

LOCO News

SILK FUSION

Come and play

Jill Cooley will help us experiment with a delightful fiber technique at the LOCO meeting Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Visitor Center on Diagonal Road south of Elyria.

Bring some silk fiber if you have some—or viscose if you can lay your hands on that—for this faux felting process.

The result can be used for a wide range of things, from 3-dimensional sculpture to collages. The only limit is your imagination.

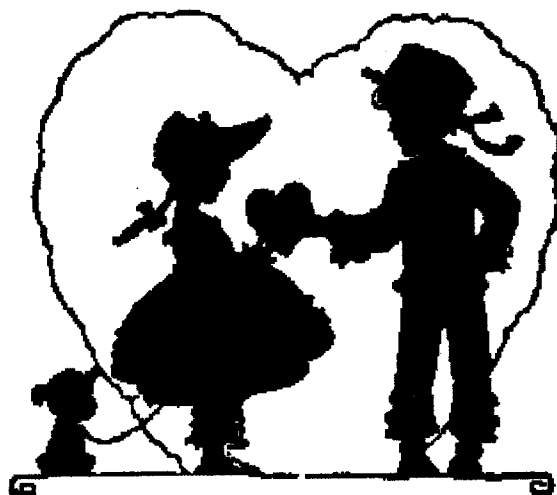
Jill will have everything else we need to try our hand at this delicate creative process.

Jill is one of our most creative members, always game to learn a new way to use fiber creatively. She wants to share her newest discovery with us.

Lucky us. See you there.

Where does a wolf buy his sheep's clothing?

Lamb's End



TIME TO SAY 'I LOVE YOU'

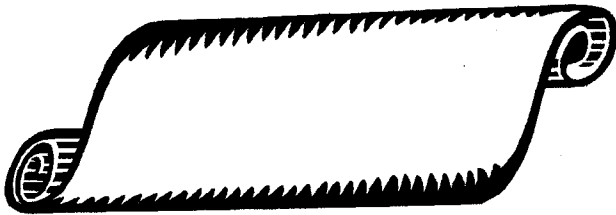
Dues are overdue

Look at the outside of this newsletter. If your name is in italic style you have not paid your dues yet.

LOCO dues are the biggest bargain around for a year's pleasure and newsletters. We have meetings with programs, free workshops and learning events.

You can borrow equipment or tapes or books from the library, share in the free knowledge of those who are more experienced and find out about all the good places to buy fiber.

Join the guild. It's money well spent. Give your \$15 to Rosie Hauff.



Calendar

Feb. 11: LOCO meeting

Feb. 22: Black Swamp Spinners Guild workshop for beginning spinners, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bowling Green. \$20. Sack lunch. Information: 419-352-0211 or t.k.clark@juno.com

Feb. 22: Toledo Area Weavers Guild workshop for beginning weavers, at Toledo Botanical Garden, 5403 Elmer Dr., Toledo.

Feb. 26: Spinning at Beth Hines' home.

March 1: Medina Guild Rena Dennison workshop on finishing techniques. \$50. Information: Becky Monegan (330) 920-1448 or summitbluebird@aol.com

March 4: Knitting at Pat Geisler's.

March 11: LOCO meeting

March 14-16: Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers retreat at Cedar Hills Lodge. Information: Sandy Hardy, (216) 433-2278

March 14-18: Knitting Guild of America National Convention, Burbank, CA. Information: TKGA@TKGA.com

March 25: Spinning at Beth Hines home.

March 29: 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.

April 24-26: Cuyahoga Weaver's Guild workshop by Inger Harrison Seitz featuring runners, placemats, towels, drall (an 8-harness block weave), Punapointa (pickup technique for overshot borders on plainweave) and transparency. Information: Lorrie Holzbach, 216-831-8701 or Holbachl@aol.com

April 26: Mid-Ohio Fiber Gathering, DeGraf, OH. Information: Susie Smithers 937-585-5161 or Lee Ann King, 419-682-1427 or Leellarna@bright.net

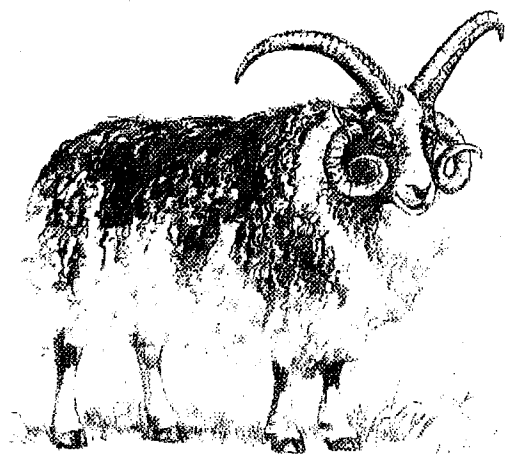
May 3-4: Maryland Sheep and Wool Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, Maryland.

