



 BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD Newsletter 69 - April 1984
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April Monday Meeting

Our April 9 meeting was well-attended (all our meetings have lately!) and the program was very interesting: Joann Schaff demonstrated how to make a sweater from the top down on a Bulky knitting machine using handspun yarn. She had brought some other garments made on a knitting machine with handspun & commercial yarn. Knitting machines are becoming quite popular and several of our guild members now own one; they are proof that a spinning wheel and a knitting machine are not at all incompatible...

UPCOMING BSHG MEETINGS

- * SATURDAY April 28: 12-4PM at Varna. Informal meeting; bring your wheels and show-and-tells.
- * MONDAY May 14: 10AM-3PM at the Varna firehouse. On the program: "VARIGATIONS ON A THEME": Jean Warholic will review the methods of adding COLOR to your handspun yarns. This should get you in the spirit for Spring & Summer dyepots and help expand your color palate... A rainbow dyepot will be demonstrated during the lunch hour for those not familiar with the process. Please bring for show-and-tell and discussion: examples of dyed, fibres, yarns, finished garments. (A portion of this program will be repeated for the May Saturday group meeting if interest warrants.)
- * MONDAY June 9: 10AM-3PM at Varna. The program will be devoted to "Making "Wild" Baskets" and presented by Virginia Lance. Please begin collecting materials now. Read the following for suggestions and be inspired to find other plants not listed. Bring any tool necessary including scissors and dish pans for soaking plants. Baskets are so handy for holding fibres, skeins, handcarders, etc. that each one of us could certainly use some extra ones; knowing how to make them ourselves is just another step toward self-sufficiency.

Fresh or dry baskets

Wild baskets can be made from fresh or dried plant material. The rule of thumb is: if you can wrap the fresh material around your wrist, its cuttings are pliable enough to use for a basket.

Fresh green material is very easy for beginners to work with, but it does shrink a bit as it dries, creating a more "open" basket. Dried material will produce a more tightly woven basket, but must be thoroughly dried out, then soaked until pliable enough to work with. Try using a combination, or twining in a branch or two that still has leaves or tendrils—it gives your basket an alive quality.

Plants to work with

This list is only a start. Much of the fun of basketmaking is discovering new materials.

Supple branches: willow, birch, elm, hazel, bay, eucalyptus, alder, cottonwood, redbud, sumac, pepper, vine maple, fruit tree suckers.

Vines: honeysuckle, wisteria, ivy, jasmine, grape, berries, periwinkle, smilax asparagus, sprenger asparagus, maidenhair fern stem, salmonberry vine.

Flat leaf plants: New Zealand flax,

palm, yucca, dracaena, daylily, iris, gladiolus, watsonia, papyrus, cattail, rushes and strong grasses.

Miscellaneous: willow and spruce roots; birch, cedar, and eucalyptus bark; philodendron leaf sheaths, date palm fruit stalks, tree moss, corn husks, banana bark.

Drying

To prepare plant material for drying, clip vines, shoots, or branches as long as possible. Pull off leaves and tie materials loosely into long straight bundles or coils. Flat-leafed plants (palm, New Zealand flax) can be dried flat and used for a basket's spokes, or torn lengthwise into thin strips to use as weavers for the twining process. Dry bundles for two to four weeks in a dry, shady spot; sunlight bleaches out the soft colors.

Soaking

To prepare dried material for twining, soak in cold water until pliable. Soaking time may take from 1 hour to overnight for thin, flat-leafed plants, or as long as two to three days for woody fibrous material or bark. Towel dry your material before using it to remove excess moisture and dirt.

In case you wish to practice making baskets before the June meeting there will be preliminary directions and pictures in the next (May) Newsletter.

BRO. KIM MALLOY WORKSHOPS

The workshops, scheduled for May 19 & 20, are filling fast now. If you haven't been able to decide whether to register or not, do so now. Call Mary Ann Sumner (607/257-5754) if you are worried about their being filled. If you have doubts about your spinning level (since these workshops are designed for intermediate to advanced spinners), please call Mary Ann or Jean Warholic (539-7648) or Daisy Kirkpatrick (539-7941).

SPINNERS' MARKET DAY

The First Annual SPINNERS' MARKET DAY will be held on July 29 at the 4-H Acres site on Rt. 13, between Dryden and Ithaca. This is an expanded and different WOOL DAY for us -- more for handspinners and weavers than for the general public as in the past. This is a buy/sell/swap day for spinning and weaving related items. Guilds and businesses are being invited from all over central New York. This will be a BIG DAY for us Black Sheeppers, and some work if we all pitch in. Sign-up sheets will be passed starting at the May meeting, and we expect you to volunteer. Put that date on your calendar. Families welcome.

