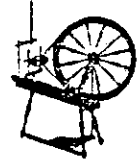




# Black Sheep Handspinners Guild Newsletter

No. 124- November 1989  
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The big question still remains, 'WHO HAS THE GUILD'S DRUM CARDER?' If YOU are the answer, PLEASE bring it to the November meeting.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS \*\*\*Noon, at Varna Community Center

**November 11:** Gentle critiquing of the year's work, or work in progress. Also, election of next year's officers, and a discussion of plans for Rock Day. Nancy Wilson is looking into the possibility of guild T-shirts, suggesting that we have a design contest and make the shirts available for Rock Day! In addition, a committee should be formed to develop a program/flyer for demonstration purposes (see Pioneer Days). We also hope to hear from Elie May on her recent trip abroad.

**December 9:** Dish to pass and small gift exchange. This was a lot of fun last year, so be sure to put it on your calendar! Celia Quinn's spring workshop is now definite. Sign up in December.

## REPORT ON OCTOBER MEETING \*\*\*

October's meeting found a small group of spinners out behind the Varna Firehall at the picnic table. After the yellow jackets left we relaxed and had a good time spinning, knitting and discussing guild business. A committee was chosen to nominate next year's officers for election at the November meeting. On the committee are Marie Bryhan, Amy Cook and Debbie Serviente. The latter two were not present at the time - you can see that it pays to come to meetings, else heaven only knows what you'll be volunteered for!

Alison Lovejoy reported that Lamb to Loom Guild has started up again. They will become part of our newsletter exchange.

Yvonne LaMontagne has volunteered to coordinate next summer's Market Day. It's not too early to start thinking about how you might like to contribute.

Nancy Morey, who had just come back from SOAR, said that in 1990 SOAR (Spin Off Autumn Retreat) will be held almost right in our own backyard: at the YMCA of the Adirondacks, outside of Lake George, with workshops Sunday-Wednesday and retreat Thursday-Saturday.

In addition, the members present, after reviewing the guild constitution concerning active and inactive membership, decided that the guild should no longer offer a "newsletter only" membership, as it did not differ substantially from inactive membership.

## PIONEER DAYS \*\*\*

While the October meeting was going on in Varna, a group of 5 spinners was busy out at the Cayuga Nature Center. Pioneer Days participants included Sharon Gombas (in authentic dress), Ann Furman, Debbie Benzer, Jill Lott and Kay Stickane. They had a good time demonstrating their craft to a host of onlookers, and read "Charlie Needs a New Cloak" to the children more than once. There was a lot of drop spindle activity, and everyone wanted samples to take home.

After participating in this and other demonstrations, Kay has come to the conclusion that the guild needs to develop a program for demonstrating. She suggests that the guild buy a resource book for the library, possibly invest in wrap-around skirts/T-shirts, and develop a handout of background information on spinning, lists of supplies and resources, and simple ideas for tools like drop spindles and (dog) cards.

## NEW YORK SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL\*\*\*

Held October 21 & 22 in Rhinebeck, this 10th annual festival lasted two days. Nancy Morey participated, and said that the events, which ranged from dying to spinning to sheep dog demos, were a lot of fun. She saw both Arlene Mintzer and Stanley Bulbach there, the latter in a 3-ply natural Lincoln lambswool sweater which he'd made. There were many vendors and LOTS of goo-oo-ood food. This one place, Nancy said, had these pastries.....

## TREASURER'S REPORT\*\*\* Nancy Wilson

Recently I subscribed to 2 years of Handwoven and Threads, and one year of Knitters and Spinoff. In September I mailed the State Fair award check (\$25) to Sandra Squires and we received a thank you note from her. We also received our membership to the Empire State Craft Alliance (\$25). The checking balance as of 10/27/89 is \$371.20.

## MOONSHADOW'S CORNER \*\*\* Laura Michel

I'm always trying to find new ways to be more efficient and organized with my farming. My family and friends tell me I work myself too hard and that I should simplify my lifestyle. Our materialistic society tries to convince us that there is some mechanical gizmo that will make our lives hassle-free. I invested in two of these... a cordless phone and an intercom system.

The first cordless phone I had worked great and came with a clip to attach to my belt loop. I was so happy not having to choose between running to the house or missing calls when the phone rang. Life was looking up until one day I was fixing fence in the pig pen and my playful pig rooted the phone off its clip. Within seconds two of my 200 lb. pigs were playing "monkey in the middle" with my phone! (Guess who was the monkey!)

The phone wound up buried in six inches of muck in their wallow. Yuck. I had only had the phone about a month so I cleaned it up and with wide-eyed innocence told the store I purchased it from that I had no idea why it didn't work. I got my refund but I still wonder about the repair technician who must have opened up that phone.

The next cordless phone didn't come with a clip so I used to put it in my jacket pocket until it took a dive into a 5 gallon pail of molasses water in the sheep pen when I bent over. That too was returned with a "mysterious ailment".

