

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Number 119 - May 1989

Editor: Debbie Serviente, 63 Neimi Rd, Freeville, NY 13068. 347-6631

MAY 13, Noon Meeting at the Varna Community Building/Firehouse on Rt 366.

Sociable Spinning & Afghan Piecing.

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE 2 AFGHANS ARE NEEDED BY THIS MEETING!! Debbie Benzer reports that only a few more swatches are needed for the knitted afghan (8" x 16") We expect that they'll appear at this meeting along with all the others. The afghan will be pieced together at the meeting so please bring your swatches and needles and yarn for stitching the squares together. If you don't have the time to make a swatch but have some handspun yarn, contact Debbie Benzer at 277-6830; she is willing to knit necessary swatches on her knitting machine. Amy Cook reports that all contributions for the woven afghan are warmly welcome. She has enough for one afghan already but will still be collecting yarn - even if not the full yardage originally asked for - to add more dimension and variety to the design. If there is enough yarn, she will weave two afghans!

The afghan chosen for raffling at Market Day will be displayed at the Ithaca Festival during demonstrating - June 1, Thursday evening.

Handworks has tentatively agreed to display the afghan in their window again this year.

Joan Johnston is working out details of when and has offered to do the display. She did a beautiful job last year. We could use a sign for the display this time, with info on raffle tickets on sale inside the store and on Market Day.

MARKET DAY PLANNING PROGRESS

Spring is in full swing and before you know it, Market Day will be here -- just around the corner on **SUNDAY, JUNE 25 at 4H ACRES**. There is still a lot of work to be done for it to be a successful day. So it's time for all of us who haven't already volunteered, to do our part in this fun, yearly event.

The afghans are coming along with a few more swatches needed and yarn still being collected for the afghans - all due absolutely by the May meeting! You've probably already received your yearly call encouraging you to make a square or spin some yarn to be a part of the raffled, finished products. Thanks to all who have promised them and those who are in the process of making them. If you can't make the May meeting, and can't find someone to get them to the meeting for you, contact Debbie (277-6830) or Amy (656-8626.)

Nancy Morey has sent out letters of invitation to 25 vendors... just think of all the great things there will be to look at and to buy. Wool! Silk! Angora! Wheels! Dyes! Books!.....!!!

Debbie Miller is working on publicity. Posters will soon be out and available. Think about where you could be posting them. Nancy Wilson has reserved 4H Acres, paid for our insurance and lined up the Portable Feast.

We still need Guild members to help in several areas, enjoying Market Day more by spending an hour manning the guild table, demonstrating that special something, or showing others how to card wool, spin, etc at the Beginners Table. We need people to help direct parking and help with set-up and clean-up, too. Many hands make light and easy work. Join in on the fun and make this event a full and exciting one for all.

Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild is planning to attend and demonstrate for everyone. Along with purchasing supplies, seeing all the animals (often many for sale - this year we may see llamas attending again!) and exploring all the many aspects of Market Day, don't forget one of the most pleasant - spinning outdoors and meeting all the wonderful folks who come to spin with us and those who come to see what this crazy stuff is all about.

It's still early, but not too early to promise your help with Market Day. Sign up at the May meeting or call Nancy Demjanec at 387-6290, coordinator, or Yvonne LaMontagne at 272-3204, co-coordinator.

VOLUNTEER, KNIT A SQUARE and ...PRAY FOR A WARM, SUNNY DAY!!!

You will also find raffle tickets in this newsletter. Sell, sell, sell those tickets. The sale of the raffle tickets subsidizes Market Day and helps to pay for some of our other events and costs. If you need more tickets, let me know.

SILK FOR LIFE

The Wisconsin Farmers Foundation, through its SILK FOR LIFE PROJECT, is importing and marketing beautiful silk yarn from women's cooperatives in Columbia, South America, in support of a crop substitution program for cocaine farmers.

The program motto is "Raise cocoons, not cocaine," and the Farmers Foundation guarantees the purchase of all the handspun yarn produced by the participants.

The marketing strategy is to connect Columbian spinners with U.S. fiber guilds and retail stores in a direct and personal way.

Quantities of silk are limited, but, if you are interested contact:

SILK FOR LIFE PROJECT

c/o W.F.F.I.

1300 South Layton Blvd.

Milwaukee, WI 53215 (414) 384-2444

Perhaps this is something that would be of interest as a guild group project. Thanks, Boston Area Spinners and Dyers for this info.

THE NAVAJO SHEEP PROJECT

Also gleaned from the BASD newsletter:

This year the Navajo Sheep Project are looking for people to set up promotional presentations for them. In October, for example, a slide show about the NSP was presented at the Shaver-Ramsey Oriental Rug Gallery, in Cherry Creek, CO. The NSP are hoping that people might arrange similar functions through out the country. They are currently pursuing federal sources for their work in the 4-corners Area, "but that may be years before we see any results. In the meantime, however, we need money for the day-to-day operating needs of the USU Navajo Sheep Project."

