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

Newsletter 63 - Sept. 83  
Editor: Marianne Horchler  
R.D. # 1, GENOA, NY 13071

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Fall season is here. It's time to think about making Christmas gifts (with handspun yarn of course!), time to plan next Spring's lambing if you have sheep, and time to abandon your garden to attend some exciting BSHG meetings and workshops!

MONDAY MEETING

October 10, 10AM at the Verna firehouse. On the program: how to sell your craftwork; Edith Johnston, Chairman of the Upstate Crafts Fair and a well-known quilter, will tell us about marketing our work.

SATURDAY MEETING

October 8 (Please note change!) at Mary Ann Sumner's house, 107 Neimi Rd., Freeville. Phone: 607/257-5754.  
Directions to Mary Ann's house: From Rte 13 turn left into Hanshaw Rd. Take the third road to the right (there is no road sign!); Mary Ann's house is a log house, first on the left.

September Monday Meeting

Quite a few members turned up to hear about sheep raising on Sept. 12. Marianne Horchler gave a few tips on starting a small flock of sheep, with some hands-on demonstrations and a noisy little ram lamb! Some of the prize-winning items from the State Fair were passed around and admired by all. Next year we may have a special pre-State Fair meeting to jury our own handspun items; this may prompt more BSHG members to send entries to the Fair. Then there are always those who complete their projects on entries day and drive all the way to Syracuse praying that the yarns will be dry when they get there...

To come back to sheep raising, some handouts were given to those attending the Sept. meeting. There are some left so if you would like one, let Marianne H. know. Also, Gretchen Sachse, who had been scheduled to talk about wool production, will write about it instead in one of our next newsletters.



This handsome fellow is our new BSHG logo and will be appearing on our publications etc. from now on.

1984 Officers

It is that time of the year again! The Nominating Committee has been appointed and is looking for officers for the Guild for 1984. If you want to volunteer or have some ideas please call:

Marianne Horchler 315/497-1542  
Linda Dickinson 607564-7597  
Helen Kiker 607/273-3124

The slate of officers will be presented for election at the November meeting. Don't sit around hoping someone else will do the work - volunteer to help next year. We need a President, Vice President, Secretary and Librarian. The Treasurer & Newsletter Editor have agreed to stand again.

OCTOBER 28, 29 & 30 WORKSHOPS

Remember the Linda B. Walker workshops coming up (see fliers in past newsletter). There is still space left, sign up soon!  
The flock management program on Friday night will be in Candor, not Owego. That makes it closer to most BSHG members, so sign up!

STATE FAIR WINNERS

Congratulations to our members who won many prizes this year:

- Mary Ann Lynch: 1st for adult hat & scarf set from handspun, 2nd for handspun yarn for clothing, 3rd for heavy duty handspun yarns, 4th for weaving (wearable accessory) and honourable mention for handspun yarn (proficiency of spin)
- Nancy Leahy: 2nd for heavy duty handspun yarns, 3rd for wallhanging from handspun
- Erica Rowe: 2nd for handspun yarn (proficiency of spin), 4th for handspun yarns for clothing, & honorable mention for heavy duty handspun yarns.
- Edith Cook: 2nd for adult hat & scarf set from handspun, 4th for wallhanging from handspun & honorable mention for handspun yarns for clothing.
- Nancy Morey: 3rd for handspun yarn (proficiency of spin), 3rd for handspun yarns for clothing.
- Jean Currie: honorable mention for handspun yarns for clothing, & for weaving (non-wearable)
- Jean Warholic: honorable mention for handspun yarns for clothing.
- Suzy Hokanson: 3rd for weaving (wearable accessory)

NATIONAL SPINNING & WEAVING WEEK : OCTOBER 3-9

How about doing a special effort to promote spinning in your area during this special week?

UPCOMING EVENTS

- \* "THE ART FABRIC: MAINSTREAM" : Sept. 1 - October 30 at the Memorial Art Gallery of the University of Rochester; travelling exhibit of 81 fiberworks by 60 internationally known artists. Hours are 10-5PM Wednesday through Saturday, 2-9PM Tuesdays & 1-5PM Sundays.
- \* FALL ART & CRAFT SHOW: October 13-16 at Market Place Mall, Cicero, NY, Exhibitor's fee: \$70. For info. contact Don Stubblebine, 89 Forest Avenue, Rochester, NY 14622
- \* TOMPKINS COUNTY QUILT SHOW: Oct. 14, 15 & 16 at the Women's Community Bldg., 100 W. Seneca St., Ithaca. Hours: 6-9PM Friday, 10-5PM Sat. & Sunday. Admission \$1.00. For more info. contact Pat Valerio: 607/257-6116.
- \* NEW YORK STATE SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL: Oct. 22, 10AM-5PM. Held in conjunction with the 4th Annual Bred Ewe Sale at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, N.Y. Aside from the sheep sale, there will be many wool-related demonstrations & exhibits as well as a fleece show & sale. For more info. see Marianne Horchler.
- \* ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW & SALE: 4th Annual "Christmas in October", sponsored by Finger Lakes Craftsmen, held Oct. 22 & 23 at Monroe

County Fairground, Dome Arena. Exhibitor's fee: \$75 to \$100. For info.: contact Ronald Johnson, 25 Seneca St., Shortsville, NY 14548 or phone 716/289-9439.

