



 BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD Newsletter 68 - March 1984
 P. O. Box 6701 Editor: Marianne Horchler
 Ithaca, N.Y. 14851 R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071

March Monday Meeting

Our March 12 meeting was devoted to ramie and was well attended. There were many interesting show-and-tells including an unusual and innovative spinning wheel made from scratch (to say the least) by a promising new spinner and member, Amy Hnatko of Cortland. Following are the minutes of the meeting as submitted by Joann Schaff, Recording Secretary:

The regular monthly meeting was called to order by the president, Virginia Lance, at the Varna Community Center with 19 members and guest present. The Treasurer, Mary Ann Sumner, reported that the Guild has a balance of \$1694, with bills outstanding for 2 printings of the newsletter.

Plans are proceeding for the Wool Day substitute, tentatively to be called FiberFest. It will probably be held in July at 4H Acres (areas for picnics, pens for animals, etc.). There will be no Guild table, only a charge for tables that other individuals will then be in charge of. Perhaps we could ask the Varna ladies to do the food (as a money-making venture for themselves).

After the business meeting Mary Ann Sumner gave a short talk on Ramie, a bast fiber used frequently in the Far East. It has the luster (but not the softness) of silk, and the strength of linen. Though not very absorbent its smoothness makes it a comfortable summer fabric. It is not difficult to spin if a length of the fiber is pulled off the roving and wrapped over a finger. This maintains a V and makes drafting a simple process. Everyone got a chance to spin up some of the ramie provided by Mary Ann.

UPCOMING BSHG MEETINGS

- * SATURDAY March 31: 11AM - 4:30PM at Varna. On the program, starting at 1:00PM: "Your Spinning Wheel: How it Works - and Keeping it Going" by Norman Hall. Bring your wheel(s), old and new, especially any unusual ones.
- * Monday April 9: 10AM-3PM at the Varna firehouse. The program "Knitting a HANDSPUN sweater from the top down on a knitting machine" will be presented by Joann Schaff. Bring a lunch and your show-and-tells as usual.

BRO. KIM MALLOY WORKSHOPS

Registration forms for the 2 workshops (May 19 & 20) and the lecture (May 18) are included with this newsletter unless you were sent them previously or had the opportunity to pick them up either at the Spring Fever show or at the March Monday meeting. If for some reason you did not get any, contact Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Rd., Freeville, N.Y. 13068 (607) 539-7648, or Marianne Horchler (315) 497-1542.

"FIBREFEST" or "SPINNERS' MARKET"

We need your input to decide on a name for the event which will replace

our Wool Day. It will be held Sunday, July 29, at the 4-H Acres. More details later.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Paula Simmons Workshop: April 5 & 6 at the Chenango County Museum, Rexford St., Norwich. Hours: 9:30-3PM both days. Sponsored by the Thistledown Handspinners Guild; \$12 per day for Thistledown Guild members, \$17 for non-members. Topics will include: spinning techniques for speed and conquering overtwist; wool handling procedures to minimize time and work; use of handspun in knitting, weaving, crocheting & tailoring; spinning yarn for sale, pricing, merchandising, packaging & goals. Bring a bag lunch on Thursday and a covered dish-to-pass on Friday with your own table service. Bring wheel, carders & niddy-noddy. Make check payable to Thistledown Handspinners Guild, P.O. Box 446, Earlville, NY 13332.
- * Paula Simmons Lecture: April 5, 7-9PM, same location as above. The lecture is free.
- * "Spinning for Softness & Speed", a 2-day workshop by Paula Simmons. April 7 & 8, 9AM-12PM & 1PM-4PM each day, Van Buren Town Hall, Van Buren Rd., Baldwinsville. The deadline for registering was Feb. 28. To find out whether you can still attend contact the sponsor Lynn Stiefel (315) 638-2856.
- * Paula Simmons Lecture: April 7, 7:30PM, at Aspen House in Radisson. Contact Lynn Stiefel for more info. Lecture is free to Golden Fleece Society members, \$2 for non-members.
- * Syracuse Knitting Machine Seminar: April 8, 10AM-5PM at the Hotel Syracuse, Hotel Syracuse Square. There will be 8 workshops for beginners to advanced knitters. Fee is \$10 (or \$12 at door); for more information contact (and send fee to) The Knitting Gallery (Kevin Colomb), 1313 W. Fayette St., Syracuse, N.Y. 23104 Phone: 315/422-0079, or Becky's Knittery, P.O. Box 87-A, R.D. # 2, Verona, N.Y. 13478. BSHG member Joann Schaff will be one of the demonstrators.
- * Third Annual Women Artists Conference: held at Tompkins Cortland Community College April 11, 12 & 13. This year's theme: Threads of Memory, a celebration of myth & memory in the fibre-related work of women artists. Lectures will include "Goddess Embroideries of Russia and the Ukraine" by BSHG member Mary Kelly, April 11, 3PM, Rm. 112. For more info. call Mary at 607-844-8211.
- * Fifth Annual Knitting Machine Seminar: to be held at the Holiday Inn, 946 New Loudon Rd., Latham, N.Y. (near Albany), April 27, 9-5PM & 28, 9-12 & 3-5PM. Registration: \$10 per day (\$12.50 at door). For more info. and to send fee, write Margaret's Knit Shop, Rte. 150, P.O. Box 414, West Sand Lake, N.Y. 12196, or call (518) 674-5518, or see Marianne Horchler.
- * Tompkins County Cooperative Extension Programs related to sheep raising: "Pasture Management" has been tentatively set for April 28; more details in the next newsletter. Programs/classes on "Sheepdog Training" (suggested by your Ed.) this Spring, "Lamb Grading" this Fall, and "Shearing" (another of my suggestions which, I think, will

