



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER
Number 88 - April 1986

Editor: Daisy Kirkpatrick
106 Washington Street
Ithaca, NY 14850
607-272-4552

Apr. 12

NEXT MEETING

10:30 AM - Slide Show, "In Defence of Sacred Land"

This is a presentation about the plight of the Navaho people of Big Mountain, Arizona, who, being led by their elder women are resisting

forced removal from their ancestral homeland. This pressure is being brought by pro-development factions and energy interests and is seriously threatening the way of life of these Native Americans.

12 Noon - Lunch Break

12:30 PM - Natalie Emler, Color Consultant, will be with us to explain the theory of "personal" colors. She will demonstrate how a person's own personal colors are arrived at in a personal color consultation. She will give us a lot of information on how this works which will be continued at our next meeting.

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS

May 10 - continuation of the discussion on personal colors from information given us in April. Bring your favorite and unfavorite clothing/colors. We will be trying things out on each other. This is the do-it-yourself lab following the lecture the month before. Should be lots of fun.

NOTES FROM MARCH MEETING

The 4-H Natural Resources Appreciation Program coordinator has asked for our help arranging a shearing, spinning, and weaving demonstration for their program in May. "Hands on" programs are appreciated but not necessary. The program is for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders. This program has a very good reputation. I hope we will be able to participate. Contact Mary Ann Sumner. 257-5754.

Interest is building in a sheep to shawl demonstration for Market Day in June. JoAnn Schaff asked why it had to be a woven shawl. Couldn't it be knitted? So we suggested a sheep to woven shawl vs. sheep to knitted shawl contest. Each team should have 4 members: shearer, 2 spinners, and knitter or weaver. If shearers cannot be found we could start with fleece. Joann and Marty are already forming the knitters' team. Any similarly enthusiastic spinners/weavers contact Mary Ann Sumner. 257-5754.

WORKSHOPS

Rainbow Dyeing with Nancy Morey. The flyer is included with this newsletter. More fliers can be had from Helen Kiker, if needed.

Jean Case on Silk. Unfortunately, Jean is not able to commit herself to us at this time. Joan Johnston will keep us posted on developments.

COMING EVENTS

Apr 12 - May 3 Mannings National Handweavers' Show, 2 entries handwoven within the last year. \$5 entry fee per piece. Cash prizes. Deadline Mar 29. 1132 Green Ridge Rd., East Berlin, PA 17316. 1-800-233-7166.

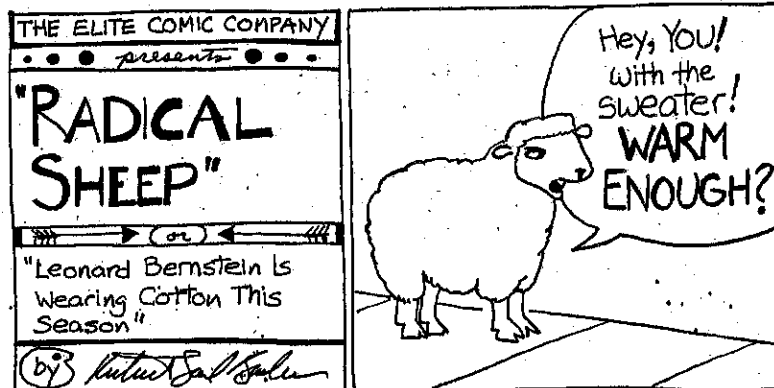
May 2 - 10 Fiber Arts Exhibit and Competition. Lewisburg Council on the Arts. Box 26, Winfield PA 17889. Not juried, judged for cash awards. Jane Peterson 717/743-2211.

May 25 - Genesee Country Museum, Mumford, NY. SPIN-IN. Free admission with advance registration by May 16. Lynn Bellufcio, Genesee Country Museum, Flint Hill Rd., Mumford, NY 14511. 716/538-6822. Helen Kiker has forms for registration.

June 29 Spinners Market Day at 4-H Acres. Mary Ann Sumner coordinator.

June 30 DEADLINE - Upstate Crafts Fair Aug. 7-10. For more information send stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Upstate Crafts, PO Box 173, Ithaca, NY 14851, or call 257-4618 or 273-4783.

October 18 & 19 - Central New York Handspinners Seminar. Theme "Design - From Fiber to Finish", Minnie Bloehm, Guest Speaker. For registration: Cherry Valley Spinners Guild, Mrs. Shirley Howe, 5507 Mt. Pleasant Drive, Cazenovia, NY 13035. 315/655-8883.



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD
is sponsoring

RAINBOW DYEING WORKSHOP

One-Day Workshop with Nancy Morey

Date: Saturday, August 23, 1986

Time: 9 AM to 4 PM

Place: Helen Kiker's House

14 Redwood Lane

Ithaca, NY 14850

This will include a brief history of dyeing. Use of acid, reactive, and combination dyes will be discussed, as well as choosing a dye for a particular fiber and end result. A hands-on dyeing session will be begun before lunch, with the afternoon spent dyeing and experimenting. Many samples and projects will be available to look at before, during, and after the session.

The fiber fee will cover dyeing fiber samples to include: several breeds of wool, including white and gray; mohair; silk caps; silk/rayon sliver; yarns (wool or mohair blend); and, when available, mohair top, wool top, cashmere and angora.

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Registration Form, Nancy Morey Rainbow Dye Workshop

August 23, 1986

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

(please complete other side)

REGISTRATION DEADLINES

May 15, 1986 for BSHG Active Member Discount

July 15, 1986 for all others

COSTS

\$20 for Active Black Sheep Handspinners Guild members who register by May 15 deadline.

