

I keep reminding myself that this is still February. It feels too much like Spring and makes you wonder what March holds in reserve for us... Such mild weather is a blessing for us spinner-shepherds who have started lambing! And looking at all those white and colored lambs jumping about, somehow you can already visualize their grown fleeces passing through your hands and into the spinning wheel!

Speaking of lambing, quite a few guild members showed up at the Feb. 26 lambing clinic held in Ithaca. It had a very large turn-out and was extremely interesting, with tips on abnormal delivery (and realistic hands-on demonstrations!), winter pasture feeding and watering (your sheep do not need water if they have access to snow and why feed them all that hay when they can find good grass under the snow?...), etc.

I apologize for the small print on this newsletter; my (old but great) electric typewriter decided to break down for the first time in years so I am struggling with an almost antique manual one. On the other hand the small print may allow me to pack more news into this Newsletter...

BSHG MEETINGS The Executive Committee met this month to plan the year's activities and made some important decisions about the makeup of meetings, programs and workshops.

- The monthly Monday meetings will have this format: 10AM-10:30AM PROBLEM TIME: new Guild members will be offered help with their spinning questions and problems; 10:30-11AM : GUILD BUSINESS; 11AM-Noon: PROGRAM/DISCUSSION: the program period will have a theme each month which will be led by a "discussion leader". Discussion leaders will not be reimbursed for their activity except for materials if they are members of the Guild. Non-members may receive a small honorarium; Noon-12:30: lunch & LIBRARY: the library is now kept in the cupboard of the Varna Fire hall; it will be available only for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour so that Becky Church can act as librarian and have control over the books which come in and go out; 12:30-2 or 3PM: SHOW-AND-TELL, SPINNING: Everyone attending a meeting should be prepared to bring an item for show-and-tell.
- The Saturday group will meet noon to 4PM. There will be no formal schedule except that time should be set aside for Guild business of importance and show-and-tell. This is meant to be a time to spin and to share ideas informally.

WORKSHOPS The Guild will attempt to have at least two or three workshops a year, including one for beginners.

- Non-member speakers may be asked to present a program on a specific topic and will be paid honoraria and expenses as negotiated; guild members will be paid only if they present an outline of the program with a budget, and request guild sponsorship.
- The Beginners Workshop will be run by the Guild with presentations by the membership. Remember that active membership does involve an obligation to participate in Guild activities and demonstrations!
- A 2-day dye workshop, primarily for members, has been tentatively set for July 9 and 10. The Guild is also considering inviting Linda Berry Walker for a workshop; no decisions were made as to the theme of the workshop or a date.

PROGRAMS The Monday March 14 meeting will be devoted to COTTON; Virginia Lance will show us how to card cotton and Marianne Horchler will demonstrate cotton spinning with a Charika wheel (By then most of us will have seen the movie "Gandhi" and be familiar with the little book-size spinning wheels. And if all these actors were able to learn how to spin cotton, so can we!). If you have the following bring

them to the meeting: cotton carders, a pencil-size dowel, items you have made with handspun cotton, handspun cotton yarn, problems & questions pertaining to cotton spinning... Joan Johnston, Program Chairman, also suggests you read "Handspinning Cotton" by Olive and Harry Linder, prior to the meeting so as to be well prepared on 3/14.

On the program for April 11: GREAT WHEELS. This will be presented by Daisy Kirkpatrick who is planning to go and visit Bro. Kim Malloy along with Kay Ross and hopefully come back with a lot of information we can all benefit from!

Remember to contact Joan Johnston if you have ideas or suggestions for programs. The Guild officers wanted more input from the membership so program survey sheets were handed out at the February Saturday & Monday meetings. A similar sheet is included with this newsletter. Please send it to Joan immediately! Only those survey sheets received by March 10 will be taken under consideration. This is the chance to voice your opinion; take advantage of it!

FEBRUARY MEETING: was devoted to "hats" and had a large turn-out. Several members showed and described various handspun hats. (Remember Spin-Off is organizing a contest on handspun caps; deadline for submission is June 1, all the details were included in the Christmas package.) The Guild will be donating \$25 to a State Fair winner this year; the award will be for a garment made from natural colored (not white) handspun wool.

