
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD Newsletter 66 - January 1984
P.O. BOX 6701 Editor: Marianne Horchler
Ithaca, N.Y. 14851 R.D. # 1, GENOA, N.Y. 13071

I hope everyone of you enjoyed very happy holidays and had the opportunity to give and be given many spinning-related items! A HAPPY 1984 to all of you! Let's make it a good year for the guild by attending meetings, volunteering for programs, demonstrations etc.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICERS

Please note that our new officers for 1984 are as follows:

PRESIDENT: Virginia Lance, 505 Warren Rd., Ithaca 607/257-3737
VICE PRESIDENT: Linda Dickinson, Box 321, Spencer 14883 607/564-7597
(Contact Linda if you have suggestions for programs)
TREASURER: Mary Ann Sumner
RECORDING SECRETARY: Joann Schaff
LIBRARIAN: Kathie Garnsey
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Marianne Horchler

ROCK DAY - January 7

Our Traditional Rock Day was very successful this year; 23 people were present when the meeting was called to order but more came later. There were some interesting show-and-tells and the dish-to-pass lunch was one of the best ever! Following are the minutes of the meeting as submitted by Joann Schaff, Recording Secretary:

The meeting was called to order by the president, Virginia Lance, at the Varna Comm. Center with 22 members and 1 guest present.

The treasurer's report was presented first. At the beginning of 1983 the Guild had a balance of \$1350. Income for the year totalled approx. \$3400, but expenses were almost \$3500, leaving a balance of \$1258.46.

Spring Fever will take place at the Women's Community Building on March 3 & 4. This year, Seven Valley Weavers is the sponsor. Cost for a guild table is \$25 (Guild takes 10% of sales) and for individuals is \$5 (Spring Fever takes 10%).

Brother Kim Malloy will probably come back in May to give a program focusing on quality of fleeces, skeins, etc.

Ideas for future workshops were discussed - Kay Ross suggested Allen Fannin; Erica Rowe suggested Barbara Wheeler and said she would contact both Fannin & Wheeler to get more information. Another suggestion was for advanced and intermediate spinning workshops. A committee on workshops was formed consisting of Joan Johnston, Marti McGee & Joann Schaff.

The New York State Craft Show Directory (a periodical) was mentioned by Erica as a possible addition to the library. Cost is \$7.50/yr.

Virginia Lance asked for volunteers (one to open building, put on coffee, etc., one to clean up afterwards); Marti McGee volunteered for the Monday, February 13th meeting.

Melissa Ladenheim, from the DeWitt Historical Society, wants to find traditional folk artists - those who have learned their craft in a family, religious or community setting. There was some discussion of the meaning of traditional, especially concerning spinning. No firm conclusion was reached.

There was an incredible amount of food for lunch - all of it delicious!

NEXT BSHG MEETINGS - TIMES AND PLACES

From February through June the Guild will follow the usual monthly meeting schedule:
 The second Monday - 10 to 3 (Bring a lunch, coffee and tea available)
 The last Saturday - 12 to 4
 All of these meetings will be held at the Varna Community Center

Next Saturday meeting: January 28.

Next Monday meeting: February 13. A definite program was not set at this writing so if there is one, it will be a surprise! Be sure to come and bring your wheels and show-and-tells.

MORE SPINNING - LESS TRAVEL

Because many of our members live at such distances, we are encouraging all of you to form small spinning groups near your homes. It takes only two people for a spinning bee. The number is up to you and your space. If yours is a study group we will eventually all benefit from your expertise; if you are a social group, lucky you. Our hope is that we all will spin more, share more, learn more and enjoy more friendships. We expect information and enthusiasm to flow into the monthly Guild meetings in Varna. We want you all to continue coming to the regular meetings in Varna with wonderful items to show and tell. When a group does meet, please bring or send a note about your gathering. (Who? When? Where? What?)

This will happen only if someone in your area will set a time and place then call others to come. Be that someone. To help, here are geographical groupings for Ithaca and five compass points from Ithaca. Names may have been left off or put into the wrong area. If so, do not hesitate to make this known.

