

THE BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD OF ITHACA IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE

TWO WORKSHOPS WITH FRED GERBER

WORKSHOP I - Dyeing: The Investigative Method

Three days: September 19, 20, and 21 (9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Fee: \$35 to non-BSHG members, \$30 to members for the three days

\$15 to non-BSHG members, \$12 to members for one day of your choice

The emphasis of the workshop is on the investigative method of dyeing, with the first day devoted primarily to the techniques involved. The second day will concentrate on a series of cochineal studies, utilizing these techniques. The third day will deal primarily with special recipes, including different dye-woods, indigo, and overdyeing. Some historical material included. Participants for the full three days are preferred; single-day participation is limited.

Fee covers all materials and dyestuffs. Further information and worksheets for the workshop will be sent upon receipt of your registration.

WORKSHOP II - Yarn Design

One day: Friday, September 22 (9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

Fee: \$15 to non-BSHG members, \$12 to members for the day

This workshop will be a series of some three dozen exercises, dealing with color, texture, fiber combinations, and elements of yarn design. A wide variety of fibers will be used. Normally, this is a two-day workshop, so rusty spinners should brush up!

Fee covers all materials. You will need your spinning wheel, niddy-noddy, and carders.

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PLEASE NOTE FOR BOTH WORKSHOPS: They are to be held in the Dryden, New York, area for maximum convenience to participants. Confirmation upon receipt of registration. Both workshops promise to be quite exciting; be prepared to work hard! Coffee, tea will be provided all days; you must bring your own lunch. Any questions about these workshops should be directed either to Jean Warholic (607/539-7648) or Linda Olds (607/844-9672), evenings. (Guild membership is regarded as of July 10th.) Limit for workshops: 30. *Register now -- first come, first served!*

REGISTRATION FORM (Fee must accompany registration.)

Please register me for the following workshop(s). I understand that if I must cancel, no refunds will be made after September 1st.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State _____ Zip _____

Telephone No. _____

Workshop I (3-days: \$35____ / \$30____)

Workshop I (1-day: \$15____ / \$12____)

My day choice is: Tues____ Wed____ Thurs____

Workshop II (\$15____ / \$12____)

Send this form (to be received no later than Sept.15), with your check made payable to the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild for the total fee amount, to: Maria V. Steve, #1-C Lansing West Apts., Ithaca, New York 14850.

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #19 -- August, 1978
Edited by Jean Warholie

We didn't intend to have another Newsletter so soon, but with the events coming up -- particularly the two exciting workshops with Fred Gerber -- and a number of loose-ends to tie up, here goes...

PLEASE NOTE your flyer for the Gerber workshops enclosed. We are including one with each Newsletter, but if you need more or want one sent to someone who would definitely be interested, please call Jean Warholie (539-7648) or Linda Olds (844-9672) immediately! Time is growing short. The other Guilds in the area are being sent flyers, and the appropriate publicity is going out to the newspapers, etc., but we would hate for anyone to miss either workshop just because that person didn't hear about it in time...

BEGINNING DYEING WORKSHOP. August 26, all day; place to be announced. Doris Brown and Linda Dickinson are graciously doing this again for us. Can you help in any way (let them know or sign up at the August meeting). Fee is \$10, per person, for those taking the workshop. More information and details to be worked out at the August meeting...

AUGUST 14 MEETING. Again, our annual "pot-to-pass" dye session of the year, and it is always great fun! Each member is to bring a dyepot with a natural dyestuff in it, ready to go, and small skeins or sample cards of mordanted fibers (tagged with your name, to avoid mix-ups) to put into the dyepots. Anyone is welcome to come to this -- bring a friend -- dyepots go on promptly at 10:00 a.m. Bring: your own lunch, a campstove if you have one (no hotplates!), a chair (if you don't wish to sit on the ground), and if the weather behaves as in previous years, you would be smart to also bring an umbrella or poncho. Business meeting will be at noon, over lunch (and hopefully it will not give you indigestion!). Directions to Joan Johnston's, where it will be held (if you need a ride, call one of your officers): From Ithaca, go through the "octopus" (over the canal), turning left onto Rt. 13A (Floral Ave.) down to Bostwick Road and turn right. When you run out of pavement, the next house is Joan's (white, on left, down thru woods a bit) -- she is about 4.4 miles from Floral Avenue. From the Trumansburg side of the "octopus," Bostwick Road runs parallel to and two miles south of the Mecklenburg Road, and Joan's house is between the Applegate/Jacksonville Road and Rt. 327. (In case you get lost: 272-2697.) *It will be a terrific day -- see you there, and don't forget your dyepot!*

SEPTEMBER 11 MEETING. This meeting marks the time we return to meeting at the Tin Can, just off Rt. 13 near Stewart Park (the Youth Bureau). The program begins at 10:00 a.m. and we are pleased to have Ed and Dora Swart give us a program on FLAX. Bring: your spinning wheel and a distaff if you have one (or make one from a forked stick, or make a "muff" and spin the flax from your lap); flax if you have it; a little cup to tie to your wheel for water. You might want to bring any items made from flax or linen for a small display/how-and-tell; tools, too, would be fun to see. Flax is one fiber we have spun entirely too little of and now is your chance to bone up! -- both in terms of its preparation and its spinning techniques! As usual, bring your lunch (coffee, tea provided) and an interested friend!!! *See you on the 11th and THINK FLAX!*

SATURDAY GROUP. The July meeting was cancelled, due to busy-ness! The August meeting will be the 26th, a dyepots session and picnic at Eleanor May's home in Ithaca, from noon to 5:00 p.m. Bring a dish-to-pass and your own table service, as well as a dyepot and fiber samples (like the August meeting, above). Directions to Eleanor's: From Ithaca, come up State Street (Rt. 79) as if you were going to Brooktondale. The house is on the corner of Honness Lane and Rt. 79 (Slaterville Road) -- white farmhouse with a barn, on the left. If you miss it and go too far, you'll come to the Utage chinese restaurant.

