



BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS GUILD NEWSLETTER

Number 118 - April 1989

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

APRIL 8 MEETING ***** Saturday at Noon at the Varna Community Building/Fire Station on Rte 366. The program will be on PLYING - 2-ply, 3-ply and novelty plies, led by Marie Bryhan and Ann Furman and any one else who has plying information and samples to share!! Of course, there will be lots more talk about SPINNERS" MARKET DAY coming up JUNE 25 at the 4H Acres. A sign up sheet was passed around at the last meeting. It'll be around again this time as well. Many hands make light work, so do think about where you can participate in this yearly guild event. Yvonne "Dillon" LaMontagne will be coordinating our efforts. Her number is 272-3204.

May 13, Noon in Varna. Program to be announced.

June, July, and August meetings will be in guild members homes. Think about whether you would like to host a summer meeting this year.

AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS AFGHANS

It was agreed to make another set of afghans to raffle at Market Day this year. They have been such a success over the last several years. But two twists have been added. One of the afghans will be made of knitted blocks from guild members and the other will be woven from members' yarns!! And we decided that one of the afghans will be for a drawing for guild members only while the other (to be decided which before advertising) will be for public raffling. Here's what's needed:

WOVEN AFGHAN

2 people to spin 250 yards ^{each} of white or grey yarn (natural colors) for the weft.

8 people to spin 150 yards ^{each} of any natural colored yarn.

Total yardage : 500 yds weft and 1200 yds warp. This gives plenty of extra. All yarns must be 2-ply and should be worsted weight to chunky weight for 8 ends per inch. The afghan will be woven with a twill pattern with stripes of natural color and texture. Yarns are needed by the May 13 meeting! Amy Cook will be doing the weaving. (656-8626.)

KNITTED AFGHAN

See next page. We hope many people will contribute to both afghans! And of course, you are welcome to contribute more than one amount to either project. If there is enough extra yarn, Amy may weave off 2 afghans.

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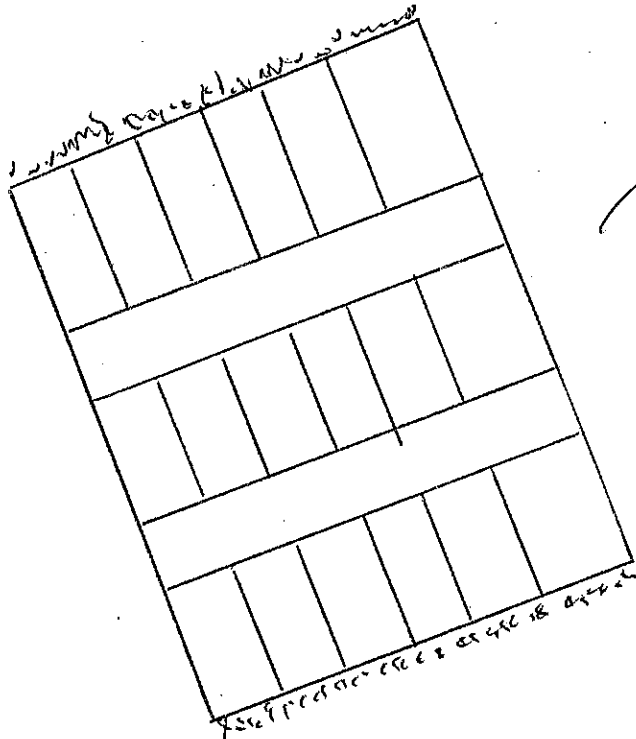
KNITTED AFGHAN

18 swatches to measure 8" x 16"

2 strips to measure 8" x 48"

All contributions are needed by the May 13 meeting. They can be made from any natural colored handspun yarn no finer than a sport weight, knitted in any style or pattern, animal fibers only. The measurement should be from a washed and blocked swatch!! Provide some extra yarn if possible for fringes or crocheted finishing to match.

Debbie Benzer is organizing this great venture. Contact her if you are willing to do one of the larger strips. 277-6830. We will have a piecing party to sew the strips together once they are all made. Last year it was a lot of fun. One party was in the park and the other at my house. Naturally there was lots of food and the afghans went together very quickly.



ITHACA FESTIVAL ***** We have been invited to participate at the Ithaca Festival again this year. It is a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate spinning and to display the afghan and sell raffle tickets. Demonstrations will be Thursday evening, June 1 from 6-10 PM. On Sunday, June 4 there will be a "Family Fun" day at Stewart park. "This area will feature crafts projects for children with total family participation in mind. We are not a babysitting service! We would like the finished crafts projects to be items the children can take with them to play with while in the park...Ideally each activity will last for 2 hours" Applications need to be in by April 10. This has always been a fun event in the past, and the Sunday event has lots of possibilities. Let's talk about it at the April meeting.