Navajo Sheep Project

Department of Animal, Dairy, & Veterinary Science

Utah State University

Logan, Utah 84322-4850

QUILTERS

A quilt for Guatemala is one of the exciting projects of the Womens Convoy to Central America which will be carrying material aid from citizens of the U.S. to women's community projects in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua.

Why Guatemala? This quilt will be sewn to honor the more than 70,000 "disappeared" in Central America and to educate people that every statistic represents a real person. Guatemala has less than 3% of the total population of Latin America yet 40% of all disappeared are Guatemalan.

If you would like to take part in this project by making a square (they can be sewn, painted, whatever) call 617/451-2424. The convoy is scheduled for June 10 - July 10, 1989.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The format of the newsletter has changed somewhat to reflect recent discussions on raising membership costs, rising mailing and xeroxing costs. While this type style doesn't seem as pretty to me, it is certainly very readable and smaller, consequently taking up less pages to say the same things. So, while the newsletter may seem smaller, it's only the size of the letters that have changed. Hope this cahnge is pleasing to everyone.

Just a reminder to sign up for the Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference, June 15- at the SUNY Campus in Geneseo, NY. It looks like it'll be a really great weekend with lots of interesting talks and plenty to do. The folks up there are working very hard to put together a wonderful event. And perhaps next year we can organize to demonstrate as a guild. Registration ends May 15, with room for only 300 participants, so if you are planning on going, sign up now! Registrat, 906 Dewitt Rd, Webster, NY 14580.

ONSHADOW'S CORNER

This year I managed to be present at almost all of my lambings and kiddings. There are a few things I do to insure that the babies get a good start. As soon as they are born I take a towel and clean the mucus from their mouth and nose. After the ewe cleans her babies off and they are starting to stand and think about nursing, I move the babies and mother to a small pen (pallets tied with baling to twine works great.) This allows the mother and babies to calm down and bond to each other and it is safer for the fragile newborns. They spend at least 3 days in this "lambing jug.": At birth I dip the lambs' navels with 7% iodine, give them a Vitamin E and Selenium shot, and a Vitamin A & D shot. Doses are different depending on the bottle concentration so check labels first!

I tend to time my lambing for the coldest part of the year, not out of masochism, but because most of my sales are for Easter market. The Vitamin A & D is an added protection that I didn't use until I read that it can help a weak or cold newborn and my help prevent pneumonia. I have noticed that since I've used it my babies seem to be up and nursing quicker and healthier. The Vitamin E and selenium are needed because we live in an area where our soils do not have enough selenium and our feeds are lacking in this vital nutrient. A booster shot at birth increases the sucking reflex and may help muscles in a weak kid. Ewes should have a Vitamin E and selenium booster 2-4 weeks before lambing, too. It helps them with labor.

Whew! When you raise animals you have to be able to act as a nutritionist, veterinarian, nurse, midwife, carpenter, plumber, herds person, and sometimes super(wo)man!

-- Laura Michel

NEW MEMBERS *** Please add to your membership list.

Yvonne LaMontagne
1191 Ellis Hollow Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850
272-3204

Margot McClure
341 Coddington Rd
Willseyville, NY 13864
659-4775

Amelia Roberts
1180 Northrup Rd
Penfield, NY 14526
716/872-6106

Kay R Stickane
64 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850
387-3687



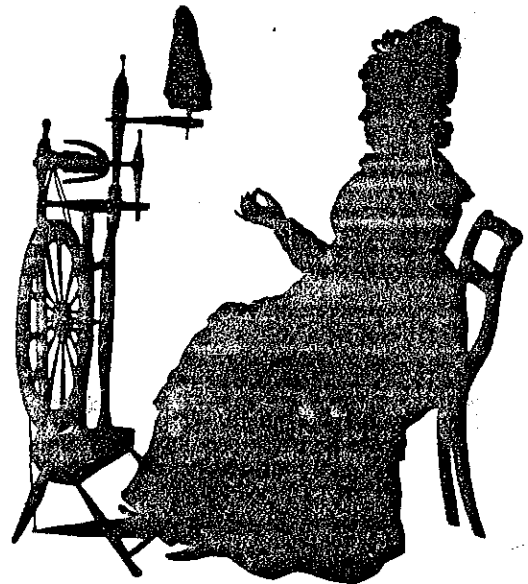
Anne H Furman
15 Congress St, PO Box V
Trumansburg, NY 14886
387-4141

LOST AND FOUND ***

Carol Wanagel is holding onto a Blue/Green/Maroon SCARF which was left at the Beginners Spinners Workshop at her house. Contact Carol at 347-4756.

Spider Woman, the legendary giver of spinning and weaving to the Navajo women, also was known to punish disobedient children. This story helped to keep the children well behaved while their mother was busy spinning and weaving.

