

Loco News

IRISH, SCOTS SPIN AND WEAVE

Knitting tour

Kay Griggs will tell us all about the Vogue knitting trip she took to Ireland and the Scottish Isle of Lewis this year during the guild's November meeting Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Visitor Center.

She has slides and samples and details on Irish and Scottish spinning and weaving to share with us.

She'll also preview the latest yarn trends and colors for the next few season and tell us (goodness!) why she came home out without her underthings.



Heifer Project raffle

Remember to bring your ticket stubs and money for the guild shawl raffle and give them to Holly Hines. The drawing will be at the meeting this month, Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Didn't sell them all? Buy a few yourselves. A shawl makes a great gift for someone at Christmas.

Via the Heifer Project we make our annual gift to the world.

Year's end nears

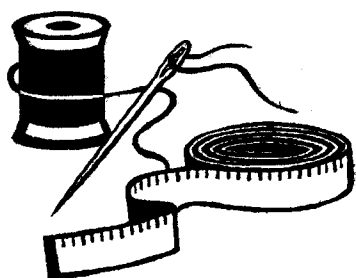
Pay up before Christmas and you won't forget that 2003 dues for the guild are payable Jan. 1. Your guild membership is one of the biggest bargains around. \$15 per year.

Election of officers and assigning of jobs for the new year are also on the agenda.

If you are asked to serve, say yes. We all need to share the load to keep our guild active, interesting and one of the best in Ohio.

New Members

Susan Blainer, Berea; Susan Crow, Concord; Rosanna Ludwig, Seville and Judy Riga, Mayfield Hts. Welcome to all of you.



Calendar

Nov. 9-10: Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild workshops by Dobree Adams at Lake Farm Park, Chardon Road, Kirtland. Spinning Thick and Curly Saturday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35. Dyeing with a brush, Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$35. Information: Joy Blaney (440) 259-2377 or email joyblaney@juno.com

Nov. 12: LOCO meeting at Visitor Center on Diagonal Road, 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 23: Handspun-Handwoven show and sale at the John Bryan Center, 100 Dayton St., Yellow Springs, OH. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Nov. 26: Spinning at Beth Hines' home. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 3: Knitting at Pat Geisler's. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 7: Malabar Farm felted handbag workshop by Margaret Halas. \$20. Information: Carol Rahall (419) 756-2344

Dec. 7-9: Cuyahoga Weavers Guild workshop on Handwoven Clothing.

Dec. 10: LOCO meeting. 7:30 p.m.

Dec. 23: spinning at Beth Hines' home, 7:30 p.m.

March 1: Medina Guild will have a Rena Dennison workshop on finishing techniques.

\$50. Information: Becky Monegan (330) 920-1448 or summitbluebird@aol.com

March 14-16: Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers guild will hold a Spinners/Weavers/Knitters Retreat at the Cedar Hills Lodge. Information: Sandy Hardy, (216) 433-2278.

March 14-18: Knitting Guild of America National Convention, Hilton Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center, Burbank, CA. Information: TKGA@TKGA.com

March 29, 2003: Black Swamp Spinners' Guild Market Day and Fiber Fair, St. Mark's Lutheran Family Center, S. College St., Bowling Green. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Information: Susan at caytonsj@juno.com or Margaret Bouyack at 800-554-7931.

May 24-25: Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wooster. Information: Linda Reichert, 330-264-9665 or don47linda@valkyrie.net

June 22-29: 2003: Midwest Weavers Conference, "Fiber Fantasia" at Southern Illinois University. Edwardsville, Ill. Information: Amy Norris, 8742 Teasdale Ave., St. Louis, MO, 63124-1926 or email at midwest2003@aol.com. The web site is www.siu.edu/wgsl/html/MWC2003.htm To receive a copy of the registration booklet, send your name, address, phone, email address, and \$3 to: Midwest 2003, c/o Amy Norris, 8742 Teasdale Ave., St. Louis MO 63124-1926.

July 9-13: Augusta Marketing Fiber Arts conference, Bucknell University, Lewisville, Pa. Information: www.creativestrands.com





Know your sheep

Karakul

(reprinted)

Animal size: Rams 150 to 190 pounds; ewes 90 to 130 pounds.

