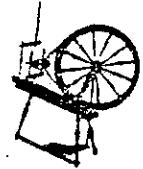




Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

No. 123- October 1989

Editor: Shelly Reif, 4360 McIntyre Rd.,
Trumansburg, N.Y. 14886 607/387-6760



The big question is, 'WHO HAS THE GUILD'S DRUM CARDER?' If YOU are the answer, PLEASE bring it to the October meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS ***

Noon, October 14, Varna: A Spin-In! Chatting, spinning, comparing notes. Nancy Morey is attending SOAR, and will have lots to show and tell. A nominating committee will be formed to find officers for next year. Step right up! We'll also be discussing the questions, "What is an active member?" and "Should 'newsletter only' dues be raised?" Also, it's not too soon to talk about Rock Day. Bring your ideas.

November: Gentle critiquing of the year's work. Do you know someone qualified to critique? Would you like to volunteer? If so, call Nancy Demjanec or Marie Bryhan. We will also be electing new officers for 1990.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE ***

Welcome new members:

Rhoda Meodor
100 Iradell Rd.
Ithaca, NY 14850
607/277-4715

Hermine Nard
RD #1 Box 1
Milan, PA 18831
717/888-9404

MOONSHADOW'S CORNER *** Laura Michel

Tonight I put a marking harness on my ram and put him in with the ewes. I've tried this marking system for 3 years now and I have yet to be successful at establishing breeding dates. Some mishap seems to always happen... I can't wait to see what it will be this year. Putting the harness on Mr. T was only mildly eventful. He's a calm ram and loves to be petted, but when he knows you want to catch him it's like trying to stop a locomotive. He's quite obese and my guess is that he weighs in easily at 400 pounds. All he has to do is walk off and I am dragged along. I finally caught him by lassoing him with the harness as he bolted past me, stepping on my sneaker-clad foot in the process. When he realized he was caught he stood peacefully for which I am thankful because I'm really not sure how to put the harness on. There are more straps and buckles than I can deal with without a manual on "how-to...". Once he was harnessed, I put the ram with the ewes and noticed the harness was too loose so it looks like tomorrow I'll be repeating today's work.

The crayons that come with the harness have given me more grief! One year I put a red crayon on. When I went out to do chores the next morning I thought wolves had gotten in with the sheep! The crayon had come out of the harness and when the sheep slept on it the wax got soft. Overnight all the sheep had rolled around in the melted red crayon! It looked like a battlefield!

Another year I had a blue crayon which was working well until a few of my goats got into the sheep's pen and ate the crayon right off the ram's brisket. The barn later looked like I had thrown a bucket of blueberries around!

SHEEP TO SHAWL CONTEST AT STATE FAIR ***

Oh what a time it was! Three teams in the ring, the stands full, and everyone ready for a good time. This year's contest began at noon. The sheep were shorn in just a couple of minutes, and then each team began to prepare the locks for spinning. Our fleece was a

lovely dark gray, the unwilling donation of Mario, our sheep. This was Mario's first and (alas!) last trip to the fair. He was the only reluctant member of the team. The rest of us (Jay Miller as shearer, Eleanor May as weaver, and spinners Debbie Benzer, Kay Stickane and Shelly Reif) were keyed up and anxious to get going. The contest progressed smoothly. The spun thread always seemed to take on undue lumps when a judge was standing right by, but all in all quality remained pretty consistent. The shawl, woven in twill, featured a beautiful warp rainbow dyed in shades of turquoise and magenta. Our team garnered Second Prize, and we all left the fair feeling exhausted but pleased with a long day's work.

Special thanks go to Debbie Miller, who dyed the warp. The Patience-of-a-Saint Award goes to Monty May, who somehow or other managed to drive his huge truck through a sea of fairgoers so that we could get all our equipment home.

REPORT ON SEPTEMBER MEETING ***

The annual Garage Sale was again a great success. Masses of fiber were bought, sold and traded. Tongues clacked faster than wheels as spinners caught up with each other after the summer. And the food... well, if you weren't there, you really missed it! Sharon Gombas brought in the antique Canadian production wheel which she'd purchased recently from Bill Ralph. It's beautiful, and very fast: the diameter of the wheel is 31 inches!

