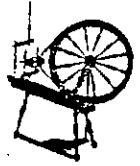




Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

No. 126- February 1990

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Question of the month: WHERE IS THE GUILD COFFEEPOT? Its absence was noted at Rock Day. If you have information concerning the whereabouts of this item please contact one of the officers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS * Varna Community Center**

February 10, noon: Eleanor May wants to initiate a discussion about next year's rock day: Do we still want contests, or just visiting? Should we have the December show and tell at Rock Day in lieu of contests? Is 11 am early enough? (This year we didn't eat until 1 pm - should we start earlier?) Debbie Miller will be auctioning off old (5+ years) magazines from the library at the February meeting. **Please note: We must park cars on the community center side, and not where cars might block the firetruck garage doors.**

REPORT ON DECEMBER MEETING ***

Delicious dishes-to-pass, a gift exchange and show-and-tell highlighted this holiday gathering. We had a fine turnout and a lot of fun. I hope everyone there had a chance to see the beautiful doily I received from Madeline Capuano-Graham in the gift exchange. It had been crocheted by her grandmother, and is an exquisite piece of work.

REPORT ON ROCK DAY***

Once again, Rock Day was one of the high points of this spinner's year. With five vendors and a book full of checks, I was like a child set loose in a candy store! So many beautiful books, equipment and fibers appeared on those tables, and disappeared into piles next to spinners' chairs. At this point it may behoove us to devote a meeting to a discussion of new ways to sneak more materials into an already overstuffed household. "But mom," you may hear, "There's nowhere to sit!" A real fiber junky isn't deterred by such complaints. Where there's a will..... On the other hand, perhaps we should consider a sort of AA type meeting, for those of us who are able to admit we have a problem...

In any case, speaking just for myself, I had a ball. Everyone brought scrumptious dishes, many former members attended, and new faces appeared as well.

Eleanor May outdid herself in the contest department this year. She was the soul of discretion for weeks before Rock Day, and maintained absolute silence when asked about the nature of this year's contests. Curiosity was aroused even further when she marched in to the Community Center carrying bags of twigs and branches. What on earth? The mystery was revealed after lunch: we were to break up into groups of three (preferably with new acquaintances) and create nothing less than wall-hangings using the above-mentioned "lumber", a variety of wild and wooly fibers/yarns, and a massive amount of imagination. Did someone get pictures of the entries? I hope so because words couldn't begin to describe the degree of creativity they demonstrated.

Eleanor's second contest involved using triangular bandages as blindfolds as we did our best to spin some lovely wool prepared by Marianne Horchler. Mine was tremendously overtwisted, but a lot of fun to do. With closed eyes, all the other senses must concentrate to try and compensate. This was actually quite a meditative experience.

Sincere thanks are due to all the vendors for providing such beautiful and generous prizes. Further thanks go to all who helped organize, set up and clean up. It was a warm and wonderful beginning for the new year.

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD

PRESENTS

WORKSHOPS WITH CELIA QUINN

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild presents 4 workshops with Celia Quinn. Celia's Comprehensive Handspinning Seminar will be held on March 30, 31, and April 1. The following weekend presents three separate workshops: April 6 - Spinning to Specification; April 7 - Playing with Plies; and April 8 - Cotton Spinning.

If you have not taken a workshop with Celia before, she recommends you start with the Comprehensive Handspinning Seminar. This workshop lives up to its title - you will be spinning many fibers forms, using many techniques and tools.

Spinning to Specification teaches you to duplicate yarns you may have previously spun, and why you may want to spin one yarn rather than another for a special project. Playing with Plies is a fun day! Basic methods of plying are covered, reasons for choosing a 2, 3, or 4-ply yarn, and novelty yarns created by plying. Cotton Spinning will teach you to spin cotton on a charka, great wheel, - and your own wheel!

Each class runs from 9 am to 5 pm, with a one hour lunch break. Registration will be on a first come, first reserved basis; class space is limited to 20 participants. Your deposit will be refunded only if a replacement is found. The workshop fee will not be returned if you do not attend class.

Fees for the workshops are as follows:

	Comp. Handspinning	1 Day Class
Active BSHG	\$55	20
Inactive BSHG	62	24
Non-BSHG member	67	28
materials fee	20	6

To reserve a space, send a deposit of \$25 for the Comprehensive Handspinning Seminar, and \$10 for each day-class to Nancy Morey, P.O. Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. A sheet with information on materials you need to bring, the balance due, and other information will be sent to you as confirmation of your registration. Balance of fees are due March 1, 1990.

Nancy advises me that there are still a few openings left in the comprehensive seminar, and more in the other three workshops. Send your deposit ASAP!

OUT AND ABOUT***

Debbie Benzer and I headed out to the Bloomers' Windsong Farm for their fall shearing. With a roomful of fleeces at home (and then some), it hardly seemed reasonable to even consider buying one, but.... when has reason played a role in fiber mania? What a beautiful flock! Debbie and I ended up lending our hands to baling fleeces for a while, meanwhile stomping up and down to try to keep warm. After a couple of hours, with toes like icicles, we each selected a favorite and headed home. Debbie's is a long, lustrous Border Leicester, mine a clean Rambouillet. For those of you who may be interested, they do have more. They always set aside particularly lovely fleeces for handspinners.

TIME TO RENEW!!***

If there is an orange dot next to your name and a bright pink membership form stapled to your newsletter, you've let your membership lapse. Please renew today or this will be your last newsletter.

NEWS FROM OTHER GUILDS***

Foothills Spinners and Weavers Jan/Feb newsletter has an interesting article on the potential danger of microwave dying. Apparently not enough is known about the reaction of dyestuff to microwaves, and it is suggested that one not use the family microwave for dying.