EAST

M. Leahy	Whitney P.
C. Altman	McGraw
G. Alamo	Greene
L. Ferro	Cortland
S. Hokanson	Marathon
B. Kuhlman	Cortland
A. Olson	Marathon
B. Pilbeam	McGraw
E. Rowe	E. Freetown
J. Rowe	E. Freetown
M. Kelly	Cortland
A. Vandewater	Cortland

NORTH EAST

M. Horchler	Genoa
E. Cook	Tully
K. Garnsey	Scipio Center
C. McCaffery	Manlius
C. Matijas	Moravia
S. Bacon	Moravia
S. Kyser	Syracuse

SOUTH

K. Halton	Wilseyville
D. Anderson	Candor
V. Church	Candor
L. Dickinson	Spencer
B. Lewis	Van Etten
M. Lynch	Binghanton
M. Marshall	Spencer
N. Morey	Chenango Bridge
C. Nicoll	Berkshire
D. Nunn	Newark Valley
S. Marx	Spencer
D. Kirkpatrick	Slaterville

WEST

M. Meier	Watkins G.
P. Arquette	Millport
J. Carpenter	Penn Yan
R. Duggett	Penn Yan
K. Goodman	Bath
L. Lopp	Saledonia
J. Scott	Canandaigua
M. Woodford	Montour F.
D. Mamroe	Fairport
M. McGee	Dundee
J. Nisbett	Alpine

NORTH WEST

B. Gates	Interlaken
E. Ginkel	Trumansburg
B. Rose	Trumansburg
M. Steve	Trumansburg
M. Wikoff	Trumansburg



LETTERS - QUERIES - COMMENTS

Starting with this Newsletter I would like to invite all of you (members or non-members) to write me with your suggestions, questions, problems, good or bad experiences, successes etc. Anything that has to do with spinning, carding, dyeing, working with fibres, raising sheep etc. I am hoping the Newsletter can serve as a "spinners' exchange" instead of being just a calendar of events and a means of advertising. Hopefully this should especially benefit those of us who for a reason or another cannot come to meetings. So if you feel isolated and have a lot of unanswered questions, write! We can all learn from one another.

Please send your letters to Marianne Horchler, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. (No advertising in this section please.) Deadline: 18th of month.

SPINNERS' EXCHANGE

"I would like to share my success with BSHG. I received an honorable mention in the Spin-Off 1983 cap contest! It was my first hat which fit a normal human head!! It was fun though and I was so pleased when I received the news. Doesn't success breed success!"

Kris Peters, Trout Run, PA.

Congratulations! Kris's cap was made of rainbow dyed handspun Romney wool with shades of lavender and blue. Kris has been spinning off and on for the last seven years. Spin-Off is sponsoring a new contest for 1984: Spin-for-a-scarf (see Upcoming Events for more info.)

* * * * *

"A neighbor of mine just told me that "a sheep can make a living on land that a rabbit would have to pack a lunch to cross."

Joan Johnston

* * * * *

"Okay. I admit I spin for the fun of it. When I throw away a piece of T-shirt that's seen its fourth and final life as a stove black rag I'm glad I don't have to clothe my family and provide my household linens. I like to think that my efforts provide my family with some of the nicer things in life. But when the world presses in around me, I need a little more justification for time spent doing what I enjoy so much.

Economy? Well. . . spinning equipment and materials are not cheap. But the \$20 I'd spend for a plain sweater in a discount store multiplied by my time and skill yields a sweater that's truly my own. I can put in diagonal purple stripes if I want to.

Well, maybe unique is really not enough. My sweater is better! It fits as if it were made for me. It's soft or strong or both. It matches half my wardrobe although that color is no longer fashionable. It won't shrink or pill or sag. And even if I keep turning them out at the incredible rate of one a year, I'll be wearing every one of them ten years from now. "

Mary Ann Sumner

ITHACA ----- ITHACA

C. Breary	Lansing	L. Olds	Dryden
D. Calhoun	Ithaca	N. Prendergast	Ithaca
T. Chambliss	Brooktondale	J. Reuning	Ithaca
R. Church	Dryden	M. Rooney	Brooktondale
P. Gornell	Ithaca	K. Stickane	Ithaca
J. Currie	Newfield	K. Ross	Freeville
E. Driscoll	Dryden	G. Sachse	Ithaca
E. D'Wing	Newfield	A. Sheedy-Feldman	Ithaca
D. Gardiner	Lansing	B. Singer	Ithaca
J. Garborino	Ithaca	M. Scudder	Ithaca
R. Garen	Ithaca	R. Sobol	Ithaca
J. Johnston	Ithaca	M. Sumner	Freeville
S. Lister	Brooktondale	D. Swart	Ithaca
L. Kaufman	Ithaca	J. Warholic	Freeville
H. Kiker	Ithaca	B. White	Dryden
M. Kinoshita	Ithaca	A. Wood	Ithaca
V. Lance	Ithaca	L. Aigen	Ithaca
F. LaVigne	Ithaca	D. Brown	Ithaca
S. Lorbeer	Ithaca	J. Schaff	Etna
E. May	Ithaca	E. Wright	Ithaca
T. Napier	Ithaca	B. Gee	Etna

WORKSHOP COMMITTEE

If you have any ideas or suggestions for workshops please contact a member of the workshop committee: either Joan Johnston, Marty McGee, Erica Rowe, Joann Schaff or Mary Ann Sumner.

