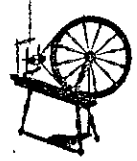




Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

No. 122- September 1989

Editor: Shelly Reif, 4360 McIntyre Rd.,
Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886 607/387-6760



NOTE: THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINNING AND WEAVING WEEK ***

UPCOMING MEETINGS ***

September 9 at Varna Firehall: A pot-luck and fiber-workers garage sale. We plan to advertise in local papers to encourage more fiber artists to attend. Bring all that stuff you've been meaning to do something with but never got around to... sell it...trade it..and go home with some exciting new stuff.

October: Program has not been settled on yet, but State Fair entries should be a focus of Show and Tell. Among other things, we'll be forming a committee to nominate new officers for 1990. Start thinking about how you can contribute - holding office is actually much more fun than work, and gives you a good excuse to keep in touch with everyone.

November: Election of new officers for 1990.

Get ready for some exciting seminars in 1990: Nancy Morey has arranged for us to have two weekends of seminars with Celia Quinn next spring, at the end of March and beginning of April. The first weekend will be a three-day comprehensive spinning seminar, and the second weekend will probably involve 3 individual seminars including one on spinning for knitting and one on wheel mechanics and the great wheel, plus one more. Suggestions are welcome - let Nancy know if there's some special topic you'd like to learn about. We'll be splitting Celia's air fare with another group, so the cost should be reasonable.

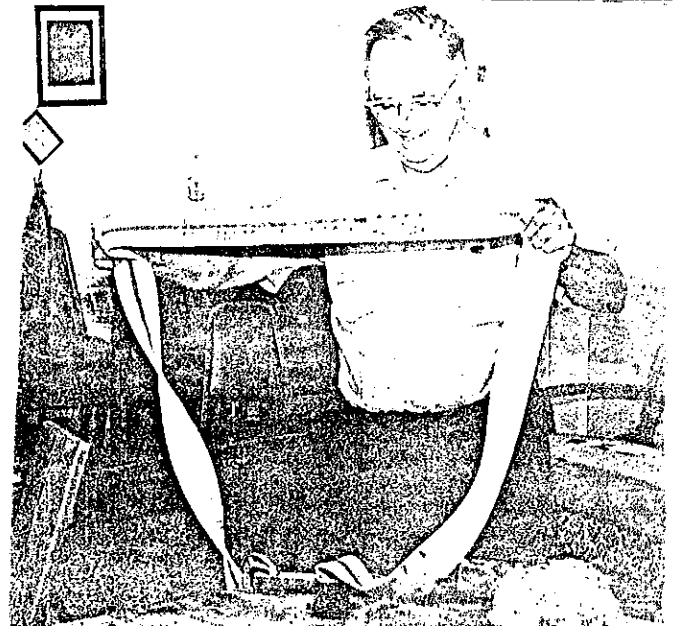
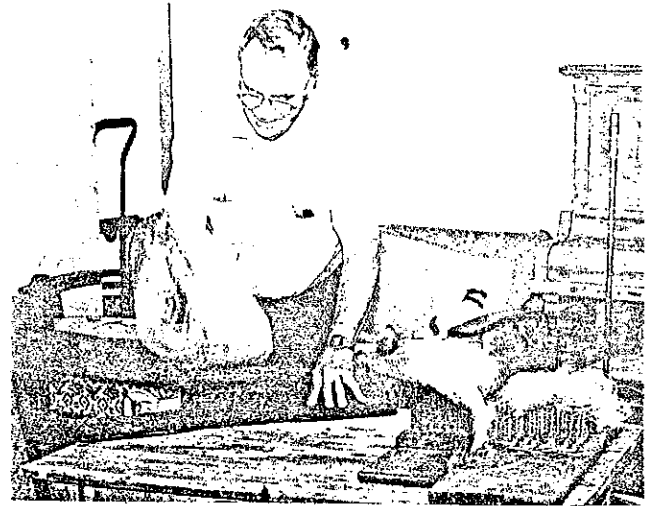
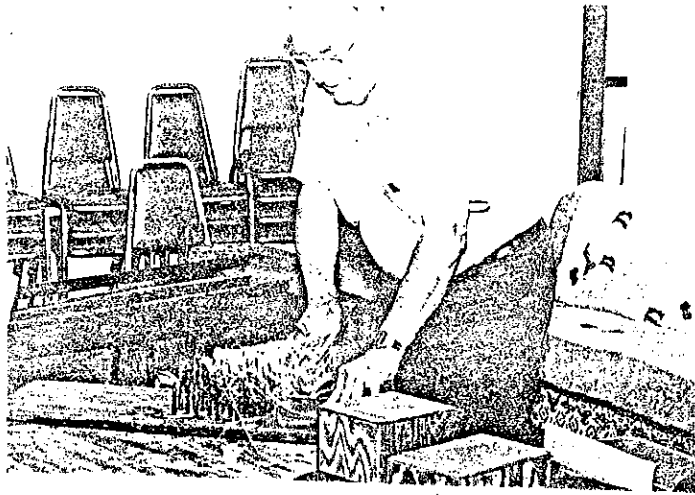
REPORT ON FLAX WORKSHOP ***

