

JULY, 1991



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

JULY'S MEETING PLACE:

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.

MARKET DAY:

Financially, Market Day didn't go as well as it has in the past. We sold about \$150 in raffle tickets. I think we have usually sold closer to \$200). We overestimated the crowd's hunger for lamb (see the ad section of the newsletter). The vendors reported they didn't do as well as in the past. Did we all have surplus fiber stockpiled at home after last year's Market Day and SOAR?

On a more positive note, the majority of participants seemed to agree that the Farmers Market location was a great choice. No one

could disagree about the absolutely gorgeous weather we had that day. The Guild table had 10 people sign up for a beginner workshop in the fall. Guild members sold almost \$40 worth of their stuff. (The guild keeps 10% of the sales). We sold a few T-shirts and five drop spindle kits. Interested folks took some of the free handouts we had to offer. The rest I'll make up into some new member folders. If anyone has any more money to turn in for raffle tickets or any money the guild owes you relating to Market Day, please contact me so I can figure out how we came out.

It was very appropriate that BSHG member and expert indigo dyer Valorie Rockne won our indigo dyed afghan. Congratulations Valorie!!

We were pleased to have the Genesee Valley Guild from Rochester visit our event. Maybe next year we can concentrate on getting more guilds to come for the day. Wouldn't a big spin-in with 50 happy spinners be fun? Maybe we could have some sort of spinners conference in the morning before Market Day becomes open to the public. Could some of the vendors give some sort of mini workshop or presentation to small groups of interested spinners? Or, if we have other interested guilds participating, maybe some sort of show and tell.

I've heard lots of ideas on how we can do better next year. I'm already looking forward to Market Day 1992.

Nancy Wilson

FOUND AT THE GUILD TABLE ON MARKET DAY:

Oval shaped basket
White plastic bag of purple wool
Brown handled scissors
Green polyester cloth

Contact Nancy Wilson 533-7992

ACCOLADES:

Debbie Benzer won 2nd prize for her handspun/machine knit sweater at "The Gathering", part of The Mid-Atlantic Fiber Conference. The judges marveled at her handspun artistry.

Allison Lovejoy's delightful felt hat won 3rd prize.

Judges were Donna Sullivan, William Hodges and another lady. (I don't recall her name). They had impressive credentials and the competition was stiff. Debbie and Allison should be proud! P.S., We had a great time! I encourage others to plan and attend the next Mid-Atlantic Fiber Conference in two years.

Eleanor May

COMING EVENTS:

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR

Wool Judging - Wednesday, August 28th,
2 p.m.
Sheep to Shawl - September 1, 1991 12:00
noon to 4:00 p.m.

Spinning Contest - Monday, Sept 2nd 10-4 p.m.
Shawl Auction - Sunday, Sept 1st following
judging
Shearing Demonstrations - Monday, Sept 2nd
11-3 p.m.

All at the Wool Center at the NYS FAIR,
Syracuse, NY. From August 22 through
September 2, 1991.

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

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 LOVE GOATS! From The Boston Area
Spinners & Dyers, March, 1991*

Having said that about 'The Maligned Goat'
(Smithsonian, 1982), Faith Wight, master knitter
and holder of the Certificate of Excellence in
Spinning from HGA, puts the goat in historical
context.

Goats are known to have lived in the Caucasian
and Zagros mountains of Asia 5 million years
ago. They are pictured in Egyptian, Greek and
Roman art, and are mentioned in the Bible
(Exodus 35). They provided milk, meat, hair,
wool and skins and controlled scrub growth in
certain areas. They lived in herds, travelled with
nomads, and survived on land unsuitable for
other livestock. Warren C. Foote, director of
Utah State University's International Sheep and
Goat Institute said, "the goat is distinctive
because of its ability to survive the conditions
under which it is placed. The burden of

There is an island in San Francisco Bay called Goat Island and one in Naples Bay, Italy, known by its original name, Capri.

FAITH WIGHT'S METHOD OF SPINNING:

1) Common Goat Hair

Pull fiber from roving, separate in half, draft a little, and spin from the tip instead of from the fold over the finger. This gives a smooth evenly drafted fiber.

2) Mohair

Spin a low twist core, counter clockwise (S-twist). Wrap the core with mohair in the same direction (S-twist), increasing the twist. Twist it back on itself as a 2-ply. Use a binder yarn to ply with the unwrapped yarn, in the opposite direction (Z-Twist). The resulting yarn is S-S-Z. A wool core is preferred, though Faith has used nylon. The binder yarn can be any fine yarn (silk, metallic, etc).

