

BLACKSHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1992



The Blacksheep Handspinners Guild meets 2nd Saturday of each month from 11-3 at the Varna Community Center on Rt 366. If your coming North on 13, take a left at the sign just past NYSEG and if your coming South on 13, take a right at the sign about 3 miles past Triphammer Mall at the Treeforms Furniture Store. If coming from Center Ithaca, the community center is about a mile past the vet school on the right.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Next meeting will be February 8th from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The theme will be, **MAKING A FELT HAT**. The workshop will be given by Alison Lovejoy and Marian Smith. This will be a long meeting so be on time and plan to stay for the duration. This is a fantastic opportunity to make an original felt hat. You may prepare batts at home. Carders and scale will be available at the meeting. You should plan to make between 6 to 8 batts of about 15 grams each or bring along at least 4 oz of clean dyed wool. Bring along accent materials as well.

Other items to bring:

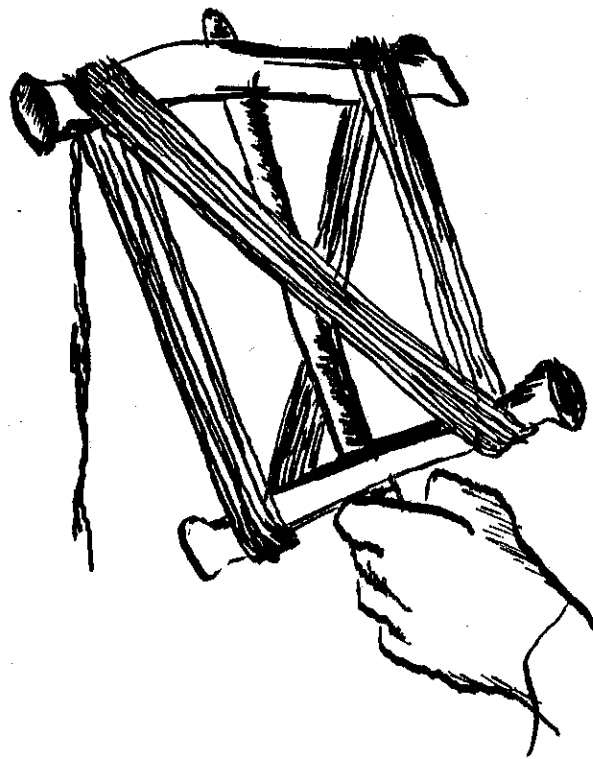
1. Scraps of fleece.
2. 3 pair of panty hose.
3. 12" diameter beach ball.
4. Plastic dishpan or flat 3" high pan.
5. Bowl or 7" diameter x 3" high cake pan.
6. Scissors.

7. Rubber gloves and old towels.
8. Hand card, Drum Carder.
9. Washboard or top of oven broiler pans.
11. Plastic Apron.

This will be a messy project so bring anything else you think you can use to clean up.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Plan to vote on bylaw changes. Bring a copy of the December newsletter if you can.



PRESIDENT'S NOTES:

As we begin our busy year, we thank Celia and her board for a job well done. Rock Day was a busy time and well attended. Our speaker, Jane North is not only a sheep farmer as we know them but also a sheep 'dairy' farmer. Her talk and slides were informative and her sheep cheeses were delicious. Debbie's games were a challenge to the participants. Included in this newsletter is the dye related crossword puzzle. The basket of wool contest was a popular one and sure to be repeated next year (plan ahead!!). Parking was a serious problem. Lets car pool when possible and remember not to park in the area reserved for volunteer firemen or in such a way that you will interfere with the fire truck when it turns left out of the lot.

CONGRATULATIONS VERNICE:

Vernice Church has accepted the position of Superintendent of Afton Central Schools.

BEST WISHES:

To Shelly Reif Marino who is recovering from emergency surgery.

Guild dues are due this month.

KNITTED AFGHAN:

The spun white wool is to be turned in at the February meeting. The yarn should be spun 2-ply with singles at 23 wraps per inch and 6-7 twists per inch. If you will not be at the meeting, please send it in because we will be dyeing the completed yarn. If you don't finish, please send the wool back.

We think we will have enough wool for the afghans. A suggestion was to give the third afghan to the person who sells the most tickets.

What do you think? We will discuss it at the February meeting.

Spun colored wool is due in March.

GUILD RETREAT:

February 28, 29 and March 1st at the Watson Homestead in Painted Post, NY. We have sixteen members attending. If you are interested, call Nancy Wilson (533-7992) or myself, Eleanor May (272-8224). We still have two spot for the "roll-a-way beds" and /or someone may need to cancel. Total cost is \$62 due by February 15th. Would you care to come for an afternoon? You may stay for a meal as well (Fees involved).

