



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

Newsletter 58 - March 83
Editor: Marianne Horchler
RD 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071



March 14 meeting: everyone had a chance to work with cotton at the Monday meeting, carding with cotton carders, making "punis", and spinning them on the Charkha wheels made famous by the movie "Gandhi". By the way, there is a good 4-page article on "Spinning on the Charkha" in the latest issue of Spin-Off (Spring 1983 - Spin-Off is now published as a quaterly magazine).

NEXT BSHG MEETINGS

- Saturday Group: March 26, April 16 (noon to 4PM)
- Monday Group: April 11: Daisy Kirkpatrick will present a program on GREAT WHEELS (also called walking wheels or wool wheels). If you have one of these wheels bring it to the meeting.

SPRING FEVER IS almost there, April 9-10 at the Women's Community Building, 100 W. Seneca St., Ithaca. Hours: 11AM to 4:30PM. Bring items to sell on consignment (10% to BSHG) and/or volunteer to demonstrate. For more details on this, dig out your February newsletter..

UPCOMING EVENTS

- * Fibre Artists' Workshop: March 26, 10:00AM at the Northeast School, Ithaca. This is sponsored by Upstate Crafts and will include: Finishing & Display Techniques (for weaving, knitting, wallhangings, quilts, dolls etc.), a Color Workshop by Mary Ann McNeil (with hands-on experiences in color blending, comparison, etc.) and Labeling Laws and Standards. Bring a bag lunch and plan to stay through the afternoon. To register, send \$3 to Doris Brown, 8 Oak Crest Rd., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850. For more info. call Doris 273-6173.
- * The Mannings' 10th NATIONAL HANDWEAVERS SHOW : will be held April 9-May 1. Prizes & awards of \$2,000 or more in 7 categories: weaving in the colonial tradition; handspun/vegetable dyed/handwoven; handwoven rugs; weaving you can wear; tapestry; weaving for home interiors; fiber manipulation. Mailed entries must be received by March 26; \$5 entry fee. Write: Mannings, RD # 2, East Berlin, Pa. 17316 for details & entry forms.
- * Artisans' Festival: to be held on April 24 at the American Legion, Lochland Rd., Rt. 14S, Geneva, N.Y. The festival is designed to show arts and crafts work from artisans who make a major if not total income from the sales of their work. Deadline for entering is March 31; cost per booth is \$25. For more info.: Heidi L. Zappler, RD. # 3, Box 309A, Geneva, N.Y. 14456. (315) 585-2223
- * Annual Craft Show & Sale sponsored by the Thousand Islands Craft School, July 9 & 10, Clayton Recreation Park Arena, Clayton, N.Y. Exhibitors will be selected by a jury from slides. Jurying fee is \$8 and deadline is April 1. For info. & application form contact

Jean Warholio.

- * The Thousand Islands Craft School & Textile Museum, 314 John St., Clayton, N.Y. 13624, is offering art & craft classes during the summer. Among them: Spinning & Dyeing (July 4-8), Feltmaking (July 11-15), Beginning Weaving (July 18-29), Intermediate & Advanced Weaving (July 18-29). Tuition is \$75 for 1 week course & \$125 for 2 week course.
- * The MID-ATLANTIC FIBER CONFERENCE is to be held at Rider College, Lawrenceville, N.J. from July 29-31. For details concerning workshops, etc. contact Kava Sheaffer, Weisel Youth Hostel, RD 3, Quakertown, Pa. 18951.
- * The UPSTATE CRAFTS FAIR will be held August 4, 5, 6 & 7 at the Ithaca High School, Ithaca. Entry deadline is June 30 and jurying dates are July 31 & August 1. For more info. call one of the following: Fair chairman Edith Johnston (387-9506), Fair manager Toby Dean (387-5524), Asst. Fair Chairman Kay Ross (844-8050), Asst. Fair Manager Maria Steve (387-5559).
- * On Oct. 1 (or Oct. 2 in case of rain) Cornell Plantations is sponsoring a FALL-IN FESTIVAL. It will feature educational exhibits & demonstrations that relate to the world of plants. Coordinator Raylene Gardner has asked whether BSHG would like to participate. She must have an answer by APRIL 15. To reach Raylene 256-3020.

NOTES

- The Cortland Arts Council Sales Gallery (4th floor) is accepting work on a 30% commission. Work may remain in the gallery for 3 months. If interested (no potters, please!) inquire at 23 Main St., Cortland, 13045 ; 607-753-0722.
- Would the person who borrowed Maria Steve's book "Botanic Garden" (by Brookling) please return it to her?
- Jean Warholio would like to remind everyone that she will need skeins for dyeing on Wool Day (May 29).
- Mary Anne Sumner found a white & grey hat that appears to be handspun, at T.G. Miller's Warehouse in Ithaca. Does anyone know who it might belong to ?
- Joan Johnston reports that according to the surveys that were handed out at last month's meetings and sent with the newsletter, BSHG members are mainly interested in learning more about: silk, different drawing methods, fancy plying, growing dyeplants, machine knitting and raising sheep!
- Professional Craft Expo's is compiling its 1983 mailing list of craftspeople in an effort to allow new & original work to be exhibited. For info.: Rick Robinson, Box 2, Johnston Rd., Slingerlands, NY 12159 - Tel. 518-456-3770.
- There is a new spinning guild in Bainbridge: The Jerico Textile

Guild. They have had only 2 meetings, and have 21 members! They are proof that there is still new interest in handspinning and that spinning is NOT a fad as some would believe. Instead of dying out it keeps growing all the time! The group's next meeting is March 23. For info. call Lisa Merian 315-843-6267.

