



Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

No. 121 - July and August 1989
Editor: Shelly Reif, 4360 McIntyre Rd.,
Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886 607/387-6760



Editorial change***

Last month Debbie Serviente put out a call for a new person to edit the newsletter, and in my naive ignorance I've volunteered. Debbie has done a terrific job for the past 2 or 3 years, and she'll be a tough act to follow, but with her help and encouragement (and yours, too) I'll do my best to make a go of it.

UPCOMING MEETINGS***

JULY 29 FLAX WORKSHOP with Dora and Ed Swart, 9:30am-4:30pm at the Varna Community Center on Rt.366. Fee \$14 for BSHG members; \$18 for non-members. \$4 fee for materials. Register with Amy Cook, RD 1 Box 372, Chenango Forks, NY 13746, 656-8626.

NEXT MEETING: SATURDAY, AUGUST '12 at Nancy Demjanec's, 548 Waterburg Road, Trumansburg, 387-6290. Come join us for a spin-in.

SEPTEMBER 9 MEETING will feature a garage sale and dish-to-pass. It's a good chance to clear out all your old things and pick up some new ones.

ITHACA FESTIVAL DEMONSTRATION ***

Five spinners graced the festival on Thurs. evening: Ester Taylor, Anne Furman, Debbie Benzer, and Carol and Joanna Wanagel. Anne said that rain forced them under the Iszard's overhang, but this turned out to be such a good location that they stayed there even after the rain stopped. They were just down from Mildred Scudder's weaving, and next to a caning demo. There were many interested people. The spinners gave brief lessons in leg spinning/drafting, and gave participants a piece of roving to take home and practice with. They also sold a lot of raffle tickets. Sounds like a good evening.

JUNE MEETING AT SHARON GOMBAS' ***

Ann Furman reported that seven people met on Sharon's patio on that beautiful afternoon. They were spinning and carding with Madeline's (now Jill Lott's) angora rabbit, a lovely gray with a black face. Fantastic treats: Sharon's pineapple cake and Jill's rhubarb delight. They ahd and ohed over the 3 afghans and chose the one for the guild-members-only raffle. The big surprise was Sharon's camel (yes, camel) and his friend and companion, Olive the pig.

MARKET DAY *** Nancy Demjanec

In spite of early morning mosquitos, soggy field conditions, lack of in-field parking and no barbecue grill(!!!), Market Day 1989 was enjoyed by all who attended. In addition to Guild Members, people traveled from as far away as Syracuse to spend the day with us. And yes, we had a barbecue grill after all.

The wonderful fleeces and fibers, books, equipment, the food from the Portable Feast, and the SUN made it a great day!

Market Day's success lies with the members who made it happen! Special thanks go to the following people: Amy Cook, Anne Furman, Debbie Banzer, Debbie Serviente, Yvonne La Montagne, Elly May, Jill Lott, Nancy Morey, Kay Stickane, Sharon Gombas, Nancy Wilson, Vernice Church, Gail Fulkerson (and llama!), and Debbie Miller. And to everyone who made a square for the afghan or contributed yarn for the woven afghans - a heartfelt thanks - as usual they were beautiful! Amy, please weave us all an afghan!

Winners of the afghans were 1)Guild member: Celia Radke, 2)Debbie Margolis of Syracuse

and 3) Julie Marion of Cortland. Ms. Margolis was present, is a new weaver, and was absolutely thrilled to win an afghan - she selected the handknitted one.

Finances are still being tabulated. If you owe raffle ticket money, please send it to Nancy Wilson ASAP.

Plans are already under way for next year's event - a sheep to shawl competition?, shearing on-site?, more animals?, changing from 4-H Acres to somewhere else? Give us your thoughts and your help for next year. We are looking for a coordinator already!

NOTE FROM THE TREASURER RE MARKET DAY***

Nancy Wilson asks that members forward market day bills ASAP so she can draft a financial report.

ONTARIO HANDSPINNERS SEMINAR *** Anne Furman

The 25th Anniversary of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar was held in Kingston, Ontario on June 9, 10 and 11. The group from the Ithaca area included Dora and Ed Swart, Jean Warholic, Michelle Reif, Eleanor May, Jean Currie and her mother and me (Anne Furman). The topics were silk and flax. Saturday morning there was a silk session followed by a silk workshop and in the afternoon a flax session followed by a flax workshop. The sales room was open long enough for me to get rid of all my money. Eleanor May bought a neat little lap spindle which she will share. Sunday morning we had a spin-in while listening to a folksinger from Britain. Listening may be the wrong word as his accent was so thick (Scottish?) we only got every 10th word and missed the jokes. So we spun and enjoyed the singing.

