



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

Newsletter 65 - Nov./Dec. 83
Editor: Marianne Horchler
R.D. # 1, GENOA, NY 13071

Christmas is fast approaching and 1983 almost over already. It has been a busy, productive year for most of us with many changes, new ideas and quite a few enthusiastic new members! The craft and art of handspinning - and our guild - are alive and well and definitely improving every year!

November Meeting

Was held on the 12th and attended by few members due to the icy roads and snow. The officers proposed by the Nominating Committee for 1984 were all elected: Virginia Lance, President; Linda Dickinson, Vice President; Joann Schaff, Secretary; Kathie Garnsey, Librarian; Mary Ann Sumner, Treasurer, and Marianne Horchler, Newsletter Editor. There were no other nominations from the floor.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Saturday, December 10 from noon till 4PM at the Varna Firehouse. No special Christmas party, just a time to catch up on last minute spinning.

Mary Ann Sumner will present a program on Natural Dyeing which should brighten up a cold December day and remind us of the lovely Summer and Fall we have had. Bring your own lunch and any favorite cookies you've made.

Saturday, January 7 - ROCK DAY - from 10AM till 3PM at the Varna Firehouse. Rock Day is by tradition the first day after the Christmas celebrations when you can officially start spinning again! We hope some of our old and new friends will come from our own Guild as well as our neighboring guilds. Lunch will be a dish-to-pass and BSHG tradition has it that you bring an interesting SOUP!

CORNELL CRAFT FAIR

Will be held December 8, 9 & 10 from 10AM to 6PM at Willard Straight Memorial Room. The Guild will share a table with 3 or 4 individuals to sell our handspun items. If you have things to sell please call Joan Johnston (607/272-2697) or Joann Schaff (607/347-4817) to make arrangements for getting your things to the Fair. Remember they must be made of handspun or felt, be labelled with your name, address, fibre content, care instructions and price.

Linda Berry Walker Workshops

The 3 workshops given by Linda B. Walker of New Jersey got mixed reviews from our Guild members. Some enjoyed them and were grateful for finally learning how to spin fat or thicker yarns and for picking up a lot of hints on marketing wool. Others complained that the workshops were poorly organized or prepared, that the wool samples that were passed around were very poor and not representative of the specific sheep breed, and that they did not learn much. It is to be noted though that noone spoke up to complain or criticize

during the workshops. Because of this, Linda B. Walker was probably quite unaware of any discontent. Next time, SPEAK UP !

Newsletter

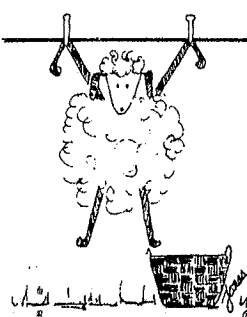
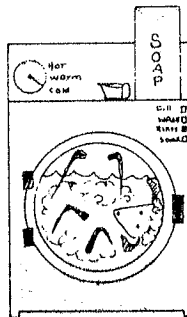
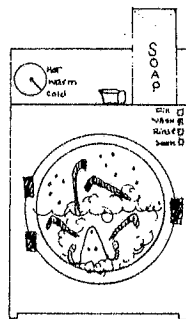
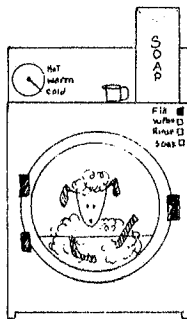
There will not be any additional Newsletter for the month of December but you will be receiving a Christmas Package as in previous years, towards the end of the month. However, to come up with such a package I need your contributions! Please send me any article, cartoon, anecdote, picture etc. that you think might interest other BSHG members. Don't leave it to someone else or you may end up with a very thin Christmas Package! Please try to send it to me before the 25th. (Marianne Horchler, RD # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071).

SURVEY

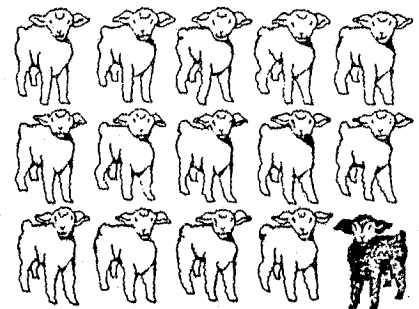
The response to the survey on meeting times (see Oct. Newsletter) is very poor so far. Please let the Guild know what you want by the December meeting. The new officers will have to make decisions soon in order to set up the rental schedule for the Varna Community Association room. This must be scheduled for the whole year so we need to know for sure what days the Guild will meet. Please help out!

