

Loco News

POTLUCK—BRING FOOD!

Watch them work

Our sheep-to-shawl team is going to spin a practice shawl at the meeting Tuesday, July 11, just as if they were competing at the Ohio State Fair. They will be there next month.

The meeting Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. will be a potluck at the Carlisle Visitor Center on Diagonal Road.

Our team will use the time after the business meeting for the demo and hope to complete their work before the evening is over.

What will the rest of us do? Oh, I don't know—kibitz maybe? Back seat drive? Offer helpful tips?

Bring your knitting or your own spinning and a pot of something tasty and we'll have a pleasant summer evening together.

COMING ATTRACTION: Oct. 21 Fae Evans will offer a workshop at the North Ridgeville Parks building on Center Ridge Rd., 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on A Spinning Tune Up. \$15 plus fiber fee. Enrollment will be limited. Sign up early. More details on this later.

Fae is a terrific teacher who has done some wonderful workshops for us so put this one on your fall agenda.



For the birds

Well, probably not really. When you get this birdhouse basket made you will probably want to put it on the coffee table where it can be properly admired by your visitors..

Jewel Cowan of Oklahoma, who taught us the Indian double-walled basket technique last year, is going to lead a workshop Saturday July 8 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the (whoopie!) air-conditioned Carriage Barn at Mill Hollow Park on Vermilion Rd. NOTE: Location is different than originally planned.

Bring some handspun for the roof.

Bagels, coffee, tea and juice provided.



Calendar

July 8: LOCO basket workshop.

July 7-8: Mansfield Quilters Guild show, Masonic Temple, 1250 Middle Belleville Rd., Mansfield, noon-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. \$2 admission. Quilt appraisal expert will do appraisals for \$25. The show will include vintage textiles, contemporary quilts and quilted wearables.

July 11: LOCO meeting

July 20: Deadline for Ohio State Fair fiber entries. Information and registration forms: 1- 800-OHO-EXPO

July 25: Spinning at Beth Hines' home.

Aug. 8: LOCO meeting

Aug. 19-20: Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan County Fairgrounds, Hastings, MI. Information: (616) 948-2497.

Aug. 17-20: Crochet Guild of America conference at Cleveland Airport Marriott Inn.

Aug. 22: Spinning at Beth Hines' home.

Sept. 12: LOCO meeting.

Sept. 24: Spinning at Beth Hines' home.

Oct. 7: The Gathering, All Ohio spin-in at Malabar Farms State Park 10 a.m. to

4 p.m., sponsored by the Ohio Fiber Network.

Oct. 10: LOCO meeting.

Nov. 14: LOCO meeting

Dec. 12: LOCO meeting

July 13-18, 2001: **Midwest Weavers Conference.**

Obsolete color names

Most of these are from the 16th century, courtesy of the **Malabar Farm Guild**

Abraham or Abram, —brown

Bowdy —scarlet, from the dye house established at Bow for dyeing scarlet by a new method.

Brassel --a red from an East Indian tree

Carnation—a shade "resembling raw flesh"

Falwe—a medium yellow

Gingerline—red violet

Goose-turd—a yellow-green

Hair—a bright tan

Inde—medium azure blue

Isabelle—yellow or light buff

Lustie Gallant—light red

Maidenhair—bright tan

Mink & water—bluish white

Murrey—a purplish red

Perse—medium bluish grey

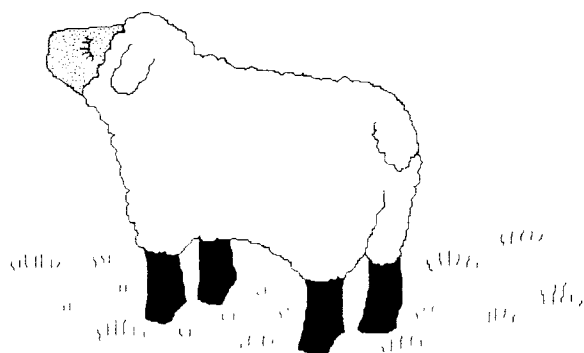
Plunket—light blue or sky blue

Puke—dirty brown

Rats Colour—dull grey

Roy—a bright tawny

Sad—dark tint of any color



Know your breeds

Soay

U.K.) Listed by RBST as vulnerable

Fleece weight: 3-5 pounds (1.3-2.25 kg)

Wool type: dual-fiber

Numerical Count: (ribbon-like fiber) 36s and below. Finer fiber, 70s

Animal size: Rams, 50-75 pounds.
Ewes 40-60 pounds.