- Speaking of new interest, I should mention new (active) member Kathie Garnsey who lives on Black St. Rd., RD # 1, Box 217, Scipio Center, N.Y. 13147. Tel. 315-364-8889. She has sheep, spinnable horses, and much interest in spinning. Welcome!
- Those of you who remember Doloria Chapin may be interested to know that she is moving back to New York State, probably to the Rome area.
- The Seneca Shepherds, a group of local sheep producers, are trying to produce a list of area sheep owners. They would like to hear from ANY sheep producers (no matter how small the flock) and will include them in the mailing of the directory if they provide information. To receive a form write to Barb Gates, 2861 Lodi Rd., Interlaken, N.Y. or call 532-4206.

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 Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648)

1/6

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 Warholic, 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, Merendale, and Leicester crosses - all beautifully clean fleeces). Still plenty of rainbow-dyed fibers, as well as GIBA 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: "ratterns 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 4:45 and Thursday evening from 7PM to 9PM. Tel. 607 - 687-1443.

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Handspinning Fleeces - Romney's - white & black - some crosses (Tunis, Finn-Ramb., etc.) - lambs as available - 607-562-8875 or leave message try 607-733-0184). Ezra Wolcott, Deering Hill Farm, Sing Sing Rd., Box 456, Big Flats, N.Y. 14814. 1/12

FOR SALE OR TRADE. Several ram lambs/one black. Mostly Finn X. Also yearling rams and 1 ewe. Contact Barb Gates, 2861 Lodi Rd., Interlaken, NY . (607) 532-4206.

CUSTOM CARDING available May 15th! My new machine will be able to card fleeces 2"-8" long and still preserve the wool's unique character. It will make batts about 2'x6' with wool successively laid down so colors can be layered if desired. It will also produce a lovely open roving $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{8}$ " which could consist of partially or completely blended colors or fibers - whatever you wish. Evenly carded wool is also excellent for quilt batting or felting. Wool must be grease-free for carding so get ready now and wash your fleeces as you get them. (Joy is an effective cleanser). Prices \$2.00/lb. for batts; \$2.25/lb. for roving. Picking alone also available at minimal cost. Wool can be in the grease for picking, but lets out more vegetable matter if washed. Joan Johnston, WOOLWORKS, 1025 Bostwick Rd., Ithaca. 607-272-2697. 2/3

Knitting Machines - sales, service & instruction. Also books, coned & skeined yarns, dyes, pattern design. Joann Schaff, NOOK & CRANNY KNITS, 8 Cardinal Dr. (off Sapsucker Woods Rd.), Ithaca, (607) 257-4280. Guild members discount 10%, quantity discounts also available. 1/3

FOR SALE: 2 white Dorset ewes (1 registered) & 4 colored ewes. Colored ewes are mostly Corriedale X with beautiful fleeces ranging from coal black to silver and blue/grey. All are healthy and have lambed this Spring. The majority are twins. Marianne Horchler, RD #1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 315/497-1542. 1/1

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. 2/3

Black or White Eye 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. 2/6

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. 2/3

Brother knitting Machines. Sales, Service and instruction. Bulky KH 230 and Electroknit 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 Bartlett yarns 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. 2/6

Some inspiration for new and old members
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Sheep and lamb numbers are down

ALBANY -- Sheep and lamb numbers in the Empire State on January 1, 1983 totaled 63,000 head, according to the New York Crop Reporting Service. This is down ten percent from a year earlier and ties the previous record low set January 1, 1979. This also wipes out the increases in sheep numbers made during the last three years.

New York sheep producers continue to follow the national trend noted Glenn W. Suter, Statistician In Charge. The Inventory on January 1 in the United States totaled 11.9 million head, down eight percent from the 13.0 million head a year earlier. This is the lowest sheep and lamb inventory on record and also wipes out the increases in sheep numbers made during the three years following the previous record low of 12.2 million head set January 1, 1979 which ended a 20 year decline in the number of sheep in the nation.

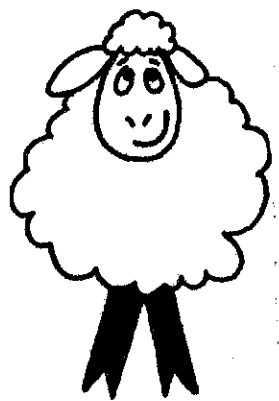
The inventory value of all sheep and lambs in New York on January 1, 1983 totaled \$4.5 million, down nine percent from a year

earlier. The average value per head at \$71.00, while up one percent from last year's \$70.50, remained three percent below the record high value set on January 1, 1981. This, however, was still 37 percent

above the U.S. average value of \$51.70 per head.

