



A Message from the President

Greetings to all on this fall-ish day,

That distinctive feel is in the air, the days are noticeably shorter, and I am ready to put the gardens to bed. Well, maybe. I am certainly ready for more fiber time. In that vein, and in order to work those under-used festival skills, Sue Quick, Abby and I spent Sunday afternoon helping Linda and friends at the NYS wool booth get ready for the state fair. There was a somewhat party feel (and yes there was cake) as we turned an almost empty booth into one ready for spinners and visitors. One of our "chores" was measuring and bagging the lovely wool batts carded by Sunny Bixby and dyed by Linda, which are available to the demonstrators for use there. Linda also has some beautiful batts from her own sheep, from a possibly new breed, that may prove too tempting--I do love spinning different breeds. Sue and I already decided to purchase some of the mohair/wool blend in the Turkey red color on offer by Beth Marcellus; other beautiful fibers, from other producers, will also be looking for good homes.

Check it out, and the entries of course, and the butter sculpture, and the ice cream.....

See you there!
Sharon

A sad note: Bill Barlett's brother (Fred) passed a message to the Guild about Bill's serious operation at Upstate Medical. We will be passing around a well-wisher card at the meeting.
Many thanks to Clint Fudge for letting us know.

September 2015

Our Sept 12th meeting will be in Lansing at All Saints.

Sheep and Sheepdogs Presented by Jack & Dawn Cymerman of Stoneleigh Farm & Kennel

Also
Packs of alum & Madder powder
available (limited) from Wayne for those
who missed the wonderful madder dyeing
workshop

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The Black Sheep meet from 11am - 3pm on the 2nd Saturday of each month at All Saints Church Parish Hall, Route 34B, in Lansing, NY. Exceptions are possible-see location changes in the latest newsletter!

Seeing Red (sort of)
A Report on our Dye Workshop
with Wayne Harbert

See our inspirational and creative dye pictures on the following page!!!!

The madder vats at our August meeting yielded an array of attractive colors, ranging from pink and salmon through tomato and persimmon, though falling short of the scarlet and vermillion that are the ideal outcome.

We had two vats going, one on a hotplate, and the other a crock pot.

The lessons we learned were:

Too much fiber in the vat depletes the dye rapidly, leading to weaker than desired colors. It shouldn't be over-filled.

The crock pot doesn't get to the temperature required for madder dyeing (60 degrees centigrade) unless the lid is securely in place.

Nifty Nacky Notions we learned while Dyeing:

1. Wayne used an Infrared Temperature thermometer for Temperature-picky madder dyepots. Fast and you don't have to dip a thermometer and wait: search internet for "temperature gun non contact infrared IR laser digital thermometer sensor" deep breath~\$25.
2. Lois mentioned a cheap electronic gram scale for tiny amounts of mordants and fiber search internet for: "pocket 1000 g x 0.1g digital jewelry gold gram balance wgt scale". About \$9.
3. Creative member ideas shown in pixs: chain plied roving, space dyed roving, various fibers. Wayne mentioned ground madder versus grinding and chopping roots both fresh & dried.

BSHG Meeting, Speakers
Jack and Dawn Cymerman
All about Sheep & Sheepdogs
Sat, September 12, Lansing NY

BSHG Meeting, Show & Tell with a Tragic Twist. Please bring your failures!!!! Can They Be Fixed???
Sat, October 10, Lansing NY

NY State Fair. Syracuse, NY.
Aug 27-Sept 7, 2015
<http://www.nysfair.org>

Pennsylvania Endless Mountains
Fiber Festival
Sept 12-13, 2015. Harford
Fairgrounds, Harford, PA.
www.pafiberfestival.com

Heritage Day,
Southworth Homestead
Sat, September 19th, Dryden NY
Home of the R Townley GW.
Black Sheep demos welcome! More
than One Townley Wheel to Spin
on!!!!

Finger Lakes Fiber Festival
Sept 19 & 20. Hemlock
Fairgrounds, Hemlock NY.
www.gvhg.org/fiber-fest

Little York Fall Fiber Festival
Oct 10-11, Preble NY
<http://www.cortlandrep.org/fiber-arts-festival.html>

NYS Sheep & Wool Festival
Oct 17 & 18. Rhinebeck, NY
<http://www.sheepandwool.com>

RED. The Pictures



Madder dye is not just for wool – a silk skein sneaks in the pot.



Natural Space Dyeing with Roving -----Angelika



Alison shows no fear as she chains plys roving and plunges it into a dyepot. Nice resist white areas on mostly madder roving.

A Note on Two Easily Available Dye Plants
Ready to dye Right Now!!!!
Submitted by Angelika St. -L.



The spotted jewelweed (left) and goldenrod (right) are two excellent dye plants that are easily available and in bloom right now. Both are native to North America and excellent nectar sources for pollinators of all kinds. They also tend to grow almost everywhere and can easily take over garden beds, if not kept in check. As these plants need to be weeded out quite frequently anyways, why not have some fun along the way and stick some in the dyepot?



The spotted jewelweed (*Impatiens capensis* Meerb.), also known as orange jewelweed, orange jewelweed, orange touch-me-not, or orange balsam is an annual. It is in bloom in July and August, reaching into September. It is propagated by seeds that pop out with some force, when the seed pod is touched. The plants are pulled from the ground easily. The entire plant contains a dye, which is related to henna. The colors yielded range from golden over orange to salmon.