If you really get lost, call 272-8224. Bring a Coleman campstove if you have one, and a chair. And a friend! The October 28 meeting will be band weaving with Eileen Oldham and it should be great fun -- bring an inkle loom if you have one. Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m., place to be announced. Call Jean Warholc or Eleanor May if you plan to come.

A QUICK RUN-DOWN OF PROGRAMS FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR for the regular Guild meetings... October's meeting will be "Improving Your Spinning." November's is always our project show and critique (not to mention our -- so soon?-- election of officers for the coming year!). December's meeting is our Christmas Party, with ornaments from handspun for the Christmas tree! (It is not too early to be thinking about your officers for the coming year. Names for the candidates you want for officers next year should be submitted to our Nominating Committee: Marion Wikoff, Sharon Moen, and Linda Dickinson.)

YOU MISSED a superb lamb barbeque in July -- three cheers for Bob and Kimberly White and their delicious lamb (and all their efforts)! Well worth a repeat next year, don't you think?! And thanks to Libby Martin for having us at her place, even when it rained and we had to s-q-u-e-e-z-e into her house! (Next year, we'd better have it in a spot where we have a little more room if it rains?) We should also mention that the TROY FAIR is bigger and better than ever, thanks to Jean Case and LOTS of hard work -- if you missed it this year, you really should mark it on your calendar for next year! (Third Wednesday in July.) As long as we are handling out praise... It was good to see the number of entries in the County Fair, in the Arts & Crafts Division -- BSHG members who won all sorts of ribbons were Libby Martin, Marion Wikoff, Nancy Leahy, Jean Warholc, and Maria Steve. Entries were not up to par in the "Designer Yarn" category (taking the Gerber workshop should give you a shot in the arm for next year!), but were generally quite good in the others. (The State fair inspectors went out of their way to complement us on the entries, by the way!) On to the State Fair in Syracuse: did anyone enter besides Libby Martin and Linda Olds? We hope so! Do let us know how you did!!

Bear with us -- the WOOL DAY REPORT is still not done (sorry, it has been a busy summer). The list of Guild handouts is ready to go, but we won't have room in this Newsletter to run it. Jean will have extras of the information handouts (such as the Natural Dyeing Bibliography) at the August meeting, so plan to pick up what you might need or have lost.

THREE NEW MEMBERS--welcome, and we look forward to having you in the Guild! (All are Active Members!) Carolyn Smith, RD #1 - 98 Corrigan Road, Moravia, N.Y. 13118 (315/497-0010) (*Knitter/crocheter; sheep; spinnable dogs, cats.*) Karen Mills, 2 Founders Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, N.Y. 14853 (256-0100). (*Knitter*) Paula De Lucia Curtyn, RD #2, Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886 (387-9488). (*Corriedale sheep*)

WE NOW HAVE A SPINNING WHEEL (Ashford) to rent out, for \$8/month. Marion Wikoff is taking care of it -- please contact her if you are interested (387-5410). And speaking of Ashford, we still need two more paid orders for the Jumbo Flyer Units before we can send out the order -- poor Doris Mamroe and Irene Hakman are the only ones paid and we must get their order out. Get your order in to Maria Steve (#1-C Lansing West Apts., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850) now, with a check for \$20 (payable to the Guild).

A DECISION is needed at the August meeting as to the pricing of handspun. The last newsletter told you what we charged at Wool Day. We have two more opportunities to sell coming up and if we are to change our pricing scheme, now is the time to do it. Two systems have been suggested. Please think about them and be prepared to vote on either (or present a well-thought-out alternative to vote on): (1) Tossed about at the July meeting: \$1.50/oz. for singles; \$2.00/oz. for 2-ply; \$2.50/oz. for 3-ply; \$3.00/oz. for 4-ply, and so on, adding 50¢ to total if skein is dyed or an unusual fiber. (2) Libby Martin's proposal:

"The cost of materials and preparatory labor (picking, carding, etc.) is according

to the ounce. Since methods of preparation and prices of fleeces vary so much, I think it fair to take the price of an ounce of sliver for the base per ounce price. For example, Australian wool sliver is available for about \$8/ob., so the base price for this would be 50¢/ounce.

The cost of labor for spun yarn is best figured by the yard, as spinning time is proportional to length rather than weight. I recommend charging 1¢/yard through the wheel. To obtain this, I timed myself spinning the Australian sliver. In 45-minutes, I spun 196 yds. At \$2.60/hour minimum wage (something we spinners aren't accustomed to!), the labor cost was \$1.95. Using this pricing system, the 3-oz. skein of singles would cost 3x50¢ for wool (\$1.50), plus 1¢/yd. x 196 yds for spinning (\$1.96), for a total of \$3.46. If the same skein were plied against itself, it would still weigh three ounces, but would be only 98 yds long. It would cost: 3x50¢ for the wool (\$1.50), plus 1¢/yd x 196 yds for the spinning (\$1.96), plus 1¢/yd x 98 yds for the plying (\$.98), for a total of \$4.44. Three-ply would be less expensive than 2-ply, as the length would be only 65 yds: for the spun 3-oz (\$3.46) add 1¢/yd x 65 yds for the plying (\$.65), for a total of \$4.11.

To price yarn in this manner, we need only the weight of the skein and the yardage, information which we already require." (Libby Martin, July 1978)

How about that? Mull it over while you spin, and let's talk about it...

WE SEEM TO BE SET for spinners and the forthcoming demonstrations at events. Thank you if you were one of those who signed-up and plan to spin! It is something we agree to do when joining the Guild, and public appreciation is always gratifying -- but don't let it go to your head! Please keep up the good work!

