

NEWSLETTER

This was supposed to be a quiet summer but there seems to be a lot going on so I hope you will excuse the cut & paste nature of this newsletter!

First the fun news - Mary Anne Sumner has a new baby girl named Margaret - Michael thinks she is just great! Ellie may & Jean Currie attended Debbi Dinnan's wedding which took place in the barn. Debbi wore a lovely Mexican dress with the most gorgeous embroidery - she & Bill will be moving to Nova Scotia at the end of the month and apparantly Phil Sponnenberg has already arranged for them to be raising some very exotic breeds of sheep and goats during their quarantine period! Phil by the way will be in Sweden for a month this summer - part work & part vacation.

(the animals not Debbi and Bill!)

We spinners have recently lost some good friends and teachers. We have been saddened to hear of the death of Helen Bosworth (weaver and co-owner with her husband of Bosworth Handcrafts, Ithaca), of Harold Silber (whom some will remember from Thistledown handspinning seminars; from Bovine Center, N.Y.), and of Wes Blackburn (wheelmaker, woodworker, and husband of Edna Blackburn, both good friends of Ed and Dora Swart; from Canada). They are all greatly missed by those who knew them.

Report from the Beginning Spinning Workshop:

The Workshop was a successful day both financially and as a perpetuating of the craft of handspinning. There were 25 students, some of whom have become new members. We had to turn away another 10-20 students.

I am very grateful to all who volunteered to help. Everyone who said they would participate was there willing and eager to do their part to make it an enjoyable day for all. Thank you:

Gretchen Sachse
Ellie May
Vernice Church
Joan Johnston
Daisy Kirkpatrick
Nancy Morey
Dora Swart
Marion Wikoff
Jean Currie
Ed Swart

Chris Matijas
Marianne Horchler
Pat Maxon
Suzy Hokanson
Marie Woodford
Rita Sobol
Erica Weiss
Toshia Napier
Sondra Weed
Anyone missing from this list.

Please note that all of these members have fulfilled the obligation to the Guild for active members as stated in Article III of the Constitution. Some others (and many of the above) participated also at Wool Day and the Spring Fever sale. There will be more opportunities for taking part in the Guild's activities at the two workshops scheduled for this fall. We are a geographically widely spaced group which makes it difficult to know everyone. Please speak-up and make yourself known to as many of the other members as you can. Your officers sincerely appreciate all members active participation.

Thank you all,

Virginia

NOTE: Please note the proposed changes to the Constitution further along in this Newsletter

STATE FAIR. By now most of you have received your State Fair books and are, of course, spinning up your entries like mad! If you read your book carefully, you will be delighted with the number of new categories, but surprised at how incorrect they managed to make the cash awards on pp. 14 and 15. The State Fair people have been contacted with the corrections and send their heartfelt apologies. Please see the corrections below. As many guilds as possible have been notified of these corrections...

(pages 14 and 15 of the book)

Woolhaven Award -- correct as stands (Class 71).

Fallbrook House -- silk yarn award should be for Classes 64 or 65.

Gretchen Sachse -- linen award is correct as stands (Class 65 or 66).

Vince & Erica Rowe -- 100% Angora Rabbit Wool in either Class 64 or 65.
-- 100% Angora Rabbit Wool Garment in Classes 67, 68, 69, or 70.

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild -- Garment from Natural Colored Wool in Class 69.

Cherry Valley Country Spinners -- correct as stands.

Jean Martin Warholic -- indigo dyed award for yarns, any fiber, in either Classes 64, 65, or 66.

SEND IN THOSE ENTRIES and let's have a good showing for all these new classes! Entry forms/fees are due by August 14, with receiving dates for entries being August 12-14. (You may bring them with your articles this year, if you wish.) Since our August meeting is the 9th -- bring them there if you wish them to be delivered -- surely one of us will be going in that direction and can take them...

JEAN WARHOLIC has extra Fair books and will bring them to the next guild meetings. (Sorry, she forgot to bring them on the 12th!) If you need one before then, please send her a #10 envelope and 37¢ postage.

Please see the enclosed registration forms for the Sept. 17-20 workshops and slide lectures with Beverly Gordon. Black Sheeppers have advance registration until early August when other guilds will receive theirs -- do note the price breaks for members who've joined as of July 31.

Bro. Kim Malloy of St. Meinrad, Indiana, will be giving us two workshops in November -- pending his confirmation: "Weaving with Handspuns" on Friday, Nov. 5, and "The Wheel as a Designer's Tool" on Sat/Sun, Nov. 6 and 7. More information will follow as we get confirmation and instructions as to supplies, etc.

It was decided at the Monday meeting to postpone David Cress's workshop on Navajo weaving until spring, given our FULL fall schedules now.

GUILD MEETINGS:

Monday Group on August 9 at Marlon Wikoff's - Natural dyepots & lamb dish to pass
This is the annual picnic and is always fun so come along - starts at 9:30am

Saturday Group on July 31 at Jean Currie's - we will felt some Angora with Erica Rowe and sit in the sun and spin.

