
BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
Ithaca, New York

Newsletter #24 -- March, 1979
Edited by Jean Warholie

AT LAST!! The really cold weather is almost gone -- to be sure, there will be a little more snow and shoveling, but the winter is really over! It won't be long until storm windows are coming down, trees begin to leaf out, and the green shoots flower profusely. Maybe in these next few (too few!) weeks during mud season we can catch up with ourselves a bit before the rush of spring and summer is upon us...

APRIL 9 MEETING. "Spinning to a Gauge" and spinning for the State Fair competition. At the Tin Can, 10 a.m. Bring your spinning wheel and plenty of fleece. Given the unpredictability of chairs at the Tin Can (sometimes none, sometimes plenty), you might want to bring your own chair. And don't forget your lunch and a coffee mug. Please park by the tourist booth, once you've unloaded the car -- the lot by the Tin Can is really for the staff and visitors. *Refreshments:* Maria Steve, Patty Mutkoski, and Dolores Jacoby.

SATURDAY GROUP. Next meeting is April 28, 12 noon to 4 p.m., Northeast School. (Be thinking where else you'd like to meet, as Northeast is one of the schools being closed in Ithaca.) As usual, bring your wheels/spindles and fiber to spin -- and more of those terrific show-and-tells!

There will be no May meeting of the Sat. Group -- come to WOOL DAY and participate instead. (See below.) A decision about the date of the June meeting will be made in April...

WOOL DAY!! Yes! A flyer is enclosed with this newsletter -- we are ON for May 20 (Sunday) at Stewart Park Pavilion and our illustrious Steering Committee for the event is below. Read through the list of committees/tasks below and pick out your spot -- or we will pick it out for you! Some members have already signed up, and we expect more sign-ups at the April 9 meeting. Brief descriptions follow the committees so that new members will know what is involved, but ask us oldie-goldies if in doubt... The chairman for each committee is responsible for that committee (who does what and when, whatever is needed for that particular thing) and you are responsible to your committee chairman (hold up your end, and if you get deathly ill at the last moment, call your chairman after you call the hospital!).

For brevity's sake, we are only listing committees and chairmen, not those who've signed up so far as helpers -- question marks show where we need YOU...

Steering Committee (they oversee the whole shebang and keep the committee chairman on top of things and comforted): Kay Ross and Linda Olds (844-4381), and Nancy Morey-Brower (272-6391).

Publicity: Cinday Smith, chrmm; with Barb White.

Displays (those pretty exhibits, signs around the building, etc.): Suzie Hokanson, chrmm; with ? ? ? ? . (Items for display are needed, as well as helpers.)

Fleece Sales (help people pick and buy a fleece, weigh and price tag fleeces): chrmm? helpers?

Sheep Shearing: Libby Martin Llop. (Two shearings during afternoon?)

Guild Sales Table (items for sale, helping people choose fibers for projects; helpful to be a knitter/crocheter/weaver/clerk here; promote Guild): Maria Steve, chrmm; with ? ? ? ? .

Refreshments (usually just tea, coffee, cookies/munchables and in the past have had 4-H or Brownie groups doing this to make money so Guild people don't have to worry about it; use Guild coffee urn, supplies): ? ? ? ? .

Natural Dyeing (run several dyepots, talk about dyeing; you need to use Coleman stoves or the like, since hotplates blow fuses at Stewart Park): ? ? ? .

(turn page -- there is more!)

How-to-do-it Corner (helping children adults try spinning; use of Guild drop-spindles, wool): chairman? helpers?

Demonstrations (the process of spinning, from beginning to end, is shown here -- literally, sheep-to-shawl): chairman? We need demonstrators for the following categories -- you may, of course, interchange and spell each other! Two or three doing each would be ideal...

Sorting a fleece

Teasing, carding

Carding Machine

Spinning on different wheels

Great wheel

Saxony (Ashford)

Castle

Drop Spindle

Spinning other fibers

Skeining, plying

Knitting/crocheting

Weaving

(Anything else?)

(Last year, we had everyone in sequence along two sides of the Pavilion -- very effective!)

Set-up and Clean-up (last, but NOT least): chairmen for both. Stout husbands, children appreciated no end! We have heavy picnic tables to rearrange at the Pavilion and they always seem to be heavier at the end of the day...)