interest many spinner-shepherds) for early next year are all in the works. For more information contact Janet Hawkes at the Cooperative Extension, or see Marianne Horchler.

- * Friends of Traditional Arts (FOTA) Spring Craft Fair: 10AM-5PM, Saturday, May 5, at the Rockefeller United Methodist Church, 350 Nottingham Rd., Syracuse. Fee for 8'x8' space is \$20, \$15 for those who will demonstrate. All items must be handcrafted and preference will be given to traditional arts & crafts. Deadline: April 10. Send fee to Ellen Herrington, 3547 Bishop Hill Rd., Marcellus, N.Y. 13108. Phone: 315/673-1809.
- * Seneca County Wool Pool: tentatively set for May 19. For more details contact Barbara Gates, 2861 Lodi Rd., Box 154, Interlaken, N.Y. 14847. 607/532-4206.
- * Rome Arts Festival 1984: June 2 & 3, 10AM-6PM each day, at the Rome Art & Community Center, 308 W. Bloomfield St., Rome, N.Y. 13440. Fee for 12'x12' outdoor space is \$40, tent space is \$50. 4 slides must be submitted for jurying and jurying fee is \$2. Application is due with fees by April 1. Send to the above address. For additional info. contact Selena Abbey at (315) 336-1040.
- * 41st Annual New York Sheep Show and Sale: will be held at the Cornell Livestock Pavilion on June 1 (Show - starting at 10AM) and 2 (Sale - starting at 10AM). For more info. see Marianne Horchler.
- * "Spinners' Day" in Cooperstown: The Farmer's Museum of Cooperstown, N.Y. will host a day for spinners on August 25, 10AM-4PM. Spinners are asked to bring their wheels and anything they spin; this will not be an opportunity to sell, only to get together and spin. For further information call Rabbit Goody at 607/547-5676.
- * Annual Allegheny Plateau Sheep & Wool Producers Coop. field day: will be held Saturday, September 8 at the Norwich fairgrounds. More details later.

NEW BSHG MEMBERS

Welcome to 2 new members:

- Gillian L. Tasker, 504 Stewart Avenue, Apt. 1A, Ithaca. Active member, spinner & knitter.
- Amy S. Hnatko, 4325 Locust Ave., Cortland. Inactive member, beginner spinner & knitter.

NOTES

- "Handwork", 106 W. State St., is interested in sponsoring the local guilds in a show to be held at Handwork. The members of Handwork will take care of hanging, displaying & dismantling the show (they always welcome help, however) and will hold an opening reception. A date will be decided on later; in the meantime we should all start working!
- Deadline for the April newsletter is April 18. Please send news items & any contributions for the "Spinners' Exchange" to Marianne Horchler, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071 before April 18.