Amy Cook said that Dora and Ed Swart presented a marvelous seminar. Ed began with a demonstration on the growth and preparation of the fiber; you can see in the photos that he did a thorough job. His demonstration was interspersed with interesting historical facts and artifacts: children, for example, were sent out to weed the flax when it was 6 inches high because at that height it wouldn't hurt the flax if the children stepped on it. Among the 'artifacts' were a piece of real linoleum and a linen firehose. After lunch, Dora took over, presenting more of the history as well as various distaffs. Attendees dressed their distaffs two different ways, and began to spin.

REPORT ON AUGUST MEETING ***

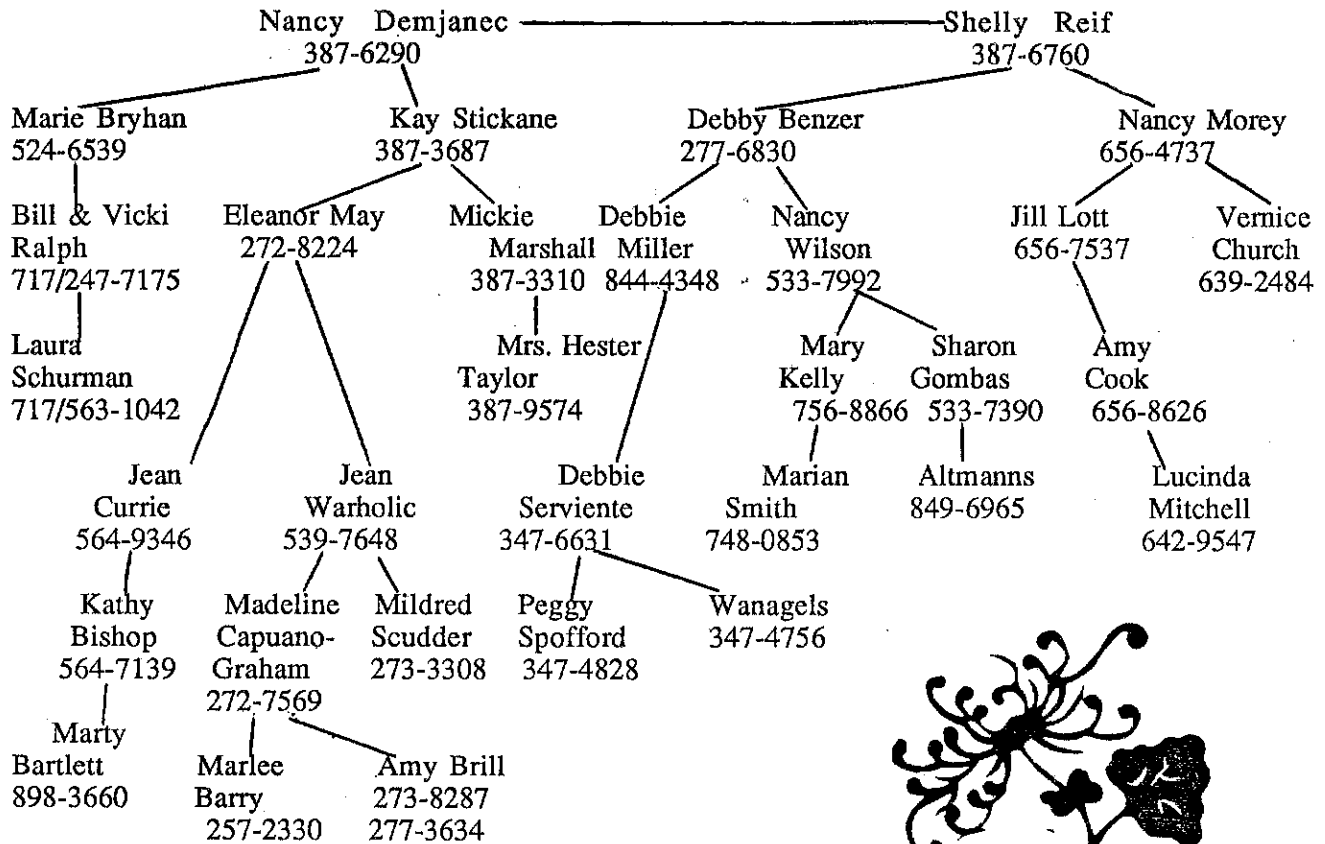
What a wonderful time we had! The August meeting was a small and very personal one, attended by Debbie Miller, Eleanor May and Shelly Reif at Nancy Demjanec's beautiful 19th century house on Waterburg Road in the Trumansburg countryside. First Nancy gave us a tour of her home, which led to a tour through her wedding album, and then we settled down to coffee, spinning, and a lot of conversation. The topics ranged from fibers to families, and we all left feeling much closer to each other, and happier for it.