A total of 54,000 lambs were born in New York during 1982, down seven percent from 1981. Breeding ewes one year old and older in the state at the beginning of 1982 totaled 48,000, up nine percent from a year

earlier. This gives an average of 1.10 lambs born per ewe during 1982 compared with .99 during 1981.



TEN WAYS TO KILL AN ORGANIZATION SLOWLY

1. Join and let everyone know you are a member, but don't go to meetings.
2. If you do attend, always go late. The others will either wait, or stop the meeting while someone fills you in on what has happened.
3. Don't be an officer. It's much easier to sit back and criticize someone else; let them catch the guff.
4. Don't offer an opinion at the meeting. Let someone else do the speaking, but afterward (at the bar), have a lot to say about what you really think and what was done wrong.
5. Join, get all the benefits you can, but don't pay your dues. At least not on time. Sending out overdue notices gives the secretary or treasurer something to do. Besides, this gives you another opportunity to criticize the committee and tell how it would have been done if you'd been doing it.
7. Never stand up for the organization. Be negative about it to friends and business acquaintances. This is a sure way to keep membership exclusive.
8. Cultivate a feeling of hostility toward anyone who offers suggestions or new things to do. Convince yourself that you're smarter and wealthier than he is. Your attitude will help destroy many good ideas or projects.
9. Always make excuses for not doing something. The weather is a good one — too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry, too good or too bad. Business is another — too busy or not busy enough.
10. If you aren't asked to be an officer or to serve on a committee, complain bitterly about the cliques who are running the organization. Never, never volunteer your services.

American Agriculturist 12/82

Hagar The Horrible



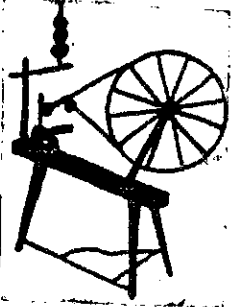
Can you think of a better gift ?

- Send any newsworthy item or ad to Marianne Horchler, RD 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Deadline for the April Newsletter is March 18. Ads are 50¢ for 1 run, \$1.00 for 3 runs. Make checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild.



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With all the wind, rain, mud and even sometimes snow waiting outside, don't you feel like hibernating a little while longer and "sit by the fire and spin"?

If you have sheep they are probably through lambing by now. Among the 6 sets of triplets we had born this Spring one was from the little red ewe lamb which Brian Magee sheared for me at last year's Wool Day. Her 3 lambs were: one black, one white and one red! (I just had to share this exciting news with you...) Our barn is full of activity these days and with 100+ sheep and lambs it can also be very noisy; if you call me during feeding time you will know right away that I'm not in the house (or at least you'll hope I'm not...)

SPRING FEVER

Over 500 people showed up over the April 9-10 weekend to admire the articles displayed by the various local craft guilds and individual craftsmen. "Admire" is the word as it soon became obvious that people were there to look, not to buy. It was felt that the event should perhaps be scheduled earlier in the year and BSHG may want to reconsider whether or not to participate again. Even if it was not a financial success, demonstrations and a display of handspun items are always educational. Several people may join the guild or be tempted to learn how to spin as a result of seeing us at the show. And remember, incredible as it may seem, there are still people who have never seen demonstrations of handspinning.

APRIL MONDAY MEETING

Following are the minutes of the April 11 meeting as submitted by Virginia Lance, Recording Secretary:

The meeting was called to order at the Varna Community Center by the President, Jean Currie. Nineteen members attended.

A discussion of wool day centered on the denial by the Ithaca Public Works Committee to allow us the use of the Stewart Park Pavilion based upon their new rules for its use. It was felt it would be advantageous to conduct a wool sale in the spring but that demonstrating could be done at other times and that sales of wool would be better in the fall. It was moved by Daisy Kirkpatrick to conduct a Guild Wool Sale Day at the Varna Community Center on June 5, 1983 for the purposes of selling wool fleeces and spinning supplies, displaying members finished products, and enjoying a picnic. The motion was seconded by Mary Anne Sumner. The motion was passed by a show of hands. The date chosen follows the June 4 sheep sale day at the Cornell Judging Pavilion.

Members agreed that an opportunity for education of the public will be our demonstrating during Ithaca Festival.

The Guild will be having a Beginners Workshop on June 25 at the Varna Center. Members are needed to help teach in the areas of: care of the wheel, preparing the fibers, spinning, and finishing (plying, blocking, etc.). Please contact Jean Currie to offer your services.

A motion was made by Marion Wikoff that the Guild participate in the Fall In at the Cornell Plantations in October. The motion was seconded by Mary Anne Sumner and carried by a voice vote.

The new coordinator of requests for demonstrating will be Mary Anne Sumner. Please pass along any requests to demonstrate spinning, dyeing, etc, to her.