THE WOOL COMBS HAVE COME HOME:

They were hiding unnoticed on a high shelf. The combs may be borrowed anytime after the retreat.

Ellie May, president

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING:

Present: Celia Radke, Ann Furman, Kim Slack, Vernice Church, Charlotte Altmann, Shelly Marino, Debbie Benzer, Pam Goddard, Sharon Gombas, Valorie Rockney, Eleanor May, Deb Miller.

President Celia Radke reviewed the proposed changes in the guild constitution (see December's newsletter) These were unanimously approved. She reminded those who are spinning white wool for the Market Day afghan that it must be turned in at the February meeting. She distributed dark wool which is due in March. The current plan is to produce two afghans, one woven by Nancy Wilson, the

other machine-knit by Debbie Benzer. the white wool will be dyed, possibly with indigo.

Shelly reported that Karey Soloman was interested in coming to Rock Day to talk about tatting and lace-making, although the snowy weather on Jan. 14 prevented here from attending. (NOTE: Karey is still interested in giving a program sometime during fairer weather in 92').

Shelly also made a donation to the guild library by her friend Elizabeth Harzoff, of THE SPINNER'S ENCYCLOPEDIA.

SHOW AND TELL:

DEB MILLER: Shared a gorgeous pair of patterned mittens she picked up at the Episcopal Church sale for only \$5! She also brought yarn she'd dyed for a sweater Ellie May is making for her grandson.

ELLIE MAY: Is working on a mobius strip 'a la Rita Buchanan'. She definitely advises that you use 45" needles!

SHARON GOMBAS: Was stringing the stiffer of her gingerbread men for Christmas ornaments.

DEBBIE BENZER: Showed us her latest machine-knit swatch.

SHELLY MARINO: Was working on a sweater made from yarn she bought at Shelly Blakley's shop sale.

VERNICE CHURCH: Reminded us of the red and white sweater she'd made using white

angora in the last sleeve when she ran out of white wool. Well, Vernice replaced the angora with wool and donated it to a raffle at her school. The sweater provided \$230 which will be used to take her school students to Howe Caverns.

ANN FURMAN: Is knitting her handspun into a dickey using Elizabeth Zimmerman's pattern. Ann has heard from "Heidi" in Oregon that her Magnus Drudick wheel should arrive by the end of the year.

GIFT EXCHANGE:

Many delightful items exchanged hands, including madder root, dyed fleece, a jewelry bag and herbal moth repellent.

PATTERN EXCHANGE: Spares should be in library.

We're still after Celia to teach rug braiding. she's agreed to teach a brief intro course at a future guild meeting and possibly more at home. In the offing, is a possible guild trip to Plymouth, Massachusetts to visit BRAIDAID, Celia's source for materials.

ROCK DAY:

Incoming President Eleanor May called the gathering to (temporary) order to discuss old business:

Deb Miller was in charge of Rock Day contests. She read anecdotes from 'SPIN, SPAN, SPUN'. Deb's first contest came in two flavors: The first choice was dyepot-related crossword puzzle. (First prize went to Shelly Marino). The second choice was to create one yard of imaginative cording from materials provided by Deb which should have a proposed use.

well dat he stay; an' he sot eroun' in dat cabin ontwel he git so fat dat de grease fa'r run out'n he jaws when he look up at de sun. De yaller-'ooman she spen' her time cookin' fer him, an' waitin' on him wi' so much oberly, dat at las' de man, he up an' marry dat yaller-'ooman.

At fus' dey git erlong tollabl well, but a'ter erwhile he gin ter notice dat sump'n curus 'bout dat yaller-'ooman. She ain' never in de cabin when he wake up in de nigh time! So, he mek up his min' fer ter spy on her. He lay down one night on de fo' pos' bed in de cornder, 'ten luk he sleep. De yaller-'ooman watch him out'n de een o' her eye, an' when she hear him gin a sno' (case cose he 'ten luk he sno') she jump up an' pat a juba in de middle o' de flo'. Den she reach down a big gridi'on fum de wall, an' rake out some coals, an' haul de big ol' spinnin'-wheel close ter de ha'th. Den, she sot herself down on dat gridi'on, an' soon ez it wuz red-hot she 'gin ter spin her skin off'n her body on de spinnin'-wheel. "tu'n an' spin, come off skin, tu'n an' spin, come off skin." An' fo' de Lawd, de skin come off'n dat witch-'oomans's body, beginning at de top o' her head, ez slick es de shush come off de ear o' corn. An' when it wuz fa'r off, dan she wuz a great big yaller cat. Den, she tuk her skin an' chuck it onder de bed. "Lay dar, skin," she say, "wi' dat fool man sno'in' in de bed, ontwel I come back. I gwine ter ha'some fum, I is."