REMINDERS

- Better send your dues in if you want to continue to receive this Newsletter!
Active: \$8, Inactive: \$10; Student: \$5, Newsletter only: \$6. Make check out to BSHG & send to Mary Anne Sumner, 107 Neimi Rd., Freeville, N.Y. 13068.
- Virginia Lance has the Guild's rental equipment; it can be picked up at her house (2060 Dryden Rd.) or at a meeting if you let her know in advance. phone: 844-8502.
- The following books have been missing FOR A LONG TIME; please return them to the library AS SOON AS POSSIBLE so other people have a chance to read them.
"Handwoven Textiles of Early New England" by Nancy Bogdonoff;
"Indigo & The Antiquity of Dyeing" by Fred Gerber;
"Handspinner's Handbook" by Bette Hochberg;
"Handspinner's Guide to Selling" by Paula Simmons;
"Spinning & Weaving with Wool" by Paula Simmons;
"Weaver's Newsletter" by Ora Koch;
"Knitting without Tears" by Elizabeth Zimmerman;
"101 Questions for Spinners"
"Textiles in New England" 1790-1840" by Catherine Fennelly;
"Handspun Project Book" ed. by Deborah Kahn;
"Handspinning" by Eliza Leadbeater.
- Missing Magazines: The Web: June 78, Aug. 78, Nov. 80, June 81, March 82, Aug. 82.
Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot: Winter 79, Summer 80, Fall 81.
Handwoven: March 81, May 81, Nov. 81, Jan. 82, Sept. 82, Nov./Dec. 82.
Interweave: Fall 80.
Country Journal: Dec. 77.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * On display until March 11 at the Cortland Arts Council is an exhibit on INTERNATIONAL COSTUMES AND CEREMONIAL DRESS. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 12 to 5PM.
- * A mini-workshop on BREEDS OF FLEECE sponsored by the Cherry Valley Spinners will

be held March 3 at 10AM at the Methodist Church, Linklean St., Cazenovia. There will be 13 different breeds of fleece to sample and spin in the grease. Fee is \$5; bring a spinning wheel or drop spindle, carders or steel comb, newspapers or towel and a sample book (if you have one).

* This year Roman and Greek Easters are 5 weeks apart. Consequently there will be 2 TELE-AUCTIONS to sell lambs and kid goats: March 18 (consignments due by March 8) and April 22 (consignments due by April 12). Assembly point for Central N.Y. is the Empire Livestock Market of Dryden. For more information contact Marianne Horchler (315) 497-1542.

* "MANAGING FARM FINANCES IN A COST-PRICE FREEZE" will be held on 2 Thursdays, March 3 and 10 at the Cooperative Extension Center, Ithaca. Purpose is to help farmers with financial concerns analyze their business. For more information: 272-2292.

* The Arnot Art Museum of Elmira will host its 50th REGIONAL EXHIBITION May 5-31. Entries are due March 16-23 with jurying on March 24. For more information write Arnot Art Museum, 235 Lake St., Elmira, N.Y. 14901 or see Marianne Horchler.

* March 26: R C & D Meeting, N.Y.S. Grange Headquarters, Cortland. Prof. Charles Boyles of Ohio will discuss profitable BEEF & SHEEP PRODUCTION WITH LIMITED LAND RESOURCES. Reservations required: 607/334-4715.

* SPRING FEVER will be held April 9 and 10 from 11AM to 4:30PM at the Women's Community Building, Ithaca. Our participation in this show will involve the following: - Table/Sales: - Guild members can sell items on consignment (10% to BSHG, - All items must include handspun (they can be knit, crocheted, woven, etc. or simply yarn skeins - Felted items are also acceptable). The standards specify that all items must be of high quality design and workmanship, related to the theme of the show if possible, and not made from kits, etc. BSHG will jury its own table.
- All items should be well labelled and consignors should provide a list with their name & address, description of items and prices
- Items should be brought to the Women's Community Building between 7:30 and 9:30PM on Friday April 8 or before 10AM on Saturday. They should be picked up by 4:30PM on Sunday.

- Demonstrations: We will need people to demonstrate the various aspects of handspinning: carding, spinning on a drop spindle and on wheels, etc. Sign up to demonstrate or sell at the next meeting or call Jean Currie at 564-9346 (evenings).

* "PRESENTING A PROFESSIONAL IMAGE": this workshop will be given by Teri Lonier, arts consultant, on April 16, 10AM to 4PM at the State University at Cortland, Fine Arts Building. This is sponsored by the Empire State Crafts Alliance, Inc. of Poughkeepsie and is designed to help the craftsperson show and market his work. Cost is \$18. For more information 914-471-8188 (or see Marianne Horchler).

* The Arnot Art Museum is sponsoring its 7th FESTIVAL OF ARTS IN THE PARK May 21 and 22 from 10AM-5PM in Mark Twain Riverfront Park and adjacent Clemens Square Mall in downtown Elmira. Entries are due by April 30 and must be made through submission of color slides. Entry fee is \$25 per person. Call 607-734-3697.