There is a special event coming up at Hartford, Penna., on August 24. They want to have a "sheep-to-shawl" contest and need teams to give it a try. Are you game? More information (what little we have) at the August meeting, but apparently they will have someone to shear for us. It might be interesting. Haven't heard of anyone else going yet.

WE ARE ON for the exhibit/display at the Public Library in Ithaca for Sept. 19-Oct. 1. If you don't get your items for display to Suzie Hokanson at the August meeting, please be sure to get them to her at the Sept. meeting. She will appreciate any additional help you can provide...

LOVELY PEWTER SHEEP, pin or pendant, brought to our attention by Karen Mills. See it at the August meeting. We'll take orders, and if we can get 8 or more, the price is about \$13, but well worth it. Interested, but can't get to the meeting? Call Jean Warholic.

SIGN YOUR NAME TO THE LISTS at the August meeting for: refreshments (Sept. thru November) and for a mordant bagging session. Also, if you are interested in participating in the Sullivan / Clinton campaign re-enactment to take place next year, sign up to hear about it ahead of time (and get in on the planning for this area?).



Reproduction of the original engraved copperplate of Samuel Wetherill, of Philadelphia, the first manufacturer of velverets, jeans, fustians, and other cloths in America, used by him as early as 1782 to print cards and labels for his manufacture.

WOOLHAVEN price lists are available in limited quantity now -- we'll have them at the August meeting... (If you go to the State Fair, be sure to stop at the Wool Booth and say hello to Madaline. She may even let you spin a little bit if you're so inclined. In fact, she probably will be delighted -- she spins and talks wool for the entire week of the Fair -- expended, for better or worse, to 10 days this year [aaugh!] -- and she is one of the few spinners you will ever meet who doesn't sound like a broken record at the end of a stint like that! Most of us would have gone screaming out of the Wool Booth by that time...)

DID YOU GET TO... Craftfair Ithaca? (If so, how did you like it this year?) The knitting seminar by Barbara Walker? (Sorry, we couldn't get word to everyone in time for this -- thanks to Nancy Morey-Brower for alerting us, however.) It was good to see Laurel Scheeler (THE SHEEPISH GRIN) still grinning at Craftfair Ithaca! Trenton must be doing her good, somewhere along the line -- she certainly doesn't look the worse for wear, other than the wear and tear of the fair business.

IS ANYONE GOING TO the 14th Annual Pennsbury Manor Americana Forum (Sept. 14-16)? The program looks very tantalizing (we'll have the brochure at the August meeting). If anyone goes from this area, PLEASE plan to give us a report as best you can! It is held at Morrisville, Pa. (near Harrisburg?), and of the three sessions (Textiles: Their Manufacture and Use + Ornamenting with Prints + Wallpapers: Their History, Use and Preservation), the former might appeal to spinners more -- the Textiles section will include topics such as Blankets in the Old Sturbridge Village Collection (Study of Handweaving and the Wool Supply in New Eng. in the Early 19th Century); Woven Coverlets (The Penna. Scene); Olive Prescott, Massachusetts Weaver, 1780-1860; Spinning and Weaving Machinery; A Sampler of Sample Books, 1810-1840; The Upholstery Trade of Colonial Boston; Window and Bed Hangings in America, 1750-1820; Country Curtains, 1800-1870; Victorian Drapery; Men's Clothing; The Art of the Dressmaker, 1880-1890; and Rural Penna. Clothing. For more information, if you are really intrigued: Anne Woodward, Curator, Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, PHMC, Harrisburg, Pa. 17120 (717/787-7522). HURRY! Registration is limited; fees are charged, depending on what you take.

ONE OF OUR MEMBERS is having a one-woman show at the New York Telephone Building (300 Washington St.), Syracuse, if you will be up there during September (reg. business hours). Eileen Oldham is having a mixed media show of weaving, bandweaving, and stitchery (some works commissioned by the Telephone Co.) with the general theme of bells (logos, motifs, etc.), some one-dimension and some sculptured, three-dimensional. Bells from almost all over the world and in different techniques, Sounds like fun and very creative -- let's try to get up there to see it!! Show is open during regular business hours, M-F.-- and a complement to the Telephone Co. to encourage this sort of thing wouldn't hurt!!! Good for you, Eileen!!!

THISTLEDOWN SEMINAR. Usually the second weekend in October -- no dates yet. (???) Keep your ears open and ask around. We should be hearing about it definitely within the next week or two. The spinning seminar is always a treat, with many interesting spinning-related things going on. Don't feel apprehensive about it if you are a beginner -- you will learn LOTS at the seminar, as well as meet spinners from up and down the northeast. As in previous years, there will be mini-workshops (20-min. workshops on a variety of topics), contests to test your knowledge and skills (on the educational line this year, we understand), a fashion show (with an award for the best item getting the most votes), the exhibit room where our projects are on display for everyone to see (and this year there will be a door prize drawn specifically from those who have items on display -- for those of us who never win anything, our chances are better!), and, as always, lectures and discussions on all sorts of things relating to spinning (the sheep end of things, old wheels, dyeing, etc.). It is a good, solid, inexpensive seminar and being in Norwich, not far away, either. It is truly something to look forward to...

In line with the seminar, the Thistledowners are having three raffles and we have some tickets if you are interested -- \$1.00 each. The first drawing is Aug. 17 for a

AD SECTION

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 pretty 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!). Call Doris Brown, 273-6173. 4/5

MACHINE WASHABLE SHEEP SKINS, \$25 each. Bartlettyarns, natural and dyed, 1- to 3-ply, \$8/lb. Have your sheep shorn, \$1 per head. Two pure fine black ram lambs left, Gjeter Wool Co., Libby Martin, RD #2, Locke, N.Y. 13092. (315/497-9545) Drop a card for our samples. 2/3

ASHFORD SPINNING WHEELS may be ordered through Meridith Wood (MERRYWOOD, 2509 Slaterville Road, Slaterville Springs, N.Y. 14881. 607/539-7436) or Billie Hall (926 Glendale Drive, Endicott, N.Y. 13760. 607/754-4469). The Guild is no longer handling them. Please contact either Meridith or Billie, or direct anyone interested in Ashford wheels to them.