A REMINDER FROM JOAN JOHNSTON ...

"To all who picked up the green carded wool at Rock Day: please bring your spun sample to the next meeting or see that another member gets it to bring. We just wanted to show how different people might spin the same wool and we might be able to use it for a display. Do not be too embarrassed to put your name on it! Although Joan Johnston dyed and carded the wool, it was raised by Gretchen Sachse and is a good example of what you can do with crossbreeding. It was a good strong Romney fleece with some Tunis mixed in for softness. The result is finer and softer than purebred Romney, but just as easy to spin."

... AND ONE FROM LIBRARIAN KATHIE GARNSEY

Please return all books, magazines, etc. belonging to the Guild as soon as possible. We would like to see just what is currently owned by the library and what books may be permanently lost. Please take a few moments to look on your own shelves to see if there are any books that belong to the Guild and make arrangements to return them as soon as possible. If it is not possible for you to return them in person perhaps another member could do it. At any rate, please let Kathie Garnsey know that you are returning books or when you may expect to be returning them.

Beginning in March or April we will begin publishing names, in the Newsletter, of members as a reminder that books need to be returned so that others can borrow them.

" We hope to focus some attention this year on what makes handspun better. Why is it better than millspun and what can make it better than we're making it now. Watch this space for some thoughts on spinning to a gauge.

I'm a bit embarrassed to be writing this. I know many of you have more spinning experience than I do. The big difference is that I have a pen in my hand. Try writing about something you're working on, something you've been wondering about or something you've learned.

Meantime please let me know if you wash your wool or spin in the grease and why. How do you card it? How long does it take you to wash and/or card it?"

Mary Ann Sumner

Let's try to get as many answers as possible to Mary Ann's questions! Personally - and as many of you know by now - I spin all my wool in the grease and card it, in the grease, on an 8" drum carder. I can do this because I only work with clean fleeces which do not "need" to be washed first. I also do it because I like the feel of grease wool and find it easier to wash skeins than to wash a whole fleece or parts of a fleece. The wool I generally work with (Finn or Finn X) responds very well to carding in the grease. Washing the skeins takes very little time as I do not let them soak at all; I wash once in water only (lukewarm water), use a little Ivory Snow soap in the second wash and then rinse once or twice till the water comes out clean. Washed in this manner, the yarns will keep most of their natural oils and these will make my knitted or crocheted garments practically waterproof. I would like to know if anyone else uses this method of carding-spinning-washing and if so, with what kind of wool and what results.

Marianne Horchler

UPCOMING EVENTS

* "RAGS TO RICHES" by Suzanne Hokanson, General Meeting of 7 Valley Weavers' Guild, February 7, The 1890 House, 37 Tompkins St., Cortland, N.Y.

* SPRING FEVER: March 3 & 4 at the Women's Community Bldg., 100 W. Seneca St., Ithaca. Is being sponsored by Seven Valley Weavers' Guild this year. Our Guild will participate as in former years and will take 10% of sales, so try to have something ready by the beginning of March. Items cannot be made from kits, patterns or preprinted designs; they can be handspun yarns, or knitted, woven or crocheted garments or accessories made of handspun or felt. We will need volunteers to demonstrate carding and/or spinning both days. Make sure to sign up at the February meeting or contact Virginia Lance (257-3737).

* "SPIN-FOR-A-SCARF CONTEST" : sponsored by Spin-Off Magazine. Scarf must be made from your handspun. There are 3 categories: woven, knitted, or other. Any style or size of scarf is acceptable but the scarf should be a scarf and not a shawl. Enter as many scarves as you like. Deadline for submission is June 1, 1984. Spinning & construction must have been completed during the 12 months previous to the submission deadline. Spinners should indicate on their entries the length of time they have been spinning. Prizes will be: for woven scarves: 1 bag of "elegant fibers" + a small weaving tool; for knitted scarves: 1 bag of "elegant fibers" + handcrafted knitting needles; for

other scarves: 1 bag of "elegant fibers" + a special tool. Submit entries to "Spin-Off Spin For a Scarf Competition", Interweave Press, 306 N. Washington, Loveland, CO. 80537. For more information see Marianne Horchler or the Fall 1983 issue of Spin-Off.

