



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

Newsletter 67 - February 1984
Editor: Marianne Horchler
R.D. # 1, GENOA, N.Y. 13071

February Monday Meeting

Our Feb. 13 meeting saw a large gathering of BSHG members. It was decided to cancel our traditional Wool Day in May and replace it with a "Spinners' Fair" or "Fibre Exchange" event in the Spring or Summer. The educational aspect of Wool Day could be better emphasized at a craft event in the Fall (for instance Fall-In at the Cornell Plantations), some of our members said. If you would like to voice your opinion on this contact Virginia Lance (257-3737) or any other officer.

Plans are already being formulated for the Fibre Exchange event & the committee working on this project needs your ideas. Please write or telephone NOW: Jean Warholic (539-7648), Mary Ann Sumner (257-5754), Nancy Morey, Alice Wood or Marianne Horchler.

SPRING FEVER

Will take place at the Women's Community Building on March 3 & 4. If you signed up to demonstrate, do not forget to come. If you bring in items for the Guild to sell remember to label & price them.

BSHG MARCH MEETINGS

*MONDAY MARCH 12: 10AM-3PM. There will be an informal program about RAMIE - a fibre many of us know little about and even fewer have tried to spin. Mary Ann Sumner will tell us something about this "China grass" (or poor man's silk, as it is nicknamed), a member of the nettle family that is processed similarly to flax, yet has the hand & luster of silk when spun and woven. Ramie will be available for all to spin and think about.

*SATURDAY MARCH 31: Norman Hall, spinning wheel maker from Oxford, N.Y., will talk about "YOUR SPINNING WHEEL: HOW IT WORKS - AND KEEPING IT GOING". Given the number of beginning spinners in our Guild (and oldsters who need refreshing), we felt this important program should be given on a Saturday to maximize attendance. NOTE: The Varna building will be opened early at 11:00 to allow us the chance to have lunch and get set up so that the program can begin promptly at 1:00PM, and you may want to plan to stay until 4 or 4:30PM. Norm, who has been making wheels and spinning equipment for 8-9 years, will discuss types of wheels (old & new), how they work, spinning ratios, wheel care and maintenance, and will help you with your wheel problems. You are encouraged to bring your cantankerous wheel(s) and numerous questions. - this is hands-on and your chance to learn more about our spinning machines! Norm will have some equipment for sale (including drop spindles) and will talk about his work. There will also be different spinning wheels to try. It will be a full afternoon; plan to attend!

BROTHER KIM MALLOY WORKSHOPS

Bro. Kim Malloy, sponsored by Jean Warholic & Daisy Kirkpatrick, is coming back to Ithaca. He will be giving an evening lecture (free) on May 18, a workshop on sharpening your spinning skills May 19, and a weaving workshop (weaving with a handspun loom) on May 20. The

registration forms will be mailed out in March. For more information call Daisy 607/539-7941.

LIBRARY NOTES FROM KATHIE GARNSEY

A thank you to all of you who returned books and magazines. There are still many out so please take time to look again to see if you have any that should be returned.

Just a note about borrowing and returning books. I'm sure this is not new but, just in case ----- to sign a book out please find its 3 x 5 card, write your name and date borrowed and file it in the little green file box under the author's last name. When you return the book it will be easy to find the card, write down the date you are returning the book, place the 3 x 5 card in its book jacket and the book on the shelf for the next person to sign out. "Self service!"

MORE NOTES...

