

Visit to Rochester Museum Weaver's Choice – Patterns in American Coverlets

on display 1/14/93–4/18/93

by Eleanor May

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I would not recommend a special trip to Rochester to see the exhibit, but I would not miss it if I were there. If you attended Convergence in Chicago in 1988 you probably saw this exhibit. A soft cover book, *Weavers Choice* by Janice Tover Wass is a catalog of this exhibit. It can be obtained at the Rochester Museum or from Illinois State Museum, Spring and Edwards Sts., Springfield, Ill 62706.

Scarf Exchange

Leatherstocking Spinners have had great success with their scarf exchange project: They draw names and plan, spin for and construct a scarf for that person. They agreed that each scarf would be no less than 50% handspun, which allowed for a commercial warp.

Sounds like fun - shall we try it?

lost and found

Walking around with cold tootsies? Alison Lovejoy has a pair of hiking boots left at the retreat. Call Alison at 748-3525 if they're yours.

Home on the Grange

Norris and Neva Woolley, State Fair Grange Directors, invite spinners to demonstrate spinning, weaving and/or carding at the Grange Building at the 1993 NY State Fair. They'll provide volunteers with a parking pass and free admission to the fair. If you are interested in spinning at the Grange this summer, please contact them at 9239 South Dayton, Silver Creek Road, Forestville, NY 14062.

Wool Handling School

Empire Sheep Producers Association will host an American Sheep Industry (ASI) Wool Handling School at the Cornell Sheep Barn on April 23 and 24.

The 1 1/2 day school will focus on regional management styles and practices, with the goal of increasing producer awareness of wool quality and improving clip preparation to increase profitability.

Training will include classroom info on all aspects of wool, from fiber characteristics to selection, handling and marketing, as well as hands-on training in the shearing barn. Cost is \$35, which includes a Wool Handling Manual.

Contact Nancy Morey, PO Box 48, Chenango Bridge, NY 13745, (607) 656-4737 for more info.



BSHG offers the warmest of heartfelt congratulations to Debbie and Jay Miller on the arrival of their son, Isaac.

We're sure glad you're here!

Nancy Morey at MAFA

Have you seen the MAFA brochure? If you're interested in either of Nancy Morey's classes, please note: THE BROCHURE IS WRONG! Here's the straight poop:

The rainbow dyeing class is with silks: cocoons, waste, caps and tops.

The sericulture class will be spending the afternoon spinning -A WHEEL IS NEEDED.

Spinners and Dyers All!

The Farmer's Museum in Cooperstown, NY once again invites spinners and dyers to its annual Spinners and Dyers All! on Sunday, August 15.

To participate, all you need is a wheel and some fiber. As a participant you will receive free admission to the museum, a 10% discount at their various stores, and a chance to sell.

They'll be working two natural dye pots for the Museum's future weaving projects; spinners are welcome to dye premordanted yarns in the exhausts. In addition there will be grates and fires available for any dyers who wish to bring their own pots, dyes and fibers (not restricted to natural dyes).

This year all participants are invited to stay and join the Museum staff for a potluck dinner. Contact Shelly (256-1458) for a Registration Form. Spinners must register by July 23, Vendors by July 16.

Ontario, Ho!

Jean Currie, Ellie May and Anne Furman plan to attend the Ontario Handspinners Seminar this June 11-13. Anne is entering her Emperor's New 3-Ply. The stuff is nearly invisible! Marie Bryhan weighed it on a milligram scale, and found that the singles weighed 8.29mg/meter. Okay, Anne, what are you going to use it for?

Advertisements

Advertising rates:

3-6 lines: \$1 for one time, \$2 for 3 times.

7-24 lines: \$5 for one time

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

For Sale: Valois Romney Fleeces and Skins, and Breeding Stock. Michael Boggs, evenings, 546-2436.

For Sale: Ashford wheel, like new, \$150. Pat Amato, 277-4049 or 277-0157.

Wanted: Used Louet spinning wheel. Please call Jan at 589-6924.

Wool: A Hard Act to Follow!

Nancy Morey reports with glee that she has been appointed to the American Wool Council. "The Wool Council," she writes, "is part of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) and is composed of 7 producers from across the country. It oversees all aspects of promotion, research, development and quality improvement for American wool. Some projects under development now include: using wool to mop up oil spills; wool futons; a new dyeing technique enabling the manufacturer to dye inventory many colors at the same time (that is, small amounts of inventory dyed one color, some another color, some a 3rd, etc...); a wool quality improvement program, to bring American wool back into the international marketplace; and research on more wool/cotton blend yarns. We also actively promote the Wool Act, which is what gives us the Wool Incentive payments.

"Now...a few words about the Wool Act - there's been so much negative publicity lately that it is taking tax payers' \$\$. In actuality, the Wool Act is an incentive program to produce better wool; in years when the market is high, the incentive drops, and conversely when the market is low, the incentive rises - some years, there was no incentive payment because the market was good!

"Many TV shows and newspapers have wrongly maligned the Wool Act. Payments to producers come from tariffs assessed on imports of wool and wool products, not from taxpayer \$\$, and the incentive program may not use more than 70% of those tariffs. To date, the tariffs collected exceeded \$7.4 billion, with payments over the 38 yrs of the program totaling a little over \$2.3 billion; over half the tariffs collected are put directly into the US Treasury.

"The Wool Act also provides lamb and wool producers with a 'self-help' program. A tax is levied on the incentive payments to pay for promotion, marketing and education programs. Many of the pamphlets and brochures used at the Wool Center [at the NYS Fair] are from these promotion dollars."

Spin-In at Country Museum

The Genesee Country Museum's annual Spin-In will be held on Sunday, May 16. We should be receiving registration materials any time now.

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Coming Attractions

Jan 14-April 18, 1993: Weaver's Choice: Patterns in American Coverlets, Rochester Museum and Science Center, 657 East Ave., PO Box 1480, Rochester, NY 14603-1480. See Ellie's review of the exhibit, page 2.

April 16-18: Southeastern Fiber Forum, Arrowmont Campus, Gatlinburg, TN. Seminars on bobbin lace, coverlets, beading, spinning silk and cotton (Persis Grayson, many others). For brochure: Fiber Forum '93, Carol Pritcher, 3716 Timerlake Rd, Knoxville, TN 37920. 615-277-2828.

May 16: Spin-In '93 at the Genesee Country Museum, Mumfords, NY.

June, 1993: Intensive weaving instructors course: 14-day sessions with Rachael Emmons at Fletcher Farm Craft School, Ludlow, VT. For info send SASE to Ervin Henecke, RD2, Box 33, Crown Point, NY.

June 11-13: Ontario Handspinners Seminar.

June 20: BSHG's Spinners Market Day!! Map will be included in May newsletter.

June 23-27: "The Gathering": Mid Atlantic Fiber Conference, Bucknell University, Lewisburg, PA. Preconference workshops, June 23-25, main conference June 25-27. For further information, contact Marsha Herr, Registrar, 3316 Woodside Ave, Baltimore, MD 21234.

July 23-25: Eastern Great Lakes Fiber Conference, SUNY Geneseo. For information, write to EGLFC Registrar, 906 DeWitt Rd, Webster, NY 14580.

August 15: Spinners and Dyers All! The Farmers' Museum, Cooperstown, NY.

August 26-Labor Day: The Great NY State Fair, Baldwinsville, NY.

Black Sheep Handspinners Guild

P.O. Box 6701
Ithaca, NY 14851



Kay Stickane
6341 Willow Creek Rd
Ithaca, NY 14850

Submissions for May newsletter are due by April 22.



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