

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter



Volume 133 - October, 1990

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Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, October 13, 11:30-4, Varna: Wheels with a Difference. Coffee/tea at 11:30, then lunch, then show and tell, and then on to our program, which will be full of surprises! It'll be a lively meeting and lots of FUN learning about *and trying* some of the more unusual spinning wheels. You'll need to bring *plenty* of well-prepared fiber for spinning, and a niddy noddy (although, since you might not get your yarn back, don't bring fiber from a precious project), and bring an unusual wheel to show if you have one. We'll also talk about the care and "winterizing" of spinning wheels so yours will be ready for some heavy-duty winter spinning. Coordinators of the day are Jean Warholic, Eleanor May, and Kay Stickane.

We'll be in the big room. Plan to bring a friend, your lunch, and stay the afternoon. Don't miss it!

Beginners Workshop

The Beginners Workshop will be held on **Sunday, Oct. 28, noon to 4:30pm at the Ellis Hollow Community Center.** Bring a lunch. Volunteers are needed to help instruct. Nancy Wilson will mail flyers to those who signed up on Market Day. A fee of \$10 will be charged to cover rental of the center, and purchase of fibers and refreshments.

Advance sign-ups are necessary. Beginners should make checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild, and send to Nancy Wilson, 167 Ridge Rd., Lansing, NY 14882. For further info or to volunteer call Nancy at 533-7992, or Debbie Benzer at 277-6830.

Report on September Meeting

A group of about 25 or so met at Varna for the annual Garage Sale. A rollicking good time was had by all. Wheeling and dealing was the order of the day, as we bought and traded, oohed and aahed over each other's purchases while munching on fresh fruit, bread, and cookies.

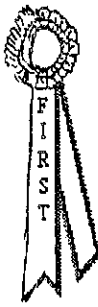
After the madness subsided a bit (yes, Pat Randorf was there with lots of lovely stuff), we settled down for an old fashioned meeting, show-and-tell included.

Among others, Debbie Benzer showed her State Fair winners as well as many beautiful shibori-dyed pieces that she produced at the workshop she attended last month in Massachusetts.

Market Day: The Financial Wrapup

Nancy Wilson

	Income
\$ 50.00	Return of deposit
243.00	Booth and space rental
196.50	Raffle ticket sales
<u>8.54</u>	10% of Guild Table sales
\$498.04	
	<u>Paid Out</u>
\$ 90.00	4-H Acres rental & deposit
20.00	Mailing, copying, etc.
50.00	Extra insurance
35.76	Supplies, phone calls, misc.
<u>12.75</u>	Extra lamb purchased from
\$208.51	Portable Feast



The Envelope, Please

Sheep to Shawl at the State Fair

Both Black Sheep teams did a great job up there in the ring on Sunday, September 2. It was a tense time, not helped at all by the high heat and humidity. By the time the contest began, two of the seven teams competing had already been disqualified from taking prizes. The disqualifications, due to lack of a complete team or fully prepared loom, were unfortunate, but did not prevent all seven teams from competing to complete their shawls in four hours.

What a race it was! The sheep were shorn in almost no time. Different Twisters, the Black Sheep team headed by Sharon Gombas, used one of the Bloomer's beautiful Border Leicesters. The Black Sheep team headed by Ellie May used Beeper, a sweet little Romney cross ram lamb. One other team had dyed a portion of its lamb's back a pale peach. The 4-H team, a new feature of the contest, blew everyone away: Their entire sheep (and their team by the end of the contest) was a hot turquoise..

Anyone who has watched this contest before knows that most of the shawls are completed in 3 to 3.5 hours. Not so this year! Around the 3 hr mark, I glanced over at Different Twisters. It looked as though they were just about finished. "Oh, I hope they learned our lesson," said Ellie, not taking time to look up. "They'd better measure."

Well, they must have, because the next thing I noticed was the whole team (except for Charlotte Altmann, their weaver) behind the loom, untying knots from the back apron *and gripping the ends in their fingers while Charlotte wove the last few necessary inches!*

Meanwhile, back in our corner, Ellie's tape measure showed us we still had a long way to go, but Deb Miller knew that 20 minutes were required to get the shawl off the loom and tie and trim the fringes. At about 3:30, Jay handed Ellie a bobbin, saying, "This is your last one, Ellie."