NOTES

- BSHG is looking for good photographs taken at past Guild events for a scrapbook. If you have any please bring them to a meeting or contact Virginia Lance.
- Do not forget to renew your dues. Fill out the membership form enclosed in the Nov./December Newsletter and send it along with your dues.
- Deadline for the February Newsletter is Feb. 18.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Please note that we now have new advertising rates: \$1.00 for one run and \$2.00 for 3. Make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send along with ad to : Marianne Horchler, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071.

FOR SALE: Antique 46" fly shuttle loom. Two harness sectional warp beam, can be converted to regular warp beam. Mfg. by Newcomb Loom Co. Accessories include: tension template, 60+ bobbins, 5 shuttles; 2 extra reeds and misc. Loom is complete and functional. \$250. Write or call; 607/648-9579. Edward or Melissa Wright, R.D. # 1, Bx 83B, Chenango Forks, N.Y. 13746

1/3

RAW LLAMA WOOL: \$1.50 oz. Lots of colors, brown, dark brown, cinnamon, white, grayish brown. We have llamas, come and visit our farm and see these beautiful animals, feel how wonderfully soft the wool is yourself. Also for sale Jacob crosses - with Corriedales & Rambouillet. Beautiful clean black fleece 4-5 inch staple not kempy. We have a beautiful $\frac{1}{2}$ Jacob $\frac{1}{2}$ Corriedale ram lamb born early this year, solid black with excellent fleece, can be used to breed ewes this year. Come visit! "Home Wools" Call (607) 243-5282 or write RD 2 Box 167D Dundee, N.Y. 14837

1/3

Traditional black ash baskets, hand-pounded splint & hickory handles, round bottoms, square bottoms, market baskets, swing handles and other styles. Orders taken. Call Jonathan Kline 607/273-8895 402 N. Titus Ave., Ithaca.

2/3

FOR SALE: 3 white French Angora Rabbits (2 does, 1 buck) born 5/83. \$8 each or all 3 for \$20. Aaron Riddell (607) 277-3379.

2/3

ADD SOME BLUE to your winter dyepot range -- natural indigo patties, synthetic indigo paste, and Spectralite. Can bring to meetings or ship to you. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

5/5

BRAND NEW KNITTING MACHINES for the beginner, ideal for worsted weight yarns, only \$155! New Bartlett wool yarns in many beautiful colors: 1-ply sportswear, 2-ply worsted weight, and bulky; plus our exclusive Finn wool yarns (from our own purebred Finnsheep) in white and blue-grey for extremely SOFT garments. New BOOKS: "Natural Wool Dyes and Recipes" by Ann Milner, \$2.95; "Felting" by Marlie Claessen, \$4.50; the new "Finger Lakes Directory of Arts & Crafts", \$4.95.

Also order lamb from us for Christmas, Easter or any time, cut & wrapped to your specifications, and we'll deliver free to Ithaca area. Call Marianne Horchler, THE WOOLERY 315/497-1542, or write R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 1/6

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. 9/12

FOR SALE: Studio Bulky Knitting machine. Used very little. With or without intarsia carriage. Kathie Garnsey, R.D. # 1, Box 217, Scipio Center, NY 315/364-8889. 1/1

Knitting machines (new & used), Cushing dyes, books, yarn - all at 10% discount to Guild members. Joann Schaff, Nook & Cranny Knits, 347-4817. 1/3

FOR SALE: Used Studio Bulky knitting machine. Like new. Good for worsted & thick yarns. Comes with box of accessories, instruction book and several patterns. Also for sale: Antique Great Wheel (Walking Wheel) with minor's head; has all the parts and spins very well: \$180. Two January born black ram lambs (twins) out of "Ophelia", the black ewe with the finest fleece in our flock, a twin who produces twins year after year (ever since she was 11 mos. old) and is 3/4 Finn; the sire of the lambs is "Romeo", a registered black Finn and a triplet. Either of these ram lambs will give you the prolificacy and early maturity that you need in your flock, plus they will increase the softness, luster and length of your fleeces. Reserve one now. Marianne Horchler, La Bergerie, RD #1, Genoa, NY 13071. 315/497-1542. 1/3