The Guild will be underwriting this day. There will be no admission charge or charge to sell, other than for the tables available. The Etna Fire Department will plan to serve a chicken and lamb dinner for about \$4.50/person. Facilities are available for selling animals (sheep pens, on a limited basis) although we are not expecting to have this be a sheep sale per se; we are expecting fibers, tools, equipment, you-name-it as long as it relates to handspinning or weaving. Plan to also bring your wheel and have a chatty, relaxing day.

Ideas, questions, suggestions will still be taken by the committee, although speak up now because plans are falling into place FAST: Jean Warholic, chairman (539-7648), Daisy Kirkpatrick (539-7941), Mary Ann Sumner (257-5754), Nancy Morey (648-6255), Alice Wood (273-7191) & Marianne Horchler (315/497-1542).

FROM THE LIBRARY:

Does anyone know where these books are?

Black, Mary E.
WEAVING FOR BEGINNERS

Davenport, Elsie
YOUR HANDSPINNING

Fennelly, Catherine
TEXTILES IN NEW ENGLAND 1790--1840

Gerber, F.H.
INDIGO AND THE ANTIQUITY OF DYEING

Kahn, Deborah
HANDSPUN PROJECT BOOK

Last Person to Sign Out

Ann Olson 4/83

Marge Meier ?

M.A. Lynch 11/82

Chris Matijas 10/82

Linda Aigen 9/82

Leadbetter, Eliza HANDSPINNING	Jean Magnes	
Pendleton, Mary NAVAHO & HOPI WEAVING TECHS	G. Altmann	2/83
Redman, Jane FRAME LOOM WEAVING	Ann Olson	4/83
Simmons, Paula HANDSPINNERS GUIDE TO SELLING	Marge Meier	?
Simmons SPINNING AND WEAVING WITH WOOL	Loretta Pompilis	1/26/80
Zimmerman, Eliz. KNITTING WITHOUT TEARS	Patty Motheslin(?)	12/10/79

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Gates, Barbara
Seneca Shepherds Sheep Producers Directory

Walker, Barbara
LEARN-TO-KNIT AFGHAN BOOK
A TREASURY OF KNITTING PATTERNS

"Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot" Spring 1984, Issue 58, Vol XV, No 2.

If you have any of the books please return them or have someone return them for you as soon as possible. If you are listed as being the last person to sign book out but do not have it please let Kathie Garnsey know (315/364-8889).

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Pasture Management Clinic: sponsored by the Tompkins Co. Cooperative Extension. To be held April 26 (Thursday) 7:30-9:30PM, 101 Morrison Hall, Tower Rd., Cornell University, Ithaca. Joe Dell, Extension Crop Specialist, will discuss spring pasture improvement & management. Brian Magee, Animal Science Dept., will discuss year-round management of sheep on pastures.
- * New York State Youth Shepherd Award: sponsored by Empire Shepherds. Entries in the form of resumes should be submitted; no later than May 1, either through the regional Wool Pool or directly to Barbara Gates (State chairman), 2861 Lodi Rd., Interlaken, N.Y. 14847. For rules or additional information contact Barbara 607/532-4206 or Marianne Horchler (315/497-1542).
- * "Training the Sheepdog", sponsored by the Tompkins Co. Cooperative Ext. and the 4-H Dog Club. Monday, May 14, 7:30PM at the Livestock Judging Pavilion, Cornell University, Ithaca. David Pinckney, Border Collie breeder & trainer, will present a lecture on breeds of sheep dogs and training techniques. He will bring along his border collie to demonstrate training. A follow-up to this lecture will be a demonstration/clinic involving both dogs & sheep some time this summer (no date set yet).