I had a go at the competition and got a third in the novelty category. I am still learning a lot about spinning and found the seminar valuable. The spinners there (250 of them!) take their spinning seriously but themselves lightly, so there are a lot of funny stories together with good food which makes the seminar so enjoyable.

(Grand prizes were won by a wedding band shawl knitted of handspun and a handwoven wedding dress. Some of the items were prepared by students fulfilling requirements for masters of handspinning and weaving degrees. -Ed.)

SPINNING NO LONGER NECESSARY ***

A true fiber enthusiast, Doloria Chapin (mother of Sunny Bixby) even brought her knitting to the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Banquet. At least, she brought a sweater-in-progress suspended from knitting needles, BUT SHE HAD NO YARN! Doloria was knitting directly from a carded batt! She merely extended a piece over her finger, and let the stitches provide enough twist. The sweater looked like it was made of spun yarn..

MID-ATLANTIC FIBER CONFERENCE ***

Marie Bryhan missed Market Day so she could attend this biannual conference. It was held at Bucknell in Lewisburg, Pa., only about 100mi. from her home in Lindley. Dora and Ed Swart were there, too.

Marie gave MAFC rave reviews. On Saturday she opted for an all-day (that's 7:30am until supper) workshop with Priscilla Gibson-Roberts. It was lots of work, and absolutely wonderful. P. G.-R. had her class spin woolen and worsted yarns five different ways and make sample skeins so they could see the differences. Marie tried Russian cards, which she said were wonderful except for their cost (greater than \$100).

On Sunday morning, Marie joined Celia Quinn's cotton-spinning workshop.

Marie described show items as phenomenal, and highly recommends the conference. The next one will be in 1991, probably also at Bucknell.

LANSING DAYS ***

Nancy Wilson demonstrated spinning at Lansing Days. She described it as a very local event, with a lot of 4H activity and a barbeque. The best part was that through someone she met she was able to find a new place to live.

WORLD CONGRESS ON COLOURED SHEEP ***

Nancy Morey had the opportunity to attend this spectacular conference in Eugene, Oregon from June 19-26. She described it as wonderful. Many papers were delivered at the congress on genetics, breeding, etc.- she said her mind was in a whirl! Fortunately they also published a book of all the papers, which helped her to keep track of it all.

Nancy says that those New Zealanders are party people (as well as very fine, fine, fine spinners). The two ring leaders, ages 72 and 74, were "just a hoot." Nancy also met and traded trinkets with a woman from Tasmania (get out your map!), and as a result now has a Spinners Guild of Tasmania pin.

We'll have to have a full report from Nancy at the next meeting on all her summer travels, which included Alaska and a visit to a musk ox farm.

A SPECIAL NOTE ***

The Guild joins Kay Stickane and family in celebrating the birth of Devon Michael on June 6, and in mourning the passing of Kay's son Aaron Riddell on June 20. BSHG has made a donation to Suicide Prevention in Aaron's name. Our hearts are with you, Kay.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS ***

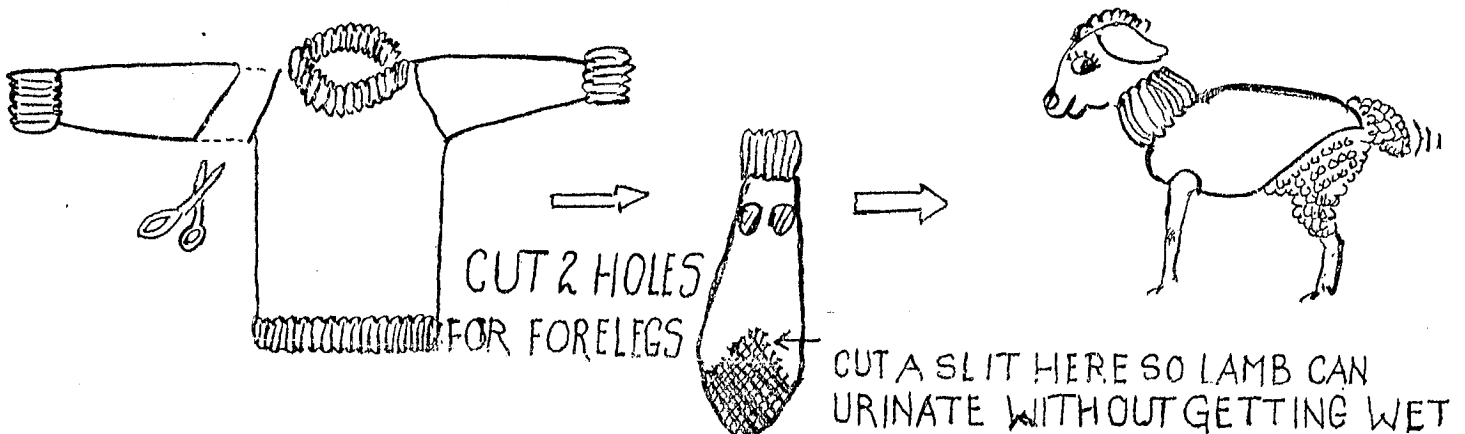
Sharon Gombas
177 Salmon Creek Rd.
Lansing, N.Y. 14882
533-7390

