
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, NY 14851

Newsletter 61 - June 83
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RD # 1, GENOA, NY 13071

WOOL DAY

A big thank you to all those who contributed to Wool Day by helping, demonstrating or contributing something for displays. The weather wasn't so great but a good number of people came anyway. The variety and quality of fleeces brought in was very good this year and 23 were sold. There were 8 Romney or Romney crosses, 8 Finn or Finn crosses, 5 Corriedale crosses, 1 Rambouillet, 1 Suffolk cross, and prices ranged from 75¢ to \$5.50 per lb. Both colored and white fleeces sold, with the favored color being grey rather than black.

Thanks also to those who came to demonstrate on the Saturday of the ITHACA FESTIVAL. It was a fun day with a very interested crowd with lots of good questions. The Festival is always full of surprises, from the deer hit by a car at the end of the Commons to the clown who had cat hair to be spun!

JUNE MONDAY MEETING

Joan Johnston spoke about various methods of washing wool and brought no less than 32 samples for members to see, feel and compare. Her observations and "results" of this experiment will appear in a future newsletter. The rest of the meeting was devoted to sorting newly acquired fleeces and to a discussion on the future of Wool Day. It was decided that next year we should have a day for the sale of spinning supplies only, at which sheep growers could also offer fleeces. The Guild would take its usual commission. If well set up and with good publicity, it could attract spinners from afar. It would be held on the Sunday following the New York Sheep Show & Sale which takes place early in June. It needs a spiffy name so try to think up something catchy but also self-explanatory. The Ithaca Festival will be our mid-year major demonstration and the major sales event for handmade items will be a Guild table at the Cornell Craft Fair in November.

BEGINNING SPINNING WORKSHOP

Remember to come to help! This will be held on Sunday, June 26, from 9AM - 4 PM at the Varna firehouse. Bring handcarders, spinning wheels, skeinwinders, niddy noddies and a bag of lunch!

SATURDAY GROUP JUNE MEETING

Informal meeting June 25 after noon at Jean Currie's home. Directions: Take Rte 13, go 6 mi. past Newfield on the way to Elmira. Jean's brown wooden house is on the left and you should see a barn with a white painted door. If you get lost, Jean's phone # is 564-9346.

DYEING WORKSHOP with Daisy Kirkpatrick

It is not too late to sign up but remember registration is limited to the first 20 people. Fee is \$15 for active members, \$20 for inactive, & \$25 for non-members. Make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send to the Guild, P.O. Box 6701, Ithaca, NY 14851. The 2-day workshop, dealing with color and chemical dyeing, will be held Saturday & Sunday, July 9 & 10 from 10AM-4PM at the Varna Firehouse, Rte. 366, Varna. For more information call Daisy 607/539-7941.

NEXT MONDAY MEETING

Will be held July 11 at Varna. This will be a follow-up on the dye workshop (whether you attended it or not) and will involve a discussion of color. Bring show and tells with favorite colors.

OTHER BSHG MEETINGS TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday group: July 30 at Varna, noon.