* June 17-20: MIDWEST WEAVERS CONFERENCE will be held at Baldwin Wallace College, Berea, Ohio. Lectures, exhibits, demonstrations, workshop, fashion show, etc. Write Midwest W. Conf. '83, 2572 Queenstown Rd., Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118.

* June 21-26 will be the dates of the last RHINEBECK CRAFT FAIR, held on the Dutchess County Fairgrounds and sponsored by American Craft Enterprises. In 1984 the craft fair will move to W. Springfield, Mass.

*The Weavers Guild of Pittsburgh will host the EASTERN GREAT LAKES FIBER CONFERENCE to be held Sept. 30 through Oct. 2 at the Expo Mart in Monroeville, Pa. It will include workshops, juried show, guild exhibits (BSHG?) and there is much more in the planning.

ADVERTISEMENTS

INDIGO DYEING SUPPLIES to keep you in the blue! Natural indigo patties, synthetic indigo paste, and Spectralite. Will bring to Saturday group meetings, or call or write for prices and information. Jean Warholc, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

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WANTED: Cat fur combings in any quantity, any color. Need starting in April, so begin combing kitty and saving shedded fur! Will swap for indigo dyeing of your handspuns or can work out something equitable... Jean Warholc, 280 Ringwood Rd., Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

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Start 1983 spinning some fibers new to you. Cashmere: \$2.50/ounce (lots of tan, limited quantities of brown and white). Kid mohair in the grease: \$2.00/ounce (washes up very white & sparkly!). New Zealand Wools: \$6.00/pound white; \$7.00/pound colors - all in the grease (breeds available: Border Leicester, Coopworth, Romney, Perendale, and Leicester crosses - all beautifully clean fleeces). Still plenty of rainbow-dyed fibers, as well as CIBA dyes so you can dye your own fibers. Nancy Morey, P.O. Box 48, Chenango Bridge, N.Y. 13745. 607/648-6255.

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Try the LATEST ASHFORD WHEEL, the classy double drive "Elizabeth". It comes with a walnut finish, brass bearings, a large flyer orifice and many other nice features. Treat yourself to a little Charkha wheel as seen in "Gandhi", direct from India and only \$36! Ball winders, \$14; Ashford jumbo flyers, \$29; hand and drum carders, niddy noddies, bobbins, etc. Many books to choose from: By R. Simmons: "Patterns for Handspun", \$2; "Raising Sheep the Modern Way", \$7.95; "Spinning for Softness & Speed", \$7.95; by E. Chadwick "The Craft of Handspinning", \$14.95; by A. Milner: "I Can Spin a Different Thread", \$2.95; by the Linders: "Handspinning Cotton", \$5.95. Free delivery to Ithaca. Come to The WOOLERY, R.D.#1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071, or call Marianne Horchler 315-497-1542.

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Weaving & Spinning Supplies -- Handmade Tools of the Trade Looms and Ashford Spinning wheels, Shuttles, Niddy Noddies, Hand Cards, Drop Spindles, Inkle Looms, Bartlettyarns, Kentucky All Purpose, Maysville Carpet Warps, wool and wool blends, textured yarns, cloth strips for rug braiding, braiders, lacers, cotton Monk's cloth, Wool roving, some lt. and dk. brown Alpaca roving. Will carry more spinning fibers if there is enough demand. White fleeces from our own sheep starting in May. Classes. THE WOOL SHED, RD 3, Box 3, Lisle Road, Owego, N.Y. 13827. Open Monday, Wed. and Friday afternoons from 1:00PM to 4PM and Thursday evening from 7PM to 9PM. Tel. 607 - 687-1443.

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STUDIO KNITTING MACHINES, \$279 and up. 4 models to choose from and guild members get 10% off! Knitting with a machine is fast and fun! Beautiful designs knitted automatically and yes, you can use your handspun on knitting machines! Call or write Marianne Horchler, THE WOOLERY, RD #1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 315-497-1542.

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Black or White Ewe or Ram Lambs of Romney, Border Leicester, Corriedale, Lincoln Xbreeding. Available through Autumn with best variety now. Write to D. Clauson, Box 199C RD#1, Odessa, NY 14869 or call for location; Tel. (607) 594-3708.

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Having decided to "concentrate" on white & colored Finn sheep, colored Border Leicesters and Finn-Dorset crosses, I will be selling at least 7 of my ewes in March or April after their lambs are weaned. 5 of these ewes are colored and range anywhere from coal black to silver grey; almost all of them are twins; one is a triplet. If you are interested and wish to see them in the fleece let me know as I will be shearing them very soon. Marianne Horchler 315-497-1542.