SPINNERS' EXCHANGE

From Joan Johnston:

As my wool washing experiment was rather long, and perhaps confusing even if you got to the end, I thought I should point out that I do not indiscriminately advocate the use of Joy in cleaning your wool. If you want greasy wool for hand carding, drum carding or no carding, plain hot water is fine. I do not recommend any of the alkali detergents which include borax, washing soda, and laundry detergents. I do feel that you must use Joy, Dawn, or LOC to clean the wool enough for carding on large carding machines, for blending colors, for blending silk, mohair, angora, llama wool, dog hair, and other fibers with the wool. Using Joy, Dawn, or LOC does not strip the wool of all its softness and suppleness, as alkalis may. Wool that is naturally soft will remain soft after such washing. Wool that is naturally harsh or prickly will benefit from a bath after spinning in Ivory soap to coat the fibers.

Also re: LOC. I did the same experiment using only LOC and Joy. I did not find any difference between the cleaning power on moderately dirty fleeces. LOC does not create suds as Joy does, which may be important if you are washing a small batch of wool by hand. But using the washing machine to spin out the water eliminates the suds.

Amway pushes the organic bio-degradable aspect of LOC, so I called Proctor & Gamble again (it says so, on the bottle, toll-free) and discovered that all of Joy is bio-degradable. It's also, as a bonus, in case you were worried, KOSHER. I don't know if LOC is Kosher but it does cost 2½ times as much as Joy, so I'll stick to Joy.

P.S. When I did the original washing experiment, I did not do it because I already believed Joy was better. I didn't know anything except that Sunny Bixby said to use it and I wanted to find out why. I presented it to the Guild as a program, and if you had come, you would have seen for yourself the surprising differences between the wools.

P.P.S. I use Palmolive for washing dishes.

From Virginia Lance:

"I saw the following in the Boston Area Spinners & Dyers Newsletter and thought it related to our current focus on QUALITY as in the Bro. Kim Malloy workshop. Perhaps a discussion by members via the newsletter would be interesting. This is quoted from Allan Fannin in a 1982 interview reported in the Feb. '84 issue of the BASD Newsletter:

"To save every bit of yarn just because the time you put in is precious is sort of like someone who is learning to play a musical instrument wanting to record all of their errors for posterity... If you are spinning just for pleasure, the quality of the yarn you produce is going to be affected simply because the yarn is secondary."

This is one viewpoint. What do other members think?

From Marianne Horchler:

"I just have to justify why this newsletter is being typed and sent a little later than usual and why, when one of you calls me these days, she inevitably finds me in the barn and hears some loud "bee's" over the phone: so far I have had 4 single lambs, 16 sets of twins, 6 sets of triplets, 2 sets of quads and one set of quints born! Still have 13 more ewes to go before April 12..."

The BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD OF ITHACA brings back by popular demand...

BRO. KIM MALLOY

WORKSHOP I: CHALLENGING YOUR SPINNING SKILLS

(One day: Saturday, May 19, from 9:30-4:30 p.m.)

[Class limit: 25]

This workshop is an opportunity for intermediate and advanced spinners to sharpen their spinning skills. We will begin with a quiz of a dozen mystery fleeces. You will be asked specific questions about each of them. How well can you judge raw fleece? Group discussion will follow. Then we will judge handspun skeins, again answering specific questions on each skein. Discussion will follow. Both the fleeces and skeins will be available for you to attach samples to your worksheets to take home.

After lunch, your spinning skills will be challenged with a variety of contests to see how fast you can spin a measured amount of wool, how thin, how thick. Brother Kim will discuss techniques with us and coach us as we work to achieve the right amount of twist, slubbiness, ply, etc. The emphasis here is on control and efficiency.

The end of the workshop will be spent on reviewing our show-and-tells (both successful and unsuccessful) to help us learn what has been done well and what could be better.

Cost: \$30.00 for Black Sheep members; \$35.00 for non-members.

WORKSHOP II: WEAVING FOR THE HANDSPUN LOOK

(One day: Sunday, May 20, from 9:30-4:30 p.m.)

[Class limit: 25]

This workshop is for spinners and weavers who want to weave handspun or achieve the handspun look. The special problems of weaving with handspun will be discussed, as well as spinning for weaving projects. Brother Kim will demonstrate warping a loom with handspun singles. He will talk about the warps you will work with that day, and then you will weave your wefts on these different warps. At the end of the day, the warps will be taken off the looms, cut up, and you will have your samples to take home with you.

It is not required that you bring a loom with you. However, you will be asked to provide shuttles and bobbins wound with yarns you have spun or any others you wish to try. It is an opportunity to try your own wefts on a number of warps and to try weaving your handspun if you have never done it.

