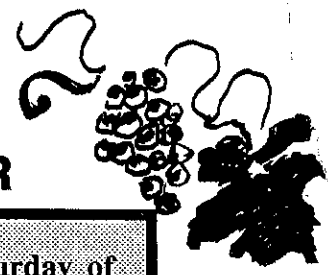


BLACKSHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Sept 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:

The September meeting will be from 11:00 to 3:00 on Saturday, September 12, at the Varna Community Center on Route 366 in Varna.

If its one of those rare, beautiful days, lets spin outdoors. You might want to take along a wide-brimmed hat as there is no shade.

Don't forget to bring your own cup so we can avoid using the disposable cups.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE:

Clean out your closets and dispose of those things you will never use. Bring them to the meeting and we'll see if there is someone who can find a use for your clutter.

DEBBIE BENZER IN TURKEY:

Debbie will show off her Turkish wheel and rug and show slides of her trip to the Arab republic.

OCTOBER'S MEETING:

Marion Wikoff went to Convergence.

Kay, Shelly and Kim spent a few weeks in Ireland.

Ellie went to British Columbia and more. We will

continue our travel talks into October. Its spinning month, so we also need to have a big show and tell.

BUSINESS FOR SEPT 12:

Deb Miller will lead discussion. (Your President is off to one more special steam show).

Topics for discussion:

1. Do we want to buy Vernice Church's mother's carder.
2. Which books shall we buy from those recommended in June:

SWEATERS BY HAND by Helene Rush and Racheal Emmons.

A WEAVER GARDEN by Rita Buchanan.

THE HANDKNITTERS HANDBOOK by Montse Stanley.

KNITTING AROUND

ART OF THE LOOM by Ann Hecht.

3. Shall we reschedule Shirley Browsky's felt workshop which was canceled because too few people could come in August.

4. Are we having a retreat?

5. Review of Market Day.
 - a. What are our goals?
Are we meeting them?
 - b. Do we have enough enthusiasm to do it every year?
 - c. Is the Farmers' Market the right place?

Come with your questions and comments if you are not coming to the meeting please call Deb Miller with your comments.

6. Shall we do a guild project? For example, each makes a pair of mittens to give away (as a school nurse/teacher, I know mittens are needed more than hats.)

Or shall we each agree to make the same thing, such as a scarf. Maybe buy a couple of fleeces and distribute the prime wool and see what different results we get and have a show and tell in May.

7. New officers coming up. Think about volunteering.

8. Should we schedule summer meetings? With such low attendance, it hardly seems fair to ask a hostess to set aside her Saturday if no one comes.

ANGORA NEWS:

Interweave has published ANGORA by Erica Lynn Rowe. The book is dedicated to the Saturday group at the Black Sheep Handspinners. What a compliment!. If you have even the slightest interest in angora, you should buy it. She has technical information and practical ideas and an easy-to-read writing style.

SPINNERS WANTED:

Spinners and weavers to join Debbie Benzer, Ellie May and Valorie Rockney at the Cayuga Nature Center for a day of spinning, weaving and dyeing. Valorie will be there with her indigo dye pot and I bet Vernice will be in the Pioneer Village with her great wheel. Call Debbie Benzer at 277-6830 for dates and more information.

THE 1992 NEW YORK STATE FAIR:

The Black Sheep Handspinners Guild \$30.00 award went to Juan Dickinson of Oswego, New York.

Joan Buchanan, an enthusiastic sponsor of handspun garments at her giftshop, "Saturday's Barn" in Manlius, won honorable mention for a child's garment and 2nd prize for an accessory and forth place in the adult sweater category.

Mary A. Lynch won honorable mention for her handspun yarn and second prize for her novelty yarns.

Vernice Church won honorable mention for her adult garment.

Margaret Dietert of Ithaca but not of BSHG won 4th place in novelty yarns, 3rd place for her infant garment and 2nd place for her adult sweater. Stop by and visit Margaret.