So there. If everyone pitches in, WOOL DAY is fun and not work! Even if you cannot attend (for a good reason!), you can at least contribute washed wool to be carded on the carding machine, or skeins to be dyed or a dyestuff to be used -- you'll get the skeins and/or carded wool back (just make sure your name is on them)! There are all sorts of ways to help if you look for them, and make no mistake about it, we need you!

Two last items worth mentioning about WOOL DAY. It is our biggest Guild effort of the year. And it is primarily educational -- we will all be talking with people who are interested in what we do and the fibers we work with. It has always been a GOOD afternoon -- meeting new people as well as old friends who come see us year after year. And lastly, we are promoting the wool industry more than anything (there is always a cold breeze coming off the lake so wearing wool is the least of our problems!) and, with this being the YEAR OF THE SHEEP, let's do it up right! Bone up on your fiber information, put on your woolies, and come for a wonderful afternoon! (We all need to be in place, by the way, by noon -- so set-up crew needs to gear for being there about 10 a.m., and the rest of us need to be there and setting up no later than 11 a.m.!)

THE NEW DATE for the N.Y. Sheep and Ram Sale, reports Gretchen Sachse, is Saturday, June 2nd, at the Livestock Pavilion, Cornell. Don't forget their black sheep sale which will be repeated this year!

THE HINCKLEY SHOW. It opens Tuesday, June 12, and is still untitled. Any strokes of genius for an ear/eye-catching title? The main exhibit outlines are:

- (1) Textiles in the Child's Life: work by children with quotes (child is defined as up to 16 [marriageable age]).
- (2) Textiles as Art: purely decorative articles.
- (3) Textiles and Technology: how technology has influenced textile work. Handmade vs. machine-made objects.
- (4) Textilework in Groups: made by at least two people working together.

In addition, there will be a special hands-on area for children. We are looking for ideas for a variety of ages.

The rotating exhibit -- a big room (14'x25') is all ours from July 28, when we open with a demonstration, until August 18. This is an open showcase for our own work. Gretchen Sachse would like us to have something showing the process, different fibers (raw and spun), final products, and some kind of production data (how long, how much to amehat, for example). [Ed.'s note: like a small version of Wool Day -- don't let it frighten you!]

In everything, there will be a historical perspective so we are looking for loan of

old textiles, tools, anything done after an old pattern, etc. We would like a list of what you have for loan to the show. Don't forget -- unfinished articles and early efforts are not only welcomed but desired! Please get your list to Gretchen Sachse at the next meeting (Apr. 9) or send it to her immediately: 118 Lower Creek Road - RD #7, Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. What an exciting exhibit this promises to be!!!

A CHANGE OF PACE... Gretchen sends us this for a stretching of our brains! This is a school exercise from 1845: A farmer, being asked how many sheep he had, answered that he had them in 5 fields. In the 1st he had 1/4 of his flock; in the 2nd, 1/6; in the 3rd, 1/8; in the 4th, 1/12; and in the 5th, 450. How many had he?

(We'll let you struggle until the next newsletter!)

THE THISTLEDOWN SEMINAR. (Oct. 20-21, Norwich, N.Y.) Everyone is invited to produce a banner to decorate the meeting room. Prizes will be awarded by popular vote. The categories are: Guild (size 3'x5' max.), Commercial (2'x3'), and Individual (2'x3'). In any medium. All sorts of plans and festivities are underway. Doloria Chapin is in charge of the seminar, and the organizational meeting held last month produced all sorts of good ideas and enthusiasm. You've been given advance warning of the banner contest, now let's see what else is going on...

Gretchen reports that the tentative program is:

Sat.-- color theory, black sheep, wool count analysis, felting, millinery, and a problem-solving session after dinner.

Sun.-- Rayon, the fashion show, weaving with handspun, fulling and finishing, tailoring.

(Anyone interested in tackling weaving with handspun [a one-hour program], talk to Gretchen Sachse who will be putting it together.) WOW -- it looks like another good year for the seminar. Do other topics intrigue you? Enough to help with the program, or to contribute in some way [items, information, etc.]? Then let Gretchen know that too! Planning for these events never starts too early...

PEWTER SHEEP PIN/PENDANT order goes out on April 9. Seven have been ordered for sure now; we may have a few extras for sale at the Guild table on Wool Day but at higher prices. Order yours NOW (\$14) or pay more at Wool Day. Please contact Linda Dickinson (564-7597) or Jean Warholic (539-7648) by April 9.