Fleece weight: 7-10 pounds

Wool type: coarse carpet wool. Double coated

Numerical count: Varies greatly from lamb to adult. Adult fleeces are fairly uniform.

Staple length: 8" to 12".

Breed Origin: They are believed to have originated in Russia, in south central Siberia (Turkestan) in the village of Karakul. They grazed vast mountainous desert areas, evading wolves, wild dogs and poachers. Fat-tail sheep such as Karakul are one of the world's most common types, producing meat, fiber, and milk. They make up at least 33% of the world's ovine population. They are believed to be some of the earliest domesticated animals and probably contribute more to the earth's human population than any other type of sheep. Semi-nomadic Berber people maintained flocks of colored sheep as far back as 600 BC

Since long before the time of Christ, the Karakul and its close relations have excelled in producing fur, meat, wool, and milk. The meat is said to be sweeter than that of the mutton breeds, and the fat from the tail is known as the "butter of Asia." The wool, strong, lustrous, and jet black, is known the world over in the

form of the finest carpets, Persian rugs, as well as the raw material for the felted "yurts" of Asian nomads. The ewes milk heavily, making then indispensable to nomadic populations.

Robert Nabours, a National Geographic writer who visited the Bokhara desert area in 1914, discovered that Karakul breeding stock was selected almost exclusively on the appearance of the quality of fur at birth, regardless of their adult features. The retention of that individual in the flock, especially a ram, depended on the value of the pelts of his progeny. The highest-grade pelts have always come from Bokhara in the central Asia (Turkestan) area of the Soviet Union.

The first Karakuls in the U.S. were imported from Russia in 1908. Over the next 20 years about 70 more animals were brought in either directly from Russia or via Canada and Germany. Eventually, only about 87 pure Karakuls, mostly rams, were imported into the United States through Canada. They were bred with local ewes of other breeds, so the American Karakuls are likely to carry some Lincoln, Tunis, Navajo or other blood and come in a wide range of colors.

In North America though, they are represented by only one breed-the Karakul which is best known as the producer of luxurious Persian lamb pelts.

Karakuls are a rare fur-bearing sheep. At birth the lambs have a lustrous coat of fur instead of wool covering their bodies. It was this fur on the newborn Karakul lamb that gave the markets of the world the highly prized and popular fur known as Persian Lamb or Broadtail which was famous for its beauty and durability. Before World War II. there was a market for fur pelts from Karakul lambs who were stillborn or died shortly after birth. There is no longer a North American market for these pelts.

Sheep Characteristics: Karakuls have long narrow heads with long ears that point down and slightly forward. The long body is narrow, sloping upward from shoulders to loin. They are humpbacked in a stately sort of way. Rams are usually horned. The horns are outwardly curving spirals with well developed rippling. Rams with horns seem to need to use them and are more aggressive. It stores much of its fat in its tail and rump. This tail was considered a great delicacy to nomadic shepherds, as well as being a convenient repository of necessary fat in the nomadic diet. Storing fat in its tail in times of relative plenty allows it to survive during the harshest periods of drought. Its conformation is primitive.

This hardy, slender animal is one of North America's most unique ovines, in that its wool is most often colored and comes in a wide range of shades—from golden tans and reddish browns to silver-blues, grays, and jet black. Even spotted or variegated colors are common. In common breeds of sheep the color white is dominant over black, but in the Karakul black is dominant over any other color.

Although Karakuls do not have the carcass quality of other sheep, they can survive where other sheep would perish, particularly in desert areas. The enamel forming the outer coating of the Karakul's teeth is supposedly harder than that of most other breeds, giving them a longer useful life. They are highly resistant to disease, due to selection of the fittest. They are well suited to arid climates with wide temperature ranges, have a well-developed flocking instinct, and tend to have low twinning rates. The lamb survival rate, however, is one of the highest. The ewes are often skittish and wild and extremely protective. They milk heavily, enabling rapid pre-weaning growth and making the ewe a perfect complement to a nomadic shepherd needing milk for his family.

Karakul sheep are athletic, fascinating creatures. Perhaps more goat-like than ordinary sheep, they are real survivors.

Karakuls will breed out of season. Many purebred Karakuls prefer their own kind and will not breed with other domestic sheep. They eat burdock.