YOUR DUES ARE DUE

PAY YOUR D'EWES
OR EWE'LL BE ALL WASHED UP



Remember your dues are due - there is a new membership form attached to this newsletter; please fill it in and return with your money. There are many members who are listed as active but who do not in practice fulfill the requirements for active membership. Please read your Constitution or last month's Newsletter and then decide what your membership should be. If you can't truly be an active member, then sign up for one of the other categories.



MISCELLANEOUS NOTES

- The Guild has bought 24 copies of Barbara Walker's "Knitting from the Top". Many of you signed earlier to buy a copy and at last it is here. The copies will be available at meetings at the Varna Community Association. Cost \$10.65.

- The Tompkins County Arts Council (DeWitt Building, 250 N. Cayuga St., Ithaca) has received the October issue of the "Good News New York State Craft Show Directory" which lists craft shows through May 1984.
- 15 Steps, a Shop and Gallery, is soliciting submission of work from craftspeople for 3 upcoming events: their Holiday Collection which will be housed in the gallery space from Dec. 1- Dec. 31; the First Annual Valentine's Day Show to be held in January & February; and the Second Annual Doll Show to run in Feb. & March. For more info. write 407 W. Seneca St., Ithaca, N.Y. 14850 or call 272-4902.
- The Weaver's Journal is seeking clear photos and information about antique weaving & spinning tools. They are not including looms or spinning wheels, as they hope to feature them at a later date. They also have a contest for guilds: the guild that sends the greatest number of clear photos of antique tools (with drawings for extra clarity, if needed) and information about the origin, approximate date & use of the tools will be declared the contest winner. There will be 3 prizes awarded: 1st- a complete set of The Weaver's Journal, including out-of-print issues; 2nd - a complete set of monographs published by the Weaver's Journal (6 books); and 3rd - a free 2-year subscription to the Journal. Entries must be mailed before Feb. 15, 1984. If interested, or if you have, or know of someone who has, antique spinning & weaving tools, let Jean Currie know as soon as possible! (You might want to check your local museum or antique shops too!)
- The Dewitt Historical Society, Montessori Elementary & Secondary Schools, and BSHG are cosponsoring a folk arts residency at the Montessori School during the 1983-84 school year. The focus of the residency will be traditional textile arts & technology. They are looking for traditional textile artists & craftspeople in Tompkins County or nearby to participate as visiting artists. A traditional or "folk" artist is defined as one who has learned his/her skills in a traditional setting - from relatives or within a religious or ethnic group. Revivalists & self-taught artists do not qualify under the guidelines. Call Margaret Hobbie 273-8284, for info.

UPCOMING EVENTS

"Ukrainian Folk Costumes & Textiles", Feb. 12, 50 W. Main St., Room 3130, Rochester Institute of Technology; sponsored by the Rochester Textile Group. Talk will take place at 7:30PM. For more info. contact Danica Eskind, President at 461-5061 in Rochester.

"Improvising with Reference to History - A Design Technique" March 12, 7:30PM. Same location & sponsor as above. This will be a slide lecture by Kristin Rowley, Rochester fibre artist. She specializes in tapestry woven rugs.

"7th National Handcrafted Wool Showcase 1984", June 14-17, 1984. They have divisions for Handspun Wool, Handcrafted Hats & Caps, Garments made of 100% Handspun Wool, and Garments made of Commercially Spun Wool. Entries close June 1, 1984. For more info. and for specific regulations write Glenn County Fair, P.O. Box 667, Orland,

Calif. 95963, or see Marianne Horchler.

"Quilters", March 24, 4:30PM, GeVa Theatre in Rochester. This is a play based in part on the book "The Quilters: Women & Domestic Art". A review of the play appeared in "Fiberarts" in the Sept./Oct. 83 issue on page 53. The Ithaca Textile Arts Guild is organizing a bus trip leaving from Ithaca and stopping once in Trumansburg. Cost for the theater ticket & bus fare will be \$17.50 per person (\$8 of this amount due with the registration by Feb. 15 and the remainder due by March 7). This is a special group rate. Make checks out to Liese Bronfenbrenner, 108 McIntyre, Ithaca, NY 14850. and include S.A.S.E. For further info. call Liese 607/257-2570.