Well, we made 80 inches, but just barely (and we were not alone). Fringes tied and trimmed, the shawl was turned in. Only four of the five teams eligible for prizes completed their shawls in time, and I believe that all four were turned in to the judges within the last three minutes of the contest.

Finally the moment of truth arrived, the prizes

were awarded, and the shawls (and practice shawls) were auctioned off. Different Twisters took 4th prize for their shawl with ikat dyed warp, and their shawl sold for what I believe was a record amount. The Genessee Country Museum spinners took third for an all-white shawl featuring openwork near the ends. Second prize went to North Country Spinners for a white shawl with light brown asymmetrical stripes. Ellie's team garnered first for a purple, blue, and white number in undulating twill. (By the way, the team was utterly stunned - mouths gaped wide open like a trip to the dentist. Ellie says that the only other time in her life that she was struck speechless was at her wedding, and Monty confirms this.)

The other shawls included one made in a twill using the pale peach-dyed wool, a red and turquoise shawl by 4-H, and a white Bronson lace one with a handspun Merino warp by Sheep Thrills.

Everyone ready for next year?

Financial Outlook: Let's Plan Workshops!

Nancy Wilson

Current Treasury Balance is \$424.92. Insurance and rent are paid up through Dec. We're ahead on most magazine subscriptions as well. We have some money, so let's think about having some workshops! Any ideas?

Nancy Morey has been looking into workshop possibilities:

Rita Buchanan may be available for one-day workshops next summer or early fall. She's doing workshops on:

1. Designing and Making Handspun Projects. Focus is on careful planning of a handspun project, taking into consideration the fiber preparation, making samples, etc. Limited to 20 people.

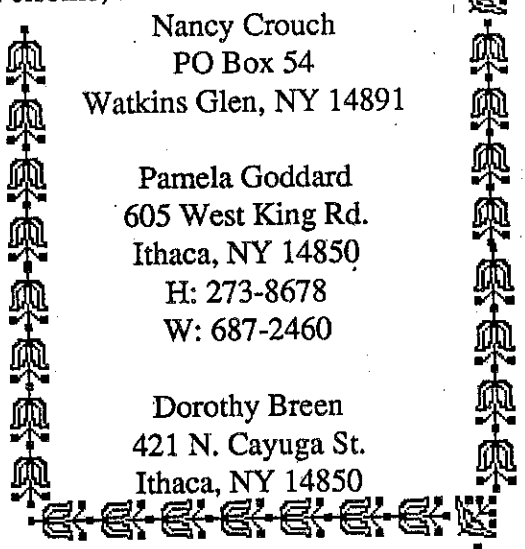
2. Joy of Wool: Fleece to Spinning Wheel. Concentrates on all the steps involved from preparing wool, sorting, washing, sorting and blending, carding storing the fiber and spinning. Open to 15 people, beginner to advanced.

There will be a more detailed description of these workshops at upcoming meetings. While she is at SOAR, Nancy M. is also going to speak with Priscilla Gibson-Roberts about any workshops she might be available for in the future.



Even More New Members!

Please add the following to your membership list. Welcome, all!



Nancy Crouch
PO Box 54
Watkins Glen, NY 14891

Pamela Goddard
605 West King Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850
H: 273-8678
W: 687-2460

Dorothy Breen
421 N. Cayuga St.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Visited the Library Lately?

Kay Stickane recommends the 1990 summer issue of *Knitter's Magazine*, which focuses on children. Besides the expected sweater patterns, it features some good articles on working with kids.

If you haven't checked out the library lately, you should! Did you know that the Guild has current (and often long-into-the-past) subscriptions to *Shuttle*, *Spindle and Dyepot*, *Knitter's*, *Spin-Off*, *Handwoven*, and *Threads*, not to mention a whole host of books that might be just what you need.

The Guild Library is located within the Varna Community Center building, and is available on meeting days. Consult the librarian, Deb Miller, 844-4348, if you need to use it at other times.

And, while we're on the subject, since we're pretty flush these days, how about recommending new books that you'd like to see there?

Important Announcement

Nancy Wilson

I am the new keeper of the Guild drum carder (\$5/month rental fee), drop spindles and hand carders.

If you need them please let me know.
Nancy Wilson, 533-7992.