TREASURER'S REPORT ON MARKET DAY '89 *** Nancy Wilson

<u>Item</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
Rental fee for 4-H Acres (\$50 deposit returned) (Note: Next year price will go up)		\$35.00
Publicity, D. Miller		17.82
Raffle tickets	\$ 3.50	
Booth rental space	34.00	
Printing, D. Serviente		6.85
Raffle tickets	228.50	
Booth rental space	143.00	
Mailing, N. Morey		15.20
Publicity, D. Miller		<u>16.21</u>
	<u>\$409.00</u>	\$91.08

Profit of \$317.92.

TREASURER'S REPORT ON FLAX WORKSHOP *** Nancy Wilson

<u>Item</u>	<u>Credit</u>	<u>Debit</u>
Supplies		\$33.00
Rental of hall		25.00
*****	\$ 36.00	
Fee to the Swarts		100.00
Workshop fees	<u>132.50</u>	
	<u>\$168.50</u>	<u>\$158.00</u>

UPDATE ON SILK ORDER ***

The Columbian silk order will be sent in very soon. Nancy Demjanec has spoken with Barb Lodge of The Northwest Pennsylvania Spinners and Weavers Guild, and we will be combining our order with theirs. The price is \$13.98/lb. for waste silk. Send a check for your order to Nancy Demjanec to arrive no later than 10/21. If you don't remember how much you've ordered, or would like to change the amount or place a new order, please call Nancy, 387-6290 ASAP.

BREAKING OUT OF A SLUMP *** Anne Burton, President, Shore Fiber Arts Guild

The following is reprinted from Spinners Web Guild newsletter. It really hits home.

For the past two years I have been in a slump. I seem to get very little creative work done - no knitting, not much spinning (except for some sampling). Angry and frustrated, I've asked myself why nothing gets accomplished - meaning knitting and spinning. Here are some of the reasons I have recently recognized.

1) I don't plan for projects. Every fiber magazine emphasizes planning before beginning a project. For spinners like me, this is hard to do. It is so enticing to spin a little of this or a little of that. There comes a time to stop sampling and start spinning for a project. Otherwise (I've found by experience) you end up with a basket full of beautifully spun skeins in search of a sweater.

2) I don't discipline myself to do those things I love, like spinning. I guess the old Puritan work ethic comes into play here. I see spinning and knitting as my reward. And rewards are supposed to come after you do the stuff you have to do, like cooking, laundry, picking up, etc. And since those things always need to be done, I never get to the rewards. Well, I've decided that spinning and knitting have to be done, if only to keep myself sane. If I can set aside even 10 or 15 minutes each day to sit and spin or knit, I'll be saner and more productive.

3) I let myself get hung up on details. When I reach a roadblock in spinning or knitting, I tend to stick the project away and see myself as a failure for not finding a solution right away. Instead of picking up another project, preferably something easy and mindless, like a Cap for Children project, I sit there getting madder and madder that I can't seem to figure this one out. I've realized that things need to percolate through my brain so that I can work out my own solution to the problem over time. Having more than one thing going allows me to put my mind on auto-pilot and give myself thinking space.

4) I don't give myself credit for my successes, however small. By being a perfectionist and setting my goals too high I set myself up for failure if even one small detail doesn't turn out as I expected. There is no perfect sweater, as I've learned to my dismay. But as the Shore Fiber Arts Guild vice-president, Virginia Green, says, "This is the sweater I'm working on now." The next one will be different.

5) I make excuses not to get started. It's easier to wash the dishes sometimes than to start a project. When I do finish something, it has become an old friend and I am loathe to start another. Humans don't like change, and so they procrastinate. I need to do it, even if I make a mistake.

6) I make it work instead of play. Sometimes the fun of spinning and knitting gets lost when I see it as a chore. Remember the saying, "If it feels good, do it"? Perhaps that philosophy is shaky, but the opposite is true when applied to my craft: If it doesn't feel good, don't do it. I started spinning and knitting because I enjoyed it. If I stop enjoying it, I'll quit.

