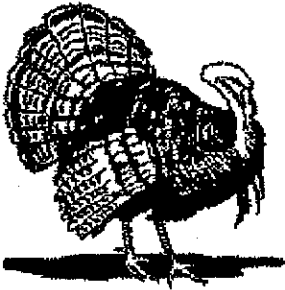


Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

Volume 134 - November, 1990

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Upcoming Meetings

November 10, noon, Varna: Program: Sharing for the holidays. It's time to get ready for them already, isn't it? What we could all use are some nifty gift ideas, so that's what this meeting will be all about. Please bring 10 to 15 photocopies of instructions for small, quick projects, and a completed sample if you can.

Also, we'll be electing new officers for next year; do plan to attend, or you might find yourself elected behind your back!

December 8, noon, Varna: Holiday Dish-to-Pass

January 12, 1991: Rock Day: Haven't heard much yet on that score. So far, all I'm sure of is that Eleanor May is taking charge of the games. And there will be food, if I know this group at all. Rock Day is always quite an event for members current and past. Join in, get active!

Beginners Workshop

Held on Sunday, October 28 at the Ellis Hollow Community Center, the Beginners Workshop hosted quite a group of novices, from those who had never spun before to those who wanted some help with their technique. BSHG volunteers Sharon Gombas, Nancy Wilson, Debby Benzer, Lynne Cassella-Blackburn and Shelly Reif led a hands-on workshop all afternoon for Ray Axtell, Valorie Rockney, Susan Quick, Susan Williams, Clinton Fudge, JoAnn Broadwell, Elizabeth Hays, Dorothy Breen, and Cynthia Brown.

We hand- and drum-carded, tried Louët's, Schachts and Ashfords, and ate wonderful goodies. The students picked up spinning so quickly it was unbelievable, and had fun doing it.

Report on October Meeting

What a collection of wheels and goodies! And many thanks to Eleanor May, Kay Stickane, and especially to Jean Warholic for coming up with such an amazing assortment of wheels. Thanks are also due to those responsible for the goodies.

Eleanor brought the Turkish flax wheel that Monty found in the Bazaar in Istanbul last year. She also brought a Canadian wheel, and Monty was kind enough to transport that huge and wonderful pendulum wheel so we could try it out. It works just like a great wheel, with the addition of about 6 feet of length per draw. Quite a machine, but it sure takes a lot of room—watch out!

Vernice brought her great wheel and a Kissell electric spinner. Debbie Serviente's charka was taken out for a spin, Cindy Mitchell displayed an old Swiss wheel that sits perpendicular to the spinner, Sharon Gombas brought a Schacht wheel, Alissa Altman showed her new "under the seat" Louët, Debbie Benzer a New Zealand peacock, and Shelly Reif a Norm Hall.

Stars of the show were the wheels provided by Jean Warholic (a double-banded, double treadle Adkins wheel, a 1960's plastic "Little Red Spinning Wheel", and Norm Hall's premier gossip wheel) and Bill Ralph (a Webster accelerating wheel with iron flywheel, and antique gossip wheel, an Irish castle wheel made to fit in the corner of a cottage, to name a few).

Bill also gave a talk on winterizing your wheel. His advice was, in a word, "Oil!"

P.S. Anyone who saw the Herald American on the following day got quite a surprise.

The following articles were lifted from Spinner's Web Handspinners Guild Newsletter:

Shampoo Your Sweater

by Madeline G. Maynard

Do you look longingly at the sweater you shrunk last month? Most of us can't afford to replace expensive woolens we've ruined by a costly mistake. Well, don't just sigh and put it out of sight or give it to your sister for her dolls. With a little care and attention, you can usually restore your shrunken woolens to their original shape.

First, make a solution of 2 tablespoons of synthetic detergent shampoo and 1 gallon of luke-warm water. (Shampoos made of soap are well-labeled; don't use them.) Then, put the clean woolen article in the solution and gently squeeze the solution through the water. Lift the article out of the solution and squeeze the excess out. **DO NOT RINSE!**

Next, lay the article flat on plastic and gently stretch it back to its original shape. Use a similar article of the original size to guide you. Let the article dry flat, turning it to be sure it dries completely. Once it's dry, you can steam iron your article using a pressing cloth, to restore the original matte finish. You can also use a suede brush or a clothes brush to separate matted fringes.