--from Spin Span Spun by
Bette Hochberg



ADVERTISEMENTS

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

** For sale: Ashford Spinning Wheel. This is the BSHG wheel, fully refurbished. Contact Eleanor May 272-8224

**They're adorable, but a definite mistake! My young Angora buck didn't do the job so I have kids from Angora does bred to Alpine bucks! They look like Angoras mostly. I don't know if they're spinnable so all kids are for sale at meat prices of \$40-\$50 each. Take a chance; they're too cute to butcher! Laura Michel 564-9223

** For sale: Purebred, registered Alpine buck. 8 years old, very gentle. \$50. Purebred registered Border Leicester ram born 2/1/89, bottle-raised, \$200 or swap for a different registered Border Leicester ram. 564-9223 Laura Michel
 2/3

** For sale: Fleeces from Border Leicester & Border Leicester cross sheep/ \$2/pound. Mohair \$4-\$6/ pound. Tanned lambskins \$45-\$70. Goat milk for orphan lambs \$2/gallon. 564-9223

UPCOMING EVENTS

- June 1 Ithaca Festival Demonstrating on the Commons 6-9 PM Everyone welcome!
- June 2-4 2nd Annual Downeast Spinners Spring Retreat with Edna Blackburn from Ontario, keynote speaker. Workshops. Lobster dinner. Canoeing. Demos. Fashion Show. Housing in cabins. PO Box 4, Bristol Mills, ME 04539.
- June 9-11 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Ron Abbott Box 400, Verona, Ontario KOH 2W0
- June 9-11 Celia Quinn Workshops at Mt Kisco. 914/241-1910
- June 15-18 Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference. Workshops. Demos. Fashion Show. And more! Registrar, 906 Dewitt Rd, Webster NY 14580
- June 15 Opening Reception of the Seven Valley Weavers Guild Coverlet Quilt Show at the Aileing Coverlet Museum, Palmyra, NY, 1-4 PM
- June 16-18 Michigan League of Handweavers "Connections '89," Hope College, Holland MI
- June 21-25 Mid-Atlantic Fiber Conference. Changed to Bucknell Univ, Louisburg, PA
- June 23-24 Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts Sue Beever Workshops on the 23rd and Spin-In on the 24th. Cooksburg, PA
- June 25 BSHG SPINNERS MARKET DAY 4H ACRES**
- July 6-9 Midwest Weavers Conf, Fibers Fireworks '89, Convention Center, Cinn, Ohio
- July 8 Spinners All! Leatherstocking Spinners sponsored event at the Herkimer Home State Historic Site. See last newsletter for details. 315/823-0969 or 315/823-1615 for info.
- July 14-16 New England Weavers Seminar, Univ of Mass, Amherst, MASS
- Aug 18-19 Fiberfest '89 Barry County Fairgrounds, MI. Nancy Morey for info 656-4737

FLAX - FROM FIBER TO YARN

A Workshop with Dora and Ed Swart

Saturday, July 15, 1989 from 9:30 am to 4 pm
at the Varna Community Center

Spend a day learning about flax! Dora and Ed Swart will share their knowledge of this plant fiber through lecture and hands-on demonstrations. You will learn about retting, scutching, breaking, and hackling before having the opportunity to sit and spin flax.

Plan to bring your spinning wheel, a distaff (if you have one), a notebook, your lunch, and lots of energy to keep up with Dora and Ed!

Workshop fee: BSHG members - \$14
non-members - 18

Materials fee: \$4 (per person)

Registration required by July 1, 1989.

Complete this form and mail with your check (made payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild) to: Amy Cook
RD 1 Box 372
Chenango Forks, NY 13746

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild meets the 2nd Saturday of every month at the Varna Community Building/Fire Station on Rt 366. During the summer we meet at members' homes.

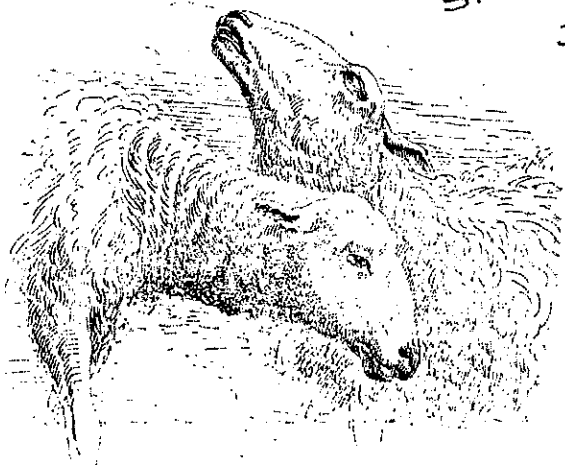
I am always interested in any tidbits of information, articles you may write on books you've recently read, events attended, skills learned, etc, cartoons, drawings, and whatever else might be of interest to BSHG members. If it interests you, chances are someone else will want to hear about, too!

Deadline for contributions/advertisements for the June newsletter is May 28.

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
PO BOX 6701
ITHACA, NY 14851



SPINNERS MARKET DAY
JUNE 25



Kay Stickane
64 Willow Creek Road
Ithaca, NY 14850