On Thursday, August 28th, Ellie May, Kim Slack, Celia Radke, Deb Benzer, Deb Miller, Roberta Miglin, Marla Rex, Marion Wikoff Kay Stickane and Valorie Rockney all showed up at the Wool Booth to demonstrate spinning, weaving and dying with Nancy Morey coordinating the show. Despite the humidity, they treadled, dunked and wove yarn for the crowds who came to watch or just beat the heat and stare.

NOTE:

- Some magazine subscriptions have been renewed for two years.

- Cost of newsletter:

Printing and postage:	\$386.57
ads:	51.00
	<u>\$335.57</u>

1991 Membership total: 56 members

24 Active
 31 Inactive
 1 Life

In 1991, \$6.00 of your membership dues went toward receiving the newsletter.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE GUILD MEETINGS:

April: We would like to have a 'grow your own' dyepot session. Please call Deb Miller if you have dye plants to share or know where we can get some. In the fall, we will have a dye plant pot session with the results.

MAY: We will ask Karey Solomon if this is a good day for her to do her program on lace.

June: Market Day finalization.

A share of fiber related books you like and have found useful. (This will give us an idea of what the guild should buy). Bring your copies to pass around.



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hats off and on again to Alison Lovejoy and Marion Smith for a marvelous hat felting workshop. I have spent all month wearing and showing mine off. I almost took it with me to Alabama just to show, but my hostess said don't bring anything wool as it is hot there. We had rain every day and I could have used a wool sweater just to feel warm and dry instead of feeling "Polyester Chilly" "polyester chilly".

When we thanked people for the success of Rock Day we overlooked Amy and Bruce Cook. Amy brought small vials of the "super lubricant" shared by Eleanor Parslon of Mount Solon, Virginia who sent in the recipe to SPIN OFF for their Winter 91' issue.

Kay Stickane thinks it does last longer. Its a good thing too since she has a goal of a 4 oz. bobbin spun each week (which will total 13 pounds in a year). She read that a New York City guild had determined that spinning one ounce a day would be 22 pounds in a year. She thinks she can work with four ounces per week more easily. Hats off to her! We will check in on her in a year! But seriously, we all know that if we set a goal and a time frame we get more accomplished. How about following her example!

Recipe for Super Lubricant (From the U.S. Marines):

Combine:

- Three ounces STP Oil Treatment.
- One ounce Hoppe's #9 (From a gun shop).
- Eight ounces of Quaker State 10/40 Motor Oil.
- Enough Hydraulic Fluid (not Drake Fluid) to make a quart.

A little goes along way. Use a medicine dropper.

Thank you Amy and Bruce. Most of us read the recipe and said I must try it. Without your help, we would have never done so.

Ellie May (President)

PROCRASTINATING MEMBERS TAKE NOTE:

This will be the last newsletter if you haven't paid your dues for 1992.

COLORED WOOL IS DUE FOR THE MARCH 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 try and have someone else bring it along. If you don't finish, please send the wool back or call Ellie May at 272-8224 or Nancy Wilson at 533-7992.

CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL:

I demonstrated spinning at the CABIN FEVER FESTIVAL at the Fillmore Glen State Park in Moravia. The event was held Saturday and Sunday, February 15th and 16th. The weather was pretty sloppy (a mix of rain and snow), but the festival was a good time.

The festival was oriented toward the logging industry. They had demonstrations of logging related activities. They also had the big, beautiful draft horses giving free sleigh and wagon rides. A wood heated pavilion housed the craft demonstrations and sales.

The woman organizing this part of the festival was trying real hard to have only traditional old time crafts and woodworking demonstrations. There was a man from Spencer building shaker

oval boxes, a woman making corn husk dolls, maple syrup sales, beadwork, jewelry and then a couple of us spinners. The other woman I was spinning with had an angora rabbit in a cage and angora and wool caps, socks and mittens for sale.

I spun a rainbow dyed fleece, combing each lock with a dog comb intending to navajo ply the yarn, Debbie Benzer style. I enjoyed the event and having a couple of days to spin on a project I was looking forward to completing.