Monday Group: August 8: wool carding at Joan Johnston's house, 10AM. Different people will demonstrate various carding methods and members will have the opportunity to compare the results of each method. This will be our regular summer meeting at a member's house and will replace our summer dyepot. Bring a picnic lunch.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * 3 interesting exhibits (all researched & prepared by Gretchen Sachse) are up at the DeWitt Historical Society, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca. (Hours: 12:30 - 4PM, Tuesday through Saturday):
 - "HATS OFF": variety of hats on display w/ info. and tools relating to the hatmaking industry. Exhibit up until late Fall.
 - "JACQUARD COVERLETS": over a dozen of 19th century coverlets from the Museum's collection. Exhibit up until late Fall.
 - "THE LINEN ECONOMY OF TOMPKINS COUNTY": up until the end of the year.
 For more info. call 607/273-8284.
- * Fiber courses are being offered by the Thousand Islands Craft School, 314 John St., Clayton, NY 13624. Phone: 315/686-4123.
 - "SPINNING AND DYEING": July 4-8, Instructor: Ayalah Jonas.
 - "FELTMAKING": July 11-15; Instructor: Sherry Clark.
 The School has a Textile Library and Museum which you may want to visit if you are in the area.
- * SPINNING AND DYEING COURSES offered by the Georgian College of Applied Arts and Technology, Continuing Education Division, Box 700, 1150 8th St. East, Owen Sound, Ontario N4K5R4. Phone 519/376-0682. There are 6 levels, from beginner to extremely advanced! Course consists in 5-6 or 7 hr. sessions and fee is \$70 Canadian funds for non Canadian Citizens. Courses start July 4.
- * SYRACUSE SUMMER FESTIVAL OF CRAFTS:
 - held at the Dewitt Community Church on Erie Boulevard, corner of East and Grenfell Rd., July 8, 9 & 10.
 - Friday 6-9PM, Sat. 10AM-6PM, Sunday noon-6PM. Admission: \$1.50.

- * ELIZABETH ZIMMERMAN KNITTING WORKSHOP: Sponsored by the Boston Area Spinners & Dyers, and the New Hampshire Spinners & Dyers Guild, July 29 & 30, 9AM-4PM in Henniker, N.H. Fee is \$25 per day. Make checks payable to BASD and send to Shirlee Christophel, 263 Powder House Blvd., Somerville, MA 02144. For more info. call Shirlee 617/666-9530.
- * FIFTH ANNUAL UPSTATE CRAFTS FAIR: AUGUST 4-7. If you wish to exhibit, write P.O. box 173, Ithaca, NY 14851, for more info. and application forms. Entry deadline is June 30. You must be a member of Upstate Crafts and a resident of New York State.
- * THIRD NATIONAL KNITTING MACHINE SEMINAR: held August 18, 19, 20 & 21 at the Hyatt Regency/Crystal City in Arlington, Va. (near Washington, D.C.). Fee for one day is \$70, 3 days: \$120. 69 workshops and lectures to choose from, including "Handspinning for the knitting machine", "Mastering Chemical Dyes" and "Weaving". For more info. write to National Knitting Machine Seminar, 4558 Beech Rd., Marlow Heights, Maryland 20748, or see Marianne Horchler.
- * THIRD ANNUAL LACE DAY: August 20 at the Historical Society, 116 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca, 11:30AM-4PM. Free. Will include displays, demonstrations, supplies, do-it-yourself corner etc. For more information: Holly Van Sciver: 607/277-0498.
- * THE STATE FAIR: will be held August 27-Sept. 5. Entry form deadline for Arts & Crafts Division is August 8 and work will be juried Aug. 17. Same categories as last year in Handspun Yarn Section but there are new special awards for 1983. Aside from a \$25 award from BSHG for best natural colored adult garment made from handspun (not a sweater) and a \$30 award from Erica Rowe for handspun yarns or garments containing at least 50% angora, there is now a \$25 award from The Golden Fleece Spinners Society, an award in Spinning or Weaving from the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., a \$25 award from the Whitney Point Handspinners, and several more awards from various guilds for Weaving. So if you don't have anything ready for the State Fair yet, start spinning!
- * ANNUAL MEETING OF NATIONAL COLORED WOOL GROWERS ASSOCIATION: Sept. 2 & 3 in Trafalgar, Indiana. More details later.
- * FIRST ANNUAL SHEEP TO SHAWL CONTEST: hosted by the New York State Fair and Cherry Valley Country Spinners, Sunday, Sept. 4, 1-5PM in Sheep Barn. If interested in forming a team and competing contact Tisha Lock, Box 212B- RD 4, Canastota, NY 13032. Phone: 315/697-7341. The top winning shawls will be auctioned and the proceeds returned to the teams.
- * SHEEP FIELD DAY: sponsored by the Allegheny Plateau Sheep and Wool Growers Coop, Inc. More details later. They are organizing a spinning competition this year and entries must be in by Sept. 17. For more info. see Marianne Horchler or write to Lisa Ann Merian, RD 1, Box 118, Brackett Lake Rd., Bainbridge, NY 13733. Phone 607/843-6267 or 967-8325.
- * THE WOVEN RECORD: COVERLET EXHIBITION AND SYMPOSIUM: Sept. 23 &