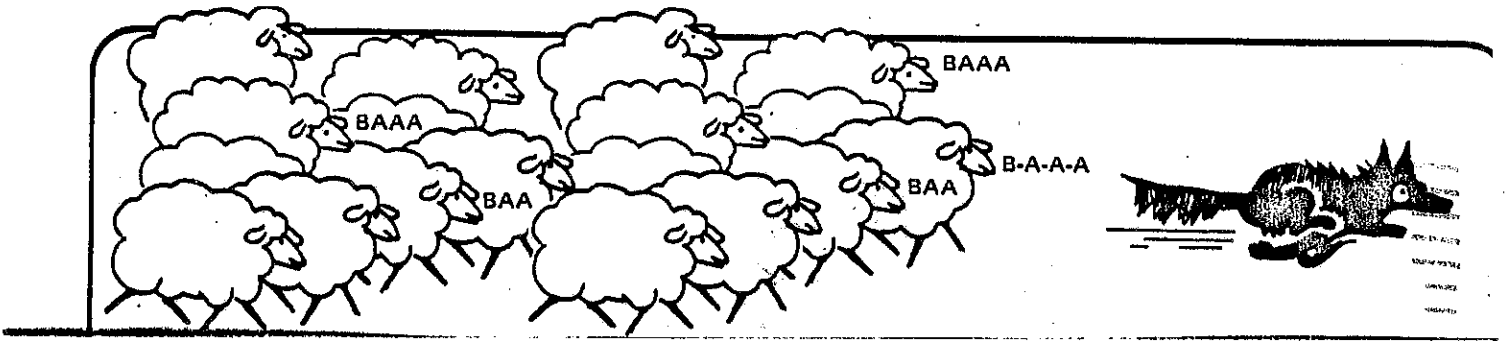
FOR SALE: Registered Lincoln and Registered Romney Sheep. Also for sale, crosses of these two breeds plus crosses with Border Leicester in Grey, charcoal Brown and Black. Gloria Scannell, Weavercroft Farm, R.D. # 1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. 518/732-2916. 3/9

WOOL PICKER FOR RENT. 35¢ per pound in my home or take the picker home for a day \$2.00 or a weekend \$5. Call Cindy Putman Neugebauer 677-9430. Lafayette. 3/3

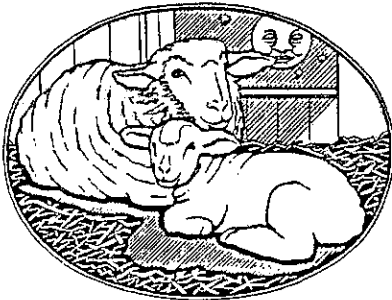
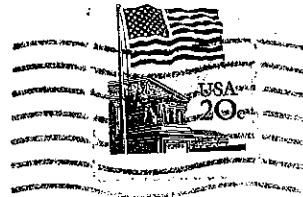
WOOLWORKS urges you to be creative in carding your wool - it's more fun to spin! Dye some to mix with white or black. Blend with angora, mohair, silk or dog hair. We also carry dyed wool in lovely colors for varying your fleece at 75¢/ounce and golden Tussah silk at \$2.00/ounce (or \$7/4½ ounces). Just a little makes a big difference. You can do it; I can help. Call ahead. Joan Johnston, 1025 Bostwick Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. 607/272-2697. 2/3

Ashford & other spinning wheels, many fibres, hand & drum carders, spinning accessories, knitting machines, wool yarns, books, T-shirts, posters, stamps, sheepy items, more. Also registered white & colored Finnsheep, registered black Border Leicesters, and Finn crosses, mostly Finn x Dorset and Finn x Border Leicester; portable electric fencing & chargers. Free catalog - mail order or come to: THE WOOLERY, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Phone: 315/497-1542. No shipping charges on Ashford wheels and on most of our knitting machines. 2/12

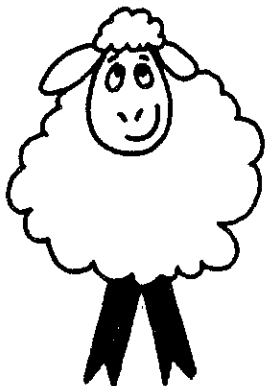
FALL FLOWER HONEY for sale: \$1.00 per pound. (One quart is about 3 lbs.) Will bring to meetings; call to make other arrangements. Don Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648 evenings) 2/4



BSHG
P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, N.Y. 14851



Kay Riddell, I
2763 Slaterville Rd.,
P.O. Box 84,
Slaterville Springs, NY 14881



486 Hayts Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850