- * 11th Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival: May 5 & 6, 9AM-6PM each day, Howard County Fairgrounds near W. Friendship, Maryland. Events will include: Sheep Show & Sale, Feeder Lamb Show & Sale, Fleece Show & Sale, Lamb Cutting Demonstrations, Working Sheep dogs, Shearing Demonstrations, Fashion Show, Junior Spinning Contest, Sheep to Shawl Contest, Natural Colored Sheep Show, Shepherds' Lead Class & more! For more details write Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, P.O. Box 135, W. Friendship, Md. 21794, or see Marianne Horchler.
- * 8th Annual New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival: May 12 & 13, Hillsborough Co. 4-H Youth Center, New Boston, New Hampshire. Will include Sheep Show & Sale, Sheep-to-Shawl competition, Lead Line competition, Photography contest, Fleece Show & Auction, Sheepdog trials, Spinning competition, Shearing competition, & Lamb Cook Off contest. For additional info. write Linn Stillwell, RFD 1, Box 465, Fremont, N.H. 03044, or contact M. Horchler.
- * Seneca Shepherds Wool Pool: May 19. Ungraded wool will be accepted in wool bags. Bags are available for \$1.00 from the Tompkins County ASCS, Community Corners, 840 Hanshaw Rd., Ithaca. For information on the collection site, contact Barbara Gates at 607/532-4206, evenings.
- * Vermont Sheep & Wool Festival: May 19, Burklyn Concert Barn, East Burke, Vermont. For info. contact Martha J. Davis, R.D. 1, Pierce's Mill Rd., St. Johnsbury, Vt. 05819, 802/748-4885.
- * 21st Annual Ontario Handspinning Seminar: June 16 & 17 at the University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario. The featured fibre will be mohair. Saturday's program includes: An Introduction to the Angora Goat & Mohair, Workshops on Shearing an Angora Goat and Scouring & Combing Mohair, Workshops on Preparation, Spinning & Blending Mohair, Dye Workshops, Trivial Pursuit of Spinning, Sales & Fashion Show. On Sunday: Ewe Can Do It! Home Grown in Ontario, Judges' Comments & Awards for Skein Competition, Using Your Handspun Mohair Yarn, and a workshop: An Exploration of Small Equipment & Complimentary Techniques. Registration fee is \$25 & deadline for registering is May 19. (Please note that only the first 200 applications can be accepted). Accommodation fees are \$69.42 for a single room without bath, \$63.12 per person for a twin-bedded room without bath. Prices include all meals (& banquet on Saturday evening). Send payment to Barbara Carter Scott, R.R. 1, Ariss, Ontario, NOB 1B0, Canada, or write her to receive a registration application.
- * Annual Central Adirondack Craft Fair: sponsored by the Arts Guild of Old Forge, will be held July 6, 7 & 8 at the Community Arts Center, Old Forge, N.Y. This is a juried show; all booths are 8'x6' and price per booth is \$50 for all 3 days. Application, \$25 deposit & 3 slides must be sent by May 15 to Central Adirondack Craft Fair, Community Arts Center, Rte 28, Old Forge, N.Y. 13420. Participants are requested to demonstrate their craft and will be given a \$10 refund at the end of the show if they demonstrate all 3 days. For more info. call Angelo Cincotta, General Chairman, 315/369-6471.
- * Heritage Craft Festival: sponsored by the Geneva Historical

Society, will be held Saturday, Sept. 29 (or Sunday, in case of rain) on the lawn of Rose Hill Mansion, Rte 96A, from 11AM to 4PM. The festival will include educational exhibits & demonstrations of heritage crafts. Exhibitor's fee is \$15 for a 10'x15' space (chairs will be provided); there is no fee for those who demonstrate their craft only. In addition to the exhibits & demonstrations, there will be hourly entertainment, food booths, and tours through the mansion. Deadline to register is May 15. Contact Mrs. Jean Neff, Geneva Historical Society, 543 S. Main St., Geneva, N.Y. 14456 or call 315/789-5151.

NOTES

- Deadline for the May Newsletter is May 18. Please send your contributions (always welcome!) to Marianne Horchler, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071.
- The Seneca Shepherds Sheep Producers Directory, edited by Barbara Gates, President of Seneca Shepherds and Sec.-Treas. of N.Y. St. Sheep Growers Wool Coop., Inc., is now available. It is a listing of area sheep producers, suppliers of services & products for the sheepman. There is a small fee to cover cost of printing (\$1.50) and if ordered by mail, a shipping charge (85¢ to \$1). Contact Barbara at 2861 Lodi Rd., Interlaken, N.Y. 14847 (607/532-4206).
- If you wish to receive the next newsletter and haven't paid your dues for the year yet, this is your last chance! Check your mailing label on this newsletter: if there is a blue dot beside your name, you'd better renew immediately! If you have paid your dues recently please disregard the blue dot... Remember dues are: \$8 for active members, \$10 for inactive, \$4 for students, & \$6 for newsletter only. Make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send it to Mary Ann Sumner, or mail to BSHG, P.O. Box 6701, Ithaca, N.Y. 14851.
- Jean Warholic will be needing skeins to indigo dye for several demonstration days coming up. As before, she will dye yours at no charge IF: they are tied in several places to prevent snarling, identified in some way (button, bead, etc.) with your name, and can be dyed a variety of colors. Your yarns may be commercial or handspun, any fiber, any color (now is the time to cover up some of those icky unsuccessful dyepot skeins, turn pink into purple, etc.). Please give your skeins to Jean by the May 14 meeting.