24, sponsored by the University of Maryland, Dept. of Textile & Consumer Economics. Will include discussions, lectures & a panel discussion on regional variations between coverlets from Canada, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Ohio & Indiana. Fee is \$55; registration deadline: Sept. 10. For more info. see Jean Warholc or write to Coverlet Symposium, Dept. of Textiles & Consumer Economics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland 20742.

- * JAN JACKSON DOUBLE WEAVE PICKUP WORKSHOP: Oct. 17, 18 & 19 starting at 9:15AM. Place: to be announced. Sponsored by Seven Valley Weavers' Guild. Registration deadline: Sept. 18. Fee: \$20 for members of 7 Valley, \$30 for non-members. Send check with name, address & phone number to Helen Kiker, 14 Redwood Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850 (ENCLOSE a SASE). For info. call Lou McIsaac 607/257-0720.
- * DOWNTOWN BUSINESSMEN'S ASSOCIATION CRAFT FAIR: July 2 on the Commons, Ithaca. For more info. contact Joanna Bard of J.B. Handcrafts (272-4920).

NOTES

- Vickie Rountree, PO 38, Karlin, Michigan 49647, is looking for handspinners for wool & angora yarns.
- Tompkins County Arts Council has 2 new directories in its library: "The Exhibition Directory for Artists & Photographers" and the "Fall, Winter Northeast Arts & Crafts Directory". Both are available for use at TCAC. For info. call Sharon 277-4906.
- Marianne Horchler will be going to Springfield, Ohio to attend the National Finnsheep Sale & Meeting July 15 & 16. She is looking for someone to share some of the driving as husband Tim will babysit and sheep sit! If interested call 315/497-1542.
- New officers in Thistledown Guild in Norwich were recently elected: Bunny Hall (President), Millie Bankert (V. Pres.), Betty Harrington (Secretary) & Nancy Eicke (Treasurer). Jean Steiber, who has been president for several years, can now relax a bit and get some spinning done!
- Jean Warholc has a friend who is selling a once-used Nilus Leclerc loom, 45", jack type, plus some reeds & shuttles. For more info. call Jean 539-7648 evenings.
- Challenge Industries now has a craft shop called "The Outlet". They would like to carry local crafts. If interested contact Jim Koch, Challenge Industries, 402 E. State St., Ithaca. 607/272-8990.
- Last call for GUILD NAME TAGS! They will be about 2"x1" with your name, the Guild's name, and a black sheep on a silver background. The cost will be \$3-5. Please let Jean Currie know if you want one: 607/564-9346.

A reading suggestion from Gretchen Sachse

For those interested in cotton, or for those doing school programs, there is a nice new book by Millicent Selsam called "Cotton" (Wm Morrow & Co., NY, 1982 \$9.50). Beginning with the discovery of cotton by the West when Alexander the Great brought cotton robes back from India, it covers its history and processings up until the invention of the cotton gin in 1793. The second chapter shows the development of the plant from seed illustrated by excellent photographs. The final chapter illustrates modern processing, following cotton from the field where it is mechanically harvested to the gin and press to the textile mill. Although it is aimed at children, "Cotton" is a treat for adult and child alike. Available at the Tompkins County Public Library.

FALL-IN FESTIVAL

Even though it is early summer, please start thinking about Fall! The Guild has signed up with the Cornell Plantations for participation in the Fall-In Festival on Saturday, October 1. (Go and put that on the calendar now!) We will demonstrate spinning of plant fibres, cotton, linen, ramie? and dyeing with natural dyes. The theme of the day is obviously plants so we should work with things vegetable and not animal! Guild members will be able to sell handmade items, again with a plant theme, but sales are not the main feature of this event. So start practising on some of those plant fibres you have tucked away and be prepared to sign up for the Fall-In.

ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: 22" Harrisville 4-harness floor loom. Folds up and fits in back of car. Great for demonstrating. New leathers and nylon cords. Fully assembled. \$190.00. Also Fr. Angora rabbits. Denise Nunn, R.D. # 1, Box 375, Newark Valley, N.Y. 13811. 607/642-5568. 1/3

Romney Wool: Black, white and grey. A good selection of healthy, long staple fleeces all well-skirted. A few hogget fleeces offer Romney characteristics plus softness too. Gretchen Sachse 607/347-4396. 1/3

Remember our SALE is on until June 30: 15 % off any knitting machine. 4 models available: Bulky, Portable, Cardmatic and Electronic. Regular prices start at \$279. Take advantage of the discount! Marianne Horchler, THE WOOLERY, RD 1, Genoa, NY 13071. 315/497-1542. 1/1

Handspinning Fleeces - Romney's - white and black - some crosses (Tunis, Finn-Ramb., etc.) - Purebred Romney lambs, white & black, rams & ewes. 607/562-8875 or leave message try 607-733-0184). Ezra Wolcott, Deering Hill Farm, Sing Sing Rd., Box 456, Big Flats, NY 14814. 4/12

Flock Reduction: My husband says there are too many sheep. Black and white Romney and Romney crosses, many with lambs at their side. Average fleece weight was 8 lbs. as lambs. Prices are negotiable. Gretchen Sachse 607-347-4396. 1/3

Wanted: Used textile tools of all kinds, preferably in working

condition. Antiques especially. Way Station Yarns & Fibers,
Water St., Greene, NY 13778. 607/656-7669.

For sale: 3 REGISTERED BLACK FINN EWE LAMBS, 2 twins & one triplet.
Also one black Finn x Targhee ewe lamb, born a twin, and one black
5/8 Finn x Tunis-Dorset ewe lamb, born a triplet from a 14 months
old 3/8 Finn ewe with reddish fleece. All lambs were sired by our
regis. black Finn ram from Canada. Marianne Horchler, RD # 1,
Genoa, NY 13071. 315/497-1542.

Come AND TAKE A TRAIN RIDE!!! There will be a shuttle train running
from Greene to Chenango Forks throughout the day on Labor Day. Come
to the old passenger depot and be a passenger. Loading point will
be the depot in Greene. Ticket window will be open all day! Call
656-7669 for more info.

WANTED: I am interested in hearing from guild members who have any
special talent or interest related to spinning, dyeing, weaving,
knitting, basketry, etc. who would be interested in teaching. Please
send me some information on what you have to offer, times available,
costs involved and what size groups you like to work with, etc.
I am getting inquiries and can act as organizer and sponsor, theres
lots of room here at the depot, we might as well make use of it.
Send information to Way Station Yarns and Fibers, at the Depot,
Water St., Greene, NY 13778. Or call 607/656-7669.

FOR SALE Reg. LINCOLN ram lambs. Also COLORED ram and ewe lambs
from a Spinner's flock. Lincoln and Romney crossed on Border
Leicester, Suffolk, Cheviot, to give softness, length, and luster,
to the fleece as well as size to carcass. Gloria Scannell, Weavercroft
Farm, Schodack Landing, NY 12156 (near Albany). 518/732-2916.

FOR SALE: 3 slightly used spinning wheels, all in very good condition.
One Penguin, oiled natural (heel-toe treadle), \$85; one Picardy
Standard (Castle) w/walnut finish (3 whorl flyer & heel-toe treadle),
\$100; one Deluxe Ashford Saxony w/ large flyer, Lazy Kate & 4 bobbins,
\$155. Call Marianne Horchler 315/497-1542. Will deliver to Ithaca.