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

June 22-29: 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 Information: Send \$3 to: Midwest 2003, c/o Amy Norris, 8742 Teasdale Ave., St. Louis MO 63124-1926.

July 9-13: 'Creative Strands: A Fiber Arts Conference' at Bucknell University in Pa. Information: 570-473-8278

Aug. 18-24: Lorain County Fair.



Jacob

Animal size: Rams 120 to 200 pounds

Ewes 80 to 120 pounds.

Fleece weight: 3 to 6 pounds

Wool type: Medium demi-luster

Micron Count: 35-27

Numerical count: 44s to 56s

Staple length: 4" to 7"

Breed origin: The actual origins are unknown but many believe they are originally a British breed and had the trait for a spotted body fixed by the introduction of an African breed.

There are many romantic stories about them being direct descendants of the flock of sheep acquired by Jacob during the time he worked for his father-in-law as mentioned in the Bible (Genesis 30), or that they were washed ashore from the shipwrecks during the attempted invasion of the Spanish Armada. In any case, Jacob sheep have been imported into North America since the early 1900s. These spotted sheep, near extinction 25 years ago, have now become common in England, and are increasing in numbers on this side of the Atlantic.

It is known that ancestors of Jacob sheep were imported into Britain from Spain in the 17th century. The multihorn

(polycerate) characteristic may trace to a Viking introduction in Spain.

Jacob sheep are an ideal breed for the small family flock. Each is unique in appearance and personality. Such a flock yields lovely two-color fleeces; one-of-a-kind pelts; smaller, lean, high-quality carcass lambs; and excellent breeding stock.

Sheep Characteristics: The piebald Jacob is one of the easiest sheep to identify, with its black and white spotted body. It should be thought of as basically a white sheep with colored markings. The markings come in the form of black or brown spots or patches all over the body. Often these spots are on the front half of the body only, the animal generally having a wide, black collar. Facial markings should always be present but at least one patch of the three (around the eyes or muzzle), has to exist for the lamb to be eligible for registration.

Jacob spots are like a fingerprint, with no two lambs alike, so the registry for the Jacob Sheep Breeders Association insists on maintaining photographic registrations. There should be no bleeding of color or all over mottling. The ideal proportion of color is 40% black and 60% white. They may have any number of horns, or may be polled (no horns).

They are considered a primitive species and are a small animal, not a typical "meat" breed. Jacobs have skinny legs, small frames, tiny ears and very small, rock hard hooves that are black or black and white striped. Jacobs will, when bred to any other breed of sheep, always produce a black or spotted lamb. They are thus useful in producing the once

undesirable, but now highly sought after, black lamb.

The largest part of the Jacob sheep is its horns. They can have any number of horns but an even spread is by far the prettiest and most esthetically pleasing. They can be black or black and white striped and are fairly smooth.

It is impossible to tell what the adult horn direction will be on a young Jacob ram. For that reason, ram lambs should not be chosen as flock sires until they are at least six months old and even at that age their horns can still surprise you. Horns on any breed of sheep are a highly heritable characteristic, so choosing a ram with badly formed horns will continue to surface for many generations.

Both male and female Jacob sheep are horned though the ewe horns are smaller and often will break in feeders or when they try pushing their heads through the fence.

All Jacobs carry the gene which splits the horn core into multiple parts. Unfortunately, this splitting gene can also be expressed in the sheep's upper eyelid. It can be seen as a very slight break in the hairline of the eyelid (mildest form) to a complete "V-shaped" split which can curl under or form a small growth of wool on the inside of the lid (worst case). This can cause the eye to weep, as the wool or hairs, scrape the eyeball turning it a milky color or forming an ulcer. These lambs are obvious culls.