I've been working myself out of my slump this year. I don't know how it happened but I've started being easier on myself and the joy of the craft has come back. If you are frustrated by a slump, if you go to study group meetings and end up envying other people's productivity and mentally flagellating yourself for your inability to get anything done - take it easy on yourself. Think about why you do what you do. Start enjoying your craft again.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

September 19 - January 28: "NEWS '89, Contemporary Handweaving", featuring prizewinning decorative and wearable textiles from the New England Weavers' Seminar. MATH, Andover, Mass.

October 14-15: Central New York Handspinning Seminar at the Sheraton in Syracuse. Features, among others, Trudy Van Straylen, a Canadian known for intense colors she achieves with natural dyes. For info contact Sunny Bixby, RD1 Box 29,

Verona, NY.

October 14: Cayuga Nature Center Festival of Early American Life. Saturday 10am-4pm. The aim of the festival is to provide hands-on learning to people of all ages. Several guild members are already going. Contact Kay Stickane, 387-3687.

October 21-22: New York State Sheep and Wool Festival, Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rhinebeck, NY. Includes sheep, sheep dogs, fleece, rare breed, llamas, dyeing, fleece to fabric, sheep auction. Many classes will be available, open to the public. Alice Johns can make bed and breakfast arrangements in local spinners' homes for those who would like to attend. Contact Nancy Morey for more information.

October 28 & November 4: Beginning 4-harness weaving class at the Woolery. See advertisement below.

November 4: Northeast Spinners Gathering, Enfield, Conn. Nancy Morey can offer a ride.

ADVERTISEMENTS ***

Advertising rates:

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

4-12 lines: \$5 for one time

13 lines- 1/2 page: \$10 for one time



Need supplies or books for spinning, felting, weaving, knitting, dyeing, basketry or bobbin lace? Come to the Woolery, Genoa (18 minutes from Ithaca) 10-4pm Mon.-Fri. Other times by chance or apt. 315/497-1542.(2/3)

I'm overwhelmed. Selling fleeces, sheepskins, Romney ram & ewe lambs and adults. Everything from white to silver to black, including Ranger's extra long staple pale gray. Lovely for spinning - check out BSHG sheep-to-shawl entry. Shelly, 387-6760.(2/3)

For sale: Regis. Border Leicester ram lambs, 2 Leicester x ewe lambs and 2 Leicester x ram lambs. Gorgeous fleeces. Also angora rabbits bred for wool production. Many colors. Woolery Farm, Genoa. 315/497-1542.(2/3)

For sale: Schacht 4 harness table loom. 15 inch weaving width, used 1 year, in excellent condition, \$200. Also, new Schacht Spinning Wheels in stock. Special price \$385.00 including lazy kate. The Spinner's Hill Shop, RD #1 Box 118, Brackett Lake Road, Bainbridge, N.Y. 13733. 607/843-6267.(1/1)

Need wool or blends picked and carded? Try our industrial picker and carding machine for a wonderfully light and continuous web. 5 lbs. min. Fingerlakes Woolen Mill, The Woolery, Genoa. 315/497-1542.(2/3)

Drum carder for sale, \$90.00. Fricke (sells new for \$140) with coarse teeth, 8 inch drum. Debbie, 347-6631.(1/3)

The Woolery (Genoa) needs non-smoker to WORK PART-TIME to help sort, wash & card wool, groom rabbits, help on phone, etc. Must be dependable. Work is varied, hours flexible. Spinning/weaving experience a plus. 315/497-1542 or 800/441-9665. (1/3)

The Woolery is presenting a class on BEGINNING 4-HARNES WEAVING on 10/28 & 11/4 (10-4PM). \$35 fee includes all materials & use of equipment. For registration form please send a SASE to The Woolery, RD1, Genoa, NY 13071, or stop by. 315/497-1542. (1/3)

CASSEROLE DYEING

ANN STONE, Thistledown Hand-spinners Guild, Norwich, New York. 1977.