SAVE THOSE OLD PRESCRIPTION BOTTLES with the child-proof caps. The Guild can use them for small quantities of mordants -- *which we still have for sale*. Get them to your nearest Guild officer or the manager of our mordants, Linda Dickinson.

CHECK OUT the new membership up-date -- included herewith. New, and old, members -- it is good to have you with us! We look forward to meeting you!

DYERS' EXCHANGE. Anne Bliss (dye and author of at least one dye book, write for Interweave magazine too) is setting up a DYERS' EXCHANGE. Essentially, she is hoping to set up a newsletter/yarnsample/dyestuffs exchange almost all over the world. (Ambitious!) We'll pass along more information as we hear it, but in the meanwhile, if you are itchy and want to hear more, write her and send an SASE to: Dyers' Exchange, Juniper House, P.O. Box 2094, Boulder, Colo. 80306.

CALL FOR ARTICLES for the 3rd Annual 1979 edition of SPIN-OFF by the Interweave Press. (First two are good issues -- the Guild has them in its library!) Full information -- they PAY! -- from Jean Warholic or Gretchen Sachse. Act NOW because the manuscripts are due by June 1st... The letter will be at the April 9 meeting or call us for information.

HINT FOR DYERS, especially if you are groping for dyestuff ideas this time of year! Maria Steve reports gorgeous golds with (yes!) the drained water when soaking alfalfa sprouts. She will tell you all about it at the next meeting!

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AD SECTION

HALL TRADITIONALS--Fine, handcrafted spinning wheels. Traditional in the ways of 18th and 19th century styling, construction, durability, and craftsmanship, but contemporary in the needs of today's handspinner. All moving parts ride effortlessly on nylatron bushings. Other features include heel-toe treadle, large 1/2" orifice, convertible tensioning, and a satiny hand-rubbed Tung oil finish. I offer walking, saxony, and castle wheels, plus a brand-new production spinner. Please keep in mind that my wheels are not mass-produced and, as you know, fine handcrafting takes time and so will your order. I also do restoration work on antique wheels. If prearranged, repair work may be picked up and/or delivered at Guild meetings. Please note our new address: NORM HALL, RD #3 - Box 185A, Oxford, New York 13830. (607/843-7935) 2/3

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

HONEY FOR SALE. Unfiltered, 80¢/lb. (A one-quart canning jar holds about 3-lbs.) Honey can be brought to Guild meetings or make arrangements when you order... DONALD WARHOLIC, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings.) *3/3*

FOR SALE: Two pair of Clemes & Clemes carders, medium teeth, flat back. Never used. \$14/pair, postpaid. Please call (315) 536-9948, the Penn Yan Weaving Studio, RD #5, Penn Yan, N.Y. 14527. *1/1*

RENT OUR ASHFORD SPINNING WHEEL, \$8/mo. Or our carding machine (for washed wool only), \$5/mo. Available only to Guild members. Call Marion Wikoff (607/387-5410) to sign up for either of these, or see her at the Monday Guild meetings. (BSHG ad)

CHEAP CHEAP CHEAP -- that is what our ads are: 50¢ for one ad, one issue, or 3 ads/issue or one ad/3 issues are \$1.00. Payment (check made payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild) is due with ad copy. Max. of four lines per ad. Deadline is second Monday of every month. Contact: Mrs. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648, evenings.) (BSHG ad)

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DID YOU SEE?? ...in the January 1979 issue of Yankee magazine, the article "Making and Using a Tape Loom" by M.D. Chesley? (No. 55 of a series, The Forgotten Arts.) ...the wonderful photograph of the girls riding sheep on the cover of the February 1979 issue of The Shepard magazine? ...the article about "Native American Textiles: An Homage" in the last issue of Interweave magazine? (The Guild has a copy?) ...the 22 Polish Textile Artists exhibit at the Johnson Museum, Cornell University, last month? ...that the Merrimack Valley Textile Museum has published a series of technical papers about museum care of textiles? Write them for a copy of their brochure: 800 Massachusetts Ave., North Andover, MA 01845. ...the Rochester Finger Lakes Craft Exhibition (thru April 22), Art Gallery at the Univ. of Rochester.

Keep that calendar out...