For a "designer" yarn, fluff the mohair to be light and airy. Have two bobbins of singles wool or silk on a lazy kate at the spinner's left, and at right angles to the wheel. This gives control without tangles. Keep the yarns to be plied separate in the hand. With a long draw, place bits of mohair fluff against the V as the yarn moves forward. First attempts at this tend to overspin and flatten the mohair.

A hat of mohair was spun with a core and binder and formed over a Tupperware mold (upside down). Starting at the center top, the hat was finger woven with 8 ends of continuous weft. As the weaving progressed down the crown, ends were added. At the base of the hat, the ends were worked into the woven fabric, giving a crocheted look to the rim.

Further Reading:

Dooling, Ann., Spin-off, Summer 1990.

Feldman-Wood, Florence, Spin-Off, Spring 1985, Winter 1985, Summer 1989.

Presser, Fran, Spin-Off, Winter 1986.

Spin-Off, Entire issue, Fall 1983 "Mohair".

Spin-Off, Entire issue, Spring 1983, "Musk Ox".

Hudson, Marjorie & Sparks, Kathy, Spin-Off, Sept 1987.

Warnick, Robert, "The Maligned Goat May be Man's Best Friend", Smithsonian, Dec. 1982.

Griffiths, Helen, "Arctic Handknitted", Handweaver & Craftsman, Spring 1971.

Griffiths, Helen, "Qiviut Update", Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot, Fall 1976.

Teal, John J. Jr., "Qiviut from Musk Ox", Handweaver & Craftsman, Summer 1961.

Teal, John J. Jr., "Domesticating the Musk Ox, The Gentle Agriculture", Saturday Review, June 10, 1972.

RECOMMENDED SUMMER READING:

When the heats too hot to treadle, try reading Judith Rossner's novel EMMALINE. She's a great storyteller (LOOKING FOR MR. GOODBAR). In EMMALINE, she's resurrected a New England legend from the days of the early Industrial Revolution; those good old bad old days of pioneer spinning in Maine and mill weaving in Lowell, Massachusetts.

responsibility for the damage (caused by goats) should be borne by he who controls and manages the goats, - not the goats."

Members of the goat family include the rocky mountain goat which is not a true goat, the ibex or alpine goat with its large curved horns, the markhoe goat with its twisted horns from Asia, the chamois which is related to the antelope and produces a soft pliant leather and the musk ox, part of the cattle family but also related to the goat.

Domestic goats were bred (mostly) for their coats, but also provided milk, cheese and kid meat.

The spanish or common goat sometimes called the alpine goat, provides a smooth, strong fiber. It is hard wearing and won't shrink. The fiber is used in tote bags, animal girths, rugs and tents. Faith Wight spun a beautiful 4-ply cable cord from this type of goat hair.

Angora goats, known in Turkey since the 13th century, were highly prized for their long, silky, white fleece and were first exported in 1820. The clip is known as mohair and gives a 6" staple every six months. The fiber diameter (24 - 28 microns,) varies in density, from the fineness of merino or rambouillet wool, to the coarseness of lincoln. The kid's first clip (Fall) is 3" - 4", but it lacks luster and felts easily. The second clip (Spring) is longer and more lustrous but it is more work to prepare. With each ensuing clip (from yearling to adult 8" - 12") the fiber becomes more coarse. Mrs. Wight plies her mohair and often blends it with silk or wool. An all-mohair garment will "bag". An example of her work was a fine mohair vest, knitted in a lace pattern of 2-ply mohair (blue and white) with bands of fine light brown wool. Use of mohair yarn in weaving is sometimes difficult and requires an open sett and light beat.

Cashmere is not a true breed. Goats are bred

for their downy undercoat which provide the cashmere fiber. The finest fiber comes from China, less fine from India, Russia and Asia. Australia is currently developing a new down breed of cashmere goat. Fibers vary from 1 1/2" to 3" in length, to 3" - 5". The cashmere micron count varies from 14.5 - 16.5 to 17.5 - 19.5 depending on altitude and climate where the goat is raised.

Cashgora goats are a cross between a feral doe and an angora buck. The staple is usually white and measures 4" - 5" long with a micron count of 17 - 20. Fran Presser, a breeder from New South Wales, in "A Closer Look at Cashgora" (Spin-Off, Winter 1986) describes the fiber as finer than mohair and coarser than cashmere.