SILK FIBERS -- Beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded roving. 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) 6/9

CURVED-BACK CARDERS and DROP-SPINDLES for sale. Guild has them left from the Beginners' Spinning Workshop. \$14.00 for the carders, per pair. \$4.50 for the drop spindles, each. We'll have them at the August meeting, or call Toby Chambliss (273-7004) to reserve yours.

FOR SALE: One Dorset cross ram fleece, about 12-lbs. For more information, call 838-8295, or write Alison Manzano, RD #2, Groton, N.Y. 13073. 1/1

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handwoven wool and mohair poncho; the second is Sept. 21 for a handwoven cotton and wool stole; and the last, but not least, is a spinning wheel (Oct. 14). You need not be present to win any of them. We'll have tickets at the August meeting; after that, if you interested, call Jean Warholic (539-7648). We'll have them at the Sept. meeting too.

OVERDUE BOOKS -- still! Fair warning: if you do not get them to Barb White by the August meeting, we will levy terrible fines and chastise you more soundly than we have so far! Those with items still out (shame, shame - since April!): Barbara Bartholomew, Theodora Meller, and Jane Steigerwald.

A FEW PARTING THOUGHTS... Do stop and see the flax growing at the Robison Herb Gardens at Cornell (if you've never seen it before). We'll have a few plants pulled for the Sept. meeting, but also seeing the dye plant collection there is well worth it. (When the Warholic dye plant beds get squared away next spring, maybe we'll have a session there, but that is a long time off...) If it is a pretty day on Sept. 11, take a look over at the Stewart Park Pavilion or thereabouts -- we may be out there, rather than in the Tin Can (we'll post a sign just to make sure). Please park near the Tourist Booth instead of the Tin Can parking lot...

Think FLAX and DYE PLANTS the rest of this busy summer... And we hope to see you at the meetings...

-- Jean Warholic

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

NEWSLETTER #20 -- September, 1978
Edited by Jean Warholie

Hope you have been enjoying all this brisk FALL weather! The jump from summer into fall was pretty sudden, especially since it seemed to happen back in August... By now, you have hopefully caught up on all your canning and freezing, with the tomatoes finally turning red. At this writing, we are hearing murmurs about light frost warnings in the upper part of the State. Fall and winter are coming just too soon!!!

The THISTLEDOWN HANDSPINNERS SEMINAR flyer is enclosed -- if it is a duplicate for you, pass it along to an interested friend. Beginning and intermediate spinners will probably find the seminar most helpful and informative. The golden-oldies perhaps get the most out of the friendships and chance to visit with other spinners... The seminar always seems to be a good one, at very reasonable cost, and BSHG'ers often go (so ask around for a ride if you are needing one). Good topics, marvelous handspun items on display, that will give you inspiration and ideas, and terrific chance to see what others are doing. *We hope to see you there!*

WE ARE SORRY YOU MISSED FRED AND JUANITA GERBER... Both workshops went well (we say in all modesty!) and were not only a terrific experience, but very practical as well. Some 10 dyepots yielded over 150 spectacular colors (between different mordants, afterbaths, over dyeing) and the Guild has that many skeins to work with and put together in a color wheel, use for displays, or sell. (We did lose money on the project, so the latter use will come in handy!) Just wait until you see what's out on the line at Gretchen's on October 9!!! The yarn design workshop also went well, with many examples of combinations, colors, textures, fibers, etc. to work on. No one finished (it is normally a two-day workshop), but we worked hard at it! Those samples should also give you many ideas! A BIG THANKS to all who worked so hard during the workshops keeping things going, coffee made, cookies, etc., even those who helped although they couldn't take the workshops...

OCTOBER 9 MEETING. (NOTE: We will not be meeting at the Tin Can as it is closed for Columbus Day. Instead, we will be at Gretchen Sachse's. Directions below.) Program will be "Improve Your Spinning," with an eye toward better yarn production. This will be a REAL spinning session, incorporating ideas from the Fannin and Gerber workshops this year, and all fibers provided. We will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m., so bring your wheel (now is the time to check it, clean it up, grease it, replace bands, or whatever) and a chair. If someone has a timer, bring it. Call a friend or Guild officer (should be one in the same!) if you need a ride. And bring your carders. Directions to Gretchen's: From Ithaca, go out Rt. 13 toward Dryden and turn left onto Pinckney Road across from the NYSE&G. Cross bridge, and turn right onto Lower Creek Road. Gretchen's is about 1-mile from there, on the left (#118) -- big white farmhouse, "Maple Acres" on the red barn. From the Dryden area, take Rt. 13 to NYSE&G and turn right onto Pinckney Road, proceeding as above. Telephone if you get lost: 347-4396.

TAKE NOTE of our exhibit at the Tompkins County Public Library, Ithaca. It is up until the end of September. GOOD SHOW, thanks to Suzy Hokanson, Toby Chambliss, and others!!!

NOVEMBER 13 MEETING. (Tin Can, near Stewart Park, 10:00 a.m.) Our GRAND SHOW and critique! So finish up those projects -- Christmas is coming fast -- and get them ready for our show. We will need to select a "judge," so please get your thoughts to Toby Chambliss (273-7004). Your handspun-related projects will be displayed on several tables and discussed by the "judge." If that sounds frightening, it is NOT -- it is FUN and a good chance to have helpful criticisms, hints for finishing techniques, uses of fibers, suggested, and just plain get ideas! Bring what you've done, even if it isn't quite finished (please, no cuffs to the sweater you are about to knit, though!).