Micron count: ribbon-like fiber, 57 at its widest side, 28 at its narrowest; finer fiber 19 microns

Staple length: 2-6 inches (5-15cm)

Breed Origins: These ancient domestic sheep were established in Britain during the neolithic or Stone Age period (4500 B.C.E.). The original Soay were descendants of the wild mouflon from Corsica--small creatures (about 50 pounds). They are believed to be the oldest domesticated sheep.

Soay sheep are associated with St. Kilda, a small and remote group of islands west of Scotland. One of the component islands is called Soay, and the sheep were originally limited to this location. No one knows how they got

there; the Outer Hebrides have been inhabited for at least 4000 years. Because they have survived for thousands of years under harsh island conditions, forgotten by humans who might have meddled with their genetics, we can see in the remaining Soay the type of sheep our early ancestors kept.

On the islands, the sheep evolved through natural selection into a small hardy, feral flock, with a gene pool undiluted by crossbreeding. These sheep provided the foundation for many of Britain's domestic breeds, such as the Welsh Mountain and the Cheviot; their legacy of color still shows up in these breeds.

Soay sheep are aloof, wary, and graceful. They resemble small antelope or deer with fleeces that are may be fawn, dark brown or black. Some Soay sheep have light markings on the belly, rump, over the eyes and under the jaw. They have short tails.. They are hardy animals, shy yet curious.

Rams develop beautiful full curl horns and a striking mane or bib of long darker hair that lends an elegant appearance. The ewes may sport less dramatic horns or are polled.

Like antelope, Soay sheep "pong" (sprint-jump on all fours) when alarmed. They are protective of their group and often travel single file like caribou. They do not need to be sheared because they naturally cast their wool in spring

Today around 1,500 feral Soay are being studied in their natural habitat on St. Kilda. Another 700 are located on the British mainland in rare-breed preservation parks. A few are involved in experimental commercial operations.

Access to Soay Island is now restricted and the animals there are in protected status. A small number of Soay sheep (*Ovis aries*) came to North America from parks, zoos, and private collections in the U.K. Soays in the United States derive from the Winnipeg zoo collection. Soay numbers are limited in North America as well as globally. There are thought to be fewer than 200 pure Soay sheep in the U.S. and less than 2,500 world wide.

Sheep Characteristics: This breed seldom grows over 24 inches at the shoulder and their bodies and hips are narrower than the more modern breed of today, and they are relatively narrow to their height. Lambs are small, 2 1/2 to 3 1/2 pounds average. Twinning is not uncommon with proper nutrition.

If given regular attention and hand feeding, they become quite friendly, although they will always retain their somewhat shy nature, which has been responsible for their feral island survival in all these many years.

Their small size makes them easy to handle, and in particular, feasible for a woman to handle alone. Their light weight impacts pastures less than heavier meat and wool breeds.

Soay sheep are delightfully independent and free of many husbandry problems. The mothers do not need assistance with lambing. Their hooves do not require hoof trimming

They manage on more meager pastures, and actually improve pastures by eating Scotchbroom, berry vines (!), and woody plants as well as grass.

Soays should not have access to rhododendrons or azaleas which are toxic to them.

The most significant difference between the mouflon and the Soay was in the fleece quality. The mouflon sports a coarse, kempy fleece, while the Soay's wool is softer and finer, with little or no kemp. Because Soay fleece was gathered from fields and bushes, where it was shed, woolgathering in the Stone Age was like a scavenger hunt. The fleece was shed every spring.

Fleece characteristics: It is a double coated wool fiber with wool scales. It is considered a primitive fiber. As raw wool, it is soft and light to work with; however, during spinning its coarser components become evident. A close visual examination confirms what the fingers know. The electron microscope shows two distinct types of fiber: one is coarse and ribbon-like, and the other is fine and downy.

This fiber mix is typical for a dual-fiber animal, and the coarse fibers give rise to the slightly rough feel of the spun wool.