- \* FALL WEAVING SEMINAR: Oct. 25, 26, 27 at The Mannings', East Berlin, Pa. There will be 4 workshops: Fashion Fabrics (with Deni Moes), Exploration of the Crackle Weave (with Klara Cherepov), Basketry (with Kari Lonning) & Ecclesiastical Weaving (with Brother Kim Malloy). Registration fees are \$130 for each workshop except for the basketry which is \$110. Write RD 2, East Berlin, Pa. 17316 or call 717/624-2223.  
Also note future events to be held at the Mannings':  
Annual Handweaving Show: Sat., April 14, 1984 through May 6, 1984.  
Annual Spinning Seminar: Sat., June 9, 1984.
- \* 2ND FAMILY FESTIVAL OF PIONEER LIFE: Sat., Oct. 29, 10AM-4PM, rain or shine, at the Cayuga Nature Center, 1420 Taughannock Blvd., Ithaca. They need people to demonstrate pioneer skills, in our case carding or handspinning, so if you are not attending the L.B. Walker workshop that day and would like to demonstrate, please let Jean Currie know immediately: 564-9346 evenings. The Festival tries to provide many "hands-on" activities, where visitors may actually try their hand at a skill or craft. Categories will include: Pioneer use of wood, fiber arts, chores around the homestead, livestock, agriculture, crafts, country kitchen, and old time fun. The festival is not a "craft fair" although people who demonstrate are welcome to sell.
- \* HOLIDAY ART & CRAFT SHOW & SALE: Artists & craftsmen from throughout N.Y. State are invited to apply. For info.: Cortland Arts Council, Cortland, NY. 753-0722 or 753-7536.
- \* SANTA'S WORKSHOP: Nov. 25 & 26, 10AM to 5PM each day, at the Arnot Art Museum, 235 Lake St., Elmira, NY 14901. Sales booth (8ft. table & 2 chairs) is \$25. No commercial items are allowed.
- \* CORNELL 13th ANNUAL HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR: December 8, 9 & 10 from 10AM - 6PM, Willard Straight Memorial Room. This is a juried event; to participate, send 5 slides (color) of your work no later than Oct. 15. Fee is \$75 for 5' by 8' space & \$110 for 5' by 12' space. For info.: William King, Asst. Director, Robert Purcell Union, 607/256-7371.

#### ADVERTISEMENTS

FOR SALE: Registered Suffolk ewe, 18 months old. \$75 or will barter. Paul Buck, 607/533-7616. 1/3

TRY NEW FIBRES: Tussah silk sliver, honey color, \$3.85/2 oz., vicuna down (Llama family, beige color, very fine & soft) \$5.25/3 oz., chocolate brown alpaca top, \$4.50/4 oz., mohair top, off-white, \$4/4 oz., lustrous grey, \$4.50/4 oz., Ramie top, lustrous white, \$2.50/4 oz., carded cotton, very soft, \$3/lb. Also clean skirted fleeces - just sheared some lovely purebred colored Finn lambs! Many new books: "British Sheep Breeds", glossy photographs, \$8.95, Ron Parker's "The Sheep Book", \$19.95. Several spinning wheels to choose from, Studio knitting machines, drum carders, wool & cotton handcarders, the "Support Spindle" & more. Also one used Traditional Ashford wheel in very good condition, \$110. Free delivery to Ithaca. THE WOOLERY, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071, or call Marianne Horchler 315/497-1542. 1/3

One charcoal grey ewe lamb for sale. Finn with Targhee and Romney. Fine soft fleece. A twin from an excellent mother. \$95. Joan Johnston, 272-2697. 2/

Way Station Yarns & Fibers, Greene Depot, Greene, N.Y. Imported and Domestic Yarns & Fibers for knitting and spinning. Louet spinning wheels. Accessories, tools, dyes, books, quilting supplies, including 100% cotton prints and broadcloth. Classes in knitting, spinning and quilting. 607/656-7669. Open Mon.-Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3. 2/3

Handspinning Fleeces - Romney's - white and black - some crosses (Tunis, Finn-Ramb., etc.) - Purebred Romney lambs, white & black, rams & ewes. 607/562-8875 or leave message try 607-733-0184). Ezra Wolcott, Deering Hill Farm, Sing Sing Rd., Box 456, Big Flats, NY 14814. 6/12

Flock Reduction: My husband says there are too many sheep. Black and white Romney and Romney crosses, many with lambs at their side. Average fleece weight was 8 lbs. as lambs. Prices are negotiable. Gretchen Sachse 607-347-4396. 3/3