In order to extract the dye pull the whole plant, rinse off the dirt from the roots as necessary, cover the plants with water, and boil for an hour. Remove the plants. The dyebath should have a reddish orange colors. In order to get a more concentrated dyebath, simply repeat the process a few times. The rule of thumb is to use four times the weight of fresh plant material to the weight wool to be dyed (weigh the wool dry). However, since jewelweed contains a lot of water, a bit higher plant to fiber ratio can lead to even better results.

In order to dye, put premoisted, mordanted wool into the hot dyepot and let sit over night. The next morning remove the wool, rinse, and dry. Don't let the dyebath boil, while the wool is in there, because this could felt the wool. If the wool is not premordanted, alum can be added to the dye pot at a ratio of 1/2 Tablespoon of alum and 1/2 Tablespoon of tartaric acid per 4 ounces of wool. Instead of tartaric acid, citric acid can be used or half a cup of vinegar.

Goldenrod (*Solidago spec.*) is even more ubiquitous than spotted jewelweed. It is also one of the fastest working dyeplants around. To get a brilliant yellow, gather fresh flowers at a ratio 4:1, fresh flowers to dry wool. Cover the flowers with water, boil for an hour and remove the flowers from the dye bath. Submerge the premoistened, premordanted wool for ten to fifteen minutes into the dye bath, rinse, and dry. Submerging wool for longer will result in a stronger, but less brilliant color. Since the wool is submerged only for so short time, it is especially important that the wool is well moistened, otherwise the dye will not properly reach the fiber.

The leaves and stalks of goldenrod also give a dye, which is a kind of grayish brown, not the bright yellow the flowers give.

The dye bath from goldenrod flowers can be canned to be used in winter, however the dye results will not be quite as brilliant as with the fresh dye bath. (Note from Lois: to make a goldenrod 'concentrate' remove first flowers after 'cooking' and add another batch or two to the dyebath water. This stronger dyewater is what I can. Mark it NON EDIBLE for safety.

**Spinning in your Rear View Mirror
(no-ticket method)
Seen in use by our
most excellent resident Inventor
Tammy F**



Additional Inventor Wonders: Purple-blue threading hook held in a tube sideways with tube secured by Velcro.



Interview with Two Spinning Wheels



Con't

Interview with Two Spinning Wheels

Interviewer= Lois Swales (*italic questions*)

Cherry Wheel= Man Schacht=M.S.

Maple with Walnut Wheel= Bessie Schacht=B.S.

(Interviewer note: This interview was conducted with spinning wheels having the same last name: "Schacht". The interview revealed that the two wheels, now best friends, were actually distant cousins. Their human friends/owners are not related, but always sit next to each other, since their wheels do.)

Who is the Oldest?

MS: Don't remember- I was born maybe 5 years ago.

BS: I was born on April 4, 2013.

When did you meet?

MS/BS: May 2013 in Ithaca.

Do you always sit together?

MS/BS: Yes, when we can. It was instant bonding when we first met. We are soooo alike!!!

Where were you made?

MS/BS: Colorado

What Wood are you made of?

MS: Maple and Walnut

BS: Cherry

Do you travel? If so, how far?

MS: I've been to Ithaca, Skaneateles, and Oneida in NYS and Somersworth, NH. I've never been to the NYS Fair, though. Scarey there; too many spinning wheels. Don't like big crowds.

BS: I don't get out much except for BSHG meetings. Owner loves me too much and I am heavy.

Do you get enough oil?

MS: I must admit I'm feeling pretty dry ::blinks eyes hopefully up at owner::

BS: I am oiled every time my friend spins on me.

What is on your bobbin today?

MS: I've got some lovely Cotswold blend from Robin Nystock's flock.

BS: I'm enjoyed the feel of the handcarded batts from Alison with the luscious green hand-dyed color.

This question is for Bessie Schacht: how do you feel about Man Schacht's special spotted treadle covers?

MS: Well, personally, when it comes to my foot treadle, I like to go commando.

BS: Frankly, I love the soft feel of fleece between me and my owner's feet.

Is there anything you worry about or want to change about your life?

MS: I wish she wouldn't let her grandchildren play with me; my string gets all tangled around and it feels uncomfortable.

BS: My owner doesn't know me well, but our relationship is improving. I'm relieved about that. I'd hate to have to break in another 'owner' if this doesn't work out!

(Many thanks to Man and Bessie for taking the time during a busy meeting to talk to us. Thanks also to their friend/owners Sue Q. and Lynne A. for helping them get to the meeting).

For sale: the BSHGuild table loom needs a good home. It will be at the Sept. meeting for viewing. Make an offer. If you have questions you can call Sharon at 280-8726.

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FOR SALE: 1810 Great Wheel purchased from Bill Ralph. Miner's head, spins beautifully. For further info and/or to give it a spin, please contact shelly@chezmyers.com

In an effort to reduce my personal stash, I'd like to sell cotton warp, loop mohair, rug wools, fine wools, rayon and rayon chenille and other interesting stuff at prices ranging from low to ridiculous. I also have a Hansen e-spinner with woolee winder, two bobbins and kate for sale. Contact Karey Solomon at threads@empacc.net.

For sale from my own happy sheep and rabbits in Trumansburg: Navajo-Churro roving in a variety of natural colors
Angora rabbit wool in white Contact Sharon Berger @607-592-4649 or saberger@twcnny.rr.com



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The cost for ads is \$5.00 per month for non-members. Current members may submit one business-card sized classified ad per month for free. Send a check made out to BSHG to our treasurer, Vickie Marsted, 29 Lincoln Ave, Cortland, NY 13045. Send the ad in digital form to the newsletter editor, newsletter@blacksheephandspinnersguild.com. Black & white business cards are published free for current members.



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