Spinner's Web has a warm way of welcoming in the new year. Their Rock Day celebration is called Each One Teach One: "Each member is encouraged to invite an interested non-spinner to learn to spin at this meeting." What a friendly gesture! Their 1990 programs will focus on knitting with handspun.

TREASURER'S REPORT*** Nancy Wilson

Reservations have been made for June 24 with 4H-Acres, so it's time for Market Day planning to go into high gear! Complete treasurer's report at February meeting.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

February 10-11, 1990: Pre-Valentine's Day workshop on Japanese stand-and-bobbin braiding. Masa Kinoshita will teach participants to make "My Valentine Belt". For information call Masa Kinoshita, 257-0886.

March 4: MATH (Museum of American Textile History, N. Andover, Mass) exhibit opening: Hand Spinning in the Industrial Age: Patented Progress. This exhibit focuses on patented spinning wheels from the US in the mid-19th century and features the Museum's collection of hand tools and implements. Exhibit runs till August 3. MATH is also offering numerous lectures and workshops. See me for details.

March 30 and 31: Color and Design Workshop with New Zealand designer Lee Anderson. Two different groups, 9am-5pm plus 1 1/2 hour slide lecture in the evening on each day. Call Millie Bankert at 315/861-5602 (home) or 315/853-3389 for more info or to make reservation.

March 30, 31, April 1: Comprehensive Spinning Seminar with Cella Quinn.

April 6-8: Spinning Seminars with Cella Quinn. (See page 2.)

May 5 & 6: Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, West Friendship, MD.

May 12 & 13: New Hampshire Sheep & Wool Festival, New Boston, NH.

May 20: MATH Annual Sheep Shearing Festival. N. Andover, Mass.

June 8-10: Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Toronto. See me for information. It should be a wonderful time. Wool will be the featured fiber.

June 15-17: Midwest Weavers Conference, Pittsburg, PA.

July 12-15: Convergence, San Jose, CA.

July 31-August 4: Embroiderers Guild of America: Mideastern Regional Seminar, SUNY Binghamton. Featuring "Crewel with Needle Lace" taught by Judy Jeroy, "Seminole Patchwork" taught by Linda Halpin, and other classes. Registration for non-members starts March 1. For more info contact Janis Hunsinger, 1752 Terrace Dr., Vestal, NY 13850, 754-1915, 9am-9pm.

August 24-September 3: New York State Fair.

September 23-30: SOAR, Silver Bay (Lake George), NY.

November 2-4: North East Handspinners "Gathering", Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH.

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

Fleeces from my purebred & crossbred Border Leicesters. I have many to choose from & need to make room for upcoming shearing. They were \$2.00/lb, now \$1.50/lb. Mohair too at \$4.00/lb. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223. (3/3)

For Sale: Purebred registered ram lamb born 2/1/89. Bottle raised twin. Beautiful fleece. Very tame. To good home only. Offers over \$100 considered. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223 (3/3)

Is your loom collecting dust? When was the last time you wove? I'm looking to buy a floor loom, 30 inches plus width. Call Debbie Benzer at 277-6830.

For Sale: Bred ewes. Border Leicesters and Leicester crosses, Targhee - Finn cross. Bred to purebred Leicester ram. \$75 and up. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223.(2/3)

Harrisville Design floor loom with adjustable bench. 4-harness, 22 inch width. \$350.00. Jill Lott, 607/656-7537. (2/3)

Angora buck goat and bred angora does for sale. \$150 each. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223. (2/3)

For Sale: Macomber 72" 4 harness loom with sectional beam, bench, reed, push shuttles.

perfect for rugs or coverlets. Delivery can be arranged. \$2200. Joan Koster, 692-4398, RD 1 Box 32 Itaska, Whitney Point, NY 13862. (1/7)

For Sale: Saxony spinning wheel by Country Craftsman. Excellent condition. \$135.00. Also, wanted: Used Ashford Traditional wheel. Want to make a trade? Marcia Vann, 387-9262. (1/4)

Spinning Special on Louet wheels:

S10	\$195	S51	\$210
S15	\$180	S70	\$275
S15 kit	\$155	S71	\$295
S40	\$265	S75	\$195

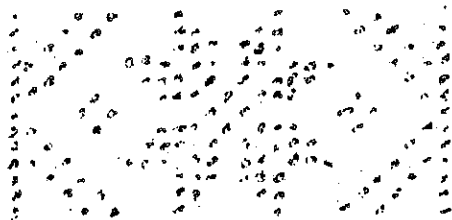
Fiber Special: 100% wool that feels like Alpaca. (Mill Closeout.) I think it is alpaca, but it was listed as wool. \$8.00/lb.

Coopworth Cross Rovings, light silver gray, \$10.00/lb.

For more information contact Spinner's Hill Shop, RD #1 Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, NY 13733. Lisa Ann Merian, 843-6267. If no answer, please leave a message - it's lambing time. (1/2)

The Last Word***

I spent a comfortable morning in December teaching and demonstrating to a tiny class at the Alternative School. This class, consisting of a teacher and two young women, had been concentrating its efforts on weaving, and welcomed the chance to learn to spin as well. There's something very warm and special about helping someone spin her first thread. You can see the initial tension as she takes on the challenge, a little nervous perhaps. But then comes that one moment when she gets that flash, that feeling that it has all connected: the wool, the treadle, the yarn, the feel of rhythmic quiet slipping of measured fiber through her fingers. Isn't that where it all starts?





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Submissions for March due by the beginning of the last week in February.