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BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
Ithaca, New York

Newsletter #17 -- May, 1978  
Edited by Jean Warholic

Ahhh, SPRING! Need we say more?!

WOOL DAY -- FUN and hectic as usual, and if you didn't make it (whether you let us know or not), you missed a good day!! The weather finally broke, from chilly/windy gray to bright sunshine, about mid-afternoon and warmed everyone up! It was certainly a busy time, and it was good to see old friends and new... A THANK YOU to all who get their skeins in -- all were interesting and different, and sales were good. We'll talk more about it at the June meeting, and the report will come out with the next newsletter.

JUNE 12 MEETING. Our marketing panel program has been cancelled. We'll try to catch up with ourselves instead -- we have demonstrations to sign up for, show and tells (some wonderful things appeared for display at WOOL DAY!), exchange spinning improvement ideas, work out our summer workshops, etc. It will be nice to recover from WOOL DAY and all those frantic April/May activities and just spin and talk. Bring your wheel and bring a friend! See you at the Tin Can, 10:00 a.m., on the 12th. Please do park at the Tourist Information Booth...

JULY 10th MEETING. Our Lamb Barbeque/Picnic!! Dish-to-pass, with lamb generously supplied by Libby Martin and graciously barbequed by Bob White. At Libby's, near Locke -- if you will need a ride, speak up! Directions to Libby's at the June meeting and in the next newsletter! Bring family or a friend, and your own cup, plate, silver, in addition to your dish contribution. There'll be a brief business meeting, the the rest of the day is for spinning and visiting... (Libby is also in a good spot for a dye-plant walk for those inclined!) What fun this promises to be -- we hope we see you there!!

SATURDAY GROUP. Meeting on June 24th is at Jean Warholic's, from 1-5 p.m. Bring your wheel and a chair, and a mordanted small skein of yarn for a surprise dyepot! Directions to Warholics from Ithaca: take Rt. 13 toward Dryden, turn right on Ringwood Road near Tweitmann's Half-Way House (bar) (you've missed the turn if you come to the Dryden Drive-In). come up the hill and start reading mailboxes. Warholic's is a brown house on the right, down in the woods a bit (#280 on the mailbox, but the mailbox says "Tauvirg"). The house before has a windmill in front. You've gone too far if you get to the top of the hill. You may need to park along the road; drive way space is limited. Plans for the July 29 meeting of the group are not firmed up yet -- let's map out the rest of the summer meetings while we're at it!

Your 1978 Membership Up-Date is enclosed. Please check your name/address/telephone for corrections. Get corrections to Jean Warholic at the next meeting or call (539-7648) evenings. It was nice to meet the new members at our Wool Day -- and it is always nice to get renewals from the oldies! (By the way, to date, we now have 86 paid members: 43 Active members, 34 Inactive, and nine Student members!) We had about 37 members participate in Wool Day...

OOPS Dept. I forgot to tell you what the Shorn Wool Documents enclosed with the last Newsletter were all about. Any time you buy a fleece, or fleeces, from a sheep-raiser, fill out one of those documents (there are three on a sheet, you'll need to cut it) for him/her. That person can then turn in the document(s) and still get credit and subsidy for the fleece sale(s). If you need more documents, see Jean Warholic at the June or July meetings. (The Ag. Stabilization people can also give you more information if you need it. They handed them out at last year's Wool Day. The Guild sends one to every person who sold fleece at Wool Day, too.)

DID YOU GET your mailing from McBooks? (Made to mostly Ithaca area people.) Kay Ross was in at McBooks and got wind of the mailing coming up. We took the liberty of loaning them our mailing list for it. Hope you didn't mind... It was an interesting catalog! We are not in the habit of doing this kind of thing, but unless you strenuously object, we'd like to be able to do it when something unusual and interesting comes up that is fiber-related... (Jean Warholic will remove your name if you'd prefer not to receive such information. Just let her know.)

DEMONSTRATIONS/EVENTS COMING UP -- get out your calendar. We have a busy summer ahead!