Fleece characteristics: Variety of color may be considered the most outstanding attribute of Karakul wool. It is generally considered carpet quality but is often similar to long wool luster type. The double coat has a fine down undercoat protected by long coarser guard hair. The fleece is not greasy and this lack of lanolin means less shrinkage when washed. Without the lanolin to protect the wool fibers though, there can be problems with cotting in wet climates.

Among Karakuls there is a wide variability in fleeces. An ideal is a well-developed outer coat with at least half its length in down. Some select for a heavier down component so that fleece weights will go up. Some have a silky soft texture.

A paper by Therese Ohlson mentions that Karakul guard hair does not begin to develop until the animal is about five months old, and that, therefore, lamb fleeces are usually quite suitable for next-to-the-skin garments. Therese's article also explains that some Karakuls produce a very silky, fine guard hair, while others produce a less soft guard hair but more down.

According to experts, pelt quality in the newborn Karakul lamb should still be the standard quality indicator. Author Lowery Hagerman states in *The Karakul Handbook* "Luster in the fur is reflected in natural luster in the mature fleece and in the head and leg hair. The most lustrous mature animals are those that most probably carried the most lustrous fur as lambs: And when selecting ewe lambs, "pick out the small curled ones of good quality. Pay

particular attention to texture, density, and luster as well as general type. Other factors being equal, select the largest lambs and pelts." Interestingly Hagerman tells of a certain imported ram that carried a very strong white spotting gene and produced many black lambs with white spots, as did their offspring.

Color is another trademark of the Karakul. Unlike most breeds, white is recessive in Karakuls.

Traditionally, the Karakul fleece was used by the Berbers as a dark felted fiber that made their huge black nomads' tents. They would also weave the Karakul wool to make very heavy, durable, outer garments.

Choose a clean fleece without matting or excessively hairy tips. Lamb fleeces of six months' growth will be soft and single coated. Adult Karakul fleeces have two distinct groups of fiber, the long, coarse outer coat plus a short, fine undercoat. The long fibers are medullated and lacking in crimp, and have a stiff quality.

Spinning pointers: Most prefer to treat the two-coated fleeces as one fiber, so that the down will help loft the coarser fibers. Karakul lends itself best to use in carpet yarns, but it can also be used for decorative hangings or some types of outerwear garments. The wool can be softly or tightly spun, depending on your intended use. The multicolored fleeces have great appeal in fleece rugs, and as variegated yarns. In order to preserve as much of the various colorings in a fleece, do not card; lightly tease or comb, then spin.

Breeders' Association: American Karakul Sheep registry, Julie DeVlieg, Secretary, 3026 Thomas Rd., Rice WA 99167. Phone 509-738-6310.

Sources:

Black Sheep Newsletter Companion, by Sachiye Jones, ed. Black Sheep Press, Eugene, Oregon.
Colored Sheep and Wool: Exploring Their Beauty and Function, Kent Erskine, Ed. Black Sheep
The Karakul Handbook, Lowry Hagerman, New Mexico.
Magic of Karakul Sheep and Their Wool, Sheep! Magazine, February, 1997, Letty Klein, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Know Your Sheep Breeds: Karakul by Linda Berry Walker, *Spin-Off Winter 1989*.

Karakul: A Tale of Three Rugs by Ellen Champion, *Spin-Off, Winter 1989*.

Karakuls: unique in America, *Sheep! Magazine*, November, 1991.

Coyote Pines rare breed conservancy works with Karakuls, *Sheep! Magazine*, February, 1993.

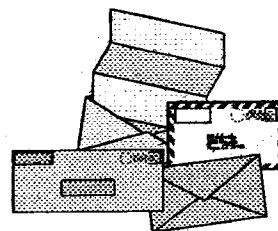
Virtues of Karakul Sheep, Melda Montgomery, *Black Sheep Newsletter*, Winter, 1983.

Felt Making: The Magic of Karakul, *Black Sheep Newsletter*, Winter, 1993.

For More information see

A paper by Therese Ohlson, ask Julie DeVlieg, secretary of the America Karakul Sheep Registry in, 1993. 3026 Thomas Road, Rice, Washington 99167.