FOR SALE: 22" Harrisville 4-harness floor loom. Folds up and fits in back of car. Great for demonstrating. New leathers and nylon cords. Fully assembled. \$190.00. Also Fr. Angora rabbits. Denise Nunn, R.D. # 1, Box 375, Newark Valley, N.Y. 13811. 607/642-5568. 3/3

Romney Wool: Black, white and grey. A good selection of healthy, long staple fleeces all well-skirted. A few hogget fleeces offer Romney characteristics plus softness too. Gretchen Sachse 607/347-4396. 3/3

Mohair Adult \$5, Spring Kid \$6.50, Fall Kid \$8 per pound. Washed and picked \$2 extra per pound. Drop spindles \$10. You pay shipping. The Dragon Farm, P.O. Box 431, Elgin, Texas 78621. 2/3

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) 7/9

Loom - 45", 6 treadle, 4 harness Nilus Leclerc with Bench & 12" reed. \$625. Call 607-539-7436. 3/3

Want to place an ad? rates are 50¢ for one run or \$1.00 for 3 runs. Make your check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and send it along with your ad to Marianne Horchler, R.D. 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Deadline is the 18th of each month for that month's Newsletter.

From the September issue of The Marker (Author of the article is unknown)

## Wool Crafts

### Knitting with Handspun

The problems of the right yarn for the pattern, the correct needle size and accurate gauge to match the pattern seem to discourage even experienced knitters from using handspun yarns. When I ask spinner/knitters how they decide on the correct combination of needle size and pattern, I get as many answers as there are knitters. Most complete their explanation by saying, "I use whatever seems to work." Me too.

However, in the winter 1978 issue of Textile Artists Newsletter, Ginny Norris of Santa Barbara gave a guide for estimating needle size that I tried. It worked and I've used it ever since.

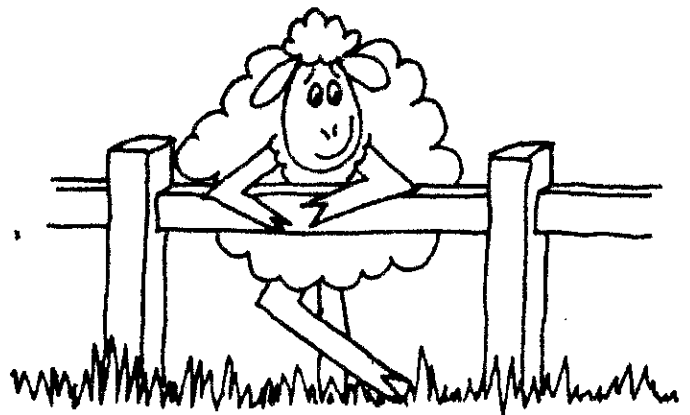
Using an ordinary ruler (its width doesn't matter), wrap the yarn you are using around the width of the ruler until you have covered one-half inch of the ruler. Count the number of wraps. This is roughly equal to the number of stitches per inch your yarn will comfortably make. Now, unwrap the yarn, and measure three inches of yarn lengthwise. Wrap that three inches tightly around a knitting needle of the size you think you want to use. If you get the same number of wraps around the needle as you did around the ruler, that's

the right needle. If you have more wraps than you did around the ruler, try it again on a larger needle; if fewer wraps, try a smaller needle.

Now knit up your swatch, casting on enough stitches to make that swatch approximately five inches wide. Remember, the number of wraps per half-inch on the ruler equals about one inch when knit. A 900 yards per pound, 2-ply wool may wrap five times in that half-inch; three inches of that yarn wraps five times around a #10 needle. So, I cast on twenty-five stitches on a #10 needle to start my five-inch swatch. The only reason I use five inches is because I find it easier to multiply and divide by five than any other number: nothing magic about the number "five". If the finished swatch (see last issue's instructions for the swatch) feels too limp, use a smaller needle. Being somewhat fussy about fit, I prefer to wash, dry and block my swatch before measuring it. After all, I plan to wash, dry and block my sweater before delivering it for wearing. So instead of ripping out each swatch and starting over, I make use of them. For a long-sleeved sweater, sew them as reinforcing patches on the inside of the finished sleeve at the elbow. Presto: extra wear, and as a bonus, extra yarn for mending when needed. They can be used as the outside pocket if the right size, or as the inside of a set-in pocket if not. Or just label it as to size of yarn, size of needle and pattern used, as well as any other information you might want to use later, and file it for future reference.

### Win the Champion Black Fleece

*sheep!* magazine purchased the winning 12½-pound black fleece at the National Lamb and Wool Show. They're offering it to the reader who writes the best letter on, "Why I Think Spinning Is a Great Hobby." Try to do so in 150 words or less and send your entry to Black Fleece Contest, c/o *sheep!* magazine, Rt. 1, Helenville, Wisconsin 53137



A "Hobby?"  
Are they kidding?