June 2nd - Ithaca Festival '78. Spinners to "teach" on Children's Day. Guild fleece, flickers, drop-spindles provided. 9:30-2:30, location to be announced (Sturm Bros?). Bring own chair, display items if needed. Call Toby Chambliss (273-7004) immediately if you can help with this.

June 3rd. Ithaca Festival '78, on Commons. Spinners, dyers needed for demon., 9:00-1:00, location prob. Sturm Bros. Bring own chair, table if needed. Call Linda Dickinson (564-7597) immediately if you can help.

June 4-July 2. FABRICREATIONS Exhibit by Liese Bronfenbrenner and Mary Bronfenbrenner Mateer, at the Hinckley Foundation, 410 E. Seneca Street, Ithaca. T-W-Th-Sun., 1:30-4:30 p.m. Free.

June 6th. Last day of Seven Valley Weavers Guild exhibit at the 1890 House, Cortland. Try to stop by before things are taken down. (1890 House is at 37 Tompkins St. on Rt.13)

June 10th. THE MANNINGS - that marvelous free day of spinning, mini-workshop sessions, visiting with spinners/dyers (and weavers) from all over. No admission charge and a lot of enjoyment! 9:30-5:00. East Berlin, Pa. (west of York). Some Guild members are going if you need a ride -- call Jean Warholic if you have room or need a ride and I'll try match you up.

June 14-16th. "Color and Design for Weavers" Workshop by Michelle Lester, sponsored by 7VWG. Fee is \$15, held at 1890 House. For more information and what to bring, as well as to register: Fannie deGroat, 100 N. Main Street, Cortland, N.Y. 13045.

June 15th. "Fiber Art Now: An International View." Special Evening Program sponsored by 7VWG. Free. 7:30 p.m., 1890 House, Cortland. Speaker is Michelle Lester. If more info. needed, call Cathy Canfield, 849-6090.

June 17th. SORTING-A-FLEECE WORKSHOP, sponsored by BSHG. Maria Steve, coord. Dora Swart will teach this, using your fleece (so if you are a beginner, or just out-of-practice, now's your chance!). 10:00-4:00, place to be announced. Fee is \$5 for the session. To register, or for more info., call Maria (257-2242).

June 20-25th. 13th Annual Rhinebeck Craft Fair, First rate, and worth a stop!

SOMETIME IN JUNE? -- Our BEGINNING SPINNING WORKSHOP. Details to be worked out at the June 12 meeting. Possibly early July? Those signing up at Wool Day preferred weekends.

*How about all this?! And we thought that April and May couldn't be worse!!*

July 20th. TRADITIONAL DYEPOTS session at the Thistledown Handspinners Guild, Norwich. Kay Ross and Jean Warholic will teach it.

July 13-15th. 17th Annual Summer Arts & Crafts Festival on the Broome Co. Courthouse Lawn, Binghamton.

July 14-16th. Downtown Syracuse Arts & Crafts Fair, in Columbus Circle.

July 15,16th. Village Artists & Craftsmen's 4th Annual Art & Craft Fair, Americana Village, Hamilton, N.Y. (Juried?)



Sheep used to tread in seed. The sower (right) offers grain to the animals to keep them following him. From an Egyptian tomb, c. 2400 B.C. (Illustration from Charles Singer et al, ed., History of Technology, Vol. I, Oxford University Press, London, 1954, and borrowed from p. 49 of Seed to Civilization: The Story of Man's Food by Charles B. Heiser, Jr., 1973, W.H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, CA.)

July 26th. SHEEP AND WOOL CRAFTSMEN'S DAY, Troy Fair, Troy, Pa. 9:00-5:00. A terrific day of spinning and visiting with spinners from all over, in addition to the demonstrating! (Jean Case will do her usual SUPER job with this, we are sure!) Parking charge is \$1. Bring your own lunch or glory in the lamb barbeque and Greek food. Sheep dog demonstrations (now is your chance if you haven't seen it done, and it is exciting to see!), sheep show and judging throughout the day, etc. not to mention US! You may have received an invitation already. If you need a ride or can provide a ride, call Jean Warholic (539-7648). We'll have some posters for you to put up at the June and July meetings...