It has been shown that by using two-horned Jacobs occasionally, the incidence of split upper eyelids is reduced. If too many lambs are born impaired, bring in a

two-horned ram or a few two-horned ewes can correct the situation.

Fleece characteristics: They have an open fleece--meaning that the individual staples form locks hanging down from the body instead of in a dense mass as the Merino or any of the down breeds. There are very few fibers per square inch of skin when compared to the majority of modern breeds. Mutton breeds tend to have spongy, tightly packed fleece that looks like a solid coat, as do the breeds with Merino heritage.

When an "open fleece" is parted you can easily see the sheep's pink or black skin. Since the fleece is not dense, it weighs less than a fleece from a sheep of comparable body size which has a "spongy" fleece.

Lanolin also affects fleece weight. Jacob sheep have very little lanolin compared to other breeds. It is rare for a Jacob ewe fleece to weigh more than three to four pounds.

Wool follicles in any breed of sheep do not fully mature until the lamb is in its second year of life. This means that the lamb fleece is not representative of its adult fleece. Wool characteristics are highly heritable so the fleece type carried by the rams in the flock is very important. The ram represents half the lamb crop so he must have the type of wool that is acceptable for the breed. A ram should not be chosen as a flock sire until he is mature.

The black wool and white wool will differ in both crimp and micron count **ON THE SAME SHEEP**. There are "lilac" Jacobs where the black spots are not black but a

blue gray. While pretty, it is not a classic Jacob. There does not seem to be a graying gene in the Jacobs. Their black spots remain black their entire life.

Many Jacobs have considerable britch wool. There should not be an excessive amount of kemp fibers and these should only be found in the britchy areas, but often small amounts in the upper areas are present.

Jacobs with excessive hair-like fibers and kemp throughout the fleece probably this have hair sheep in their heritage.

Jacob wool is much prized by handspinners and others who enjoy pure wool garments. Their medium-fine fleece is open with a long staple length. Due to its unusual markings, the fleece is usually spun and woven in its undyed state to produce beautifully textured fabrics in natural shades. They are unique; so an individual fleece should be chosen carefully, because wool from this breed reflects the individual animal.

For knitwear, look for a fleece with soft luster, even staple length, and consistent fiber diameter. Most fleeces will have no defined crimp, but rather a spongy quality. A good spinning fleece should be both soft and springy. Some fleeces of a more primitive type will contain kemp, and will show a different character between the white and colored portions of the wool. Primitive fleeces have many uses, but be sure to choose a project which will benefit from the rougher, kempy qualities.

Spinning pointers: Jacob fleeces offer the beginning spinner a number of enjoyable alternatives in yarn design. For maximum

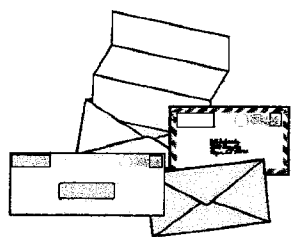
design control the colors can be separated or allowed to fall where they will, for a heathery variegated yarn. A clean primitive fleece, spun from the lock, will produce a rustic-textured yarn. Jacob wool is easily carded on hand and mechanized equipment to produce a woolen-type yarn with a springy bounce. Semi-worsted or worsted preparation methods will produce smoother yarns, which when sufficiently well twisted make a sturdy weaving yarn.

Breeders' Association: Jacob Sheep Breeders Association, c/o Janine Fenton, Secretary, 6350 East County Rd. 56, Fort Collins, Co 80524, 303-484-3344, or Jacob Sheep Conservancy, a non-profit breed association and registry, 9241 Eureka Rd., Girard, PA 16417.

Sources: Spotting a Good Jacob, Ingrid Painter, Spin-Off Magazine, Summer, 1983; Something to Smile about, Ingrid Painter, Black Sheep Newsletter, Summer, 1994; What to look for when buying Jacob Sheep, Ingrid Painter, Black Sheep Newsletter, Winter 1985; The Joy of Jacobs, Moira Wilson, The Shepherd's Friend Magazine, June, 1985; Sheep! Magazine; The Shepherd Magazine; CompuServe Library, Colleen Kozlowski, Contributor Dr. Rosemary Szostic; British Sheep & Wool, edited by: J. Elliot, D. E. Lord ATI, J. M. Williams Frags; The British Wool Marketing Board, Oak Mills, Clayton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1463D, 1990.