The musk ox is found in the Arctic of North America and Greenland. Its long, shaggy black or brown coat reaches to its knees. Its undercoat, known as qiviut is soft, light and warm. The undercoat is shed as the weather turns mild and can be pulled off in sheets. The musk ox yields about 6 pounds of underwool each spring. It takes dye easily and does not shrink when boiled. The fiber is exceptionally fine and rare. The down measures 1 1/2" - 3" and the micron count is 12 - 20. Expensive when processed, it goes a long way. Because it's difficult to dehair, Mrs. Wight recommends buying it as roving. Being the lightest weight fiber, it should be spun very fine. To extend the supply, mix qiviut with Chinese cashmere 50/50.

Robert Warnick summarized (Smithsonian, Dec. 1982) "Goats and sheep might be considered cousins. There are goats with long fleeces, and sheep which have no wool. A useful rule of thumb is that sheep's tails hang down, while goats' tails stand up, and the buck goats have beards. Sheep are conformists; goats are unpredictable, flighty and capricious (from the latin word capra meaning goat)".

FOR SALE:

Advertising Rates:

3-6 lines	----	\$1 one time
	----	\$2 three times
7-24 lines	----	\$5 one time
25 lines - 1/2 page	----	\$10 one time

For Sale: HARRISVILLE DESIGNS 22", 4 harness, 6 treadle floor looms. Includes bench, tool tray, reed. \$400.00. (2/3)

For Sale: HARRISVILLE DESIGNS 22" 4 Harness, 4 treadle floor loom. Includes extra sectional warp beam, tool tray and reed. \$300.00. (2/3)

For Sale: LeCLERC NILUS II jack 36", 4 harness, 6 treadle floor loom. Includes bench, counterbalance conversion kit, reed. \$800.00. (2/3)

For Sale: HERALD 45" oak 8 harness, 10 treadle jack floor loom. Includes bench, reed. \$900.00 (2/3)

All prices firm.

WOOLSWORTH, LTD. Laurel Schuman
RD1 Box 199, Dalton, PA 18414 (717-563-1042)
For Sale: 1 barn frame loom, 2 old floor looms, Annette Anderson, Seneca Falls NY 13148, 315-568-6343 (1/3)

For Sale: Lovely, fine-tuned german wheel, Ellie Chellis, 611 Verna Dr. Endwell NY 13760 607-785-5558 (1/3)

For Sale: Five 6 lb packages of frozen, organic lamb spiedies, cut up and marinated. We over bought for Market Day. 6 lb/\$30. Purchased from Northland Farms. Call Nancy Wilson 533-7992 if interested.

Shearing - small groups, Norm Johnson, Newfield, 607-564-0069. (1/3)

For Sale: The Louet S90 Ultimate is here! Special guild price \$370.00, shipping included. Regular price is \$439.00. Louet Yarn Blocker and warping mill, \$100.00. Lisa Ann Merian, Spinner's Hill Shop, RD #1, Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, NY 13733, 843-6276. (6/15)

For Sale: 36" ULLTEX floor loom, 4-harness, flat steel heddles, \$300. Nancy Morey, Shadeyside Farm, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745, 656-4737. (2/3)

For Sale: 2 female registered border collie pups, black and white, from working parents. born Feb. 9, 91. Shots and wormed, ready to go to loving home. Call Lisa, 607-843-6267, Bainbridge, NY 13733. (3/3)

For Sale: 18" JENSEN spinning wheel. Saxony style wheel, 4 bobbins included. Ratios: Bobbin 9:1, whorls 5:1, 6:1, 7:1, 8:1, 9:1 and 10:1. 3/8" orifice, 25" high. \$210. Lisa Merian 607-843-6267. (2/3)

For Sale: Approximately 58 lbs of second shearing angora goat mohair of good quality. \$5/lb. Call Stephen Maybee, 387-5467, 6-9 pm weekdays, 9-9 weekend. 32090 Taughannock Park Rd., Trumansburg, NY 14886. (2/3)

For Sale: Mary Kelly's book, "Goddess Embroideries of Eastern Europe." \$22 postpaid from Studio Books, Box 23, McLean, NY 13102. (2/3)

Loom Wanted: 22 or 24" floor loom. Baby Wolf or Dorset. Please call Eleanor May, 272-8224 (1/3)

For Sale: 60" Glimakra countermarch loom. Includes bench, 8-harness sectional beam and 10 and 12 inch reeds. \$1600. Colleen Davis, 415 Elm St. Ithaca NY 14850. 607-277-1151. (1/3)