MOONSHADOW'S CORNER *** Laura Michel

My friends are truly wonderful people. They keep on being my friends even after they see my eccentricities! Or maybe they just are amused by me and keep me around to brighten up their dull days. These thoughts occurred to me one day early in February when I had people stop in at the farm to see the newborn animals. The polite smiles that were shown didn't cover the chuckles or the strange looks I got when I proudly showed off my babies.

You see, this year I started a new management technique I had used on a weak baby once. The results were so spectacular it is now a permanent part of my management. After my ewes and does birth I let them have about 15 minutes to lick off and bond with their babies. Then I put sweaters on them.

These are made from sleeves off old sweaters. The part that would be on your wrist acts as a turtleneck. (See diagrams, which were drawn by Alma Jo Williams, one of those terrific friends of mine.) Two small holes get snipped to fit front legs. For male babies make sure the sweater on the belly is trimmed high enough so that when they urinate they do not soak the sweater. Wool sweaters work best - they get hot on the wet baby - but BEWARE because some will shrink and get too tight! I keep sweaters on my lambs for 1-2 weeks. It was great in a crowded pen because I had color co-ordinated babies with each mom. Christian Dior look out!



STATE FAIR***

Get those wheels spinning, those needles clacking! It's time to submit your best to the Fair! This year the Wool Booth is featuring natural colored wool. According to Nancy Morey, who is Millie Bankert's right hand person, Millie, who manages the Wool Booth, has not yet set up dates for guilds to demonstrate. Nancy and I will keep in touch with her, and will have a date soon. If you'd like to demonstrate spinning, drum carding, drop spinning, Kool Aid dying, etc., please call me. Demonstrators receive free parking and admission to the Fair for the day, and are expected to be in the booth for a minimum of one 3 hr. time block. You may keep anything you spin. I usually go for the whole day, and have a wonderful time!

Sheep to shawl: We're trying to get a second team going. Call me ASAP!!

UPDATE ON SILK ORDER ***

There's still time to get in on the Silk for Life Project silk order. Nancy Demjanec said that we need only 10 lbs. more for a 50lb order, which has an extremely low price per pound. For more information, call Nancy at 387-6290.

EVENTS CALENDAR **

July 26: 18th Annual Wool Day at The Troy Fair, featuring sheep-to-shawl and other wool competitions. For more info call Shelly at 387-6760.

July 28-30: Thomas Homestead Festival needs craft artists. \$35 fee. Call Dot Thomas at 607-583-2179.

July 29: Greene Arts and Crafts Festival, 9am to 4pm, on the green in Greene!

August 6-12, 20-26, Sept. 10-16: Cooperstown Textile School offers textile identification workshops. Write to Rabbit Goody at the school, PO Box 455, Cooperstown, NY 13326

August 25-27: The Pioneer Crafts Council in Uniontown, Pa. is hosting a seminar on spinning fine wools with Lee Rinne. \$95 fee. Call Nancy Demjanec for details.

September 23: Annual Fiber Fest at Cobleskill Fairgrounds 9am-5pm
. Sponsored by Schoharie County Sheepmen's Assoc.

First weekend in October: SOAR still has a few openings.

November 2-4, 1990: Maine Spinner's Retreat. For info contact Sue Getchell, 24B Calamint Hill Rd. N., Princeton MA 01541



Black Sheep Handspinner's Guild

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



*Joan Johnston
1025 Bostwick Rd
Ithaca NY 14850*

Deadline for September newsletter is August 26.