ALSO at that meeting, we will have the officer elections for the coming year, (terms begin January 1st). You should be making your wishes known to the Nominating Committee of whom you'd like in the positions. The Nominating Committee: Marion Wikoff (387-5410), Linda Dickinson (564-7597), and Sharon Moen (533-4056). They will present the slate of officers for you to vote on at that meeting. DO IT NOW, as there is not much time. In general, the positions are: President, presides at meetings, spear-heads group for year; Vice-President, preside's in Pres.'s absence, plans and implements programs for year; Recording Secretary, takes minutes (and this year was also Librarian); Treasurer, keeps the books (\$\$), handles the money; Corresponding Secretary, writes thank-yous, handles some correspondence, helpful in all sorts of ways. *A good slate of officers is very important -- need we say??!!*

SO YOU CAN MAP OUT YOUR CALENDAR even further... The DECEMBER meeting is our traditional Christmas Party, dish-to-pass, get-together, and handspun ornament exchange. Get going on yours now! More information in the next newsletter (it'll come out before the December meeting), but we do need to decide where to have it. In the past, it has been at a member's home. Weather and roads can be a factor (we did a lot of pushing last year!). There is a suggestion that we use the Tin Can as a back-up spot. Your thoughts, please, to Toby Chambliss...

ROCK DAY needs to be held within two weeks of January 1st. We'll decide a date at the October meeting. Place has traditionally been the Dryden Presbyterian Church, since we invite the various guilds to join us for the day. It has been proposed that we provide a fiber for the day (fals?), for all to spin. Ideas, please!

SATURDAY GROUP. Ellie May reports a good picnic in August -- glorious day, good food, great dyepots (cochineal, onion skins [classy, from Fifth Ave., NYC, no less!], Queen Anne's Lace, pigweed [from Ellie's bountiful garden supply; not good green, though]). Wait until you see Ernestine Wright's God's Eye from her mohair dyepot samples! Just for the record, those present: E. May, E. Wright, S. Lorbeer, E. Oldham, J. Scott, C. Altmann, Jean Mailhot (guest with a beautiful Canadian wheel to learn on, Ellie says), E. Rowe, S. Price. Sounds like you missed a good meeting!

September 30th Meeting. At Ernestine Wright's, 1035 Hanshaw Road (257-0027), 1-5 p.m. Silk Spinning -- Some missed it last Spring, so we will all work on silk. Also, we will be doing a Brazilwood dyepot à la Gerber, so bring two 1-oz. skeins (use commercial, 100% wool -- we'll be cutting them up for samples), not mordanted, tied in four places; and a small saucepan if you have one (enamel, not chipped). We'll go from there. Bring your wheel and a chair. Mordant pots go on at 1:00 promptly, so try to be on time!

October 28th Meeting. Meeting is at Northeast School on Winthrop Drive, 1-5 p.m. Our Eileen Oldham will be giving us a workshop on inkle loom and card-weaving. Bring a loom if you have one. (Fibers, too?) Directions: From Ithaca, take Rt. 13 toward Dryden and turn right onto Warren Road at the stoplight (Airport signs are visible). Go past DeWitt Jr. High School on right (BOCES is on left), and turn right onto Winthrop. School is about one block down.

November 18th Meeting. (Saturday before Thanksgiving.) At Northeast School, 1-5 p.m. Flax spinning. Bring a distaff (or make one from a branch), and plan to order flax if you need it at the October meeting (or call Ellie May). And bring your wheel. Cookies?

THE SATURDAY GROUP Meetings are a good way to brush up on your skills, learn new things, have a good spinning or dyeing session. -- especially if you work full-time and/or can't get to the regular Guild meetings. Attendance at Saturday Group mtgs. counts toward your Guild membership requirements, too. The general rule of thumb for the Saturday Group is that it meets the last Sat. of the month (unless a change is necessitated) and that you call one of the following people so we can anticipate who is coming: Eleanor May (272-8224), Ernestine Wright (257-0027), or Jean Warholc (539-7648). Meetings are always open -- bring a friend!

RECAPS... We had about 25-30 dyepots at the August meeting -- pretty colors from most of them, too! It was a busy day, good weather, lots of people. Thank you, Joan Johnston, for the use of your house and yard (etc.)! And you missed a GOOD flax program at the September meeting, with Ed and Dora Swart. Most of us have done so little with flax -- learning its history, uses, tools, spinning techniques, and so on. This was a marvelous opportunity to brush up and do some spinning... Many, many thanks to Ed and Dora for a fine (as usual!) program!!



PRICING OF HANDSPUNS. Final decision to be made during the October meeting. We want your input! Call a Guild officer or be at the meeting...

Raffle tickets for the THISTLEDOWN drawings are still available. Sept. 21 is the drawing for the cotton/wool handwoven stole; Oct. 14 is the Ashford Spinning Wheel (finished, assembled, ready to go). Tickets are \$1.00 each. Call Jean Warholic (539-7648, evenings) or she will bring the last batch of tickets (for the wheel) to the October meeting. (Here is a cheap way to get an Ashford wheel, if you are LUCKY!)

FAIRPLAY DEPT. Bob White draws our attention to the following article (oops, forgot to note the name of the journal in which it appeared -- sorry!), after reading one of our last Newsletters... It is titled "Shirt Wars: Cotton vs. Polyester":

"A battle is brewing over how much energy it takes to make a shirt. Cotton International claims that five times more energy is used to produce polyester than cotton and that nonrenewable petrochemicals are wasted on the polyester. Not quite, says a study in the May-June American Scientist. Researchers from Yale University and Catholic University found it takes 3.5 times more energy to produce 100 pounds of polyester than 100 pounds of cotton lint. However, the researchers also say that more fiber is needed per cotton shirt due to loss during fabric production. Polyester shirts, moreover, have a longer life and take less energy to wash, dry, and iron.