We'dat she jump out'n de winder an' lope off. Soon ez she wuz gone de man, he jump out'n de bed an' tuk out de skin an' fill it plum full o' salt an' pepper, un' th'ow it back onder de bed. Den he crope out an' watch thro' de key-hole ontwel de witch-'ooman com home. she laugh wilse she wuz rakin' out de skin fum onder de bed, an' shakin' herse'f inter it. But when she feel de salt an' pepper, she laugh on de yether side her mouf. She moan an' groan so you kin hear her a mile!

But she ain' able tere git out'n dat skin, an' de man watch her tho de key-hole twel she fall down an' die on de flo'.

By Mrs. M.E.M. Davis, New Orleans, LA from **The Journal Of American Folklore**, Vol XVIII (July-September, 1905), by the American Folk-Lore Society.

Want Ads

Ad 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: Three angora goat doe kids and buck. \$75 each. Also 16 new colored and white fleeces. Romney/Rambouillet and border leicester. Some lambswool and pure black. Shorn October 10th. Elizabeth Hays. Angel Ridge Farm, Spencer, NY 589-6792. (2/3)

FOR SALE: Finn sheep with lovely fleeces. Two ram lambs and one ewe lamb. \$40 each. Call 656-8626. (3/3)

FOR SALE: ULTEX 4-harness loom. Only used once. 40" wide. Floor model. Call Kathy at 594-2543 (evenings). 255-8144 or 255-3195 (days)...keep trying...(2/3)

FOR SALE: Approx. 3 lbs of excellent quality first shearing angora goat kid hair: 3 lbs for \$16.00. Will take requests for adult goat hair for next Spring shearing: \$2.75 /lb. Will sell large or small quantities. Call Steve Maybee at 607-387-5467 evenings and weekends.

FOR SALE: Sunbeam electric sheep shearers for sale, \$95. Ye old Shearer's rig with jointed drive shaft and spare blades, \$250. Looking forward to April 15 shearing, or pet sheep shorn. Dave Clawson, 594-3622 or 594-2106, 3550 Steam Mill Rd, Odessa, NY 14869. (2/3)

LOOM WANTED: 22 or 24" Dorset or Baby Wolf Floor Loom. Call Eleanor May, 272-8224 (3/3)

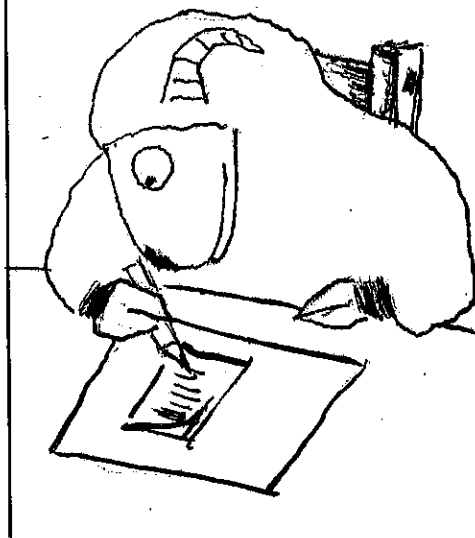
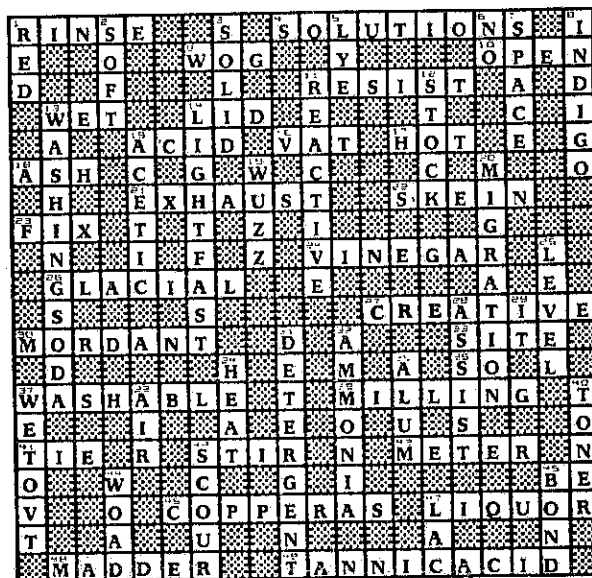
FOR SALE: The Louet S39 Ultimate is here! Special guild price \$370.00 shipping included. Regular price is \$439.00 Louet yarn blocker and warping mill, \$100.00. Lisa Ann Merian, SPINNER'S HILL SHOP, RD #1, Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, NY 13733, 843-6276 (11/15).