HAT FELTING HOW-TO: *For those of you who couldn't make it to last month's meeting.*

Drum card six to 15 gram batts. It's advisable to have additional batts available to fill in thin spots as you layer wool.

1. Place Ball in small bowl to hold it steady.

2. Layering batts:

a: First, third and fifth layers. Divide each batt into three long strips. Divide each strip in half. You should have six pieces. Shape each piece into a triangle. First, third and fifth layers each have six triangles.

b: Second, fourth and sixth layers must be torn lengthwise in zig-zag, two inches wide pieces. This makes one long rolag which you can elongate as you wind around the ball.

3. Covering Ball:

a. First layer triangles: Place narrow end of batt at top of ball with opposite sides overlapping each other's points at top of ball. Place next two batts adjacent to first two triangles and continue with last two batts overlapping triangles and elongating them to

just above table top. Repeat with third and fifth layers.

b. Second layer rolag: Start at center top coil rolag around and around, covering previous layer. Take care not to pull in wool that hangs down from ball. This will be part of your brim. Repeat with fourth and sixth layer.

4. Decorations:

a. Felt a piece of wool big enough for your pattern separately by layering three batts alternating the direction of each batt. Put hot soapy water in center of batts. Begin rubbing gently in small circles and working your way out to within one inch of the edge. Rub one or two minutes adding hot water as needed. Now fold edges in and continue rubbing five minutes. Turn piece over and rub five more minutes. Rinse and squeeze. **DO NOT HARDEN FELT PIECE BEFORE APPLYING TO HAT AS IT WILL NOT FELT TO HAT.** Leave surface slightly fuzzy. Cut out design and apply to hat. Scraps of yarn can also be applied at this time.

5. Panty Hose.

a. Cut legs off by crotch. With the help of a friend, stretch waist band to fit over the ball and pull waistband around ball as far as possible. There will be some wool sticking out of the opening which is okay. Take second pair of pantyhose and stretch over first pair to cover up leg holes. Take third pair and stretch over second pair. You can adjust batts underneath the first pair by shifting wool.

6. Begin felting:

a. Place ball in dish pan and add hot soapy water directly to ball and rub and push on ball, rotating in all directions for ten minutes. Add hot water as needed. Check for felting by

pulling inner pair of pantyhose. If wool does not stick to pantyhose or have loose pieces, it is ready to bounce or you can continue rubbing in the dishpan for ten more minutes. During the last ten minutes, you can put cold water and hot water alternately on ball if using dish pan. Otherwise, do not add water when you bounce.

b. Check to see if wool is felted enough by pulling back the inside layer of pantyhose. If wool does not pull away with pantyhose, you are ready to remove pantyhose. Carefully peel off pantyhose. Wool should remain snugly around the ball.

7. Remove the felt:

Remove the felt by stretching the loose felt at the bottom of the ball until the opening is big enough to take the ball out.

8. DON'T PANIC IF IT LOOKS LIKE A WATERBAG AND NOT A HAT!

Put your hand inside your hat and placing the crown on your washboard in the dishpan, add some hot soapy water and begin rubbing to harden the crown. Do this for five minutes or so.

9. Shaping hat:

a. Pick hat up by the crown and fold lengthwise and rub with hot soapy water, rotating folds as you rub. You can add cold water alternately with hot water as you rub. Try on hat to see if diameter is correct or place over hat block or bowl to shape. Return to shrinking sides if hat is still too big. **DO NOT RUB BRIM UNTIL SIDES ARE FELTED.**

b. Put on hat block to shape pulling the brim away from the sides, stretching the wool.

10. Finishing:

a. Rinse in cold water to remove all the soap and squeeze well.

b. Block again, flatten brim and shape crown, using hot iron. Have the iron on 'wool setting' with no steam. Press brim and sides of crown. Press top of crown if it is flat. Dry hat over form or something to hold shape.