The study concludes that energy saved in maintaining an all-polyester or polyester/cotton blend shirt far outweighs the initial savings in the production of raw cotton fiber. 'When one considers that the shirt made with polyester will last one and one-half times as long as the 100 percent cotton shirt, nearly 88 percent more total energy is consumed by all-cotton shirts as by their polyester blend equivalents,' the report noted. In response, the Nation Cotton Council asked: 'Does durability really matter, or do changes in fashion cause garments to be discarded long before they are actually worn out?' Take your pick."

~~Hummmmmmm~~. (Or humph!?) Bob also got us two delicious-sounding lamb recipes that we'll try to include in a future Newsletter...

LIBRARY. It was good to see items being checked out of our Library -- and we do have a nice collection these days, thanks to the efforts of the Library Committee (Kay Ross, Dora Swart) and others, especially thanks to Barbara White for doing all the "cataloging," checking in/checking out, and toting of all the materials to meetings! It is a lot of work. And with a number of people checking books/newsletters/etc. out, as we did at the September meeting, it certainly makes the carrying task LIGHTER... Do take a look at some of our books -- they can give you some good ideas for Christmas presents and projects...

And CONGRATULATIONS and BRAVOS to our State Fair winners! Not only did most places go to Black Sheep members (we'll grudgingly share Nancy Leahy with Thistledown), but we have a Grand Champion in our midst -- Linda Olds!! Good show, ladies, and we are all very proud of you! The run-down of winners follows: (remember, the fiber was wool) HAND-CARDED: Madaline Adkins (1st), Linda Olds (2nd), Nancy Leahy (3rd), and Frieda Paisley (4th). MACHINE-CARDED: Libby Martin (1st), Linda Olds (2nd), Madaline Adkins

(3rd), Mary Leahy (4th). HAND-COMBED: Linda Olds (1st and SPECIAL MERIT), Mary Leahy (2nd), Nancy Leahy (3rd), and Libby Martin (4th). MACHINE-COMBED: Madaline Adkins (1st), Mary Leahy (2nd), Libby Martin (3rd), and Nancy Leahy (4th). *Impressive!* Rumor has it that they received more entries than last year's 50+. (But looking at the winners, one has to wonder...) Scott Severance was the judge and we'll need to ask him about it. Certainly one improvement over last year was the way they displayed the skeins -- hanging them in a window case on the wall so that you could really see them up close (before, they were grouped with the blue ribbon selections, red ribbons selections, etc., in the roped-off areas and you could not see them well at all). But the display area was limited this year and not all were up. Let's really get that letter off to the appropriate person this year, with suggestions for improvements! It would be really good to see a novelty yarn category, or other fibers (it is the wool people who supported that category by donating money for the premiums), or something... Rack your brains (and we can maybe do a dry-run of the categories in our own county fair if you want to) and pose some ideas. Suzy Hokanson suggested that we have a "Fair" person next spring (April?) to prod us and work on this as a project of sorts. Yes! Anyone volunteer? The only problem will be if they do change the categories but we won't know about them until the Fair Books come out in June... Let's jump that hurdle when we get to it, though! Again, we are really pleased with how well you all did!!!

WE'RE DOWN TO THE "BOONS" AND "SHIVES" -- and if you were at the Sept. meeting, you'd know what those were! (The answer is somewhere between here and the end of the Newsletter, for those who didn't make it or who've forgotten already...) All these bits are in no order in particular, so please bear with us... The Ithaca Textile Arts Guild resumes its meetings this fall, with the first program on "Natural Dyeing" with Doris Brown (Sept. 21st, 8 p.m.; home of Ann Reilly, 337 Snyder Hill Road). Oct. 12th, 8 p.m. at the home of Edith Johnston, Halsey St., T-burg - "Creative Photography" with M. Rivkin. Nov. 16, 8 p.m., home of Liese Bronfenbrenner, 116 McIntyre Place, Ithaca - "Indonesian Batik" with Ann Erickson. For more info., call Mary Ann McNeil at 273-3553. // The Quilting Guild resumes meetings also. Barbara Dimock is president and you'll need to get more information from her (539-7202). They meet 1-2 times per month, usually at a member's home. // Sept. 12 marked the beginning of the Seven Valley Weavers Guild again (7VWG). Will try to keep you posted on their seminars/workshops. For more information about the group, however, call Mrs. Mary Kelsey (844-9106).

MORE BRAVOS to Linda Olds (who is really raking them in these days!) and Kay Ross on the to-be Grand Opening of their new shop, "The Heritage Craft Shop," on 87 W. Main Street, Dryden. They officially open Oct. 1st, with hours of 10-5 p.m., Monday thru Sat. (We'll hear about it first -- Kay has a copy of our mailing list!) They plan to carry spinning wheels (several different kinds), yarns, dyestuffs, shuttles, and MORE. It should be quite different from anything else we have in the immediate area available to us. Keep your eyes and ears open!!! // And did you get to the show of Ruth Place's weavings at Smedley's in August? And wasn't that a nice page in the Ithaca Times (week of Aug. 10) with both Ruth Place and Marjorie Ross?! Those are two unusual ladies!! // If you've seen the latest WOOL GATHERING (#19) by Elizabeth Zimmerman and Meg Swanson (our gone-away super-knitter from T-burg), you certainly noticed their new design for the RORSCHACH sweater pattern! Those cunning ladies! Elizabeth Z. is debating about that third book -- she's had problems with publishers and may not do it. If you've read either of her books (*Knitting Without Tears* and *Knitter's Almanac*), you might want to write her with some encouragement: Elizabeth Zimmerman, Babcock, Wisc. 54413. //

