

June 1991



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Rita Buchanan:

At Rita Buchanan's fall workshop, Nov. 16 - 17, we have a choice of 2 out of 3 workshops described. Vote for your preference at the June meeting.

1. Designing and making handspun projects. Focus is on careful planning of a handspun project. Limit 20 people.
2. Joy of Wool: Fleece to spinning wheel. Concentrates on all the steps involved in preparation from preparing wool, sorting, washing, blending, carding and spinning. Open to 15 people beginner to advanced.
3. Wool preparation: Everything from choice of fleece, sorting, carding, combing, blending, storing.

If you have any questions, call Debbie at 277-6830.

The July 13 meeting will be held at Celia Radke's, 4572 Cosmos Hill Rd. Cortland, N.Y.

Direction: Rt. 13 to Cortland and Rt. 281 N. Take Rt. 281 north to Rt. 90 (Just past the entrance to Rt. 81, exit 12).

Make a left turn onto Rt. 90 N. and travel up the hill (about 3/4 mile) to the first left, Cosmos Hill Rd. The house is about 3/4 mile and is the first one on the left.

COMING EVENTS:

June 8, 1981 - Saturday, 10:30 - 4:00,

24th Annual spinning seminar at the Mannings, 1132 Green Ridge Rd. East Berlin, PA 17316
Phone 717-624-2223

If you have never been there, its worth the trip. This year they are featuring:

1. A Romanian lady demonstrating traditional Eastern European spinning methods with a sitting distaff.
2. A professional weaver who has done extensive research in Slovak textiles.
3. Flax demonstration.
4. A Tibetan lady will demonstrate traditional spinning from her country and show samples of Tibetan spinning.
5. Mohair spinning.
6. Silk spinning and display of silk blends.
7. Indigo dying.

There will be daily demonstrations on vertical spinning, machine knitting dyeing, carding, spinning weaving and other wool oriented activities.

Volunteers are needed to demonstrate dyeing, carding, spinning, weaving, knitting, crocheting, felting, rug hooking and just talking wool. A schedule will be set up in three hour time blocks.

This years fleece show will focus on the columbia sheep breed.

The spinning contest will feature informal and fun contests such as the longest yardage spun from 1/2 oz. wool top, the most uniform wool yarn spun while blindfolded, the most consistent 2-ply yarn spun from 1 oz. of wool, Most uniform yarn spun while wearing rubber gloves, most creative yarn spun from mixed colors, longest yardage spun from 2 oz. greased wool (includes two people, 1 hand carding (flicking, etc.), 1 spinning...10 minutes), "funkiest" yarn created on a drop spindle, team spinning on one wheel (one spinner, one treadler) with most consistent thick n' thin slub.

Contact Millie Banker, RD2, Box 189, Waterville, NY 13580 315-861-5602 or 315-853-3389 or Nancy Morey, Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. 607-656-4737 for information on the Sheep to Shawl, demonstrating or the spinning contest.

"BEST OF THE REST"

I said I'd write a few paragraphs with information taken from other newsletters. I find it fun to read them. Its amazing that the guild problems seem to be the same everywhere..time, volunteers, sufficient finished projects for a juried show, etc.

This is a project that has some built in problems. If anyone writes an interesting article

and has it published in their local newsletter, it may appear in quite a few others. If the information is not factual, it will have been dispersed and may be accepted as gospel. With this in mind, here are some interesting tidbits:

SHAMPOO YOUR SWEATER! From The Spinners Web of Syracuse, New York, Jan. 1991

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. With a little care and attention, you can usually restore your shrunken woolens to their original shape.

First, make a solution of two tablespoons synthetic detergent shampoo and one gallon of lukewarm 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 water 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 word is "original". Don't use this method to make something turn into a larger size. It won't work. 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 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.

Anyone willing to try this, let me know.

Stay-On Booties:

Taken from a recent issue of THREADS:

My booties shown in the drawing above, are unusual in that they'll stay on a newborn's feet because of the ribbed construction. I don't know of anyone else who makes them and since I'm 95, I don't want them to die with me. I knit the booties of Red Heart baby yarn, a three-ply Wintuk, but some of the new washable wool yarns in this size would also work well. They're easiest to knit of on a set of five double-pointed needles, size 0, 1, 2, or 3, depending on the gauge you desire, but four needles also work.

Here's how I make them: Cast on 10 sts and knit 18 ridges (36 rows) of garter stitch for the sole. Leave the 10 sts on one needle, and on a second, pick up 10 sts at the cast-on edge. Pick up 18 sts along each side on two more needles-56 sts in all. Be careful to keep working around in the same direction. Purl 4 rounds, knit 4 round, purl 4 rounds, knit 4 rounds, purl 4 rounds.

To shape the toe at one of the 10-st ends, knit and purl short rows back and forth. Work the 10th st together with the closest stitch on the adjacent 18-st needle at the end of each row 16

times (decrease 8 sts per side). You do this by slipping the 10th st to the RH needle purlwise, then back onto the 18-st needle. Knit or purl the first 2 sts on the 18-st needle together. Then turn and work back across the 10 toe sts to the other side.

Now knit around the 40 stitches at the ankle for 3 rounds. to prevent a hole at the end of the 1st round, pick up 1 extra st and knit it together with the 1st st on the 2nd round. Make eyelets for the ties on the 4th round: *K2, yo, k2tog* 10 times. Finally, knit 22 rounds, and bind off. Thread crocheted yarn ties or ribbon through the eyelets...Christine Bourquin, Redwood City, CA

FOR SALE:

HARRISVILLE DESIGNS 22", 4 harness, 6 treadle floor looms. Includes bench, tool tray, reed. \$400.00.

HARRISVILLE DESIGNS 22" 4 Harness, 4 treadle floor loom. Includes extra sectional warp beam, tool tray and reed. \$300.00.

LeClerc Nilus II jack 36", 4 harness, 6 treadle floor loom. Includes bench, counterbalance conversion kit, reed. \$800.00.

Herald 45" oak 8 harness, 10 treadle jack floor loom. Includes bench, reed. \$900.00

All prices firm.

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