- Daisy Kirkpatrick has had only one reply to her questionnaire -- All those who signed up for the color study group should get in touch with her!
- Artists & craftspeople who would like to exhibit their work locally are invited to contact Collegetown Bagels & Appetizers, 257-2255, Triphammer Mall, Ithaca.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * An open-judging exhibition on CRAFTS is scheduled for March 20-April 8 at the Memorial Art Gallery in Rochester. Receiving date is March 10. Each craftsman may submit up to 2 works. For more info. contact the Gallery Store at (716) 275-2370 or write: Memorial Art Gallery, 490 University Ave., Rochester, N.Y. 14607.
- * "Spinning for Softness & Speed" a Paula Simmons workshop sponsored by Lynn Stiefel of the Golden Fleece Society: This is a 2-day workshop, April 7 & 8, 9AM-12PM & 1PM-4PM each day, to be held at the Van Buren Town Hall, Van Buren Rd., Baldwinsville, N.Y. Class will be limited to 25 students & deadline for registration is February 28. Exact fee is undetermined at the present time (!) but \$10 should be paid now as nonrefundable registration fee to be applied toward total fee for workshop (!). For more information contact Lynn Stiefel at 315/638-2856. Registration fee should be sent to Jacob's Flock, 2666 Turner Rd., Baldwinsville, N.Y. 13027. (Make check payable to Jacob's Flock).
- * "Lecture by Paula Simmons": this will be held in conjunction with the above workshop April 7, 7:30PM, at Aspen House in Radisson. For directions & more information contact Lynn Stiefel or a member of the Golden Fleece. The lecture is free to Golden Fleece Society members, \$2 for non-members.
- * "Silk Workshop" by Jean Case: this is also announced (and I assume sponsored) by the Golden Fleece Society and will be held in May. No other details available at this time.
- * The Wool Pool date for Unadilla is May 17 this year.

- * The TELE-AUCTION FOR EASTER LAMBS & KID GOATS will be held April 6. Commitment forms will have to be in by March 28. The dates of the Roman & Greek Easter coincide this year (April 22) so there will only be one tele-auction. For more info. see Marianne Horchler or contact your extension agent.
- * No date has been set yet for the annual Ithaca "Sheep Show & Sale". If it is like previous years, it will probably be the first weekend in June.
- * "The Mannings' 11th National Handweavers' Show" will be held April 14 - May 6, 1984, at The Mannings', East Berlin, Pa. One entry may be submitted by each artist and entry fee is \$5. Mailed entries will be received March 19 through March 31. \$2,000 or more in prize money will be awarded. Categories are: Weaving in the Colonial Tradition, Handspun - Vegetal Dyed - Handwoven, Handwoven Rugs, Weaving you can Wear, Tapestry, Weaving for Home Interiors, & Fibre Manipulation. For more info. see Marianne H. or write The Mannings, R.D. 2, East Berlin, Pa. 17316. Call toll-free 1-800-233-7166 between 8:30AM & 4PM.
- * "The Mannings' Annual Spinning Seminar" will be held June 9, 1984. More details later.
- * "Arts in the Park": this annual festival, sponsored by the Arnot Art Museum, will be held in Elmira (in Mark Twain Riverfront Park & Clemens Square pedestrian mall, downtown) on May 19, 10AM-6PM & May 20, noon-6PM. Exhibitors must submit 5 slides and pay a \$30 fee; this includes a \$25 entry fee and a \$5 jurying fee. The jurying fee is non-refundable. Deadline is April 30. For more info. send SASE to Arnot Art Museum, 235 Lake St., Elmira, NY 14901. Phone: 607/734-3697.
- * "21st Ontario Handspinning Seminar": will be held June 16 & 17 on the campus of the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. (Note the new location: this is approx. 60 mi. W. of Toronto.) The featured fibre this year will be mohair. A complete program will be available in April. There will be a handspun skein competition in conjunction with the seminar and it features 8 class specifications. For more info. see Marianne H. or write Barbara Carter Scott, R.R. No. 1, Ariss, Ontario, NOB 1B0, Canada. Phone 519/846-5541.
- * "Second Central New York Spinning Seminar", sponsored by the Golden Fleece Society, will be held Oct. 20 & 21 at the Holiday Inn on Farrell Road (Baldwinsville?). The 2 mornings will be filled with slide programs and an informational panel type slot on the care and workings of the spinning wheel. The afternoons of each day will be used for 4 workshops: Silk by Jean Case, Flax by Dora Swart, The Designing & Finishing of Sweaters by Carol Knoblock, and Fancy Yarns and Blends by Madaline Adkins. Each "hands on" type workshop will last for a full afternoon, running concurrently. Each person attending the seminar will sign up for their choice of 2 workshops, one for each afternoon. There will be a small materials fee charged, the amount to be announced later.

SPINNERS' EXCHANGE

From Joan Johnston

(Or is it Joy Joyston? - Ed.)