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"MOONSHADOW'S CORNER"

Lambing can be a trying time even to experienced shepherds. Every year I learn a little more about each of my animals and it gets a little easier. This year I only sprouted 5 grey hairs for 15 lambs and 20 goat kids born! For me, one of the most difficult aspects of lambing and kidding is knowing when the "main event" will occur. A general due date can be estimated by watching udder development, swelling of the vulva, the stomach and flanks dropping as the baby is getting into position for birthing. If you notice an ewe spending time off alone in a corner (sometimes pawing the ground a lot or being very talkative,) and especially if it's feeding time and she is reluctant to come to eat, then most likely labor has begun its first stages. Individual animals vary at this point. My ewes and does usually start serious labor ½-1 hour after this, but there are always a few sadistic mothers-to-be that just like to see me freeze while waiting on a sub-zero night. They hold out for 2-3 hours before they get down to business. And of course, in every flock there will be the "attention-getters." These are the ewes who from the day they are bred will act as if they are about to lamb. I'm nominating a few of my "actesses" for Oscars this year because they fooled me into spending several nights as a human popsicle in the barn!

-- Laura Michel

BEGINNERS SPINNING SEMINAR ***** Held a few days ago, the beginners' seminar was very successful. Eight people came to learn the rudiments of spinning and preparing fleeces - Dorothy Huey, Celia Radke, Sharon Gombas, Dawn Orr, Barbara White, Donna Rae, Joann Lott, and Debbie Lipman. Many guild members came to share their knowledge - Ann Furman, Jill Lott, Marlee Barney, Carol Wanagel, Nancy Morey, and Amy Cook. There was a huge pile of wool in the middle of the floor and lots and lots of food!! Participants learned how to skirt and sort a fleece, how to wash a fleece, how to hand and drum card and of course, how to spin. Because of generous contributions there was also carded wool from Sunny Bixby and roving from Lisa Merian for everyone to try out. Carol Wanagel's house was wonderful, her kids delightful - all in all everyone had a good day. Nancy and Amy thank everyone who helped out and especially Carol for sharing her nice house. And everyone wishes to thank Amy and Nancy for pulling it all together!

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To Other Spinners Guilds Everywhere!

Leatherstocking Spinners will sponsor a Spinners All in co-operation with the Herkimer Home State Historic Site. This will be Saturday, July 8, 1989. The Herkimer Home is the first right turn off the road (about ½ mile) leading from exit 29 A of the Thruway. From route 5 follow signs to the Thruway and take a left as you go up the hill toward the toll booth. There is a sign.

This will be a spinning day; a chance to become acquainted with fellow spinners from other areas. The H.H. will be open to the public, but we will not be expected to put on a special program. You are certainly welcome to tour the site.

Bring a bag lunch, and a dish to pass for dinner to be held after 4 p.m. There is refrigeration available, grills, and local members near-by could use an oven at home. We plan to be outdoors and will have a tent for shade or shelter. If weather is awful, we can go indoors. (Oh, and own table service).

If you have questions, you may Windhover Wools at 351/823-0969 between 10 & 5. Anyone there will know answers. Or call Marty Fisher in the evening at 315/823-1615.

Feel free to let other guilds on your exchange list know of this event. We are looking forward to a lovely day of spinning, food, and talk!!!

Marty Fisher

MARCH MEETING ***** It's tax time once again, yes siree. This may be the first year ever that I have gotten all the information together to file on time. So I haven't done much in the way of spinning these past days. It's all mulling around in my head. Everytime I enter the room we call the "studio," my eyes aim up to the warping board where handspun skeins hang, waiting to become "something," while my hands are busy with other work. If you were at the last meeting, you saw what can happen when one takes a different attitude. Marty McGee set aside 2 weeks to work completely on one project. She washed fleeces (Nadine and Joey,) dyed, blended, carded, spun, wove, fulled, and sewed a beautiful winter coat which she modelled for us. Some interesting data: she spun 7 lbs of yarn for this project. The original woven material was 40" wide. After fulling it was 26" wide. The fulling was done in the washing machine with lots of starts and stops to check on the progress. As usual, there were many other wonderful show and tells at the meeting. I especially enjoyed dyeing with the logwood and brazilwood. Both were very easy to use and gave rich, deep colors - the brazilwood a cranberry color and the logwood a deep black. Both are supposed to be highly light and wash fast. Thanks Marie! This was the first natural dyeing I had ever done, and I certainly will try my hand at some more -- that is, once the taxes are in the mail.