Compiled by Roni Rospert 1997



From the mail box

The Great Lakes Fiber Show in Wooster will be May 24 -25, 2003, at the Wooster Fairgrounds. If you would like to be considered as an instructor for a workshop or if there is a workshop you would like to have presented at this show contact Linda Reichert, 330-264-9665, or don47linda@valkyrie.net

Handspun Handwoven: The annual show of Fiber Arts of the Weavers Guild of Miami Valley will be Nov. 23, 9am - 4pm at the John Bryan Center, 100 Dayton St., Yellow Springs, Ohio. More information and directions at http://www.geocities.com/wg_mv/

Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild will have a workshop "Edging, Fringing and Dangles—Finishing Techniques" by Rena Dennison Saturday, March 1, 2003 at the Medina Presbyterian Church, Burgundy Bay Blvd., off Rt. 18. Time 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. tentative, depending on size of enrollment. The program will be an introduction to bead work along with 14 variations on edge beading and 15 variations of fringes and dangles, including twisted bead fringe, that can turn a hand made item into a piece of art work. \$50. All workshops are fragrance free. Information: Becky Monegan (330) 920-1448 or summitbluebird@aol.com. Send checks payable to Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild to register to Rosanna Ludwig, 7323 Kennard Rd., Seville, OH 44273.

Open Barn sheep shearing and craft sale will be held at Crow Haven Farm, Saturday, Nov. 23, 1 p.m. The farm at 5405 Hamilton Road, Medina, will offer a number of cross-bred medium wools, 4 or 5 lamb fleeces, both white and colored, and no second cuts. Spun wool ready to use will be available as well as batting for quilts and music by Don Willis on the bagpipes

Malabar Spinning and Weaving Guild will have a felted handbag workshop Dec. 7 at the work area. Margaret Halas of Millersburg will teach the class. Cost will be \$20 with a materials fee of \$15, which will include a felted wool knitted sweater, lining and instructions. Bring buttons of your choice. There is space for 16 and there is a waiting list. Call Carol Rahall, (419) 756-2344 for more information. A second workshop may be scheduled if this one is oversubscribed.

Good web site: How to hand paint roving: www.dimensional.com/~gfwsheep/rov.inst/rov.inst.html



Ohio Want ads

For sale: Oak floor loom. ID plate says Ideal 2-harness loom by Reed Loom Co., Springfield, OH. 2 reeds, 34" wide. Rough shape, some water stains on bottom, some rust on heddles. Unassembled/no directions. Asking \$100. Columbia Station. Belonged to mother. Seller is non-weaver. Matt Jadud (440) 236-3005

For sale: Reeves Woodworks solid black walnut spinning wheel, Saxon. Hand turned and hand made by Rick Reeves, 1979. Hand rubbed varnish finish. \$800.

48-inch Nilus LeClerc 4-harness floor jack loom. 48" includes bench, warping frame, and accessories. Canadian maple. \$500
Glimakra 60" tapestry loom, solid pine, \$500.
Andrea Harcher (440) 886-0041 or AndreaHarcher@aol.com

For sale: 45" 4-harness LeClerc loom, bench, 10 and 12-dent reeds, misc. tools. Excellent condition \$500. Wadsworth. Rose Cenn Stair, (330) 336-2418 or email cstair@aol.com

For sale: LeClerc 4-harness counterbalance 36" floor loom. All new heddles, two reeds, bench and original book. \$450. Debbie Hallett (330) 873-2505 or debbiehallett@aol.com



Minutes of the meeting
Oct. 8, 2002

Meeting was called to order by President Sara Twining.

Secretary Kay Griggs read the minutes for the September meeting which were taken by Laddie Rubright. It was decided that a listing of September's Show and Tell would be carried in the next newsletter.

Treasurer Betty Roll reported a balance of \$613.32 in the treasury.

Beth Hines brought a spinning sample of wool and hemp for members to try.

Knitting workshops were discussed and will occur monthly at the home of Pat Geisler. The time and dates will be in the November newsletter. November's meeting will be Tuesday Nov. 5.