SPINNING WHEEL FOR SALE: Louet S-70 natural oak with skein winder, \$285. Call Celia Radke 749-2711 (3/3).

FLOOR LOOM FOR SALE: Made in New Zealand. 36" wide with a 14 dent reed. In very good shape and includes a bench, original instructions and weaving book. Asking \$500 for the set. Rosemary Auris, HCR #34, Box 22B, Warren Center, PA 18851 (717) 395-3612. (1/3).

Crossword Solution and Word Clue List

Word List	Bond	Indigo
Acid	Copperas	It
Acetic	Creative	Lac
Air	Detergent	Level
Alum	Exhaust	Lid
Ammonia	Fix	Liquor
Ash	Glacial	Lightfast
Assist	Heat	Lye
Be	Hot	Madder



- Meter
- Milling
- Migration
- Mordant
- No
- Open
- Resist
- Red
- Reactive
- Rinse
- Scour
- Site
- Skeln
- Solutions
- So
- Soft
- Solid
- Space
- Stir
- Stock
- Tannic Acid
- Tie
- Toner
- Vat
- Vinegar
- Washable
- Washing Soda
- Wet
- Wetout
- Wog
- Woad
- Wuzz



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Nancy Wilson took first prize for her cord meant for a child's hood, Kay Stickane took second for her pillow trim. The second contest involved teams of two people and one wheel. One persons provided a foot and hand, the other person a hand only. The object was to produce the best yarn. First prize went to Celia Radke and Nancy Wilson, second to Alison Lovejoy and Michelle Knight.

THE PROGRAM:

Jane North of NORTHLAND SHEEP DAIRY gave a beautiful talk on her family's travels in West Africa and the French Pyrenees, and how these travels influenced the family's design of a home and sheep dairy. Jane's cheese was a featured part of the Rock Day dish-to-pass (which was by the way, delicious as usual).

NORTHLAND DAIRY's cheeses are excellent (also organic), and a trip to the marathon dairy would be alot of fun. You can reach Jane at 849-3328.

BASKET CONTEST:

The basket contest was judged by Vernice and Shelly. There were eight entries, all beautiful and unusual. First prize went to Mary Ann Lynch, who was working on a cathedral window-type pair of mittens. Alissa Altmann took second for an elaborate basket showing all stages in the construction of a crocheted afghan. Debbie Benzer won third prize for a spare, oriental-looking basket with yarn prepared for an afghan.

Many thanks to the vendors that braved the cold and snow to add to the fun. Jill Lott stood in for Nancy Morey of SHADEYSIDE FARM, selling luxury fibers. Mildred Scudder had an array of weaving tools and books, as well as the incredible rope machine from her TABBY SHOP. Elizabeth Hays brought many lovely fleeces

from ANGEL RIDGE FARM, and Lisa Merian offered an A-to-Z selection of fibers, books, tools, and other items from the SPINNERS HILL SHOP.

Shelly Reif Marino, secretary

SPINNING DEMONSTRATORS NEEDED:

Anyone interested in demonstrating spinning at the CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL at Fillmore Glen State Park on February 15 and 16th should please contact Nancy Wilson at 533-7992. The event is sponsored by the Cayuga Chapter of the New York State Forestry Association. The event is from 10 to 4 each day and the woman who contacted me said anyone demonstrating could also sell their stuff. There is a heated pavilion to house the spinning/weaving demonstration. There will be draft horses and free sleigh and wagon rides.

VIDEOS TO BUY OR RENT:

THE FIBER SHOP has announced they have videos to rent for \$5.00/wk or to purchase at \$39.95 to \$49.95. The list includes:

- Bobbin Lace
- Splint Basketry, I & II
- Weave Drafting I & II
- Tatting I & II
- Tips, Tricks (Weaving)
- Boundweave I part 1 & 2
- Introduction to Weaving
- Mushrooms for Color
- Needlelace medallions
- Fabric Painting with Dyes
- handspinning I & II
- New England Basketry
- Basic Knitting
- Practical papermaking
- Beyond Tradition (Navajo)
- Kaffe Fassett I & II

Painting on Silk
Color for the Handweaver
Georgia O'Keeffe
Card Weaving
Fabric Structure
Garments to Weave
Cut pile Rug Weaving
Rigid Heddle
Doubleweave
Surface Design I & II
Intermediate Knitting
Finishing Handknits
Navajo Weaving
American Tapestry Exhibit
Wool Gatherings (Zimmerman)
Tubular Weave on Backstrap
Inkle Weaving

Contact THE FIBER SHOP at 3182 East
Henrietta Rd., Henrietta, NY 14467
716-334-1440

SPINNING TERMS:

HOGGET WOOL: First fleece of a sheep that was not shorn as a lamb.