WASHING WOOL : An experiment

Each person has her own method of washing a raw fleece and it is often acquired by the advice of another person or a book or is determined by whatever is hanging around the house. There isn't really anything wrong with these ways but I decided it would be nice to have a concrete idea of what differences would appear if the same fleece was washed in different cleaning agents. And better yet, if two fleeces were washed, they could be compared as well as the cleaners.

A Suffolk-Finn fleece, pretty clean and open, was well mixed and divided into 8 eight ounce portions, and a smaller Tunis-Romney fleece which was also open but sticky enough to catch dirt, was also mixed and divided into 8 six ounce piles. There were 8 test solutions: 1. Hot water only; and hot water with 2. Ivory Snow (soap), 3. ammonia, 4. washing soda, 5. borax, 6. Joy, 7. Joy plus washing soda, 8. generic powdered laundry detergent. The water was quite hot - 150°F. The amount of cleaning agent added to the water was based on the proportion of 1 cup per 5 pounds unwashed fleece, so there were 5 teaspoons each for the 8 ounce piles and 3½ teaspoons each for the 6 ounce portions. For the Joy plus washing soda, the correct proportion of each cleaner was added. Each pail had the same amount of water, 2 gallons. A pile of wool was pushed into each bucket until submerged. It was not stirred. After ½ hour, approximately half the wool was removed and rinsed. Then ½ the cleaning solution was poured out. The rest of the wool was left to soak in the rest of the water for a total of 5 hours. After soaking, each portion of wool was rinsed twice in warm water, spun in the washing machine, and spread out to dry.

The wool was then placed in a grid on a table and compared. There were 8 cleaning solutions, 2 soak times, and 2 fleeces, which multiplied into 32 little piles of more or less clean wool. It was difficult to measure the results exactly, but the following conclusions could be drawn.

1. The Suffolk-finn fleece cleaned slightly better than the Tunis-Romney.
2. For both fleeces, hot water alone was an excellent cleaner, leaving some grease but not the dirt.
3. For both fleeces, the alkaline solutions of ammonia, borax, and washing soda accentuated yellow tips of locks.
4. For each fleece, the Joy, and Joy with washing soda piles were noticeably whiter and more free from grease than the other piles.
5. There did not seem to be much difference between the Joy and Joy with washing soda.
6. The Ivory Snow wool was softer than the others, except hot water only.

7. The 5 hour soak time did not seem appreciably better than the $\frac{1}{2}$ hour soak time except for the Tunis -Romney fleece in the Joy solution.

8. The only wool that was fit to go through a carding machine was washed in Joy. Then I followed up the experiment by calling Proctor & Gamble to find out what was in Joy. The spokesperson wouldn't tell me exactly since it is a trade secret, but she did say that it had no whiteners; it contains a precipitating type of water softener; and it does have an ammoniacal component but has a neutral pH. This was interesting because all the other cleaning agents have an alkaline pH. There is some suggestion that the alkaline pH is detrimental to the wool because wool does dissolve in hot caustic soda (lye). However the wool industry does use washing soda in the scouring of wool. I have decided not to use it any more myself! Joy has the added advantage of washing completely out of the wool, while the Ivory Snow leaves a film which has the effect of making the wool feel softer, but may ultimately break down the fiber.

There is no doubt that some fleeces are harder to clean than others. I have been running into black fleeces that remain greasy after washing. I would suggest raising the water temperature the second time. Both the fleeces I used in this test cleaned pretty well, but a more closed fleece with tight locks would have to be well pulled apart before washing.

If you want to keep the grease in the wool, washing in hot water alone does an excellent job. Try it and save detergent money. If you want to get the grease out, but like a softer feel, try cleaning the wool with Joy, spinning it into yarn, then washing it with soap. Finally, since some cleaners cause apparent color changes in the fleece, be sure to treat all the wool for a garment in the same way.

If anyone would like to test other factors in washing wool, such as water temperature, other cleansers, or after rinses, please let us know the results.

From Kathie Garnsey:

It was a little more than a year ago when I decided to rummage through an old stack of newspapers where I had seen an advertisement submitted by someone who gave spinning lessons. Spinning had always been something I wanted to try. The timing was right. I had just been laid off from my job and my one consuming pastime, horses, was becoming less important to me than it once had been. A new interest was what I needed, and it turned out that spinning was to be it.