Spinning pointers: Wash the wool in a net bag using very hot water and a mild soap. With clean fiber, decide how to work with it. Carding will be necessary because of the vegetable matter in the fleece. A Navajo spindle and slow drafting of the very short fibers from the tips will work. Also spinning on an Ashford wheel, working from a fluffy mass flicked off hand cards, pinching the yarn with your right hand to build up and control the twist, and slowly let a small amount of twist move into the fluffy wool, drawing it out with the left hand.

The finished yarn does not have the spring of Merino or the down breeds, and its apparent coarseness suggests it would serve best in outer garments or in woven

utility articles. The rich brown color is incredible.

Breeders' Association: Bruce Poor, Herracter Farm, Nantucket, Massachusetts; **Soay Breeders Group,** Mr. David Bailey, Winchalltop, Macclesfield Forest, Cheshire, SK11 0AR, phone 01260 252767.

Sources: Soay Stone Age Fiber by Rosemarie Szostak, Spin-Off Magazine, Summer 1995, Rare Wools from Rare Sheep Part 1: A focused tour of breeds and fiber, Deborah Robson, Spin-Off Magazine, Winter 1998.

Roni Rospert



LOCO OFFICERS

President: Bette Roll

Vice president/program chairman: Elizabeth Yasaki

Secretary: Pat Harrison

Treasurer: Kay Mangione & Rosie Hauff

Newsletter: Pat Geisler, spin9r@aol.com

Librarian: Sarah Twining

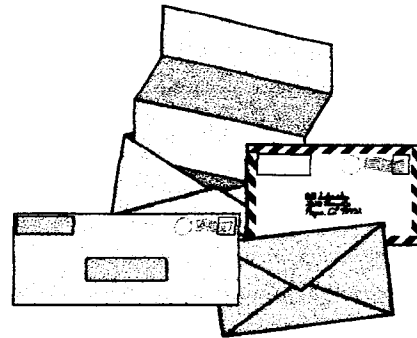
Historian: Jo Babcock

Sunshine: Pam Tallos

Public relations: Elsie Wise

Refreshments: Karen Morgan

Samples and workshops: Beth Hines, hinesssheep@aol.com



From the mailbox

The first Northern Michigan Lamb & Wool Festival will be held Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Ogema County Fairgrounds in West Branch, Mich. There will be activities, classes, vendors, a lamb cook off and more. Booklets available online at www.nmlw@homestead.com

Malabar Guild will hold a bobbin lace workshop July 22 at the work area at Malabar Farm. Sack lunch. Registration fee \$5. A list of items needed will be provided. Wood base and foam for building a pillow will be provided. Allow enough time to order the items needed. Contact: Sally Rickel, 1217 Michael Dr., Mansfield, OH 44905 or call (419) 589-2321. E-mail srickel@webtv.com

Hale Farm is looking for people with some experience spinning and/or weaving. Pay is \$7 per hour for 1 or more days a week. Perks included free family visits and discount on merchandise at the museum gift shop. For information: Melanie Messmore (330) 666-3711.

Lisa Bestangeth of Columbiana writes to say she has two Union Rug Looms for sale. \$375 and \$400 in good condition. Call her at (330)457-7551.



Minutes of the meeting

June 13, 2000: President Betty Roll called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved. Treasurer Kay Mangione reported that there was \$1,420 in the treasury.

Pat Geisler announced that she had extra copies of the newsletter and also bulletins about fairs and exhibits.

Librarian Sara Twining brought her copy of Spin-Off with Cindy Bush's article and signature. She also brought entry and tax forms for the Family Arts and Crafts competition in the Ohio State Fair.

Deadline is June 20.

There was a yarn sample packed from Harrisville from Margaret Bouyack.

Plans for the sheep-to-shawl team were announced. Weaver will be Betsy Bruce.

The spinners will be Elizabeth Yasaki, Cindy Bush and Sara Twining. Fiber preparation will be by Shelle Shumate.

The communication person is still to be named. The State Fair competition will be Aug. 6, and the team will do its practice shawl at the LOCO meeting

July 11. Plans are to make this a pot luck at 6:30 p.m. followed by the meeting and demonstration.

Elizabeth Yasaki announced the meeting Aug. 8 would be a Clean Out Your Closet meeting.

