



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Number 114 -- November 1988

Editor: Debbie Serviente, 63 Neimi Rd, Freeville, NY 13068. 347-6631.

UPCOMING MEETINGS \*\*\*\*\*

November 12, Noon. At the Firehouse/ Community Building in Varna on Rte 366. DISH-TO-PASS LUNCH. Be prepared to share recipes! After ELECTION of Officers for 1989 we will be laying out all our projects from the year for critiquing. There will also be a discussion on presentation of handspun for exhibitions and competitions. What do judges look for? What draws their eye?

December 10, Noon. Holiday Party!

NEW MEMBERS \*\*\*\*\* Please update your lists.....And welcome, welcome!

Mickie Marshall  
1486 Taughannock Blvd  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
387-3310

TIPS \*\*\*\*\* As I was thumbing through the last issue of THREADS, I was delighted to see a familiar name - Debbie Benzer's tip follows:

"As a spinner and dyer, I spent a long time searching for an inexpensive, simple way to dry fleece and sweaters in my small apartment. I found my solution at a nearby home center in the form of a light-diffusion grid, normally used under fluorescent-lighting fixtures. Not only is the grid inexpensive, but it's also plastic so it doesn't rust. It's lightweight, and one grid fits perfectly over my bathtub." Thanks, Debbie!

MINGLED THREADS: EXPERIENCE, EXCHANGE, INTERACT \*\*\*\*\*

Concentrating on featuring all fiber disciplines - basketry, embroidery, knitting, lace-making, paper-making, quilting, spinning, weaving, ... - the Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference sounds exciting. Featured speakers are Diane Itter, Priscilla Gibson-Roberts, and Stanley Bulbach. The conference is set for June 16-18, 1989, at the Geneseo campus of SUNY, near Rochester. To get on the mailing list:

EGLFC - Registrar  
906 DeWitt Rd  
Webster, NY 14580



HELP !!! \*\*\*\*\* Sometimes as I sit here at night once a month, putting together the newsletter I wonder and wonder ... what should I write? What do you all -- are you all out there? -- What do you want to read about? Are any of you willing to write articles? How terrific it would be to have a constant source of contributions, particularly from those more proficient in spinning and related skills. Anyone have ideas on how to set up a process for this to happen? PLEASE send me your ideas, feedback, contributions, etc. This is our newsletter. Let's make it what we want it to be!

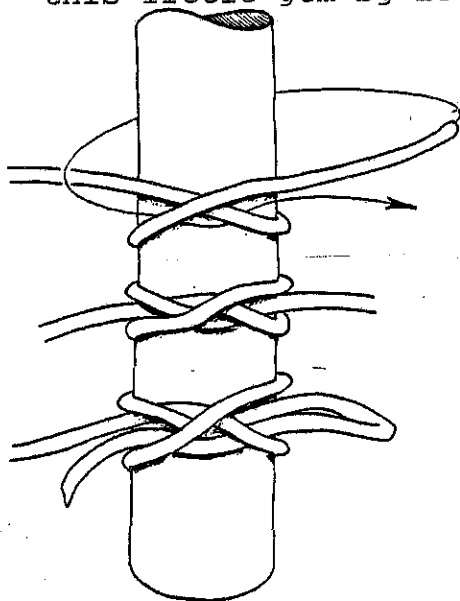
Does anyone know the nursery rhyme of the Niddy Noddy? Someone showed me how to use the niddy noddy at Market day several years ago. As she wrapped the yarn effortlessly around the wood, she recited the rhyme. I've been wondering about it ever since.

NEW YORK HANDSPINNERS SEMINAR  SOAR \*\*\*\*

Didn't get there? Well, catch all the news at the next two meetings when we'll hear all about it from those who attended these two events. Kay and Nancy plan to bring in all sorts of new "toys" from SOAR. And Marie has lots to report from her time at the Seminar.

A SPINNERS KNOT \*\*\*\*\*

Looking through old Spin-Offs from the guild library always surfaces useful information. From the Dec 1985 issue I found this little gem by Lee Raven.



This comes right out of *The Ashley Book of Knots*, page 225, and is called the Constrictor Knot. If it is tied around a convex surface it will not slip, and in fact, binds like a ratchet.

The top part of the sketch shows how the knot is tied; the center shows how the knot looks when it is completed; and the bottom sketch shows how to tie the Constrictor so it will slip (come undone) when you want it to. Just double the end of the cord into a loop when you tie the knot.

Use the Constrictor Knot when you tie your two-ply leader to your bobbin. Tie it so it looks like the center sketch with the two ends coming out between the wrapped loops. Pull it tight and you'll never fuss again with a slipping leader that prevents wind-on. It'll stay there until your leader wears out.

Use the slipped Constrictor when you wind your just-spun yarn from bobbin to reel. The slipped Constrictor will hold tight while you are reeling and then will come easily undone (just pull on the free end of the loop) when you need to remove the skein.