The present phone must have nine lives. I have dropped it, flipped it into water, had a goat step on it, lost it in my field for the day and only found it by having a friend call and let it ring while I ran around listening for it. It still works, but there's something rattling in it when I tip it from side to side. Must be from when I dropped it in a 55 gallon barrel of grain.

I have to admit that I won't be without a cordless phone. When an animal is sick I can wait for the vet's call and stay in the barn with the animal. Once last spring this happened. I had a ewe with a difficult birth and I was lying face down in the pen with my arm way up inside the ewe, trying to get the lamb positioned. The phone rang and since I expected the vet's return call I answered with my free hand. It was some woman who wanted to ask questions about the hay I feed. When I politely explained to her what was going on I could hear her face turn green over the phone. I told her to call back in an hour or two....She never did.

## UPDATE ON SILK ORDER \*\*\*

The silk order is complete. Nancy Demjanec has coordinated with two other guilds, has their checks together with ours, and is putting it all in the mail!! Be prepared to make a contribution towards postage when you receive your silk.

Nancy Morey, who has seen previous orders of this silk, says that some batches are not completely degummed, and thus look somewhat yellow. She offers these instructions for degumming:

For 1 lb: use 1/4 to 1/2 cup Ivory Snow (flakes)  
Cook at 150 to 190°F for 1/2 hour  
Check it - it should look white; if it's still yellow, cook longer  
Let cool to hot tap temperature  
If you cool it too much, you'll get a gelatinous mass which you must reheat

### YOU ASKED FOR IT \*\*\*\*

And at long last, here it is: Nancy Wilson's recipe for those luscious bars she brought to the September meeting.

#### Nancy Wilson's Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Bars

1 1/2 C packed brown sugar  
1 C shortening (margarine)  
2 T molasses ( "The iron makes it all worthwhile," says Nancy.)  
2 t vanilla  
2 eggs  
3 C oats (quick-cooking)  
1 C flour  
1 t baking soda  
1 t salt  
3/4 C chopped nuts  
12 oz. chocolate chips (1-2 cups)

In large bowl beat sugar and shortening till light and fluffy. Add molasses, vanilla and eggs and blend well. Lightly spoon flour into measuring cup and level off. Add oats, flour, baking soda and salt. Blend well. Add nuts and chips. Spread in greased 9 x 13 pan. According to Nancy, the recipe says to bake at 350°F for 20-25 min., but she bakes hers for 40-45 min.

Thanks, Nancy, and best of luck with your imminent delivery!

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS \*\*\*

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.

November 18: Empire Sheep Producers conference at Cornell, including a tour of the Mt. Pleasant sheep barn in the afternoon.

### 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 appt. 315/497-1542.(3/3)

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.(3/3)

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.(3/3)

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.(3/3)

Drum carder for sale, \$90.00. Fricke (sells new for \$140) with coarse teeth, 8 inch drum. Debbie, 347-6631.(2/3)

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. (2/3)

The Woolery is presenting a class on BEGINNING 4-HARNESS 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. (2/3)

Fleeces from my purebred & crossbred Border Leicesters. I have many to choose from & need to make room for upcoming shearing. They were \$2.00/lb, now \$1.50/lb. Mohair too at \$4.00/lb. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223. (1/3)

For Sale: Purebred registered ram lamb born 2/1/89. Bottle raised twin. Beautiful fleece. Very tame. To good home only. Offers over \$100 considered. Moonshadow Farm, 564-9223 (1/3)

For Sale: Great wheel. Spins well, \$225. Also, white angora female bunny, 8 months old, breeding unknown, \$10. Call Amy Cook, 656-8626. (1/3)

### FREE COTTON SLIVER OFFER\*\*\*

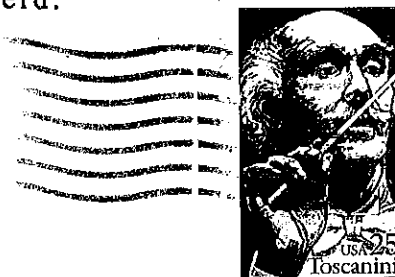
Vreseis Ltd., PO Box 791, Wasco, CA 93280 will send you cotton equal to the amt. of Vreseis' FOXFIBRE naturally colored cotton you use in a handspun yarn or article displayed in show, booth,etc., if you label the item as spun from FOXFIBRE and send Vreseis a photo.

### The Last Word\*\*\*

A friend of mine recently took her young son to visit a flock of sheep. He loved to see, smell and touch them, but after a while he looked around with a concerned expression on his face and asked, "But where's the leopard?" My friend puzzled over this for a while and had sweet visions of the lions lying down with the lambs. It was some time later, remembering that one of her son's favorite books was the Little Golden Book version of the 23rd Psalm, that she figured out that he was looking for the shepherd.

## Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

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There will be NO newsletter in January. Submissions for next newsletter due by Thanksgiving.