Compiled by Roni Rospert 1996.
(Reprint)





From the mailbag

Wildcat Weavers have moved into a new shop in Farmland, IN, southeast of Muncie. They offer an assortment of weaving classes, as well as instruction in spinning, rug hooking, knitting and tatting. Information:

www.wildcatweavers.com

Woodland Woolworks, PO Box 850 Carlton, OR 97111 offers a free newsletter and catalogs. It has a secure web site for ordering yarn, tools, books, fibers and equipment. It offers looms and spinning wheels as well. Information:

www.woolworks.com or write them at Info@woolworks.com

Wooster Knitting Guild has re-named itself **Fiber Arts Guild of Wayne and Holmes Counties**. It alternates meetings on the first Monday of every month between Wooster and Millersburg. The Wooster meetings at the Zion Luther Church will be business meetings with formal programs. The meetings held at the Holmes County Public Library in Millersburg will be informal and will include show and tell, project work, planning and information on future fiber events.

Art Bias Gallery, 2026 Murray Hill Road, Cleveland, OH 44106, will be happy to carry handspun yarn for those interested in selling their work. Information: 216-990-5508

Ohio Want Ads

For Sale: Maple spinning wheel built by Ed J. Sherck, with ball bearings, two bobbins, walnut pedals and a wheel of mahogany. \$350. 30-day money back guarantee. Ed J. Sherck, 427 Oakley Road, Wooster, 330-262-9796. Also available for repair of spinning wheels.

For sale: 60-inch LeClerc, 4-harness jack loom. Photos on web page: <http://frontpage.velocity.net/djikloss> or call Dorothy Kloss at 814-454-9437.

For sale: ex-weaver has 45-inch folding jack-type floor loom, warping board, storage bench, bobbin winder, many bobbins, swift and large quantity of yarn. \$899. Natalie Rich, eastern Pa., 215-481-9866.

For sale: English Leicester Longwool non-breeding females and wethers, \$150 each. Angora/wool blend roving: 20% fine Merino and 80% English Angora. \$5 per ounce. 5 ounces or more, \$4 per ounce. Dave Lewis, 330-499-1245 or del2sd@yahoo.com

For sale: First clip kid and yearling mohair, superfine, \$10 per lb. Mohair roving for blending or use alone, \$20 per lb., Julie Korns, 740-629-7395 or jkorns@tusco.net

For sale: Wool roving, natural \$7 per pound, dyed \$10 per pound. Hollie Carter, 330-627-7540 or 330-627-4061





Minutes of the meeting

LOCO meeting Jan. 14, 2003: No minutes of December meeting, Kay Griggs unable to attend. Will distribute at February meeting. Treasurer reported a balance of \$1,536.64.

The Heifer project donation bought one sheep (\$120), one goat (\$120) a trio of rabbits (\$60), a flock of chicks (\$20) and applied \$17 "where most needed."

Betsy Bruce reported that she is again teaching a mid-term weaving group at Oberlin College. Students are working daily from 1 to 5 p.m. at FAVA, most on skirts this time. A fashion show will be held Feb. 2 at 1 p.m. to which all are invited.

Sara Twining brought a Penland School of Crafts catalog to give to anyone interested.

Stacey Allen is asking for volunteers on Sheep Shearing Day at the Cleveland Metroparks Zoo for Saturday April 26. This will take place at the Australian exhibit and can consist of any activity form we would like. Betsy Bruce volunteered to weave, so a fiber-to-shawl project is a possibility. More discussion to be held at the February meeting.

Elizabeth Yasaki went to look at the loom advertised for sale in the November newsletter by Matt Jadud of Columbia Stations and reported that it is definitely a 'fixer-upper. [' She also thinks there might be more than one loom.

Karen Long was looking for someone to spin dog hair. Chris Bruce was interested.

Lynn Kelsey of Nova, who owns alpacas but doesn't know how to spin (yet!) would trade alpaca fiber for someone to spin yarn for her. Get in touch with Sara Twining.

Show and tell: Stacey Allen was spinning all during the meeting on her new little speedy Louet wheel, a Christmas present from her husband.

Elsie Wise brought in two hand-knit hats.

Chris Bruce brought in yet another afghan, a crocheted pool table, complete with 8-ball and the others, arm and chalked cue. She said it was the last of the Christmas presents.

