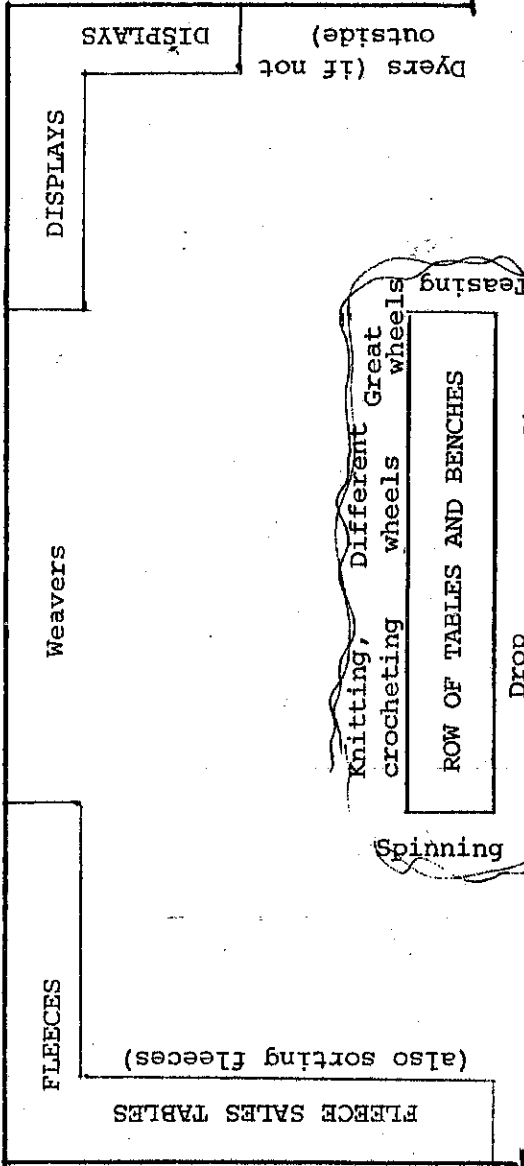
If you have items for sale - spinning, dyeing, weaving supplies, sheep, finished articles or whatever, advertise in the newsletter. Ads are 50¢ each or three for \$1.00. Remember it pays to advertise.



PUBLIC PARKING

(Dyers outside if weather permitting)

40'



60'

Weavers

FLEECE SALES TABLES

(also sorting fleeces)

DISPLAYS

Dyers (if not outside)

Spinning

Knitting, Different crocheting wheels

Great wheels

Drop spindles

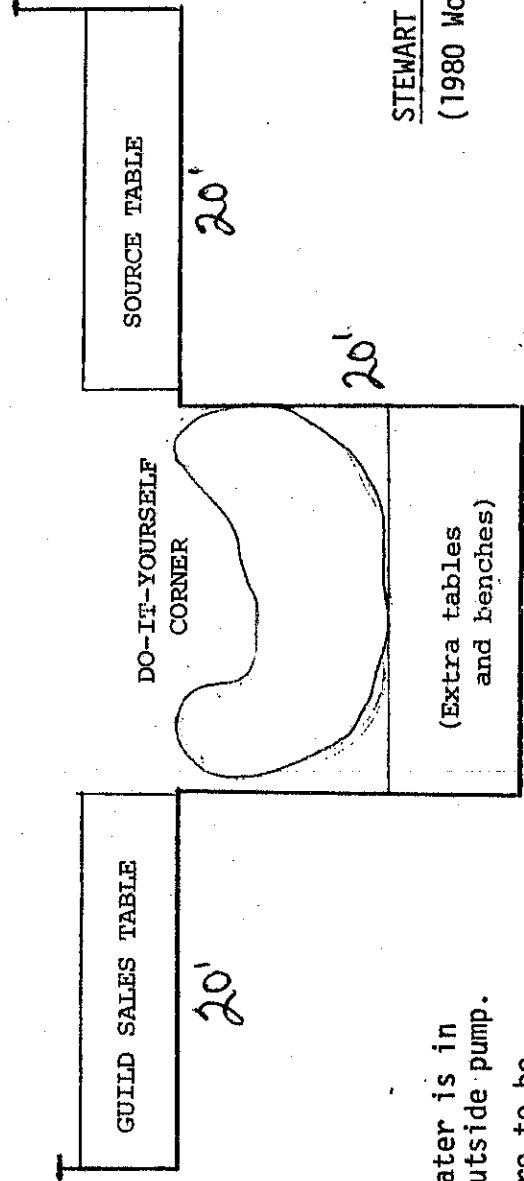
Carding

ROW OF TABLES AND BENCHES

Feasting

40'

DEMONSTRATORS' PARKING



GUILD SALES TABLE

20'

DO-IT-YOURSELF CORNER

20'

SOURCE TABLE

20'

Only running water is in restrooms or outside pump.  
No hotplates are to be plugged in.

STEWART PARK PAVILION  
(1980 Wool Day Layout)

20'