

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Number 97 - March 1987

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UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 14, Noon.....Gearing Up for Shearing. The program will focus on the different sheep breeds and how to choose a fleece for specific qualities.

April 4, Noon.....Sheep farm trip to Lisa Merian's and (?) Nancy Morey's. Car pooling and logistics to be worked out at the March meeting.

May 9, Noon.....Color Perception. Dick Corth, photobiologist, has been involved with the perception of color for approx. 15 years. He will present a slide show, talk and question & answer time on color -- how it is perceived, what it is, how different illuminants affect what is seen, and how color is affected by its surroundings.

NOTES ON MEMBERS**CATALOGS**BOOKS**FEBRUARY MEETING**

Former guild member, Erica Lynne was on the Syracuse TV news recently. She was "live" on the newscast with one of her rabbits and some sweaters, talking about the properties of angora, and demonstrating spinning!! She's scheduled to do a seminar for Interweave in Missouri and an article in Threads magazine on angora. More membership highlights--Mary Ann Sumner has been asked back to the State Fair to judge the sheep-to-shawl contest. As is traditional, our Guild will be donating one of the prizes to the state fair--\$25.00 for best garment for naturally colored wool. The February meeting brought forth a bevy of samples--silks, wools, angora, mohair, naturally colored, dyed solid, rainbow-dyed, kool-aid dyed, knitted swatches and sweaters and woven samples. I started to take notes but soon gave up, the plethora of goods drawing my hand away from paper and to the wools. Vernice gave a demonstration on Navajo Plying and Mary Ann showed us how to sort a fleece. Two books on color recommended by dyers in the group--Color and Fiber and Designer's Guide to Color-2. A catalog of textile books: The Unicorn Books for Craftsmen; Box 645; Rockville, Md 20851; 1-800-826-9168. If anyone is interested in getting wool from New Zealand, Pat Randorf recently received samples from a farm selling Merino, Tukeydale, and lots of other breeds mostly for \$4/lb.

MARKET DAY

This crazy weather makes the summer seem looming near and then receding away. The days, though, keep coming and summer is approaching rapidly. Market Day, the Guild's largest community event of the year, will be on June 21 at the 4-H Acres. We still need a coordinator for the event. Mary Ann Sumner, who did this important, but not overwhelming, task last year, has offered to help the new coordinator get going. Jean Warholic, our hard-working, often invisible member has offered to do publicity. Kathy Halton would like to work on the guild table display. And Kay suggests we have an information table when you first enter the grounds. Do start thinking of where you might fit in with the days' activities and organization.

FLEECE STUDY GROUP

The fleece Study Group has been revived. The idea is to create a booklet of samples of many types of handspun. a sample of fleece is taken home, washed, spun, and knitted or woven into a sample swatch. The important thing is to keep careful notes of the processing. The finished swatch with a piece of yarn and a full description of what you did would then go into the collection of samples for future reference by Guild members and for community display. If you would like to be involved with this project, contact Mary Ann Sumner.

ADVERTISEMENTS

Fleece Sale:--til gone--colored Lincoln, Lincoln cross & Lincoln lambswool from last spring/summer shearing. Many shades to choose from. Nancy Morey, Shadeyside Farm, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. 607/656-4737. 1/3

Advertising Rates: 1-3 lines, \$1 for one time, \$2 for three times
 4-12 lines, \$5 for one time
 13 lines-½ page, \$10 for one time

VOCABULARY

Some more tidbits for your spinning vocabulary---

Teasing--Opening up the wool fibers with the fingers. A well teased fleece looks like a fluffy cloud.

Comb--Process which aligns fibers in a parallel arrangement to ready them for worsted spinning; also pulls out the short fibers; tool for doing this

Card--to disentangle and align fibers; tool for doing this

Block--to either set the twist in yarn, or to cause a piece of fabric to conform to a definite shape and size

Medulla/Medullation--cellular marrow inside wool fibers which may be hollow and cause weakness in the fibers.