LATE JULY or early August. Ithacare would like a group of us to do a "sheep-to-shawl" demonstration if we can. Date is mostly at our discretion; Masa Kinoshita has offered to demonstrate the weaving end of it. Please sign up at the June meeting for this...

*There's more to come...*

August 1-5. Tompkins County Fair, near Etna. There are two categories for handspun in the Arts & Crafts Section. (START SPINNING!) How about some entries? More details about this in a later Newsletter, but the two categories are "Handspun" and "Novelty" (which ought to leave room for your fertile imaginations!), and the skeins should be about 2-oz. in weight, 2-ply. Hmmm... (Plus the Arts & Crafts are supposed to be in a building, instead of a tent, so security problems will be minimal...

August 4-11 (?). CRAFTFAIR ITHACA, Ithaca College. More information later...

August 12 or 19. (Sorry, I seem to have misplaced the exact date, but can let you know in June.) CRAFTSMEN'S FAIR, Union Springs. Need spinners (2), dyer to do sheep-to-shawl demonstration, 9:30-5:00. Bring own lunch or buy there. Under cover, good audience. Others demonst. too, some unusual crafts (wig-making for dolls, Ukranian Easter Egg decorating, etc.). Nice fair. Contact Jean Warholic for sign-up and/or ride.

August 14. Black Sheep H.S. Guild meeting as usual. NATURAL DYEING, at member's home, to be announced. "Pot-to-Pass," as you may recall. Always one of our favorite meetings! More later...

MID- TO LATE AUGUST. The Guild's BEGINNING DYEING WORKSHOP. Date, time, place to be announced. We will need to work out the details at the June meeting...

August 26-Sept. 4. NEW YORK STATE FAIR, Syracuse. And the categories for handspun are still there!!! Let's get in more entries this year -- after all, it is the only competition (for whatever it's worth) on a State level for handspun yarn. (You do not need to enter the County Fair to enter in the State, but why not do both?) It is not hard to do, and those of us who entered last year and muddled along will give you some help, and you will get your money back if you place at least 5th or two 3rds. Besides, it is FUN and further supports handspinning activities and recognition. Briefly, the general rules follow. We'll talk more about it at the June and July meetings. The \$5 entry fee allows you to submit up to 20 entries in the Home Arts & Crafts (& Culinary) Division. (Thus, if you are planning to enter your quilt or weaving, this is just one more item at no extra charge.) The maximum is 10 entries in a subdivision -- so you can't enter more than 10 skeins under the handspun category. The fee also gives you (one per person) a permit to park and be admitted to the Fair each day all week. Entries must have been your own work and completed within the past year. The handspun categories are like last year: SECTION 58 - WOOL HANDSPUN. Yarn should be approx. 2-oz in weight and 2-ply. The four Classes (#63-66) are for yarn spun from hand-carded wool (#63), from machine-carded wool (#64), from hand-combed wool (#65), and from machine-combed wool (#66). The prizes are 1st = \$10, 2nd = \$7, 3rd = \$5, and 4th = \$3, for all four categories. Entry forms and fees must be completed and received by the State Fair no later than August 1. They will then send you a tag or tags for your entries. The entries must then be delivered to the State Fair (by mail or car) by a certain date (not announced yet). The BSHG will have a car going up to take entries, so keep that in mind as a way to get your skein(s) up there. The four who entered last year were the following, so feel free to pick their brains: Kay Ross, Linda Olds, Maria Steve, and Jean Warholic.

Last year there were 50 entries total from all over the state. (None from Thistle-down, can you imagine? We expect they'll do better this year... ahem!) We were surprised, frankly, there were so many, but on the other hand, there should have been MORE. We will have additional entry forms at the Guild meetings in June and July, or write to the following to get your own booklet and forms: Mrs. Elizabeth Crowley, Director, Art & Home Center, New York State Fair, Fairgrounds, Syracuse, N.Y. 13209. While you're at it, tell her how glad you are that the handspun categories were continued this year!