Some scenes from the Flax Workshop



TELEPHONE TREE ***

It has occurred to me over time that a phone tree might help us pass on those important tidbits of information that somehow don't make it into the newsletter or surface at meetings. The idea is that each person needs to make no more than two calls, so that with a minimum of effort (and long distance calls), everyone can be kept up to date. I've included only active members on this list; please bring questions, additions, corrections, etc. to the September meeting. The tree starts in two places, with me and Nancy Demjanec.

**A SPECIAL NOTE *** Kay Stickane**

I want to thank everyone in the guild for your donations to Suicide Prevention in memory of my son, Aaron. Also, please know that I appreciate the kind support and friendship that I have received from so many of you this summer.

In difficult times it becomes obvious what is important. One of the most important "threads" that has kept me in touch with reality has been the guild, its members and spinning. I found the most nurturing of things to be a woven afghan that a friend gave me as a maternity/baby gift. It was very comforting to find that the smell, feel, and color of the wool afghan as I held it close during a very difficult day, kept me in touch with myself and gave me the strength to keep going. Later spinning helped me focus on good things and the humming of the wheel, like a lullaby, was soothing. You are all very special to me, the sharing and help you have given has helped me beyond the simple task of spinning a better thread. Thank you.

A SPECIAL NOTE ***

Our thoughts are with long-time guild member Jean Warholic and her husband during his recent illness and surgery.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE *****Change of address:**

Carolynne Gieryn
1909 E Maxwell Lane
Bloomington, IN 47401
812/339-1487

Nancy Wilson
167 Ridge Road
Lansing NY 14882
607/533-7992

Inactive:

Ann K. Gilman
Box 265
Interlaken, NY 14847
607/532-9395

Newsletter only:

Laura Shenk
PO Box 1113
57 E. Cayuga St.
Moravia NY13118
(Laura bought
the Guild wheel)

Here's an important note for Active Members: According to Guild rules, an Active member must, among other things, attend at least half of the Guild meetings per year. Dues are \$10 for Active, and \$12 for Inactive members. If you find yourself in the wrong category, please try to correct it by attending more frequently or contributing the extra \$2 to BSHG.

MOONSHADOW'S CORNER ***

What's in a name? Names like Spot, Blackie and Snowball bring immediate pictures to mind of what the animal probably looks like. I have a ewe lamb I named Godzilla and a ram named Mr. T. Does that give you a good idea of the cross section of personalities in my flock? A lot of my animals' names came from a baby-naming book with meanings of the names. I start by choosing names that fit the lamb and goat kid personality. Unfortunately, by the time they are about 2 months old the name is no longer suitable.

"Beulah" means "the married one". The only thing my Beulah is married to is the feed trough. That's one union that will never break up. "Blossom" means "fresh, lovely". Somehow that definition escapes me when I'm trying to flip her over to trim her feet. "Olga" means "holy one". The only prayer she has is that I'll trip while carrying the grain bucket (she's Beulah's daughter - you can see the resemblance). "Alice" means "truthful one". Have you ever met a sheep you could trust? Try looking them straight in the eye. I named my new buck goat "Abraham", which means "father of the multitude", in hopes that he'll be a good herd sire.

Can a name tell you something? My middle name is Athene - goddess of wisdom. Is it wisdom that makes me keep these sheep, or was it that my parents couldn't find a name that meant "glutton for punishment"?

NY STATE FAIR WINNERS ***

Here is the list! I apologize for any misspellings - I obtained the names over the phone, and had to promise that I wouldn't publish until the Fair began. BSHG members' names are in bold-face - and aren't there a lot of them! Congratulations to all. All these items will be on display in the Art and Home Center throughout the Fair. Do try to make it up there, and if you do, be sure to stop by the Wool Booth, located near the sheep barn, where spinning, weaving and dying demonstrations go on all day, every day of the Fair.