100
DUB

SOME OTHER BITS AND PIECES

The Lamb to Loom Guild won best of the show (for non-profit groups) for their booth at the July Fest in Binghamton, July 6-10

Thistledown's 10th Annual Seminar (and possibly their last?) will be coming up before you know it. The information will be sent out very soon and you should get your registration in as soon as possible to make sure of getting in. The programs will include: main program on Angora rabbits with Erica Rowe and Connie Cummings (2 of our members); Phil Comings and Bunny Hall will give a program on sheep breeds and their wool; Sunny Bixby will give advice on dyeing and washing large amounts of wool; Allen Fannin will head an open forum on Vocational Spinners & Weavers; and the mini workshops will be on blocking knitting, storing wools, angora handling & plucking, knitting problems with handspun. Sounds like a good weekend - plan to be there!

The Cayuga Nature Center in Ithaca is having its first annual Festival of Pioneer Life and they are looking for people to help in organizing it, as well as those who could help out by demonstrating their craft. You will be able to sell (for a fee). The Festival will be October 30, 1982 and you can contact Raylene Gardner at 607/273-6260 for information or to volunteer.

The Trumansburg Fire Department will hold their fifth annual Woodcutters Show on 11-12 September. There will be an Old Times Show and a Flea Market and the Merchants Building has been set aside for Craftspeople and you will be able to sell for no charge if you demonstrate. Please contact Marcia Vann at 607/387-9262 to let her know about your space requirements.

Remember UPSTATE CRAFTS FAIR on August 5-8 at the Ithaca High School. This is a very high class show so plan to go, better yet, join Upstate Crafts and support a very worth while organization. Contact Upstate Crafts, P.O. Box 173, Ithaca, NY 14850 to get membership information.

The Weaver's Place has moved to the second floor at 71 Court St., above the UniqueShop in Binghamton. This is Lavinia Adler's shop, her phone is 722-2274.

OOPS: Some corrections to the membership list and apologies to those affected. Nancy Morey's address should be P.O, Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745, 607/648-6255

Erica Weiss is at 194 Hill Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850
Toshia Napier 528 N. Albany, Ithaca, NY 14850

PLEASE CHANGE YOUR
LISTS

LACE DAY will be August 21, from 12:30-4:00 p.m., at the DeWitt Historical Society, Ithaca. Bring laces to share and have identified, bobbin-lace making demonstrations are scheduled (including a "do-it-yourself" corner), two brief lectures on lace-making will be given, and supplies will be available, including commemorative bobbins made by Holly Van Sciver. It promises to be a full, interesting afternoon -- and it is free...

Marianne Horchler will be demonstrating spinning at the Cayuga County Fair at Weedsport, N.Y., on July 29. Anyone wanting to come is most welcome! Please call her NOW: 315/497-1542.

For those who can locate a copy, Americana magazine (July/August issue) has a series of book reviews of books about Shakers -- including a review of Beverly Gordon's Shaker Textile Arts. (She plans to bring some to have available for sale and to sign for people, by the way. So start saving your pennies -- it's about \$18.)

ADVERTISING

FOR SALE: Black Finn-Dorset ram lamb, December born, ready to breed. Nice fleece and good conformation. Both his sire and dam are black. Also grey ram lamb, 3/4 Finn, 1/8 Morlam, 1/8 Dorset, twin born. Dam (black) has beautiful fine soft fleece and lambs every 6-8 months; sire (grey) is aggressive year round breeder. Reasonable. Also other black and white part Finn ram lambs for meat prices. MARIANNE HORCHLER, RD #1, GENOA, NY 13071. 315/497-1542 1/3

FOR SALE: 2 Finn Dorset cross ewes, 18 months old plus their 2 ewe lambs (crossed with Morlam). Contact Pam Marquette, 607/739-5006 1/3

FOR SALE: 4 harness rag, carpet and cloth loom (c1913). \$400, negotiable. Call Martha Smith, 607/965-8579 1/1

FOR SALE: 2 black French Angora bucks, born Feb. 17, 1982. \$15 each. 3 black English Angora, born Feb. 1982, \$20 each. CONNIE CUMMINGS, Black River Rd., Watertown, NY 13601. 315/788-3986 1/3

FOR SALE: Sunbeam electric sheep shears, brand new, \$60.00. Original cost \$120. Klaus Holand, 1704 Danby Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. 607/277-3872 1/3

SILK - Beautiful Bombyx Mori and Tussahs - Books - Pennsylvania Cherry equipment. Send \$6.95 for generous samples of 19 silk fiber forms including Italian rovings, Mawata, Thrown waste, cocoons, Keba, Frisson. Descriptive information and directions. SASE for price list. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 Box 17, Troy PA 16947 4/9

BUY your Ashford wheel this month before the price goes up!. The old price will apply through August 15 on all Ashford wheels in stock. Hurry! We are only a short drive from Ithaca and Cortland. THE WOOLERY, RD #1, Genoa, NY 13071. 315/497-1542 1/1