KEMP: Short, coarse, wavy opaque fibres usually from central primary follicles. Characteristic of Welsh or Scottish Blackface sheep. Kemp has a pointed tip and tapering root and is shed periodically into the fleece. Kemp fibres have poor dye absorption.

HANDLE OF WOOL: The feel of the wool, its texture, and whether it is harsh or soft.

GREY (in the): Also referred to as in the grease. Fibre containing dirt and grease that has not been scoured.

DRAWING: The process by which slivers are blended (or doubled) drafted and levelled to the roving stage.

COMING EVENTS

GENESEE COUNTY MUSEUM:

'Spin In '92' to be held on May 17th (new date). Details later.

CAPITAL CONVERGENCE: July 23-26 1992. Information available in the library.

ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR:

June 12, 13, 14, 1992. Wilfred Laurier Union, Waterloo Ontario. Information in Guild Library.

DE WITCH-'OOMAN AN' DE SPINNIN'-WHEEL:

This is a story I came across over the holidays while spending a particularly gloomy day at the Corning Public Library.

This story is not for the faint of heart nor Estee Lauder afficiandos,...

The Witch Prevented from Reentering her skin:
A tale from Louisiana.

One time dey wuz a man whar rid up at night ter a cabin in de edge o' de swamp. He wuz dat hongry an' ti'd dat he say ter hissef: "Ef I kin git a hunk o' co'n-pone and a slice o' bakin, I doan kur what I pays!" On dat here come a yaller-'ooman spankin' out'n de cabin. She wuz spry on her foot ez a catbird, an' her eyes wuz sof' an' shiny. She ax de man fer ter light an' come in de cabin, an' git some supper. An' Lawd! how he mouf do water when he cotch a glimpst er de skillet on de coals! He luk it so

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD

P.O. Box 6701

Ithaca, NY 14851



Kay Stickane
6341 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850

DYE by Stephenie Gaustad CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- 1 remove excess dye and soap
- 4 answers for stock dye problems
- 9 elementary ratio (abbr.)
- 10 vulnerable condition for containers
- 11 block dye
- 13 before immersion goods should be _____ to ensure an even shade
- 14 fermentation vats require this
- 15 dye family for wool or silk
- 16 this dye family makes insoluble dyes soluble
- 17 bath temperature for weak acid dyes
- 18 soda _____ (another term for washing soda)
- 21 use all dye in the bath
- 22 best yarn form for dyeing
- 23 set the dye
- 24 substitute form of acetic acid
- 26 another form of acetic acid which is frozen in cool weather

- 27 dyeing makes you feel _____
- 30 second agent which has affinity for both dye and fiber
- 33 wool has more, nylon less
- 36 thus
- 37 permanent dyes are this
- 39 class of dyes which resist migration in wet processing
- 41 _____ dye (constricted resist)
- 42 step to distribute dye throughout bath & fiber
- 43 measure
- 45 state
- 46 old term for ferrous sulfate
- 47 dye liquid
- 48 ancient red dyestuff
- 49 cotton dyer's mordant (2 words)

DOWN

- 1 hue available from cochineal dyestuff
- 2 best water type for wet processes
- 3 one color, evenly applied
- 5 can be used to set reactive dyes
- 6 aluminum pots for dyeing?

- 7 "rainbow" dyeing
- 8 insoluble pigment
- 11 dye family for linen, cotton, ramie, etc.
- 12 term for dyed in fiber form
- 13 used with fiber reactive dyes (2 words)
- 14 another essential requirement for permanent dye
- 15 familiar acid
- 19 whirl the wet out
- 20 dye molecules moving from high concentration to low even color
- 25 Glauber's salt is this
- 28 neuter pronoun
- 31 a wetting agent
- 32 name of useful reagent comes from temple of Jupiter Ammon, Egypt
- 34 requirement for weak acid dyes
- 35 mordant which has little effect on the dye color
- 37 process of prewetting goods
- 38 in reduction indigo vat, the yarn must be exposed to this
- 40 neutral color
- 42 cleanse

- 44 years ago it was known as pastel
- 45 dyes attach to fiber by chemical
- 47 natural scarlet source