September. We can have the dates of Sept. 19-21 for a 3-day dyeing workshop with Fred Gerber if we want to sponsor him. He gave a terrific 3-day workshop at Mannings last year and is doing us the favor of combining our workshop on a "tour" of workshops he is giving on the East Coast to save us all travel expense \$\$\$\$. He is not cheap -- \$125/day for starters, not to mention the limited travel from the previous workshop (in Pa.?) and investments we will need to make in yarn and mordants, etc. for the dyeing sessions. We will have this costed out per person by the June meeting. But the Guild needs to decide if it will sponsor this and support it (that means WORK). Gerber is a botanist, is becoming more and more well-known as a "quantity dyer" and expert on history of dyeing with natural dyestuffs. He will be teaching at Convergence this summer, for those who are going. This is a wonderful opportunity for those of us who have notions of "production" or quantity dyeing, but who do not want to become chemists beforehand. He is also a good teacher and enjoys what he does immensely -- something that will make the WORK in the workshop go more easily!

September-October OR October-November. Dates not set, still somewhat flexible. "OUR TEXTILE HERITAGE" - series of lectures, exhibits, (workshops?) looking at as many aspects of fiber, textile, dyeing through the centuries as we can muster. At the DeWitt Historical Society. Jean Warholic is the program coordinator. She would like as much help (that means suggestions as well as exhibit items and WORK from people) from BSHG and other fiber groups in this general area. We already have some verbal commitments

from several speakers. This should be an exciting series of events, and something that hasn't been done in Ithaca for a long while (if at all). Plans are being made now. If you would like to contribute in labor, items for display, coordinating events, or whatever, please be sure to talk with Jean at the June meeting or call during that week. It would be great if the Guild could really participate in this. But it is up to you!

November 12-December 17. The Hinckley Foundation invites the Guild to have an exhibit scheduled for this period. We will need to give them an answer soon -- plan to vote on it in June. They would like "works by the Guild" and more information will be available in June.

FALL -- The Tompkins County Public Library would like us to have another exhibit in their cases. Our exhibit a year ago was apparently a huge success. Several dates are possible. More at the June meeting.

December. The Ithaca Textile Arts Guild hopes to have a show and sale. We might go in on this with them. (Yes?) We have a verbal invitation, with more details to follow. Fair warning!

*The end of that schedule of events.* Fall may seem like a long time away, but it will be here before we know it. (Many of us are glad it is spring, but a few months before June hits would be nice so we can catch up with ourselves a bit...)

OVER THE BACKYARD FENCE... We were sorry to learn of the death of Larry Hunt's daughter about a month ago. It was quite unexpected (auto accident?). Larry also retires from Cornell at the end of June. We wonder what Cornell will ever do without him... (Anyone want to work on a small Spinners' Thank-You present?) // HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the Thistle-down Handspinners Guild of Norwich. They turned FIVE on May 13th! (I didn't forget their October seminar for the above list -- not REALLY!) // Right after the last newsletter went out into the mails, we got a happy call from Carolyn Cook. She had (in case you hadn't noticed at Wool Day!) an 8-lb., 5-oz. son named Joseph Andrew on Saturday, April 22. Everyone is very happy!! // Mrs. H. H. Benson of Ithaca mentioned at Wool Day that she had a nice yarn-winder for sale, a six-arm one, good condition. If you are looking, you might call her (273-1857). If it isn't sold by the 12th, she may bring it to the meeting for us to see. // Rodney Van Vleet will be having black lambs in the fall -- write him if you are interested in acquiring one or more (Highland Road, Ovid, N.Y. 14521). No telephone calls, please. // Speaking of sheepmen, we were also sorry to learn that the nice gentleman in Canandaigua whose Romney fleeces Dora Swart always liked so much died recently. The people in this area with Romney "descendants" are Marion Wikoff and Virginia Lance. But we gather that his sheep (and fleeces remaining?) were sold off. They were purebred Romneys. // The Boston Area Spinners & Dyers have decided that they would like to do a newsletter exchange -- we should be receiving their journal shortly... // Loretta Pompilio would like to locate a good Lincoln fleece -- call her if you know where she might get one (387-5362). // We are still collecting fleeces to ship to Bartlettyarns on exchange for finished roving, for beginning spinning/children's demonstrations. If you have fleece to contribute to this Guild effort (how about the seconds from a fleece, when you've taken the prime?), please bring it to the June meeting. We should send it off soon... // Congratulations to Richard and Maria Steve -- they will be building their house before long -- a dream come true! // Don't forget Doris Brown's lovely shawls -- good prices and a good cause (tax-deductible, no less!), for the proceeds go to the Cayuga Lake Conservancy. We'll have some at Ithaca Festival '78 if we are permitted to sell. //

LOST AND FOUND. Still lost are Doris Brown's favorite drop-spindle (the metal Dryad one), the two books of Jean Warholic's (Simmons' book and Gerber booklet). We also have a lazy kate left behind at Wool Day with three bobbins of wool on it.