FIBERS. Almost any fiber may be casserole dyed, with the proper dyestuffs. It depends on your choice and intended use. The dye you use can be natural, or commercial, especially formulated for the fiber you are planning to dye. Since I prefer wool, these directions are for that fiber. Washed wool in the form of roving, top, batts, and even skeins of yarn can be dyed by this method. Skeined yarns, after dyeing, will not give your project the same results that dyeing before spinning will. The colors and effects with this method of dyeing are unbelievable and with experience you will find that you have added another dimension to your weaving, knitting, crocheting possibilities.

SUPPLIES. What you would expect in normal dyeing: mordants, measuring cup and spoons, quart jar (to mix the basic dye formula), salt shaker (to sprinkle the dry dye onto the fiber), at least 2-oz. of fiber to dye, Glauber salts (or non-iodized salt), and a covered, enamel roaster pan. And vinegar. And I hope your oven has a reliable heat of 350°. Mordant wool only if using natural dyes.

BASIC FORMULA. (Commercial dyes.) 1 Tablespoon of dry dye to one cup boiling water. This makes a concentrated dye which you can adjust accordingly with experimentation. This is for "wet dyeing," when you spoon the dye on. To dry dye, pour the different colors into salt shakers. For both dyeing methods, you will need to mix up the following: 1/2-cup white vinegar to 3 qts. water.

PROCEDURES. Put your fiber into the roaster pan. You can spiral it in a circle, or "snake" it back and forth in parallel lines (top works best this way), put tufts or small pieces in, or ... ? It is up to you and your imagination! Gently pour the vinegar/water solution over the wool to cover. Let stand for at least 15 minutes. Drain, leaving some moisture in the fiber, but not enough to be soupy. Set the over to 350°.

Wet Dye Method

1. Mix the dyes as above, each in a separate container.
2. Using a tablespoon, spoon dyes onto fiber where you want them.
3. When the dyes rise to the surface when pressed with a spoon, there is sufficient dye added.
4. Rub the dyes a little where colors meet to blend, or leave as is.
5. Cover casserole, bake at 350° for 15 minutes.
6. Remove cover from casserole, pour in boiling water almost to cover, replace cover, and bake 30 minutes more.

Dry Dye Method

1. Shake, very sparingly, the dry dyes onto the areas you want each color. A little dye goes a LONG way.
2. Rub over the dry crystals with a spoon to blend.
3. Bake, covered, at 350° for 15 minutes.
4. Remove cover, add boiling water up to wool but not to cover top of wool, replace cover of pan, and bake for 30 minutes more.
5. Cool slightly before rinsing.

NOTE FOR BOTH METHODS: If you have put 4-oz. of fiber in your casserole instead of 2-oz., bake an added 15 minutes.

When through baking, remove pan from over and drain the dye water. Rinse until the water runs clear. Dry wool.

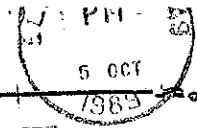
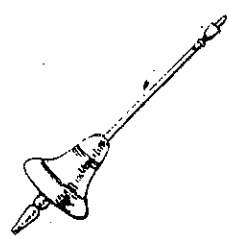
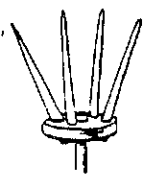
NATURAL DYESTUFFS. (A few hints.) Mordant the wool first. Bake as with either method above. Drain, rinse, and dry.

Please see my booklet, *Crafty Casseroles* (\$1.75 plus tax from A. R. Stone, Sheeppy-Hollow, Cassville, New York 13318), for more detailed information and ideas. The above is a very abbreviated version only.



Jazz at the Wool Club

"Yak: A pretty cow dressed up for the opera." Paul Thoreau, Riding the Iron Rooster.



USE ZIP CODE



Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, NY 14851



Kay Stickane
64 Willow Creek Road
Ithaca, NY 14850

*P.S. Sorry the cookies didn't
make it in this month.
Shuly*

Submissions for next newsletter due October 28.