

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter



Volume 137- March, 1991

Editor, Shelly Marino
4360 McIntyre Rd.
Trumansburg, NY 14886
607-387-6760



Upcoming Meetings

Note: All meetings are held on Saturdays at noon at the Varna Community Center.

March 9: Dyeing: Bring skeins you have spun to specification in preparation for the Market Day afghan. It's time for some indigo dyeing! Bring other skeins as well. Wear old clothes; rubber gloves and plastic bags would be helpful.

Remember the article in February about Leatherstocking Spinners charging "admission" at their last meeting: donations of yarn, needles, crochet hooks, small buttons and easy patterns that would be sent to a group of women in Brooklyn who knit for the needy? Celia Radke will be collecting donations of this kind, and she will ship them to this loving group. Please bring any and all donations to the next meeting. Celia notes that yarns need not be handspun.

April 13: Knitting Machines: Do you own a knitting machine? If so, have you ever wondered how you could become more proficient and creative in its use? If you've never used one, wouldn't you relish the opportunity to take one through its paces? Debbie Benzer will bring her punchcard bulky and we'll have a hands-on meeting. Bring yarn (your dyed skeins for the afghan, if you like) and give it a go. If you own a machine, bring it along with a stand if possible. Debbie hopes we can produce some swatches for the Market Day afghan.

State of the Treasury, 1991

Current bank balance is \$462.86. 1991 rent to the Varna Community Center has been paid; insurance payment has not. We have money to spend on workshops, books, etc. Let's make some decisions!

Market Day 1991

This year Market Day will be celebrated on Sunday, June 23. The logistics of a tentative change of location from 4-H Acres to the Farmers Market are being worked out now. Nancy Wilson held a planning meeting at her home on Feb. 24. According to Debbie Benzer, this Market Day will be organized by a group rather than an individual so that the responsibilities can be distributed more evenly. **Be prepared to offer your ideas and hands to this major guild project. SIGN-UP SHEETS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE NEXT MEETING.** Ellie says, "We don't want to spend every meeting with these sign-up sheets!"

Workshop Possibility for Fall:

Rita Buchanan

Rita Buchanan may be available for one-day workshops next 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.

Interested in either or both? We'll need to decide soon to make arrangements. Other guilds have called to express an interest in shared workshops. Nancy Morey appears to be coordinating the workshop arrangements, as she is familiar with so many of the instructors. Give her a call at 656-4737 or, better yet, come to the next meeting to express your views.

Where Is the Guild Banner?

Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference Offers Guild Display Competition!

"Interested Guilds are invited to create displays based on a theme of their choice (a color study, a study of a certain fiber or technique, a recent workshop or guild project, etc.), or use the 1991 conference theme — "Color and Design." The displays will be judged, a winner chosen and prize awarded. Each guild will be responsible for setting up and taking down its own display."

This was an excerpt of a communication from

the EGLFC. Are we interested? I have a form to send in either in confirmation or refusal, to Helen McCartney, 11296 Donation Road, Waterford, PA, 16441.

What do YOU think about this? It's a great opportunity to GET INVOLVED, and meet other guilds. Clearly, not every guild will be a spinners guild. This looks like a great chance to see what is happening in many craft areas. Let's discuss it at the March meeting.



MOTHS II! or OH NO, MOTHS!!

—Kay Stickane

So you have taken every precaution, perhaps you even used some of the newer repellants (like a wool wash with aromatic essential oils of pathcouli, lavender or pennyroyal; or a cedar oil spray), and one day you discover that to no avail those fiber-eating critters have found a niche! I guess this is a good reason for spring cleaning or some sort of annual hoeing out, inspection, and reinventory of fibers collected over the year.

If you find moths or any telltale signs, this is the time to take action. Hoping that they will go away, or have already left, is not an effective method of preventing more infestation. Getting rid of the moths can be relatively easy. According to B. Hochberg in "Handspinner's Handbook", you can kill them with moth balls, drown them by soaking the wool in water, or freeze them by putting the infested wool in a freezer.

In addition to the moths, though, the bigger concern is the larvae and eggs. Eggs, in particular, have a way of sustaining all sorts of abuse, and then hatching when conditions are once again friendly. Textile museums, even within the last year, report a very good success rate with the freezer method. Note that temperature and length of time are the determining factors for that success.

The only other method appears to be poison. Of

the moth ball or crystals, only Paradichlorobenzene is effective in killing the moth, larvae and egg. Another very effective product is the "no-pest" strip for insects, these are now very hard to find and possibly may no longer be available. With either substance, a portion (cut strips) is placed in a non-reactive container (like a coffee can) which has had holes punched through it (this is to keep the fiber from direct contact with the substance, but allows primarily the fumes to permeate). The container is then placed in an airtight container (large garbage bag or even a can) with the fiber. Stored this way until needed or for several days, the fiber should be free of live moths or their potential offspring.

Caution must be taken when handling the moth balls or pest strips as with any toxic substance. Also realize that what was toxic to the moths, and which the fiber was exposed to, is still potentially present in the fiber even when the fiber is removed from the airtight container. How you choose to handle or prepare the fiber once fumigated, or what the long term effects of the process could be on the handler are something to be considered.