I found the advertisement. It was a local number! It was exciting to find out that someone else does live out in the far reaches between Auburn and Ithaca. I ended up talking for quite a while to Marianne Horchler. She was so knowledgeable, enthusiastic and spent forever with me on the phone! We finally agreed on some spinning lessons for me. I took a few private lessons and my dream of learning to spin got off to a start.

Now time has gone by and my spinning improves. Although I still have a lot to learn I feel confident that I actually can spin a yarn that can be used. I feel proud and especially look forward to the future that holds the exchange of ideas and the techniques of spinning with my fellow spinners of the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild.

NOTE: Remember that the deadline for contributions to the Newsletter news items, ads, etc. is the 18th of the month. I would like to have more contributions for the Spinners' Exchange; send your ideas, questions, comments on anything that has to do with carding, spinning, dyeing, raising sheep or other fibre animals, to Marianne Horchler, R.D. 1, Genoa, NY 13071. Do it before March 18 for the March Newsletter!

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

BRAND NEW KNITTING MACHINES for the beginner, ideal for worsted weight yarns, only \$155 ! New Bartlett wool yarns in many beautiful colors: 1-ply sportsweight, 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. 3/6

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. 10 /12

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

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. 4/9

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. 3/12

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) 3/4

Lilistina floor loom for sale. 4 harness, 6 treadle, string heddles. Includes 4 reeds. \$200. 315/677-9430. 1/1

FOR RENT - Are you a brand new spinner or just tired of your old wheel? Rent a Louët spinning wheel for a month and experience for yourself what a superior wheel it is, and how reasonably priced. Rental fee \$5, limit one month. Should you decide to purchase a Louët wheel the \$5 will be applied to the purchase price. Try it the wheel speaks for itself! Other superb Louët products available, handcards, looms, drum carders, skeinwinders. Call "HOMEWOOLS" (Marty McGee) (607) 243-5282 or write RD 2 Box 167D Dundee, NY 14837 1/3

Angora bunnies for sale half French & half German, 2 black bucks and 3 white does. No phone so please write and I'll call you. Brenda Finch, Birch Lane Farm, RD Box 89B, Port Leyden, N.Y. 13433. 1/1

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 2/3

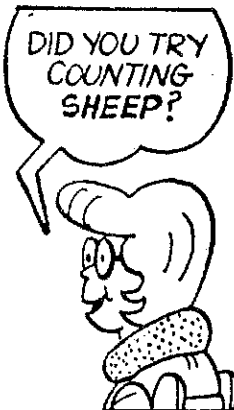
Traditional black ash baskets, hand-pounded splint & hickory handles, round bottoms, square bottoms, market baskets, swing handles and other styles. Orders taken. Call Jonathan Kline 607/273-8895 402 N. Titus Ave., Ithaca. 3/3

Contact us for your spinning wheel needs. We offer a large selection: the Ashford Traditional, Traveller & Elizabeth, the Country Craftsman, the Louëts, the Picardy, the Penguin and the New Zealand Tui. New lower discount prices on mail-order. Also, we will soon be able to offer custom picking, carding and blending of our fleeces in the grease, and of your grease wool IF it is very clean. More details later. THE WOOLERY, R.D. # 1, Genoa, NY 13071. 315/497-1542. 1/1

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. 3/3

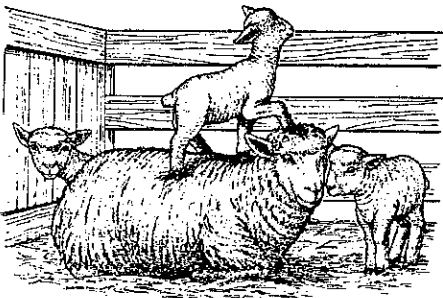
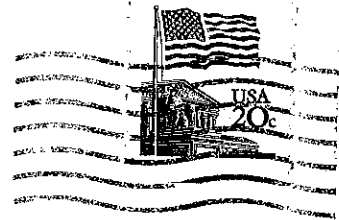


The sixth sheik's sixth sheep's sick.



Wishing many twin & triplet lambs to all the sleepless shepherds out there!

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



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