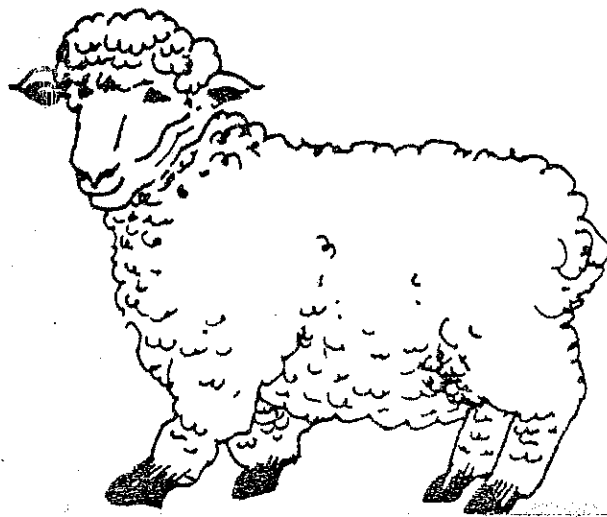
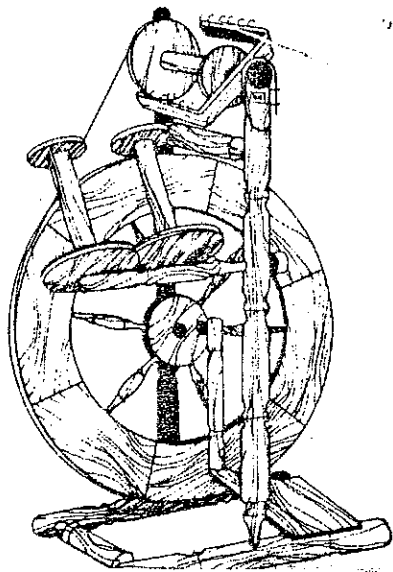
Noil--short fiber lengths

Suint--dried sheep perspiration deposited onto the wool during its growth; contains potash and fatty acids.

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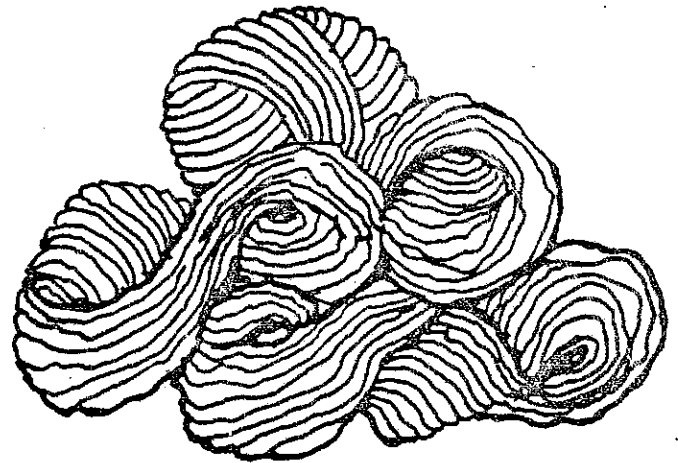
UPCOMING EVENTS

- March 5-8 Knitting Guild of America National Convention in New Orleans. Info: call 617/524-2401. The Knitting Guild, Box 1606, Nashville, Tn 37901
- March 24-April 8/ July 7-22 Ancient Weaving World of Peru & Bolivia, Holbrook Travel, Inc. 3540 NW 13th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32609. 904/377-7111
- April 4-5 Weekend workshops at the Farmer's museum, Lake Rd., PO Box 800 Cooperstown, NY 13326. 607/547-2593 or 547-2533
Color and Weaving
- May 7-8 Spring Crafts Fair. Contact Sharon Adams, Unions and Activities, Willard Straight Hall, Cornell Univ., Ithaca, NY 14853
- May 9-10 The New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival, New Boston, N.H.
- May 27-29 Precious Fibers 3-Days Congress at Berea College. Theme: Cottage Industry. 16 instructors. 26 courses. Precious Fibers Foundation, PO Box 511-S, Berea, KY 40403. 606/986-1495. Michelle Kurz is looking for folks to car pool.
- June 13-14 Ontario Handspinners Seminar. Theme: Angora and Camel. Lots of exhibits. Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc., Ron Abbott, PO Box 400, Verona, Ontario KOH2W0
- June 21 Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Market Day.
- May 2-3 14th Annual Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival. Harvard 6 Fairgrounds, West Friendship, Md
- June 5-7 Midwest Weavers Conference in Lawrence, Kansas. Featured speakers: Albertje Koopman and Lois Ericson
- May 11 Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference in Bellinger Hall, Chautauqua Institution, Chautauqua, NY
- August 1 Deadline for submissions to the state fair. For entry booklets, NY State Fair Grounds, Syracuse, NY 13209.
- October Central NY Handspinners Seminar
- June 20-28, 1989 The World Congress on Colored Sheep. Papers and project proposals due 6/88. Info: write to the Congress, PO Box 93, Curtin, Oregon 97428.





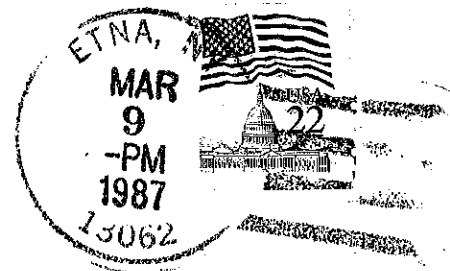
Testing the carnivore-proof vest



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