Classes are being held at the Homespun Boutique, now on the Commons. You may receive a mailing from her shortly. A good way to pick up on knitting or crochet (and a number of other things) if you've always wanted to learn, but hadn't gotten to it. Other places around Ithaca offering classes of note: Women's Community Building, BOCES, North Campus Union at Cornell. Call them for brochures, or stop if you are in the area. Our own Kay Ross, Nancy Morey-Brower, and Jean Nowack are teaching at North Campus Union

-- call 256-6328 for more information. // Archimedes' Attic is now in Harford, N.Y. (Ever wondered what it was, when you passed the sign near Killawog?) Now you can find out more easily! // A. Burr Craft of Greene, N.Y., writes us that he has about 10 dark fleeces (black and brown) left from this year's shearing. More information: Brisben Road, Greene, N.Y. 13778. (607/967-5080 days or 607/656-4478 evenings) No prices were given. He's raised dark sheep for several years. Wife was a spinner?

The baby reports are coming in thick and fast... Wayne and Sally Marx are happy to announce their new baby, adopted recently, named Leah Ruth. Sally says she is big and healthy, has red hair! Sally seems to be quite busy with both Nathan and Leah Ruth -- says it may be awhile before we see her... Don't make it too long, Sally! // Joan Johnston reports she is ready to have her baby, even though it isn't due until October. Joan also assures us that even though she may look it, and feel it, she is not going to have twins! // Toby Chambliss's baby is due in mid- to late-December! // We hope that Karey Solomon and her little baby are doing fine these days, too. (Hope all this baby business isn't catching!!)

The Mannings (RD #2, East Berlin, Pa. 17316 -- 717/624-2223) are having their Fall Weaving Seminar (Oct. 31-Nov. 2) -- fabric design, bobbin lace, double weave, our coverlet heritage, drafting and design. Sounds like FUN and a good selection of courses. Write them for more info. if you are interested -- or check the Guild's flyer at the Library table. // GOOD HEAVENS, dear spinners! Do take a look at the June issue of The Web (in our Library!), at the inside front cover. There is a lock of the extra fine (Merino?) fleece that Margaret Stove of New Zealand spun up and knitted for her lacy "Royal Ring Shawl," commissioned for the Royal Family. The complete story is in the issue, but for your information, it took 1-1/4 lbs. of greasy wool to produce the completed shawl which was approximately 68" square and weighed 2-3/4 ozs. (Makes you feel weak in the knees, doesn't it?) Take another look at the lock of fleece, for below it is about 2" of the spun/plied yarn she made up for the project, and it is FINE! Jean Nowack gave hers a tug and reports it is STRONG, too! WOW! Don't miss that issue... // Suzy Hokanson brought in the name-tags, made by the man in Marathon, to the Sept. meeting. They look very nice and are 60¢ each. Interested? They have our lamb and logo, as well as your name. See her at the next meeting to order yours.

Libby Martin, Carolyn Smith, and Erica Rowe took their courage in hand and went down to the Sheep-to-Shawl contest at the Hartford County Fair in Penna., in mid-August. Said it was pretty disorganized, but an interesting experience. They still aren't sure who won, but they had a good time! Next year? // The pewter sheep pendant/pin order goes out shortly. They will be about \$13/pin or pendant, as far as we can tell. Call Jean Warholc if you are interested in ordering one -- they are nice little silvery sheep -- or take a look at the extras when they come in... // STILL don't know what "boons" or "shives" are? We learned that they are the woody parts of the flax plant that are beaten off during the scutching process, at the Sept. meeting when Ed and Dora talked about flax. REALLY, you missed a super program! // Polypay sheep (remember the article quoted in an earlier Newsletter over the summer?) are being raised in this area now, on the Ron Butler farm near Etna. Barbara White says he has about 25 ewes. // Libby Martin has mohair for sale -- see Ad for telephone number.

Two women make a market, three a fair... -- Old Russian proverb.

LOST AND FOUND, mostly founds. Still left from previous meetings: glass loaf pan and serrated knife (silver plate?); child's pompom toy; yarn samples from the August dyeing session (meeting) yet unclaimed. LOST: Jean Warholc's white enamel dyepot from Gerber workshop -- please check what you took home!

NOTE YOUR NEW GUILD MEMBERSHIP UP-DATE enclosed. Especially those changes of address for some. We seem to have lost Cathy Anderjack and Cindy Smith (due back from England back in July sometime) -- has anyone seen either of them lately?? If so, please let Jean Warholc know. They've been missing out on their Guild information since June...

** ** ** ** **

AD SECTION

#20

SILK FIBERS -- Beautiful white and tussah in combed and carded roving. 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) 7/9

MACHINE WASHABLE SHEEP SKINS, \$25 each. Bartlettyarns, natural and dyed, 1- to 3-ply, \$8/lb. Have your sheep shorn, \$1 per head. Two pure fine black ram lambs left. Gjetter Wool Co., Libby Martin, RD #2, Locke, N.Y. 13092. (315/497-9545) Drop a card for our samples. *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 pretty 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!). Call Doris Brown, 273-6173. *5/5*

WANTED DESPERATELY: 45" weaving width jack-type loom. Prefer used, at reasonable price. Please call Sue Sterling, 273-0333, mornings or evenings. 1/1

RENT OUR ASHFORD SPINNING WHEEL, \$8/mo. Or our hand carding-machine, \$5/mo. (use washed wool only). Only BSHG members, please. Call Marion Wikoff at 387-5410, to sign-up for either of these. Also, the BSHG still has a few pairs of carders left from the Beginning Spinning Workshop -- curved-back carders, medium-teeth (\$14/pair). They will be at the October meeting, or call Jean Warholic (539-7648).