For more information call the Cooperative Extension Consumer Help Line (272-2292) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

1990 Treasurer's Report

	Income	Paid Out
Drum Carder Rental	17.50	
Membership dues	650.00	
Guild T-Shirts	204.00	310.81
Library: Old Magazine Sales	107.00	
Beginners Workshop	90.00	86.75
Celia Quinn Workshop	2210.00	2280.52
Market Day	486.50	188.51
Rock Day	30.00	23.08
October Special Wheel Mtg.		20.00
Varna Hall Rental		250.00
Newsletter Postage		185.50
Newsletter Printing		183.53
Newsletter Ads	72.00	
Newsletter Misc.		46.07
Treasurer Postage and Misc.		16.70
Insurance		119.00
P.O. Box Rental		28.00
State Fair Prize		25.00
Total	\$3867.00	\$3763.47

Breakdown of-Market Day 1990

4-H Acres Rent		40.00
4-H Acres Deposit	50.00	50.00
Vendor Booth Fees	243.00	
Afghan Raffle Tickets	193.50	
Mailing		28.40
Insurance		50.00
Portable Feast (leftover lamb)		12.75
Phone Calls & Supplies		7.36

Note: Guild Table Member Sales were \$91.32.

T-shirts Still Available

Nancy Wilson reports that you still have a chance to pick up some of those lovely, heavy-weight cotton shirts with the BSHG logo. She has long-sleeved shirts in white, and short-sleeved shirts in purple and turquoise, all with black logo. Nancy has been bringing them to meetings — don't let this great opportunity pass you by!

Calendar of Events

May 11-12: 15th Annual New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival. Hissborough County Fairgrounds, New Boston. Sheep show and sale, exhibit of different NH breeds, shearing contest, sheep dog herding demonstrations, sheep-to-shawl competition, crafts and specialty wool fleeces and yarns, barbecued lamb and lots going on for young and old. Contact Bruce Clement for information at 603-352-4550.

June 13-16:: 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.

June 21-23: Celia Quinn Workshops offered at The Wool Room, Mt. Kisco, NY. 21st: Woolcombing; 22: ?; 23: Spinning to Specification. Cost is about \$50/day. Contact Nancy Morey for more details.

June 29-30: The Gathering, Mid-Atlantic Fiber Assoc. conference at Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. Pre-conference workshops June 26-28. Contact Frances MacIndoe, 705 Millwood Dr., Fallston, MD 21047, (301) 877-3816.

July 11-14: National Surface Design Conference, Seattle. 22 workshops offered, from shibori to running a small business. For registration form, call Shelly, 387-6760.

Out and About

Dryden teenager Lorin Zwart, a member of the Stitch-n-Time 4-H club, won the New York State division of the national "Make It Yourself with Wool" contest with a jacket and skirt. She was featured in the February 20 issue of The Ithaca Journal.

Lisa Merion writes that she is up to her ears in lambs, and still lambing.

Anyone interested in alpaca should check out the latest issue of *The Fiber Network*, which features several articles on alpaca, as well as one on angora. You'll find this in the library.

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

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. (4/15)

For Sale: Louët wheel in finished oak, plus Woolee Winder and three Woolee bobbins. Work with the ease of a Louët and the convenience of never having to change hooks! Asking \$390. Shelly Reif, 387-6760. (3/3)

Ewes and ewe lambs for sale: Colored and white; Border Leicester crosses; exposed to ram. Nancy

Morey, Shadeyside Farm, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745, 656-4737. (3/3)

For Sale: Singer knitting machine (SK120 Jumbo Genie) with intarsia carriage, used, \$150; 21 inch reed floor loom, counterbalance, built by Ed Bosworth, \$225. Kay Stickane, 387-3687 (evenings).(2/3) NOTE: Knitting machine has been SOLD.

For Sale: 36" Ulltex floor loom. 4-harness, flat stee; heddles, \$300. Nancy Morey, Shadeyside Farm, PO Box 48 Chenango Bridge, NY 13745, 656-4737. (1/3)

Cabin Fever Sale: Through 3/12 everything in the shop except wheels & looms is 10% off! Plus buy \$30 or more of carded wool, wool/angora or fleece & get 20% off! Special buys: new Louet Ultimate, \$350; 1 Schacht Wheel, \$375; 1 Bulky knitting machine, \$175; 1 used electronic machine, \$850. Why not carpool with friends? We're only 15 minutes from Triphammer. The Woolery, Genoa. 315-497-1542.

Heading for the Last Roundup: Renew, Renew, Renew!

Yes, folks, we're down to the wire. If you see a red dot on your mailing label, then my records indicate that you haven't paid 1991 dues yet, and this will be your last newsletter.

But there's still time to make sure you don't miss a single, exciting *ish!* If you need another membership form, call Nancy Wilson at 533-7992. If you have paid your dues, but see a red dot, please call me so I can correct the error.

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild
P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, NY 14851

Kay Stickane
6341 Willow Creek Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850

Submissions for April newsletter are due by March 22.

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