ADVERTISEMENTS

For sale: Clean wool, sheared before lambing. Columbia fleeces, Rambouillet Xbred fleeces, some black wool. 717/358-3129. Stephanie Hayes, RD 1, Box 286, Ulster, Pa. 18850. 1/1

For Sale: Ralph and Henry, Pet wethers. Mostly Romney, silver and dark silver. Very gentle - will tie and lead. Aggressive toward dogs. Also for sale 1949 Ford 1½ Ton Stake Truck. Wonderful condition. Registered & NYS Inspected. Daisy Kirkpatrick, Box 100, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881. 607/539-7941. 1/3

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. 12

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. 6/9

BELGIAN SHEEPDOG PUPPIES, AKC registered, Champion lines; born March 6, Belgian Sheepdogs are black & long haired; the puppies are fuzzy and soft and look like little bear cubs. They make great companions for children, excellent watchdogs and protectors of the home, and tireless workers on the farm. Good prospects for show/obedience. Also for sale: $\frac{1}{2}$ Border Leicester lambs, white & colored, for breeding; a few white & black lambs for pets or meat. Reasonable. Write Marianne Horchler, La Bergerie, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071, or call 315/497-1542. 2/3

ON SALE UNTIL SOLD... Louet S50. Regularly \$229, now only \$149. Way Station Yarns, Greene Depot, Greene, N.Y. 13778. 656-7669. Quilting, knitting, spinning, weaving, classes. 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. 5/12

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 3/3

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. 5/6

For sale: Black ewe lamb from two grey parents. Father a $3/4$ Finn. \$75. Kathie Garnsey. 315/364-8889. 1/1

For Sale: one black $7/8$ Finn $1/8$ Morlam ram lamb, twin, born mid-January; has beautiful fine coal black fleece, uniform throughout, and extremely soft. His dam (black) is a twin and has produced some excellent breeding rams; sire is a registered black Finn (triplet) whose dam has had quads & quints. Our best unregistered black ram lamb this year! Also a few young ewes, black & white, mostly Finn X, & some white $1/2$ Finn $1/2$ Border Leicester ewe lambs (twins & triplets) & $1/2$ Finn $1/2$ Dorset ewe lambs (triplets, quads & quints). Marianne Horchler, La Bergerie, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 315/497-1542. 1/3

YARN COUNTS

by Walter Hausner

Each spinning system—and fiber—has its own specific system of designating yarn size. The most common systems are the English cotton count, the Bradford worsted count, the metric system and the denier count.

The cotton system: The count number expresses the number of skeins (each measuring 840 yards), that weigh 1 lb. To calculate the yield you multiply 840 by the count and divide by the ply. Thus 10/1 means a single ply yarn of $10 \times 840 \div 1$ or 8400 yds. per lb. A 10/2 is a two ply yarn yielding $10 \times 840 \div 2$ or 4200 yds.

The worsted system also known as Bradford system has units of 560 yd. skeins. In this system (and this only) we write the ply first and then the count, followed by the letter "s". 2/12s means $12 \times 560 \div 2$ or 3360 yds per lb.

The metric system used in Europe for all spun yarns irrespective of spinning system expresses the number of skeins each measuring 1000 m weighing 1 kg or the number of m/g (meters per gram).

The yarn count for all spun yarn with the exception of jute is expressed by a number of fixed lengths (skeins) per unit weight. You obtain the yield per unit weight by multiplying the appropriate skein length by the count and dividing by the number of plies.

The following are the skein lengths for the most commonly used systems:

Cotton system—cc - 840 yds.

Worsted system—wc - 560 yds.

Linen—lea - 300 yds.

Woolen spun—run - 1600 yds.

The weight unit for all these counts is the pound (lb).

The jute system is a weight system. It gives the weight (in lbs.) per unit length (14400 yds.), i.e., the

weight in lbs. of 14400 yds. of yarn.