ADS IN THE NEWSLETTERS ARE CHEAP and reach over 100 interested spinners! You may place your ad for spinning-related items with us at 50¢ per ad or 3/\$1.00 (one ad in three issues of Newsletters). Ads may be up to four (4) typewritten lines in length. Send your ad copy, with a check payable to the Black Sheep Handspinners Guild, to Mrs. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings)

** ** ** ** **

We've been invited to come spin on the "I Remember When" Day at Archimedes' Attic, on Saturday, October 7th, at Harford, N.Y. Spinning and dyeing in colonial costume. How about letting Suzy Hokanson know if you can make it. Should be a good day -- it is certainly one of Suzy's favorites! (They'll also be making butter, candle-dipping, cider pressing, shingle making, apple fritters made, etc. See you there?)

REFRESHMENTS SIGN-UPS. For October: Jean Magacs, Toby Chambliss. November: Linda Dickinson. (We usually need about three people for each -- please someone, appear with something in addition...)

OH UGH! It is getting to be that time again -- soon! DUES WILL BE DUE for the forthcoming year, starting with the October meeting (that gives you time to forget and remember at the November or December meetings). For old members, dues are to be paid by January 1st. For new members (since Sept. 1st), according to our policy, you are carried over through this next year. (Being on the Up-Date enclosed with the Newsletter does not mean you joined after Sept. 1st -- check your records, or ours, to make sure.)

When renewing your membership this year, please be realistic about your time and plans for the forthcoming year. If you join as an Active Member, we expect you to be **ACTIVE**. (Some of this year's Active members ~~were~~ pretty inactive...ahem!) To reiterate: **ACTIVE** Members must attend at least half the monthly meetings, make an item from their handspun or work in a service project of the Guild's, participate in a workshop or demonstration per year (such as Wool Day), obtain or have a working knowledge of the basic principles and elements of Handspinning (see your Guild's Constitution), and they are entitled to Guild discounts when given. (Fee is \$4.00) **INACTIVE** Membership (\$6.00 per year) entitles you to lowered expectations on our part, assuming that you will not be able to fulfill the obligations or activities outlined above. **STUDENT** Memberships (\$2.00/year) are for full-time students only, and we hope you will participate however you can, whenever you can. **ALL MEMBERSHIPS** entitle you to use of the library, use of the Guild's carding machine, and use of the Guild's spinning wheel, as well as putting you on the mailing list to receive the Guild's Newsletters, flyers, etc. as they are available throughout the year.

Got all that? The next reminder (in far less detail) will be pitched in your direction in the next Newsletter (before the December meeting).

BACK to refreshments for a moment: We voted to put a saucer on the table for donations toward those who purchased goodies for refreshments. The logistics of who collects and doles out and to whom remain to be worked out. If the idea has ceased to appeal, let's "un-vote" it. Or do it. Which?

On to other things... See you at the meetings, etc. coming up! There are lots of things to look forward to!!!

-- Jean Warholie



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SHEEPSHEARING. Figure 1 is washing the sheep. Figure 2, shepherds. Figure 3, sheepshearing and rolling the fleece. (From "Picturesque Views of Rural Occupations in Early Nineteenth Century England" from Ackerman's Edition of the Microcosm by W.H. Pyne, 1824. (Dover Publications, Inc., NYC. 1977.)

THISTLEDOWN HANDSPINNERS GUILD
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1978

SPINNING SEMINAR
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1978

9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION
Coffee and TEA
9:45 WELCOME
10:00 RAISING YOUR OWN SWEATERS
...Jean Conover
10:45 FILM "The Three Spinners"
...Mary Anne Lynch
11:00 FLAX
...Dora and Edgar Swart
12:00 to 1:30 LUNCHEON * SALES
1:30. TRADITIONAL DYEING
...Jean Warholio, Kay Ross,
Peter Farnham
2:30 CONTEST
3:00 UNCOVERING OLD COVERLETS
...Ruth Kerr
4:30 SALES OPPORTUNITIES
6:30 SHEPHERD'S DELIGHT
7:30 BEEKEEPING WITH THE ERICKSENS
9:00 SPIN-GO-ROUND: Open discus-
sion. Bring ideas, problems,
hints, etc.

9:00 a.m. REGISTRATION
Coffee and TEA
9:20 WELCOME
9:30 SPINNING AND WEAVING IN GRACE
...Joan Koster
11:00 CHIC SHEEP (fashion show)
...Doloria Chapin
(Best in Show prize)
12:00 to 1:30 LUNCHEON * SALES
1:30 WHEELS, OLD AND NEW
...Norm Hall
2:30 MINI WORKSHOPS (Rotation)
-Fleece Pictures - Sandy Silsby
-Miniatures from Handspun -
Ellie Wetzel
-Teasel Industry - Jean War-
holio
-Cataloging your Reference
Material - Doloria Chapin
4:45 SALES OPPORTUNITIES

(Detach and return this portion)

REGISTRATION

THISTLEDOWN HANDSPINNERS GUILD SPINNING SEMINAR: OCT. 14-15, 1978

The undersigned releases and agrees to hold blameless, Thistle-
down Handspinners Guild, Norwich, NY, for loss of, or damage to, pro-
perty belonging to her/him or any other person for whom she/he is act-
ing as agent, or for any property belonging to another and temporarily
in possession of the undersigned during the Spinning Seminar, Saturday
and Sunday, October 14 and 15, 1978, at Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge,
Norwich, NY 13815.

DATE:.....SIGNED.....

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Telephone:..... CHECK.....if you have SALES ITEMS.

Registration for Saturday, Oct. 14 @ \$8.50 \$ _____
Registration for Sunday, Oct. 15 @ 8.50 _____
Dinner reservation - Roast Lamb Dinner
@ 8.00 _____

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Send registrations to: Thistledown Handspinners Guild c/o

Jean Steiber

R. D. #1, Box 525
Norwich, New York 13815

***** DEADLINE: October 1, 1978 *****