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Spinning wheels made, repaired; missing parts reproduced; reelers, niddy noddys, plying paddles, etc. Plain work, you finish or we will. Also homemade soap. Anne + William Brewer, 130 W. William St., Bath, N.Y. 14810 . 607-776-7391 eves. 1/3

Brother knitting Machines. Sales, Service and instruction. Bulky KH 230 and Electrokmit KH910 (with computer) on display. 10% discount to guild members. Iranian & Chinese Cashmere ready to spin, natural cream color \$3/oz. postpaid. Assorted colors fine wool yarn on cones \$5/lb . Complete line of Bartlettyarns including sportweight \$12/lb. Clean fleeces in white, silver greys & black available Jan. 1st. Libby Llop, Inverness Sheep Farm, 3079 Fowlerville Rd., Caledonia, N.Y. 14423. 716-226-2788. 1/6

FOR SALE: 705 Artcraft table loom. Loom is dressed with a long warp, ready to use. \$100, negotiable. Call 257-1361 after 5PM. 3/3

FOR SALE: Black Finn X ram (triplet, dam a quintuplet), nicely mannered, gentle w/ewes, can be left w/flock during lambing, proven sire. Also a Tunis ram, regis. twin, good quality wool, excellent sire for Easter lambs, easy to work with - a real gentleman! proven sire. Some ewes available too, mostly black. Contact Nancy Munkenbeck, 607/272-1651. 3/3

LAMBS FROM A SPINNERS FLOCK, specially bred for fleece quality as well as good carcass. Their sire is my black NZ-bred Romney, their dams Romney-Tunis crosses. A few white ewe lambs and a promising black ram lamb are available. Also a bred Suffolk yearling ewe. Several prize-winning black and white fleeces are for sale as well. Come and see them. Call Gretchen Sachse at 607-347-4396. 3/3

PROGRAM SURVEY

The Guild now has a membership made up of experienced spinners as well as beginners. In order to set up program activities and workshops which will interest as many as possible, we need to know what you are interested in. Please mark the topics you are most interested in knowing more about and send this to JOAN JOHNSTON, 1025 Bostwick Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. Remember, she must have this in by March 10 so fill it in and send it RIGHT NOW.

- FIBRES: Different breeds of sheep
- silk
- linen/flax
- cotton
- other
- DYEING plant
- chemical
- lichen
- mushroom
- bark
- solar
- growing dye plants

- MISCELLANEOUS: felting
- selling/marketing
- raising sheep

- WHEELS: Maintenance
- different kinds
- SPINNING: fibre preparation
- carding
- different drawing methods
- plying
- fancy plying
- woolen
- worsted
- other

- USE OF HANDSPUN: Knitting
- Weaving
- Machine knitting
- Design
- Color
- Other

ANY OTHER TOPICS YOU WANT?

OPTIONAL: Name _____

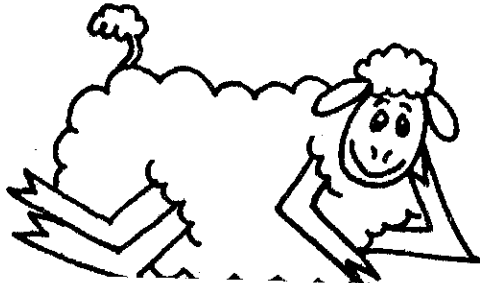
CALENDAR OF MEETINGS UNTIL WOOL DAY

Please note the dates of the next meetings; clip this and put it on your refrigerator, or write it on your calendar before you forget...

MONDAY: March 14 (Cotton); April 11 (Great Wheels); May 9.

SATURDAY: March 26, April 16, May 29 (Wool Day)

REMEMBER: If you want an ad or newsworthy item to appear in the March newsletter, send it to Marianne Horchler, RD #1, Genoa, NY 13071 BEFORE MARCH 18. For ads, make check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild.



FLASH! Joan Johnston has ordered a cottage industry carding machine which produces roving and batts. Custom carding available soon. Details next newsletter.

PLEASE NOTE THE GUILD'S NEW ADDRESS IN THE RETURN ADDRESS PORTION OF THIS PAGE.

Note also that the zip code for P.O. boxes in Ithaca is different than street addresses!

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
P.O. BOX 6701,
ITHACA, NY 14851



Kay Riddell,
2763 Slaterville Rd.,
P.O. Box 84,
Slaterville Springs, NY
14881