ADVERTISEMENTS *****

For sale: Purebred, registered Alpine buck. 8 years old, very gentle. \$50. Purebred, registered Border Leicester ram lamb born 2/1/89, bottle-raised, \$200 or swap for a different registered Border Leicester ram. 564-9223. Laura Michel. 1.3

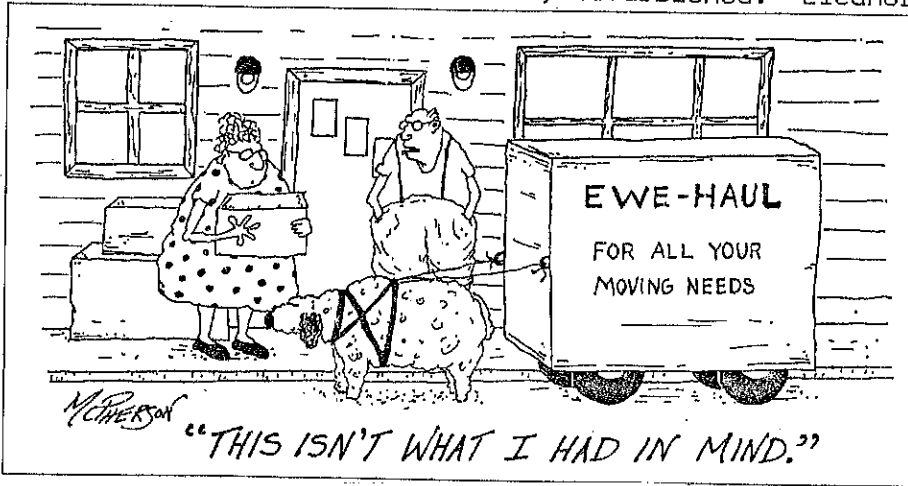
For Sale: Fleeces from Border Leicester & Border Leicester cross sheep, \$2/pound. Mohair \$4-\$6/pound. Tanned lambskins \$45-\$70. Goat milk for orphan lambs \$2/gallon. 564-9223 Laura Michel. 1/3

UPCOMING EVENTS *****

- May 6-7 *Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival, West Friendship, MD*
- June 9-11 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Ron Abbott Box 400 Verona, Ontario KOH 2WO
- June 9-11 Celia Quinn Workshops on Fiber blending and color blending, Great wheel charka & spindle spinning, and clinic and spinning to specifications. Mt Kisco. 914/241-1910
- June 15-18 Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference. Registrar, 906 Dewitt Rd, Webster, NY 14580
- June 16-18 Michigan League of Handweavers "Connections '89", Hope College, Holland, MI
- June 21-25 Mid-Atlantic Fiber Conf, Brandywine Inn, Dainington, PA
- June 23 Sawmill Center for the Arts, Sue Beever Workshops
- June 24 Forest Spin-In at the Cook Forest Sawmill Center for the Arts, Cooksburg, PA
- June 25 BLACK SHEEP HANDSPINNERS' GUILD SPINNERS MARKET DAY 4H Acres
- July 6-9 Midwest Weavers Conf, "Fibers Fireworks '89," Convention Center, Cinn, Ohio
- July 8 Spinner All! with Leatherstocking Spinners - see article
- July 14-16 New England Weavers Seminar, Univ of Mass, Amherst, MASS
- Aug 18-19 Fiberfest '89, Barry County Farigrounds, MI
- June 2-4 2nd Annual Downeast Spinners Spring Retreat. Keynote speaker, Edna Blackburn from Ontario. Workshops. Lobster dinner. Canoeing. Demonstrations. Fashion show. Housing in comfortable cabins. PO Box 4, Bristol Mills, ME 04539. Diane Langley 882-7926 for info. (form Boston Spinners and Dyers March newsletter--see for further details.)

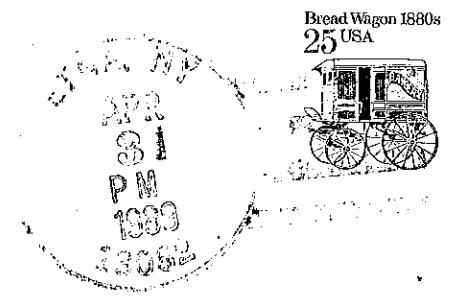
*** *The guild library is always open during meetings. Books and magazines are available for all members to take out. Glorious Knits and Color and Fiber are also available but must be requested from the librarian (Debbie Miller) since they are not kept with the other books. We also have a notebook of other guilds' newsletters which are interesting to look through.*

FOR SALE: guild ASHFORD SPINNING WHEEL, fully refurbished. Eleanor May 272-8224.



Deadline for the May newsletter is April 29. Please send your article, letters, cartoons, drawings, ads, ideas along.

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