Without a lot of practice, flax spinners find it difficult to tie their stricks with just the right amount of tension so that only a few of the strands flow downward at a time. If you use the slipped Constrictor to tie your finger of flax, you can tie it as firmly as you like, but always come back and untie it to make an adjustment. □

ADVERTISEMENTS \*\*\*\*\*

It's fall shearing time! White, black, & lambswool fleeces available soon; most fleeces are Border Leicester or Border Leicester crosses. Shadeyside Farm, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745. (607) 656-4737. 1/1

Winter Clearance Sale - Raw Wool \$1/lb form assorted breeds of sheep including Border Leicester crosses, Targhee x Finn cross. Raw mohair from 4 yr old does, \$4/lb. Kid mohair, \$5/lb. Angora wether kids ready for 1st shearing \$50 each. Laura Michel 564- 9223.

RATES: 1-3 lines, \$1 for one time, \$2 for 3 times

4-12 lines, \$5 for one time

13 lines-½ page, \$10 for one time

UPCOMING EVENTS \*\*\*\*\*

Nov 19, Sat Annual meeting of the Empre Sheep Producers, featured speaker is Ron Parker. For info, Nancy Morey 656-4737.

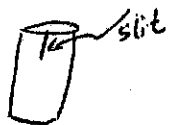
June 15-18, 1989 Eastern Great Lakes Conference

June 23-25, 1989 1989 World Congress on Colored Sheep. A gathering of fibre artists, craftsmen, sheep and wool producers form around the world. Info: Sheepville Productions, PO Box 131, Bear Creek Rd, Curtin, Oregon 97428. 503/942-2577.

CENTER-PULL BALL WINDER \*\*\*\*\*

You can make an inexpensive center-pull ball winder -- all you need is an empty toilet paper roll! -- which, while slower than the purchased kind, produces just as nice a ball of yarn. Why bother? Because a center-pull ball is easier on your yarn, holding it without stretching it so you won't have any size surprises when the yarn relaxes on washing your finished garment. And because a center-pull ball really isn't a ball at all; it has a flat bottom so it doesn't roll all over the room while you are working.

Cut a slot into the toilet paper roll as shown. Drop the end of your yarn into the hollow of the paper roll, bringing the yarn through the slot to hold it there. Now start by wrapping the yarn around the center of the paper roll about a dozen times. Then start wrapping the yarn on a diagonal, bringing it from the bottom of the pile of yarn you just created, to the top. While doing this, slowly rotate the paper roll. When you get to the end, tuck it into the last few rounds; pull the whole thing gently off of the paper roll. Grab the beginning of the yarn from the center and start knitting!



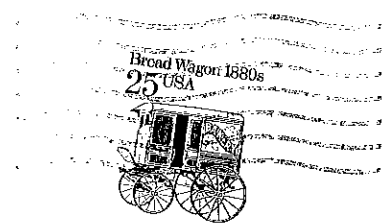
ONCE UPON A TIME there was a woman and she baked five pies. And when they came out of the oven, they were that over-baked that the crusts were too hard to eat. So she says to her daughter, "Darter," says she, "put you them there pies on the shelf and leave 'em there a little, and they'll come again." She meant, you know, that the crust would get soft. But the girl, she says to herself, "Well, if they'll come again, I'll eat 'em now." And she set to work and ate 'em all, first and last. Well, come supertime the woman said, "Go you, and get one o' them there pies. I dare say they've come agin now." The girl went and she looked and there was nothing but the dishes. So back she came and says she, "Noo, they ain't come agin."

"Not one of 'em?" says the mother. "Not one of 'em." says she. "Well, come again, or not come again," says the woman, "I'll have one for supper."

"But you can't, if they ain't come," said the girl. "But I can," says she. "Go you, and bring the best of 'em." "Best or worst," says the girl, "I've ate 'em all, and you can't have one till that's come agin." Well, the woman she was done, and she took her spinning to the door to spin, and as she span she sang: MY DARTER HA' ATE FIVE, FIVE PIES TODAY. MY DARTER HA' ATE FIVE, FIVE PIES TODAY. The king was coming down the street, and he heard her sing, but what she sang he couldn't hear, so he stopped and said, "What was that you were singing, my good woman?" The woman was ashamed to let him hear what her daughter had been doing, so she sang, instead of that: MY DARTER HA' SPUN FIVE, FIVE SKEINS TODAY. STARS O' MINE, said the king. "I've never heard tell of anyone that could do that. Then he said, "Look you here, I want a wife, and I'll marry your daughter. But look you here," says he,.....

from Tom Tit Tot an English folk tale illustrated by Evaline Ness

BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD  
 PO BOX 6701  
 ITHACA, NY 14851



Kay R Stickane  
 64 Willow Creek Rd  
 Ithaca, NY 14850