Class 71: Proficiency of spin (called by some "the Coats and Clarks award"):

1st: Sandra Squires
2nd: James Sweet
3rd: Debra Kirkaldy
4th: Mary Anne Lynch

Honorable Mention: Jill Lott, Joan Kad,
Lisa Larue

Class 72: Yarns for clothing

1st: Marilyn Brown
2nd: Nancy Morey
3rd: Betsy Walker
4th: Debra Kirkaldy

Honorable Mention: Jill Lott, David
Newsom, James Sweet, Sandra Squires,
Irene Libby, Christine Miller

Class 73: Heavy duty yarns

1st: Mary Anne Lynch

- 2nd: James Sweet
3rd: Debra Kirkaldy
- Class 74: Garment for infant and child
1st: Amy Cook
2nd: Jill Lott
3rd: Debbie Miller
4th: Michelle Reif
- Class 75: Adult hat and scarf set or hat and mittens set
1st: Sandra Squires
2nd: Michelle Reif
- Class 76: Adult sweater
1st: Marilyn Brown
2nd: Vernice Church
3rd: Carol Laubli
4th: Michelle Reif
- Class 77: Any other adult garment
1st: Jill Lott
2nd: Carol Laubli
3rd: Tom Coe
4th: Debbie Miller
- Class 78: Any other non-wearable article
1st: Betsy Walker



Honorable Mention: Vernice Church,
Mary Newsom



SHEEP TO SHAWL CONTEST AT STATE FAIR ***

We're all geared up and (gulp!) ready to go. The action begins at 1pm on Sunday, September 3, in the sheep barn show ring. This year only 3 teams are competing, and there is an additional prize for best use of color. With Debbie Miller dying the warp, we certainly have a good chance to win that one. Our practice session at Eleanor May's took an afternoon and evening, plus another evening - but that's only because of all the food we had, especially Debbie Miller's luscious blueberry pie. This year's team features Jay Miller shearing, Eleanor weaving, and Kay Stickane, Debbie Benzer and Shelly Reif spinning like crazy. Not to mention a black sheep, of course.

UPDATE ON SILK ORDER ***

No news right now. We'll hear from Nancy Demjanec at the September meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

August 25-September 4: New York State Fair. Sheep to Shawl contest Sunday, Sept. 3.

September 23: Fiberfest 1989, sponsored by Schoharie County Sheepmen's Association (Nancy Morey thinks it ought to say "Shepherds", as most of the sheepmen are women). Cobleskill Fairgrounds, 9am-5pm. Features a petting zoo (sheep, goats, rabbits), sheep dog demos, and all-day demos of spinning weaving, quilting, wook dying, felting; also many supplies for sale.

October 14-15: Central New York Handspinning Seminar at the Sheraton in Syracuse. Features, among others, Trudy Van Straylen, a Canadian known for intense colors she achieves with natural dyes. For info contact Sunny Bixby, RD1 Box 29, Verona, NY.

October 14: Cayuga Nature Center Festival of Early American Life. Saturday, 10am-4pm. The aim of the festival is to provide hands-on learning to people of all ages. They need spinners. Please be prepared to volunteer at the September meeting, and meet with other spinners to plan a program.

October 21-22: New York State Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. Includes sheep, sheep dogs, fleece, rare breed, llamas, dying, fleece to fabric, sheep auction. Many classes will be available, open to the public. Alice Johns can make bed and breakfast arrangements in local spinners' homes for those who would like to attend. Contact Nancy Morey for more information.

November 4: Northeast Spinners Gathering, Enfield, Conn. Nancy Morey can offer a ride.

ADVERTISEMENTS ***

Advertising rates:

1-3 lines: \$1 for one time, \$2 for three times.

4-12 lines: \$5 for one time

13 lines- 1/2 page: \$10 for one time

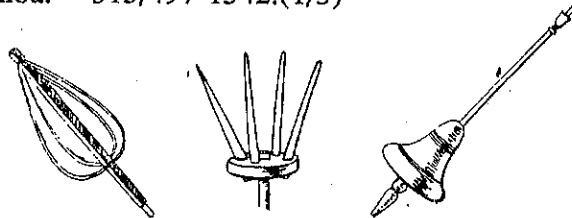
We received some info from Southern Loom Reed Co. If you're in the market for reeds, I have the address.

Need supplies or books for spinning, felting, weaving, knitting, dyeing, basketry or bobbin lace? Come to the Woolery, Genoa (18 minutes from Ithaca) 10-4pm Mon.-Fri. Other times by chance or appt. 315/497-1542.(1/3)

I'm overwhelmed. Selling fleeces, sheepskins, Romney ram & ewe lambs and adults. Everything from white to silver to black, including Ranger's extra long staple pale gray. Lovely for spinning - check out BSHG sheep-to-shawl entry. Shelly, 387-6760.(1/3)

For sale: Regis. Border Leicester ram lambs, 2 Leicester x ewe lambs and 2 Leicester x ram lambs. Gorgeous fleeces. Also angora rabbits bred for wool production. Many colors. Woolery Farm, Genoa. 315/497-1542.(1/3)

Need wool or blends picked and carded? Try our industrial picker and carding machine for a wonderfully light and continuous web. 5 lbs. min. Fingerlakes Woolen Mill, The Woolery, Genoa. 315/497-1542.(1/3)



Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

P.O. Box 6701

Ithaca, NY 14851



Ray Stickane

Submissions for next newsletter due September 30