Pat Geisler moved that one person be in charge of the guild equipment. It was seconded by Betsy Bruce and the motion carried. Holly Hines agreed to be responsible for the equipment and knowing who has which item. Members currently using guild equipment, such as the spinning wheel, ball winder, warping board, loom etc., are requested to call Holly and let her know.

The drawing for the shawls will be held during the November meeting. Members were asked to turn in money and ticket stubs to Holly.

A nominating committee for next year's slate of officers was appointed and will consist of Pam Tallos, Judy Keske and Carrie Gladyszewski.

The guild has been scheduled for the Carlisle Visitor Center each month in 2003 and while the November 2002 meeting will be there, December's meeting may need to be moved. Members were asked to watch the newsletter for information.

It was requested that subscription renewal forms for Interweave publications which offer discounts to guild members be put in the newsletter.

During Show and Tell, Jill Cooley showed painted yarns using dye made of fiddlehead ferns. Judy Keske showed nuno felt yardage from a class she took, made from alpaca over silk chiffon. Laddie Rubright brought an alpaca shawl she wove at Pioneer Days. Betsy Bruce showed a bath mat woven on three harnesses, and told of the TAA and CMA craft sale with a silent auction to be held on Nov. 16.

Mendon Kelrich modeled a madder-dyed wool hat with bunny ears and a blue rag knitting bag. Kay Mangione showed an orange sweater. Chris Bruce showed skeins of Romney wool, which were completed during this year's spinning demos. Karen Morgan showed a quilt she had made.

After refreshments the program was a felting demonstration.

September Show and Tell

Mendon Kelrich showed a sweater she is knitting with yarn from the Green Mountain Spinnery of Vermont. She is doing an independent weaving study at Oberlin College,

a workshop designing in twills, and will have an exhibition at the end of the summer.

Cindy Bush brought in some scarves created from novelty yarn, including some of eyelash yarn. Stacey Allen showed her hand knit vest with an intricate tree design in the back.

Jill Cooley participated in the felting workshop and shared her projects, a knit and felted hat of novelty yarn and a vest.

Betsy Bruce showed off her vest and collar from the nuno felting workshop as well as some of the dyed yarn from Pioneer Days. Karen displayed spun yarn and dyed silk yarn. Chris Bruce demonstrated her new spinning wheel and Rosie Hauff displayed the candlewick she is making on a lucet.

The September program by Betsy Bruce was folding of an origami crane and using a paper model of an origami top from handwoven fabric.

Kay Griggs, Secretary

What's on line?

An on-line digital archive of documents on weaving and related topics is at www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/weavedocs.html

There are on-line discussion groups weavers are welcome to join free. If interested, for intermediate weavers, send an email to majordomo@quilt.net with "subscribe weaving" in the subject line.

Experienced weavers can join WeaveTech and ProWeaver groups at www.yahoo.com. If you do not belong to yahoo groups you will have to join to access the information, but there is no fee.

HGA's web site at www.weavespindye.org has books, catalogs and links to many fiber businesses.



Come knit with us

Come to Pat Geisler's house on Tuesday Dec. 5 at 7:30 p.m. It is 37833 W. Capel Road., Grafton, just off Rt. 57. Second house past Midview High, same side of the street. 7:30 p.m. Following November it will be the first Monday of the month.

Editor's note: For those interested, Pat Geisler has flyers for the 2003 Midwest Weavers Conference and the Knitting Guild of America Conference as well as the Crow Haven Farm Open Barn and the Heifer Project.

LOCO Officers

President: Sarah Twining (440) 647-3795
Vice president/programs: Elizabeth Yasaki (440) 458-8767

Secretary: Kay Griggs (440) 949-7908

Treasurer: Betty Roll (440) 774-2114

kroll@apk.net

Newsletter: Pat Geisler (440) 748-2623

spin9r@aol.com

Demos: Kay Mangione

Librarian: Karen Morgan, (440) 236-8025

No1cook@msn.com

Historian: Jo Babcock (440) 647-3968

Sunshine: Cindy Bush

Public relations: Elsie Wise (330) 625-2992

Refreshments: Rosie Hauff (440) 934-5168

rhauff@stratos.com

Samples: Beth Hines (440) 458-4049,

hinesssheep@aol.com

Workshops: Betsy Bruce (440) 775-8519