Betsy Bruce told us about Barbara Deck, a fiber artist and weaver, who has about eight possible workshops she can do, possibly on a weekend. More discussion will be held later.

Cindy Bush said Lake Farm Park, which is part of the Cleveland Metro Park system, is having financial problems and said area guilds might consider making donations to help them out.

It was announced that it was time for Shelle Shumate's shawl to be woven as part of the ongoing guild project and a time will be set for members to come and help spin the yarn for her to weave.

In Show and tell Jill Cooley brought a felted rug and told us of a sheer fabric that helps hold felting together. She said she was able to get the Cuyahoga County Fair in Berea to open some felting classes Aug. 7-15. Sara Twining showed the use of prepared dyes for more woolen rugs and the business meeting adjourned.

Cindy Bush presented a program showing the guild how she organizes what she spins, weaves, knits and dyes and her methods of storing the samples. She takes pictures of things before she gives them away as gifts and records all the methods, materials and procedures, including which spinning wheel she used for her projects. She said she is a "process" rather than a "product" person. (Personally, I think she is both.)

Pat Harrison, Secretary

Save the Sheep T-shirt

To order a Save The Sheep T-shirt from Spin-off Magazine at Interweave Press, Call 800-645-3675, EXT 620 or 648. The shirts are \$15 plus \$3 shipping and handling.



The Wilderness Center's List of
Local Plants for Butterflies
 to be considered for a Butterfly Garden*

Nearly a hundred different kinds of butterflies are known from the four counties of Holmes, Stark, Tuscarawas and Wayne. This list is of some of the native plants these butterflies use for food either as larva or adult. For the benefit of nonbotanists, the plants are also listed by the last whole English word in their name, ie. Pussytoes & toes, Pussy-.

Used by		Used by	
Common Name	# Adults— #Larvae	Common Name	# Adults— #Larvae
Anemone, Canada	1 - 0	Cinquefoils	7 - 0
anemone, Rue-	1 - 0	Shrubby	3 - 0
Angelica	0 - 1	clovers, Bush-	1 - 0
Apple	0 - 1	Coneflowers	8 - 0
		Cranesbill	5 - 0
apple, May-	0 - 1	cress, Rock-	1 - 1
Ash	0 - 1	crops, Stone-	0 - 1
ash, Prickly-	0 - 2		
Asters	23 - 2	Docks	1 - 1
		Dogbanes	12 - 0
banes, Dog-	12 - 0	Dogwoods	3 - 1
banes, Flea-	10 - 0		
Basswood	0 - 1	Elms	0 - 5
Beardtongue	0 - 1	eye, Ox-	3 - 0
beauty, Spring-	5 - 0		
Bellflowers	1 - 0	Fleabanes	10 - 0
Bergamot	7 - 0	flowers, Bell-	1 - 0
berry, Black- see Brambles		flowers, Cone-	8 - 0
berry, Blue-	1 - 1	flowers, Sun-	10 - 1
berry, Elder-	1 - 0		
berry, Goose-	0 - 1	Ginger, Wild	0 - 1
berry, Hack-	0 - 5	Goldenrods	9 - 0
berry, Straw-	2 - 0	Grasses	0 - 23
bill, Cranes-	5 - 0	Tall Purple-top - 4	
Birch	0 - 3	Bluestems - 4	
Black-eye susans	6 - 0	Panics - 4	
Blazing-stars	11 - 0		
Bluebells	1 - 0	Hackberrys	0 - 5
Blueberries	1 - 1	Hawthorns	2 - 1
Bluets	1 - 0	head, Turtle-	0 - 1
Boneset	16 - 0	heal, Self-	6 - 0
Brambles	12 - 0	hemp, Indian-	16 - 0
bud, Red-	11 - 0	Heath Family	0 - 1
Bur-marigolds	2 - 0	hemlock, Poison-	0 - 1
bush, Button-	2 - 0	Hickories	0 - 2
bush, Spice-	0 - 2	Hog-peanut	0 - 1
Buttercups	2 - 0	Horsenettle	1 - 0
		Horseweed	5 - 0
Carrot (Parsley) Family	2 - 1		
Cassia genus	1 - 3	Indian hemp	16 - 0
Cherrys	1 - 4	Indigos, Wild	0 - 1