You do not have to be a weaver to attend this workshop. However, this work-

* * * * *

* Brother Kim Malloy OSB is a full-time weaver and has been spinning and *
 * weaving for over 25 years. He has been working on a professional level *
 * since the early 1960's, spending full-time in his studio and teaching, *
 * and is an ecclesiastical weaver of some note. He is a contributor to *
 * *Ars Textrina*, the journal of complex weaves. Brother Kim weaves on a *
 * number of complex looms (including jacquard, split-shaft draw loom, 5- *
 * shaft draw loom, and a 12-harness counter-march Glimakra with a fly shut *
 * shuttle). This is the second series of workshops the Black Sheep Hand- *
 * spinners Guild has had with Brother Kim. *

* * * * *

shop is not aimed at teaching you how to weave, so that some basic knowledge is desirable and further instruction must be obtained elsewhere.

A \$20.00 discount is being offered to those bringing looms warped to workshop specifications. If you plan to take advantage of this, you must call Daisy Kirkpatrick (607/539-7941) before you register to find out what warp and sett is needed. No consultation with Daisy, no discount. You may still bring a warped loom, but will pay full price. No exceptions.

Cost: \$40.00 Black Sheep members; \$45.00 non-members.

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER with Brother Kim Malloy

(Friday evening, May 18 -- 7:30 p.m. -- \$1.00 donation requested at door.)

Brother Kim will give a lecture/slide show at 7:30 p.m. This is an opportunity to meet him and you need not be registered for any of the workshops to attend. He will be sharing with us his current explorations in the world of weave structures and will illustrate this with slides and samples.

You are also invited to bring your own projects (successful and otherwise) to share in a group "show-and-tell" after the lecture.

We hope you will plan to attend this program, and bring a friend!

** ** * * * * *

SALES OPPORTUNITIES FOR WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

You may bring spinning- and weaving-related items to sell on the workshop day(s) you are registered, at no charge. Check the box on the registration form to indicate you will be selling. (No check in the box, no sales!)

Space is limited: you may not occupy more than one 4'x8' table (of course, you may put items under it and overflow into your car outside). If you don't have much, please request one-half (4'x4') table. BSHG reserves the right to further restrict your space depending on response; your space will be confirmed with your registration.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Registrations must be received by May 1, accompanied by payment in full. Each workshop is limited to 25 on a first-come, first-served basis.

BSHG membership as of May 1, 1984. (Everyone else is considered a non-member.)

Registration implies that you have read the above and understand it, and expect to come to the workshop(s) prepared. Plan to arrive by 9:00 a.m., unload and set up, see friends, get coffee, and be ready to work by 9:30. These are full-day workshops and late-comers (except in emergencies) are frowned upon. The building will be open and coffee on by 8:30 a.m.

No children.

The lecture and two workshops will be held at Varna, N.Y. (four miles east of

Ithaca), at the Varna Community Association building on Route 366. Parking is ample.

Detailed information concerning what to bring to the workshops, a map showing how to get to Varna, etc. will be mailed to you with confirmation of your registration as soon as it is received, or you will be informed of your waiting list status.

** ** * * *

QUESTIONS? We will be glad to help...

More registration forms/publicity -- contact Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068 (607/539-7648)

Workshop content/requirements -- contact Daisy Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 100, Slaterville Springs, N.Y. 14881 (607/539-7941)

Registration/deadlines -- contact Mary Ann Sumner, 107 Neimi Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068 (607/257-5754)

Selling/space -- contact Mary Ann Sumner or Jean Warholic.

Spinning level assessment -- any of the above.

REGISTRATION FORM

Date _____

I have read and understand the information on the Brother Kim Malloy workshops and lecture, and wish to register for the following. I also understand that if I must cancel, no refunds will be made after May 1.

I. CHALLENGE YOUR SPINNING SKILLS (May 19)

\$30.00 BSHG member _____ \$35.00 non-member _____ = \$ _____

II. WEAVING FOR THE HANDSPUN LOOK (May 20)

\$40.00 BSHG member _____ \$45.00 non-member _____ = _____

(I have talked with Daisy Kirkpatrick and am bringing a loom warped with _____ for the \$20.00 discount.) (20.00-)

Sales items will be brought for the workshop(s) above.

I will need one of the following:

4'x4' half-table _____ 4'x8' full table _____

INFORMAL GET-TOGETHER (Friday evening, May 18, 7:30 p.m.)

I expect to come with _____ other people...

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE/PAID: \$ _____

Name _____ Telephone () _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and mail with this form to be received by May 1 to: Mary Ann Sumner, 107 Neimi Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068.