Calendar of Events

Sept. 9-Jan. 13, 1991: Celebration and Remembrance: Commemorative Textiles in America, 1790-1990. Museum of American Textile History, N. Andover, Mass. In conjunction with this display MATH will be holding a series of lectures and workshops, including some on spinning and weaving for children and adults. For more info: MATH, 800 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, Mass. 01845

Oct. 20-21: New York Sheep and Wool Festival at Rhinebeck.

Oct. 27: Empire Sheep Producers Annual Meeting and Sheep Symposium. Geneva, Agric. Experiment Station. Lamb BBQ in evening. Call Nancy Morey for details, 656-4737.

Nov. 2-4: North East Handspinners "Gathering", Lower Shaker Village, Enfield, NH. Registration packets: SASE (.45) to Peg Rearick, RR1, Box 100, Hebron, ME 04238. Features Joan Cummer, Sue Beevers, Rita Buchanan, Karen Casselman, Rachael Emmons, Nancy Morey, Faith Wight.

June 13-16, 1991: Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference. Topic: "Spectrum: Color and Design." Two speakers, many study sessions, fashion show, juried show, exhibits. To receive registration materials next March, send your name, address, phone # and preferred topics to EGLFC Registrar, 906 DeWitt Rd., Webster, NY 14580-1616.

Lodi Village Market

We've received a request from the Lodi Village Market to participate as demonstrators next summer on August 17. I know this is quite a way in the future, but the possibility exists that this time could be used for sheep to shawl practice, or just a good old-fashioned spin-in. I've found a few interested souls; call me and I'll put you on the list (which I'll probably misplace by next summer).

ADVERTISEMENTS * * *

Advertising rates:

3-6 lines: \$1 for one time, \$2 for 3 times.

7-24 lines: \$5 for one time

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

Ashford spinning wheel, ex. condition, \$95. Glimakra loom, ("Standard"), 8-harness, 10-treadle, countermarche, 60". Includes bench, 2 reeds, lease and warp sticks. Ex. condition, 5 yrs old, \$1600.; also yarn ("Christopher Sheepfarm Wool"), 2-ply, variety of colors, 48 lbs., \$6/lb., \$288. Liza Lamb, 273-6694.

Grease wool for sale: 2 Oxford, 4 Oxford/Romney, 1 Oxford/Romney/Corriedale (black). Vince Sgam-bati, Otisco Lake, (315) 636-8090.

Mohair fleeces for sale. Ernest Edwards, Jr., 1-854 So. St. Rd., Pavilion, NY 14525, (716) 584-3947.

60" 4-harness Glimakra counterbalance loom for sale. Wonderful loom, overhead beater, string heddles, perfect for rugs and coverlets as well as small projects. A bargain at only \$1200. Eleanor May, 272-8224.

Beautiful silver Romney ram for sale, also several lambs & ewes. And we're shearing on Sept. 22! Call Shelly, 387-6760. (3/3)

Nobody is Perfect

The following bits were actually taken from various church bulletins:

1. This afternoon there will be a meeting in the south and north ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

2. Tuesday at 4pm there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk please come early.

3. Wednesday the ladies literary society will meet. Mrs. Johnson will sing "Put Me in My Little Bed" accompanied by the pastor.

4. Thursday at 5pm there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All wishing to become little mothers will please meet the pastor in his study.

5. This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Johnson to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.



Reminder for Rock Day

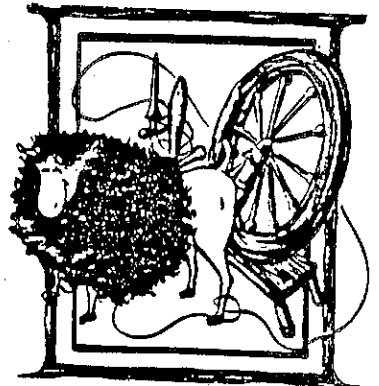
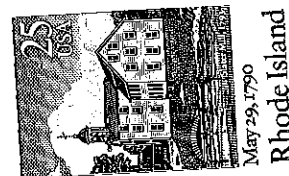
Again, Eleanor May says that on those lovely autumn walks you'll soon be taking, be sure to find and save 2 forked sticks, one wide and taller, one skinny, for use at Rock Day. Bring an extra pair if you can.

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

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Ithaca, NY 14851

Kay Stickane
6341 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850



Submissions for November newsletter are due by October 26..