CLASSES FOR THE ADVENTURESOME... (Plus they give us ideas for programs and things we'd like to see!) The Brookfield (Conn.) Craft Center is offering "Natural Dyes for Cotton Fibers" (Palmy Weigle), "Traditional African Dye Techniques" (Donald Clark), and a variety of others. For more info., write the Center at P.O. Box 122, Brookfield, CT 06804. // "Machine Knitting" will be offered August 26 thru the Simply Natural Shop (Sid Gelbwake). More info.: RD #1 - Rt. 23, Hermon, N.Y. 13652. // Don't forget the myriad of knitting, crocheting, quilting, and rug hooking classes thru the Heritage Craft Shop in Dryden. //

BOCES in the Ithaca area begins its spring classes soon -- "Bookkeeping and Small Business Survival", "Fabric Lampshades", "Braided Rugmaking for Beginners" (advanced class too), and crocheting, to name a few. Call for their brochure: 257-1551, ext. 232. // How about "Weaving in Guatemala?" The Ixchel School of Guatemalan Weaving gives a sequence of workshops (each about 4-6 weeks long) from April 20 thru Aug. 24. Cost is \$1100 and you can get university credit. For more info.: Janedare Klinger, 249 Santa Fe Drive, Walnut Creek, CA 94598. (There! See what you can do with the money left over from taxes?!)

Jean Warholic's brother sent her a little bumpersticker present for her car: "HANDSPINNERS DO IT WITH A LITTLE TWIST!"

WORKSHOPS AND EXHIBITS... (As if you weren't busy enough!)

- April 3-7 -- 2nd Annual Needlework (needlepoint/embroidery) Show, 191 Court Street, Binghamton, N.Y.
- April 6,7 -- Silk Workshops with Jean Case. (Info. in your last newsletter.) Last minute sign-ups: Dora Swart, 607/272-3370. (1890 House, Cortland, N.Y.)
- April 20 -- Coverlets program by Rita Adrosko, Curator of Textiles at the Smithsonian (and author), at the Bird Library, Syracuse University. More info.: Ruth Kerr, 315/749-4083, Homer, N.Y.
- April 27-29 -- Festival of Craftsmen, Center of Progress Building, NYS Fairgrounds, Syracuse, N.Y. (Thruway Exit 39, just off Rt. 690).
- April 27 thru May 4 -- Ikat Workshop with Masa Kinoshita. 1890 House, Cortland. A basic knowledge of dyeing is a prerequisite. (See registration form, last page of this newsletter.) *Sign up now* if you are interested -- Masa needs to know by April 16. Fee is \$30 to 7VWG members, \$35 to nonmembers. (A Bargain!) The days you will be working are: 27th, 30th, May 1-4.
- April 28,29 -- Peddler's Fair (of artists and craftsmen) at Eisenhower College, Seneca Falls, N.Y. (Deadline for entries: April 7: Nonie Brophy, Box 1122, Eisenhower College, Seneca Falls, NY 13148.)
- May 19,20 -- "Arts in the Park, '79" juried festival spon. by Southern Tier Arts Association, Elmira, N.Y. (Deadline for entries is May 1: STAA, P.O. Box 641, Elmira, NY 14902.)
- May 20 -- WOOL DAY, (us!) at Stewart Park, Ithaca. *See you there!*
- June 2-3 -- "Ithaca Festival '79" here in Ithaca. More info. to be announced. Keep your ears open!
- June 12 -- The Hinckley Foundation Exhibit. (Didn't want you to forget!)
- June 9 (oops) -- The Mannings (Pa.) spinning seminar (free day). Details back in November newsletter or ask around... Presumably, some of us will be driving down.
- July 18 (I could be wrong on this) -- The Troy Fair, Troy, Pa. A wonderful day to spin! And a nice little county fair, old-fashioned for the most part, and fun!
- July 29-Aug. 3 -- New England Weavers Seminar. Held at the Campus Center, Univ. of Mass., Amherst For more info.: Antonia Kornios, Apple Hill Drive, RD #1 - Box 300, North Scituate, RI 02857.
- Sept. 29,30 -- "Toward Excellence: Eastern Great Lakes Fibers Conference" to be held at SUNY/Fredonia. (You as a Guild member will be sent more info.--Jean Warholic is forwarding up our membership list.) Guild exhibits, open judge exhibits, etc., with the emphasis (this first year) on weaving.
- Oct. 20,21 -- Thistledown Handspinners Seminar, Norwich, N.Y.