INDIGO DYEING SUPPLIES to keep you in the blue! Natural indigo patties, synthetic
indigo paste, and Spectralite. Will bring to Saturday group meetings, or call or
write for prices and information. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville,
N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

FOR SALE: Healthy, well-established madder plants. \$3.00 and \$4.00 each,
depending upon size. Call or write to order. Can bring to guild meet-
ings; small additional charge if shipping required. Don Warholic, 280
Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

Loom - 45", 6 treadle, 4 harness Nilus Leclerc with Bench & 12" reed.
\$625. Call 607-539-7436.

WOOLWORKS is now open for custom carding! Shop hours are 9-12, Tues.,
Thurs. and 10-2 Saturday. Or call for an appointment: 607/272-2697.
Special offer through June: I will tease your wool - up to 5# - on the
picker for you. After that you will have to tease it (pull the locks
apart) yourself. I also have available small quantities of black, white

& dyed wool you can add to your own fleeces for variety, at 50¢/ounce.

This machine does a great job on nice well-washed wool; when your batt or roving is finished you will want to rush off and spin it. It is also excellent for blending angora, silk, and dog hair with wool. But, two warnings: 1. Bring your good wool & you will get good batts or roving in return. Bring your crummy wool and you will get crummy batts or possibly none. 2. Wash the wool well. Use very hot water, 1 cup Joy to 5 # fleece, let soak at least 4 hours. Rinse well in warm water. Spin excess water out in washing machine. NEVER AGITATE by hand or machine. Don't use soap. You can use Obadiah Tharp's spinning & carding oil after washing. 2/3

Spin something different: CARDED COTTON, beautiful & soft, \$3/lb. White & colored Finn & Finn X fleeces, all skirted & extremely clean. For sheep lovers we have sheep books, cards, posters, stamps, potholders & T-shirts! Drum carders, wool & cotton handcarders, and a variety of spinning wheels including Ashford, the new Country Craftsman, and the little Charkha Indian wheel as seen in the movie "Gandhi" (The book-size weighs 2½ lbs. and costs only \$36 including 3 spindles and a skeiner! Attache size is \$39 including skeiner; both are made out of teak wood and are finished and ready to use!) Also ball winders, jumbo flyers, spindles, books & more... SASE for brochures & price list. We sell at the shop or via UPS. Free delivery to Ithaca. THE WOOLERY, RD # 1, Genoa, NY 13071, or call Marianne Horchler 315/497-1542. 2/3

Opening May 16: WAYSTATION YARNS & FIBERS located in the old passenger railroad depot on Water St. in Greene. Erica Rowe will be presenting a display on Angora which will be featured through the month of May. We will carry a full line of domestic & imported natural yarns and fibers for spinning, weaving and knitting. Also looms, spinning wheels and accessories. Unique knitting patterns and a complete selection of Merrills of Maine wooden needles and gift sets. Natural and chemical dyes. We are stocking magazines and books covering the full range of fiber arts. We are also dealers for Singer knitting machines. Come and visit us. Call 656-7669 or 656-8948. 3/3

Brother knitting Machines. Sales, Service and instruction. Bulky KH 230 and Electroknit KH910 (with computer) on display. 10% discount to guild members. Iranian & Chinese Cashmere ready to spin, natural cream color \$3/oz. postpaid. Assorted colors fine wool yarn on cones \$5/lb. Complete line of Bartlett yarns including sportweight \$12/lb. Clean fleeces in white, silver greys & black available Jan. 1st. Libby Llop, Inverness Sheep Farm, 3079 Fowlerville Rd., Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. 716-226-2788. 5/6

Black or White Ewe or Ram Lambs of Romney, Border Leicester, Corriedale, Lincoln Xbreeding. Available through Autumn with best variety now. Write to D. Clauson, Box 199C RD#1, Odessa, NY 14869 or call for location; Tel. (607) 594-3708. 5/6

Hagar the Horrible



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