The unit of measurement is the "Spyndle," 14400 yds. weighing 1 lb. The weight would be called "pound Jute" or Jute spun". An 8 lb. yarn would be a yarn of which 14400 yds. weigh 8 lbs. One lb. of such yarn would yield 2800 yds. (14400:8).

All continuous filament yarns, such as silk and endless filament manmade fibers, are expressed by the DENIER (Den). This is a weight system. It gives the weight (in grams) per unit length (9000 m). Thus the count is expressed by the number of grams that 9000 meters weigh. The word denier is derived from the old Roman coin *denarius* which was still in use in western Europe almost to the end of the 19th century. The higher the number of Den, the heavier the yarn. Filament silk, as it should be correctly called, filature silk is normally indicated by two figures 20/22, 40/44, 80/88, etc. These two figures represent the allowable tolerance between high and low average and always refer to raw silk. The dyed silk that most handweavers use is usually 25-30% lighter than the descriptive denier.

The reason is that the silk glue has been removed and the silk does not feel like straw but has the typical soft silk feel.

Each crop of silk cocoons contains also a percentage of double cocoons that are difficult to reel and give an uneven slubby yarn. This is called "doupplone silk". The most popular counts are 50/70, 100/120, and 20/250 Den. As you can see the margin between high and low average is substantially more than 10%.

Man made filament yarn counts are also expressed in denier. The full description consists usually of 3 groups of figures. The count/the number of filaments in the yarn/

turns per unit with direction of twist. A typical example would be 40/34/2.5S which means 40 Den/34 filaments/2.5 turns "S" per inch (In Europe turns per meter are quoted). Another typical description would be 300/4DPF/.5Z, meaning 300 Den/4 Den per filament (=75 filaments)/ $1/2$ turn per inch "Z" in Z twist.

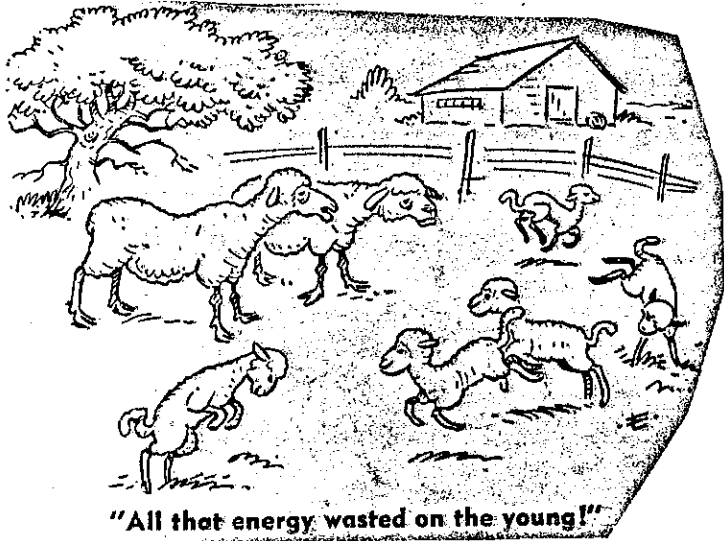
When you deal with textured filament yarns it is necessary to ascertain whether the Den given is the starting or final denier. This is not done uniformly in this country. Most producers quote the starting Den. The final Den count may be 15-20% higher, i.e., heavier.

In recent years a new "international" count system has started to come into use. This is called D'TEX and is a weight system. It originated as the "TEX" system which gives the weight in grams (g) of 1000 meters

Weaver's
Journal
Fall
1983

(m) of yarn. This system was adopted in parts of Europe but was found unwieldy, requiring 3 decimals to adequately express fine yarns. International standard societies modified the D'TEX system: 1 Tex equals 10 D'TEX or the weight in grams of 100 meters of yarn.

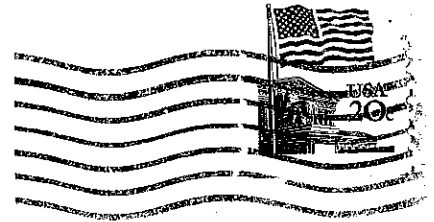
Twisted novelty yarns (and also some spun novelties) are usually designated as yards per pound (yds/lb), in Europe, meters per kilogram (m/kg). 1000 yds/lb equals 2016 m/kg.



Herman



"Fish and chips and forty-two chef's salads."



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