Sara Twining told us she finished another pulpit cloth for her church but decided not to bring it to the meeting (white cloth, etc.).

Leslie Muehleim brought in a loooong blanket actually woven by her husband (she gave away all her projects at Christmas) with walnut dyed accents in commercially spun yarn of the fiber from their own Border Leicester sheep. She conferred with Karen Long for pointers on dyeing with indigo.

Karen Long was wearing a scarf woven by Betsy Bruce of Karen's handspun, hand-dyed silk weft on a cotton warp.

Meeting was adjourned so dyeing program could commence.

Betty Roll, secretary

From the convent to the runways of high fashion...

From the Associated Press story

Fashion designers draw inspiration from all over. Now designers with the fashion house Versace are looking to a particularly unusual source: fabric made by Romanian nuns in a 19th century convent.

The nuns in the Tiganesti Convent near Bucharest weave a vivid Byzantine silk encrusted with metallic embroidery for priests' robes and it may soon debut on the catwalks at fashion show., The Romanian Orthodox Church said Versace was negotiating to buy the fabric.

Not all the nuns were thrilled with the news.

"We don't want to dress mannequins. We want the cloth to be used in church," said Mother Mira, who runs the workshops but who was not involved in the negotiations.

Some felt differently.

"I'm happy the cloth will be used by a fashion designer," said Sister Justinian. "Don't they have material like this abroad?"

The convent began making the cloth in 1924 as employment for the nuns. The sisters have sold it before but never to a fashion house. Bolts of the shimmering cloth have been purchased by churches in the U.S., France and Germany to make vestments. Wives of visiting diplomats sometimes bought the colorful cloth to make jackets.

A yard of the Byzantine cloth, in tones of amber, aquamarine, mint, green, scarlet or cream, costs \$4.50 to \$14. Imported German or Italian material of similar quality would cost about \$120 a yard in a Bucharest fashion shop.

Nuns work day or evening shifts in a room reeking of the oil that keeps the looms running smoothly. Paper icons of sacred symbols have been pinned to the machines to remind the nuns they are working for God, not haute couture.

Romanian fashion designer Catalin Botezatu, a protégé of the late Gianni Versace, agrees that the cloth would make beautiful clothes. "The Romanians haven't always appreciated this material, but they will," she said.

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Samples: Beth Hines (440) 458-4049,

hinessheep@aol.com

Workshops: Jill Cooley

It is possible to weave fabrics two, three, and four times the width of the loom. The techniques are essentially the same as for layered fabric, except that you use only one shuttle. By using one shuttle instead of 2, 3, or 4 you connect the layers rather than weave them separately.

When you want wide pieces of fabric, such as for a blanket, tablecloth, or drapery fabric, it is often preferable to weave it in one piece than to weave strips and sew them together.

As with layered fabrics, errors can be made, and not seen until you cut the project off the loom, unless you are careful. One common error, which can downgrade the quality of your project, is failing to get a clear shed and causing floats on the lower sections. Another thing which must be remembered is to sley an uneven number of yarns to prevent the two yarns at the center of piece (which will be the closed side when on the loom) being woven alike. Also, watch for drawing in. It is very noticeable when you open your finished piece. Heavy yarns can cause a bulky wrapping of the cloth beam. That can cause a change in tension--lighter on top, lighter on bottom. Consider this when selecting your yarns.

This is a fantastic technique to know, but, be careful when weaving!

Cloth that is twice the width of your loom can be woven in plain weave with the use of four harnesses. Both halves of the fabric can be woven in the same color of different colors. Or, with a little thinking and figuring a stripe or plaid pattern can be woven.

By adding two harnesses to the double-width cloth you can increase the width of your piece by the width of your loom. The more widths you add to your piece, the more carefully you must watch your weaving, especially the shed clearance and the tendency for your weaving to draw your plan for a three-block pattern.

	N	A	M	S
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Harnesses 1 and 3 weave the top section. Harnesses 2 and 4 weave the middle section. And harnesses 3 and 6 weave the bottom section.

Raise

<u>Harnesses</u>	<u>Harnesses</u>
1	2,3,4,5,6

[illegible]

The side that remains open depends on the direction of the first shot thrown. For the right side open, throw from right to left. For the left side open, throw from left to right.