SPINNING SUPPLIES: Ashford, Picardy, Charkha and other wheels; carders, drop spindles, niddy noddies, bobbins, more. Also, white and colored quality handspinning fleeces, carded uplands and pima cotton. THE WOOLERY, R.D.#1., Genoa, NY 13071. 315-497-1542. For price list send S.A.S.E. 3/3

BEGINNERS get a headstart on a project for the November meeting. My SPIN-A-CAP PACKET contains 4 oz. of white machine-carded wool and 2 oz. of black romney wool in the grease which should be enough for a simple cap. It costs \$5. from Will Sachse and can be brought to a regular or Saturday meeting if you call ahead, 347-4396. 1/3

SUMMER SAMPLER of vegetable and silk fibres provides goodly samples of ginned pima cotton, cotton sliver, flax sliver, rayon, ramie noil, mawata silk, and tussah silk sliver. Try something different for a change. \$5. from Will Sachse - call 347-4396. 1/3

RAINBOW DYED wool, mohair, cotton, and silk. These vibrant colors are available in fleeces, tops, roving, and/or yarns. Write or call me to find out what is currently available - or see me at Guild meetings. Nancy Morey, P.O. Box 48, Chenango Bridge, New York, 13745, (607) 648-6255. 1/3

FOR SALE: 60" 16-harness LcClerc Nilaert Loom with double sectional warp beams, flying shuttle, treadles hooked in rear. Sue Beevers, Longview Farm Spinning and Weaving, Ltd., P.O. Box 214, Clinton, NY 13333. (315/853-3527)

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADS FOR THE NEWSLETTER? You can run an ad 3 times for \$1.00 or 1 time for .50¢. Send you ad and the money to: Jean Currie, 2873 Elmira Rd., Newfield, NY 14867

Proposed Changes in the Constitution

The Executive Board recommends to the membership the following changes in the Constitution of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild:

Article III as presently written:

Article III

Membership:

- I. A. Active Membership. Anyone may be an Active Member who pays the annual dues (\$4.00 per year), attends at least half of the monthly meetings, works in at least one workshop or demonstration each year, and who has a workable knowledge of the basics of spinning (or obtains this knowledge within the first year of membership) as follows:
- (1) Fundamental history of spinning
 - (2) Basic parts of a spinning wheel
 - (3) Choosing and sorting a fleece
 - (4) Combing, carding, and teasing of wool and the types of wool suited to each process
 - (5) Spinning on a drop spindle, wool wheel, and treadle: (flax) wheel
 - (6) S and Z twist; plying
 - (7) Woolen and worsted methods of spinning
 - (8) Standard yarn measurements and use of a swift, yarn winder, and niddy-noddy
 - (9) Washing of wool.
- B. Active Members, to remain in good standing, should make at least one item of their own handspun yarn during each year to be shown to the membership upon completion or participate in an agreed-upon service project of the Guild's.
- C. An Active membership entitles one to Guild discounts.
- II. A. Anyone may be an Inactive Member upon payment of \$6.00 dues. The extra \$2.00 is to help defray postage and copying expenses. An Inactive Member is one who does not expect to fulfill the obligations and activities outlined for Active membership during the year.
- B. Student Membership. Student membership is available to full-time students upon payment of \$2.00 annual dues.

Proposed change of Article III:

Membership:

- I. A. Active Membership; Anyone may be an Active Member who pays the annual dues for an Active Member, attends at least half of the monthly meetings, works in at least one workshop or demonstration each year, and who has a workable knowledge of the basics of spinning (or obtains this knowledge within the first year of membership) as follows:
- (1) Fundamental history of spinning
 - (2) Basic parts of a spinning wheel
 - (3) Choosing and sorting a fleece

- (4) Combing, carding, and teasing of wool and the types of wool suited to each process
- (5) Spinning on a drop spindle, wool wheel, and treadle (flax) wheel
- (6) S and Z twist; plying
- (7) Woolen and worsted methods of spinning
- (8) Standard yarn measurements and use of a swift, yarn winder, and niddy-noddy
- (9) Washing wool

B. Active Members, to remain in good standing, should make at least one item of their own handspun yarn during each year to be shown to the membership upon completion or participation in an agreed-upon service project of the Guild's.

C. An Active membership entitles one to Guild discounts.

II. A. Inactive Membership. Anyone may be an Inactive Member who pays the annual dues of an Inactive Member. An Inactive Member is one who does not expect to fulfill the obligations and activities outlined for Active Membership during the year.

B. Student Membership. Student Membership is available to any full-time student who pays the annual dues for a Student Member. A Student Member is expected to have a workable knowledge of the basics of spinning.

Below is a Proxy Ballot. For your vote to be counted it must be in the hands of the Recording Secretary (Chris Matijas) by August 1, 1982. ALL UNRETURNED PROXY BALLOTS WILL BE VOTED BY THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

PROXY BALLOT

I request that the Executive Board of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild cast for me a vote of _____ (write in yes or no) for the above proposed changes in the Guild's Constitution.

Signed _____

Return to: Chris Matijas
 Recording Secretary
 Black Sheep Handspinners Guild
 R.D. #2
 Moravia, New York 13118