\$25 for all others and BSHG active members registering after May 15.

\$15 Fiber Fee - required from all persons registering.

Note - There will be no refunds of registration fees. If you can't come, call Helen for any names on a waiting list, but you are responsible for finding your own replacement.

PLEASE BRING a notebook, rubber gloves, small niddy-noddy (for sample skeins) if available, any fibers you might want to dye, and a bag lunch.

Questions: Call 607/273-3124 or 272-4552.

WORKSHOP FEES

Registration for Active BSHG member by May 15 (\$20)

Registration for all others (\$25)

Fiber Fee (required from all participants) \$15.00

Total

Please make checks payable to Black Sheep Handspinners Guild and mail with this form to:

Helen Kiker, 14 Redwood Lane, Ithaca, NY 14850.

WOOLEN - WORSTED THOUGHTS

from Mary Ann Sumner

We make many, many decisions in planning yarns to spin - some nearly subconscious. "Maybe I'll use up that grey roving for mittens for the kids. Or maybe I can get that luscious rainbow Mohair from Nancy Morey for a special scarf." Too often our choices are limited by habit or materials at hand. Think of the choices:

1. Fiber - wool, silk, linen, cotton, not to mention mohair, angora, alpaca, and synthetics and blends of some or all of these.
2. Yarn structure and size - woolen, worsted, plied, boucle, nubby.
3. Color - natural, rainbow, batts, blended heathers

My love of samples has become something of a joke. But really 4 or 5 ounces of fiber is about enough to get a feel for a new technique. It only takes a couple of hours to spin and (here's the good part) it's enough for a scarf.

At the Ontario Handspinners Seminar there is a competition category for woolen and worsted spin from the same fleece (I can bring pictures). There are two important differences between woolen and worsted. First, woolen is spun from shorter, carded fobers and worsted from longer, combed ones. Second, in woolen spinning, twist slightly preceeds drafting. In worsted, drafting preceeds twist.

If you want to try this from fleece sort about 6 oz. of the longest fibers to comb. There is considerable "waste" in combing. The Guild has woolcombs available for rent with a handout instruction sheet. The waste from combing may be carded for woolen or shorter sections of the fleece may be selected.

If you prefer to skip the preparation try Joan Johnston's carded wool for woolen. Her carder produces batts very suitable for woolen spinning, particularly if shorter wool is used, i.e. 3" - 4". I find that my durm carder alignes the fibers more than I really like for woolen. For worsted try the American Wool Top Marianne Horschler sells for \$8/lb. Both Joan's batts and Marianne's wool top are available in colors if white seems too boring.

For woolen pull a 1" - 2" strip crosswise from the batt. (Lengthwise is easier, but crosswise works better). It is important to start with a really narrow strip so that little drafting is necessary. Try "double drafting" - allow a slight twist into a small section of the batt. Then with one hand holding the yarn and the other hand holding the strip, stretch the section between your hands, allowing twist into this section as necessary to keep it from breaking. Continue stretching until desired diameter is reached. Proceed slowly, avoiding over twist at all costs. The point of woolen spinning is to trap considerable air among the fibers. Woolen yarns are soft and fluffy.

For worsted break off a piece of top a yard or less long. Divide it lengthwise again and again until you have 16 - 20 strips about the size of you finger. My favorite spinning method is to keep my hands stationary, letting the wheel pull the fibers into the yarn, one hand lightly pinches the fiber just before the point twisting occurs. This fiber lends itself to very fine yarn. Worsted yarn is smooth and firm.

ADVERTISEMENTS

RAM FOR SALE - Half Finn, half Border Leicester. White, nice disposition. A handsome fellow and eager breeder. \$100. Joan Johnston 272-2697. 3/3

Time to change some of our floor models: a chance for you to save money on looms and knitting machines!

- New 27" 4-harness Glimakra table loom with stand and 8-dent reed, all assembled, \$325 (20% off suggested retail!)
- New (still in box) 36" Leclerc Inca 4-harness counterbalance loom with 12-dent reed, \$369 (18% off and no shipping charges!)
- Slightly used 32" Beka cherry floor rigid heddle loom; includes 8, 10, and 12-dent heddles, pick-up stick and shuttle. Excellent condition, \$139 (25% off!)
- Two used Studio knitting machines with punchcards (2 different models). Accessories and case included. Both in very good condition.

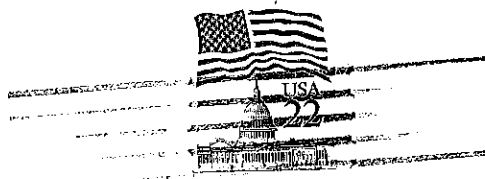
Call Marianne Horschler, The Woolery, Genoa (18 miles north of Ithaca) 315/497-1542. 2/3

BLACKSHIRE: 2, 7/8 Tunis ram lambs, 1 red, 1 black. Known for wool quality, hardiness & temperament. For breeding, pets or wool, not meat. Virginia M. Barker, 960 Snyder Hill Rd., Ithaca 539-6514.2/3

New spinners, try a Louet wheel for \$5 (limit one month) and let this superior wheel convince you. Call HOMEWOOLS 607/243-5282. Delivery to Ithaca area can be arranged. 2/3

Spring Cleaning Time - 10% off all spinning fibers. Colored Lincoln and Lincoln Lamb fleeces, also. Nancy Morey, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745 607/656-4737 1/1

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