WHAT ARE OTHERS' DOING?? The Textile Arts Guild of Ithaca meets on April 19 (8 pm) at the home of Mary Ann Treble, East Covert Road, Interlaken, for "Fabric Painting Workshop" with Loretta Pompilio. On May 17 (8 pm), there will be the annual meeting at the home of Kathleen Whyte, 1 Sundown Road, Ithaca. // The Thistledown Handspinners (Norwich) will elect officers on April 21. June 2 is their Wool Day at Bowman Lake State Park. // Haven't heard lately from the Cherry Valley Country Spinners (Cazenovia area) or the

Lamb-to-Loom 'ers (Binghamton/Vestal area) lately, but they are surely busy! (I'll probably get newsletters from them the day after this goes into the mail!)

GOING TO NEW YORK CITY? If you are, be sure to make at least two fiber stops! Coulter's Studios at 118 E. 59th Street (421-8085) -- they have the biggest range of yarns (crazy and otherwise), among other fiber supplies, you've ever seen! And it is a cozy shop, not a supermarket atmosphere, with all sorts of knitted/crocheted/spranged things about from their yarns. Another stop to make (sorry I don't have the hours for these places, but they were rather usual store hours as I recall) is Inge Nissen Ltd. on 165 E. 61 Street (838-8077) -- a wonderful shop of clothing and accessories by weavers, knitters, etc. Some of Masa Kinoshita's lovely things may be seen there. It is a really nice, comfortable, tastefully-done shop -- and you will take note, I am sure, of the big looms she uses for display backgrounds!

-- Jean Warholic

A REMINDER, from Linda Ligon of Interweave, that the article we reprinted on speed spinning in our January issue should have been credited to its primary source, Paula Simmons' book on SPINNING AND WEAVING WITH WOOL. Apparently, the author (Nancy Tompson) neglected to mention where she got most of her material... (ahem.) We do have Paula's wonderful book in the Guild library -- if you haven't read it already, DO SO!

THE YEAR OF THE SHEEP -- 1979! Barbara White forwarded a blurb by the Associated Press about this special year... It seems that the new year of 1979 was greeted with unusual enthusiasm around the United States, with the article giving a variety of descriptions. The last three paragraphs are of particular interest to spinners and shepards alike:

"In Japan, soothsayers familiar with the 3,000-year-old Oriental Zodiac said 1979 is the Year of the Sheep and so will be a year of peace.

The sheep is a timid, defenseless, and mild-natured animal, soothsayers say, and his year should be considerably more placid than 1978, the Year of the Horse. The sheep also likes to graze leisurely, and the soothsayers interpret this as a sign that the comforts of life will improve in 1979.

According to ancient Oriental custom, the sheep was the eighth animal among 12 to reach the bedside of the dying Buddha to pay homage. A year was named for each animal. The 12 animals and what they symbolize are said to influence the year and the character of individuals born during the period."

Speaking of sheep and lamb, we hope you'll be having lamb for Easter dinner! It is hard to beat a nice roasted leg of lamb, studded with garlic and rubbed with rosemary! Bob White's recipe below (from the National Livestock & Meat Board) will give you an idea for leftovers (should there be any!) or for ground lamb... (Makes 4 good patties)

1 to 1½ lb. ground lamb
 ½ tsp. salt
 ¼ tsp. dry mustard
 1 Tbl. minced onion
 ¼ C. milk
 bacon for wrapping patties

Blue Cheese Topping:
 1/3 C. crumbled blue cheese
 2 Tbl. softened margarine
 ½ tsp. prepared mustard

(BROILED LAMB PATTIES) Lightly combine all ingredients and shape into patties about ½" thick. One lb. makes 4 good patties. Increase seasonings and milk slightly for 1½-lb. Wrap each pattie with bacon and fasten with toothpick. Place on rack of broiler pan so patties are 3" from heat. Broil 5 minutes on each side or until bacon is crisp-cooked. When lamb is nearly cooked after turning, combine ingredients for blue cheese topping and broil until cheese is bubbly and lightly browned. Serve immediately!

LAUREL SCHEELER writes to say that she has some spinning tools for sale -- if you are interested, please contact her. (The letter was received back in mid-February so some may be sold by now.) She says she can describe them further or send photos; all in are in good working order, even though they are not exactly cheap: Flax Brake, large and made