STUDY GROUPS

- * Please see last page of Newsletter for information on the Color Study Group led by Daisy Kirkpatrick.
- * The second group which will study Fleeces from Various Breeds of Sheep and is led by Mary Ann Sumner, met at Mary Ann's house on November 21. The group is starting its study with 2 fleeces purchased from Linda Berry Walker: a Border Leicester and a Lincoln. Members will card or comb washed or grease wool and knit, crochet and weave samples. The fleeces were found somewhat unsatisfactory for a study as they seemed old, very dry and matted in places. They were however extremely clean and long stapled. If anyone has suggestions or would be willing to donate a white fleece from a purebred sheep for the study group, please contact Mary Ann Sumner (607/257-5754). In addition to Border Leicester & Lincoln, the group is considering the following breeds: Merino, Columbia, Jacob, Finn, Shetland, Shropshire, Targhee, Border Cheviot or North Country Cheviot, and perhaps more...

ADVERTISEMENTS

Remember our rates are going up in January: \$1.00 for 1 run and \$2.00 for 3. Send your ad and check payable to Black Sheep Handspinners guild to: Marianne Horchler, R.D. # 1, Genoa, NY 13071.

Traditional black ash baskets, hand-pounded splint & hickory handles, round bottoms, square bottoms, market baskets, swing handles and other styles. Orders taken. Call Jonathan Kline 607/273-8895
402 N. Titus Ave., Ithaca. 1/1

For Sale: Greenspring spinning wheel - 4 years old - along w/fleece and cards. Call Laurie Brown at Southside Daycare 273-4190 between 10:30-5:30 (wk) or stop by 811 N. Tioga St., Apt. B, Ithaca. \$80.00 neg. 1/1

FOR SALE: 3 white French Angora Rabbits (2 does, 1 buck) born 5/83. \$8 each or all 3 for \$20. Aaron Riddell (607) 277-3379. 1/3

ADD SOME BLUE to your winter dyepot range -- natural indigo patties, synthetic indigo paste, and Spectralite. Can bring to meetings or ship to you. Jean Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648) 6/5

Ashford & other spinning wheels, many fibres, hand & drum carders, spinning accessories, knitting machines, wool yarns, books, T-shirts, posters, stamps, sheepy items, more. Also registered white & colored Finnsheep, registered black Border Leicesters, and Finn crosses, mostly Finn x Dorset and Finn x Border Leicester; portable electric fencing & chargers. Free catalog - mail order or come to: THE WOOLERY, R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. Phone: 315/497-1542. No shipping charges on Ashford wheels and on most of our knitting machines. 1/12

FALL FLOWER HONEY for sale: \$1.00 per pound. (One quart is about 3 lbs.) Will bring to meetings; call to make other arrangements. Don Warholic, 280 Ringwood Road, Freeville, N.Y. 13068. (607/539-7648 evenings) 1/4

FOR SALE: Registered Lincoln and Registered Romney Sheep. Also for sale, crosses of these two breeds plus crosses with Border Leicester in Grey, charcoal Brown and Black. Gloria Scannell, Weavercroft Farm, R.D. # 1, Schodack Landing, N.Y. 12156. 518/732-2916. 2/9

WOOL PICKER FOR RENT. 35¢ per pound in my home or take the picker home for a day \$2.00 or a weekend \$5. Call Cindy Putman Neugebauer 677-9430. Lafayette. 2/3

WOOLWORKS urges you to be creative in carding your wool - it's more fun to spin! Dye some to mix with white or black. Blend with angora, mohair, silk or dog hair. We also carry dyed wool in lovely colors for varying your fleece at 75¢/ounce and golden Tussah silk at \$2.00/ounce (or \$7/4½ ounces). Just a little makes a big difference. You can do it; I can help. Call ahead. Joan Johnston, 1025 Bostwick Rd., Ithaca, NY 14850. 607/272-2697. 2/3

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

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. 3/3

Still good drying days ahead. Get your wool carded now for winter spinning. And remember in washing wool:

1. USE HOT WATER (at least 150 F)
2. USE JOY (or DAWN)
3. DON'T STIR OR AGITATE.

Woolworks, 1025 Bostwick Road, Ithaca, NY 14850. 607/272-2697. Call ahead. 2/2

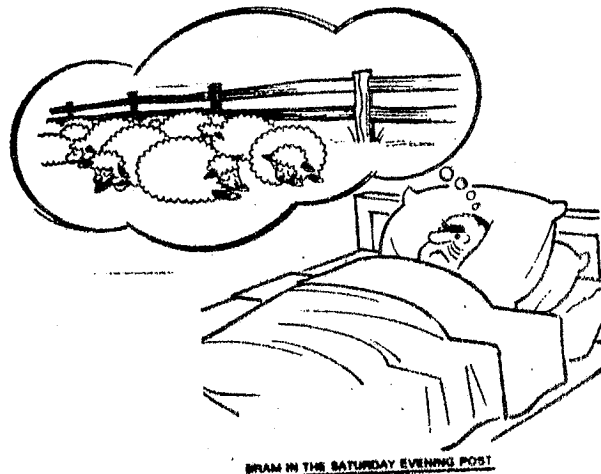
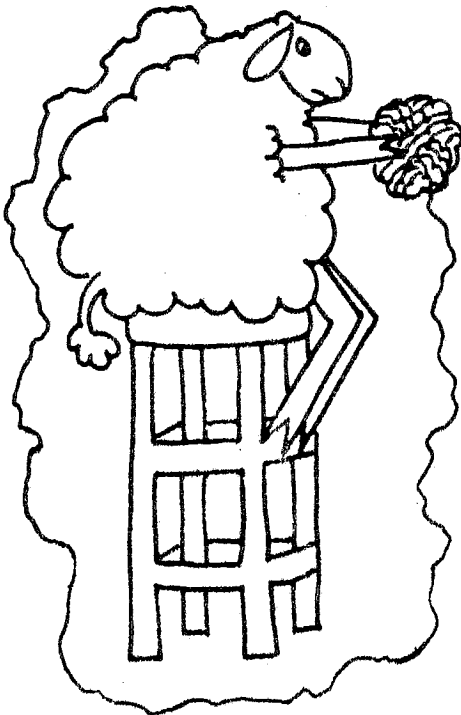
BRAND NEW KNITTING MACHINES for the beginner, ideal for worsted weight yarns, only \$155 ! New Bartlett wool yarns in many beautiful colors: 1-ply sportswear, 2-ply worsted weight, and bulky; plus our exclusive Finn wool yarns (from our own purebred Finnsheep) in white and blue-grey for extremely SOFT garments. New BOOKS: "Natural Wool Dyes and Recipes" by Ann Milner, \$2.95; "Felting" by Marlie Claessen, \$4.50; the new "Finger Lakes Directory of Arts & Crafts", \$4.95.

Also order lamb from us for Christmas, Easter or any time, cut & wrapped to your specifications, and we'll deliver free to Ithaca area. Call Marianne Horchler, THE WOOLERY 315/497-1542, or write R.D. # 1, Genoa, N.Y. 13071. 1/6

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. 8/12

A REMINDER FROM JEAN WARHOLIC

LAST CALL to pick up those indigo-dyed skeins! Unclaimed ones will be brought to meetings through January, including Rock Day. If yours are not claimed by then they will become communal property for guild projects. There is quite a laundry basket FULL and Jean Warholic needs the room for other things !



Color Study Group

Daisy Kirkpatrick will be the leader for the Color Study Group. She would like to have 3 meetings fairly close together, for instance one morning a week, to discuss:

1. Color Theory - group members will paint color wheels
2. Psychology of color - your own relationship to color and why
3. Wool Dyeing Techniques dyeing wool different colors for carding and spinning.

Group members would then meet at about monthly intervals to dye more wool, varying their color scheme, and to share what they are learning.

Daisy would like to have the meetings at her house, 266 Blackman Hill Road, Caroline, since she has lots of space, good natural light and all the necessary equipment. Please plan on carpooling...

It will not be necessary to attend all the meetings. Each meeting will be self-contained and worthwhile by itself. But of course, as with any study course, you get out of it what you put into it...

Please fill in the following questionnaire to help Daisy make plans for the group and return it to her AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

What morning is best for you? M T W T F

What morning is absolutely impossible? M T W T F

At what time could you start ?

What do you hope to learn in this study group?

What particular things would you like to see us do?

What equipment do you have that you would be willing to share?

Other comments...

Send to Daisy Kirkpatrick, P.O. Box 100, Slaterville Springs, NY 14881
Phone 607/539-7941.