*The End... See you on the 12th with your spinning wheel!*

-- Jean Warholic

AD SECTION

FOR SALE: Purebred Romney ram lambs for breeding or fleece or meat. Ready in July. To reserve, call Virginia Lance, 844-8502, after 6:00 evenings. 2/3

SPINNERS! Greenspring, Indian Valley, Newbury, and Country Craftsmen wheels! One Lincoln fleece left. Orders taken on certain types of fleeces for this Spring's shearing. Name your wool and I'll dig it out for you. Alpaca, Mohair Top. Weavers' wools also. Try rug hooking with your handspun! MERRYWOOD, 2509 Slaterville Road, open 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Tues.-Sat. (539-7436) \*3/3\*

FOR SALE: Table loom, Finnish 4-harness, 60 cm (23") weaving width, \$85. Table loom, 2-harness, 12" weaving width, old but sturdy, \$20. Also, light and airy stoles in spring colours, some mohair and some wool, \$25 each. Total amount from stoles will go to the Cayuga Lake Conservation Association (you can even make it a tax-deductable contribution!) Doris Brown, 273-6173. 2/5

ASHFORD SPINNING WHEELS may be ordered through Meredith Wood (MERRYWOOD, see ad above) or Billie Hall (926 Glendale Drive, Endicott, N.Y. 13760). The Guild will no longer be handling them. Please direct any interested persons to Meredith or Billie.

WE NEED ONE MORE Jumbo Flyer order before we can send in the order to Ashford. If you have decided you want one, call or write Maria Steve immediately (257-2242 evenings, or Lansing West Apts. #1-C, Ithaca, New York 14850). Units are \$20 each, plus customs when delivered to your door. DO IT NOW!!! Also, if you think you might want extra bobbins for your regular flyer, or Jumbo flyer, let Maria know. If we get enough orders, we will send one in (regular bobbins, 85¢ each; Jumbo bobbins, \$1.05 each)...

SILK FIBERS -- Beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded rovings. Send SASE for free samples and price list. Cocoons, waste silk, spindles, and flicker-combs also. FALLBROOK HOUSE, RD #2 - Box 17, Troy, PA 16947. (717/297-2498) 4/9

SMILING LAMB T-SHIRTS - you saw them at Wool Day. Some left. Photo of lamb silk-screened on 100% cotton T-shirts in adult sizes M, X, XL, on yellow or white T's. \$6.00 includes shipping, NYS residents add 7% Sales Tax. Send check and order to: Jean Martin, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings) \*3/3\*

SPINNERS, do you need a solidly constructed, portable wheel to teach on, to learn on, to take to seminars? I have available the Green Spring Wheel, constructed of oak, cherry, walnut, and birch plywood with 7/16" machined metal orifice, double-action treadle, built-in lazy kate, and life-time guarantee. Price: \$65 plus shipping. THIS IS NOT A KIT. For additional information, contact: Nancy L. Breckenridge, 2209 Richland Place, Silver Spring, Maryland 20910. 4/5

CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP - that's an ad in the Guild's Newsletter. A four typewritten line ad is 50¢ for one run, or three runs for \$1.00. And it reaches over 100 fiber people, not counting copies that are shared or in Guild libraries. Not bad! Send your ad with its payment (or write or call if you have questions) to: Mrs. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068 (607/539-7648, evenings). (Checks should be made payable to Black Sheep Handspinnners Guild.) Newsletters appear 6-8 times per year. *Get yours in NOW for the next Newsletter...*

Say you saw it in the Guild's Ad Section...

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