11. Trim edges, add tassels, braids, buttons, pins, ribbons.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You now have a designer felt hat!!!

JANE NORTH'S GREATEST FEAT:

The UPSTATE FOOD NEWS last fall featured Jane and Karl North's **NORTHLAND SHEEP DAIRY** at Ithaca's Farmers' Market. UFN congratulated Jane and her husband on their flock of 50 'yews' which produce both the milk used in their cheeses and the wool which is spun into yarn, dyed and sold at the Farmers' Market.

Its amazing what the Norths have done with those fuzzy little shrubs.



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.

FIBER FOCUS II:

September 11-14, 1992 at Touchstone Center for Crafts, PO Box 2141 Uniontown PA 15401 (412-438-2811). Workshops include Feltmaking, Comprehensive Spinning, Color Interaction, Designing and Structure. A complete course description and registration information plus discount coupons will be available at the Guild library.

Classifieds

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. (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...(3/3)

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. (3/3)

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)

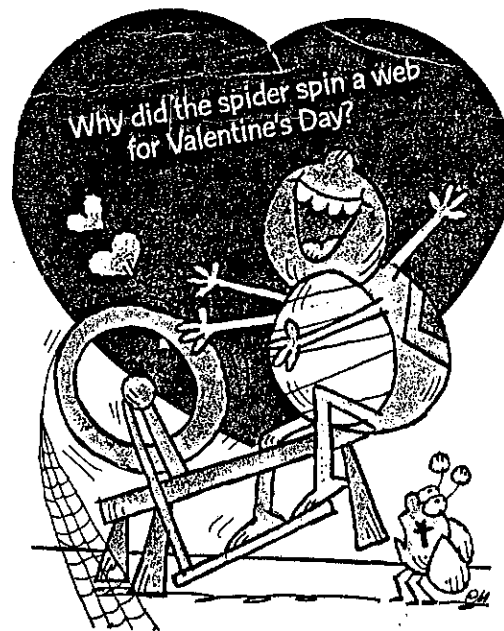
FOR SALE: The Louet S39 Ultimate is here! Special guild price \$370.00 shipping included. Regular price is \$439.00 Louet yarn blocker and warping mill, \$100.00. Lisa Ann Merian, SPINNER'S HILL SHOP, RD #1, Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, NY 13733, 843-6276 (12/15).

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. (2/3).

HELP WANTED:

- Experienced knitter, spinner and/or weaver to teach knitting, spinning and/or weaving several times a year.
- Creative enthusiastic knitter(s) to design sweaters using Fingerlakes Yarns.
- Fast knitter(s) to knit sweaters from Fingerlakes patterns. Average skills. Call 315-497-1542, THE WOOLERY/FINGERLAKES WOOLEN MILLS, Genoa.

FOR SALE: Complete supplies for spinning, weaving, knitting and dyeing. Pencil roving in 19 colors for spinning and hand or machine knitting. Many new items and over 150 fiberarts books. Treat yourself to a visit to THE WOOLERY, Genoa (a 15-minute drive from Triphammer). 315-497-1542.



He didn't know how to knit!

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

Name.....

Where do you live ? In an apartment? in the country? how many acres? do you have a farm? (be descriptive).....

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How long have you been spinning? knitting? weaving? how did you get started? why did you decide to get into fibers? Describe your "affection" for fibers, etc.....

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Do you have animals, spinnable and others (describe), any favorites?.....

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Tell about your family, significant other, kids, etc.

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Are you employed? What job takes away from you spinning time (ha-ha)? How long have you been doing this?.....

Why did you join the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild?.....

What do you like about the Guild ?.....

What other hobbies or interests do you have?.....

How often do you spin? how often do you complete a project?.....

What are you spinning, dyeing, weaving, etc., now?.....

Tell something interesting about yourself, your family that other Guild members will enjoy knowing about you?.....

Anything else that you would like to have included in your feature article (don't be shy? what about those State Fair awards, or that prize ram you have?).....

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