How does the magic work? The shampoo remaining in the article reacts with wool fibers to relax them so they can return to their original shape. The key work is "original" — don't use this method to make something turn into a larger size; it won't. If one shampoo doesn't seem to do the trick try another. Once your favorite has been returned to its original glory, be especially careful when you wash it again. Use a mild dishwashing detergent or cold water soap specifically designed for washing woolens and fine fabrics. Squeeze gently and rinse twice to be sure you remove all suds and soil. Then, as before, squeeze out the excess water, lay the sweater flat on plastic or on a towel and pat it into its original shape, drying it flat. If your woolens have become harsh, try a little fabric softener in the final rinse water for softer results.



Restoring Used Knitting Yarns

You have unraveled a sweater and want to use the good yarn again. How do you get the kinks out of the yarn so that it knits smoothly into another garment? The suggestion has come as a new use for the microwave oven.

First, wrap the yarn loosely on a piece of cardboard. Put a large microwave-safe dish of water to boil in the microwave. When the water boils, turn the oven off. Place the yarn over the steaming dish and let it steam. If it is necessary to heat the water further for continued steaming, remove the yarn from the oven. Return the yarn to the oven for further straightening.

This suggestion is from one who has done this — remember, do not use metal in the microwave. Also, remember that you may try a small sample first and also be sure that no yarn is in the oven when it is turned on.

Rejection Opportunity

by Mary McGuiness

Thoughts on recently being reejected from a juried exhibit:

First stage: The jurors are incompetent.

Second stage: The jurors are fine. I'm incompetent.

Third stage: It doesn't matter that I'm incompetent. I'm going to sell my looms and work at McDonald's. I'll probably make more money there anyway.

Fourth stage: What can I do for the show next year that will knock the juror's socks off?

Fifth stage: Never mind the jurors. What can I weave that will be special and meaningful to me?

SOAR

Putting it all in perspective

(Gulp!) "Gee, I'm afraid we've just run over a carder."

"A person?"

"No, Nancy Morey's drum."

I heard that SOAR was wonderful, and the sales room a delight.

New Member!

Please add to your list:

Mayo Snyder
93 S. Main St.
Homer, NY 13077
H: 749-4835
W: 753-5043

He and his wife Betsey enjoyed the Unusual Wheel meeting. Hope to see you soon!

What is an Active Member?

Editorial comments continue on this subject, on behalf of Sharon Gombas and myself:

What makes a guild?



Mr. Natural is pointing at YOU!

"Activity" in the Guild sense involves even more than the presentation of a warm body in Varna six or more times a year. It also requires participation in outreach and other guild events. Spinners take your mark, get set, let's go! Let's see more hands, more volunteers. It's easy to let ol' George do it, but eventually ol' George burns out, doesn't he? GUILD EVENTS ARE A LOT OF FUN, so join in, get active!

Important Announcement

Nancy Wilson

I am going to try to update our list of vendors for spinning equipment and fibers, dyes, etc. If you'd like to be included, or need to update an old listing, please call me. 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

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.

Plans for the Future

Did you enjoy the Celia Quinn workshops this year? What would you like to see in the way of workshops for next year? Priscilla Gibson-Roberts? Rita Buchanan? Machine knitting with Shelley Blackler? Or how about clothing construction with hand-wovens with Joan Reuning? Express yourself! Bring it up!

These things take a fair amount of planning, but even more important, they need a starting point! Let's start now to plan for an exciting year in 1991.

Guard Donkeys

According to an article in a recent issue of *Threads*, there is an alternative to training a dog to guard your flock. Instead, you might consider getting a donkey. Once the donkey accepts the sheep as its own, it will provide fierce protection against canine predators.

Condolences

Members of the Guild express condolences to Jean Warholic on the passing of her husband, Don, after a long illness. Stay strong, Jean.

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, counter-marche, 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.

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. (2/3)

For Sale: Ashford spinning wheel. Dark finish, like new, price negotiable. Ask for Chris or George, 277-4275.

I have a 25" 4-treadle table loom in new condition for sale for \$55. Irmgard Cate, 748-9441.

For Sale: Ashford traditional wheel. We put the kit together in 1976, but have never used it! Brand new, with lazy Kate. Asking \$150. Also, 45" Nilus LeClerc loom, never used, asking \$850. Call Helen or Ken Greisen, 257-1650.(1/3)

The Louët S90 Ultimate is here! Special Guild price \$370.00, shipping included. Regular price is \$439.00. Louët Yarn Blocker and Warping Mill, \$100.00. Lisa Ann Merian, Spinner's Hill Shop, RD #1 Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733, 843-6267. (1/15)



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

P.O. Box 6701

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Kay Stickane
6341 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850

Submissions for December newsletter are due by November 26..