

Loco News

HOW TO MAKE ONE

Spiral rope chain

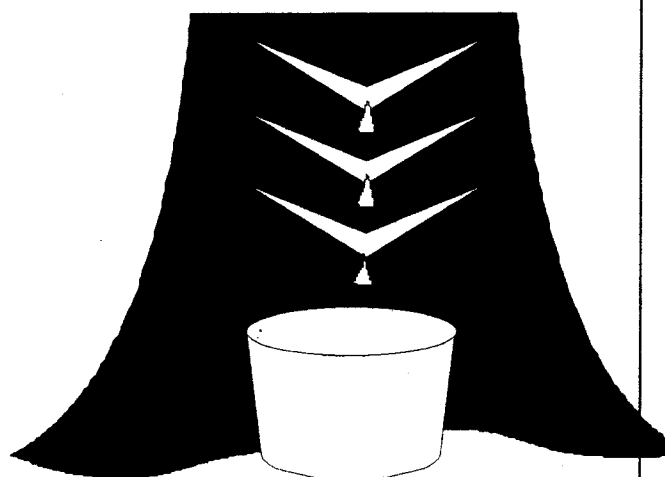
Darlene Lippert of the North Coast Bead Guild will be showing us how to make a Spiral Rope Chain at the meeting Tuesday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. at the Carlisle Visitor Center on Diagonal Road.

For those of you familiar with the Bead Paradise, she has also taught classes there. There is a \$5 supply fee. She would like to have an idea of how many people would be interested in doing this to make up kits. Please leave a message on Elizabeth Yasaki's answering machine (440) 458-8767.

Supplies to bring: sharp scissors and a flat dish or piece of leather or something to put the beads in or on while you work with them.

Our librarian, Sarah will be bringing magazines and books in March for people to review in May. Elizabeth would like to do this as a program if there are enough of us willing to read and review.

Coming attractions: April will be fiber relocation evening. It's time to clean out your closets, folks. Your idle goodies need a new home!



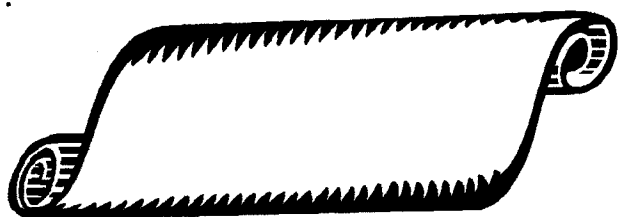
MAPLE SYRUP TIME

Spring spinning day

We'll be meeting at the Agricultural Extension office on Russia Road on Saturday, March 22, to spin, or knit or sit and chat.

Bring a project and a dish to share for our potluck lunch. The lunch is usually at least as much fun as the gossip.

Hours from 9 to 3. Be sure to come join us. It's one of our annual spinning days that are strictly for us. Good place to get advice on spinning or knitting or weaving problems, too.



Calendar

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 22: Medina Guild's Bobbie Irwin twined rug workshop at Medina Presbyterian Church. \$75 and \$7 materials fee. Information: Becky Monegan (330) 920-1448 or summitbluebird@aol.com. Checks and registration to Rosanna Ludwig, 7323 Kennard Rd., Seville, OH 44273

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 Holbach1@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

April 26: Western Reserve Spinners and Knitters workshop on painting a silk scarf. \$35. Materials fee \$15. Checks and registration to Bonnie Toth, 2656 Bushnell-Campbell Road, Fowler, OH 44418

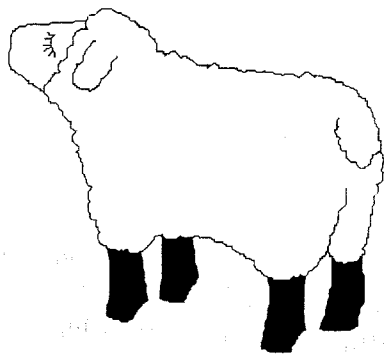
May 3-4: Maryland Sheep and Wool Show, Howard County Fairgrounds, Maryland.

May 24-25: Great Lakes Fiber Show, Wooster. Information: Linda Reichert, 330-264-9665 or don47linda@valkyrie.net. Classes, competitions and demonstrations as well as vendors.

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. Guild spinning day is the last day, Sunday, Aug. 24.



Know your sheep

Cheviot

Also Border Cheviot, Brecknock Hill Cheviot, North Country Cheviot or South Country Cheviot

Animal size: Rams 160-200 pounds; ewes 130-170 pounds

Fleece weight: rams 9-14 pound; ewes 7-10 pounds

Wool type: Medium wool Mountain and Hill

Numerical count: 48s to 56s

Micron Count 33.0-27.0

Blood System: Low 1/4-3/8

Staple length: 3" to 6"

Breed origin: Native to the Cheviot Hills, the border area between Scotland and England, they were bred to meet the requirements of the practical Scots in a rigorous climate where hardiness and vigor were needed to survive. These qualities and the Scotsmen's dream of the kind of sheep they wanted led to a long, careful program of selecting the superior individuals for breeding.

Sheep characteristics: There are two types of cheviot: Border (sometimes called Southern) Cheviot is the smaller of the two and the larger Northern Cheviot has a

distinctive arched Roman nose. Border Cheviot is the predominant type in the United States.

Since the modern Cheviot breed has been produced by selection rather than by crossing, it is a pure breed—one of a very few pure breeds in this country. Because of this purity, when the Cheviot ram is mated with crossbred ewes or ewes of other breeds, he stamps unmistakable Cheviot characteristics on his offspring, imparting to them a large measure of the superiority for which Cheviots are known.

It is primarily known as a mutton sheep, and is one of the most beautiful breeds. The stylish, alert Cheviot is a compact, short-legged animal of medium size with a bald white head, erect ears, and ruff of wool behind the ears. The Cheviot inclines to be somewhat narrow of back with a moderate depth of body and fair leg of mutton, which in recent years has been much improved.

They rely on grass feed during the entire year, are active and independent, and do not flock as do other breeds. They are not suited to the range country and are known for their ability to shepherd themselves.

The Cheviot ewe is a utilitarian, hardy animal, with good mothering and milking qualities, which she passes to her crossbred progeny along with a tolerance for cold, humidity, and extremes of climate. The Cheviot stands up particularly well to cold and wetness.

Their temperament is different from most breeds. They are very alert. It takes very little to alarm them and they jump straight up and take flight at the slightest indication of trouble. Of course, this is their only defense against predators.

Fleece characteristics: Look for a fleece with square, blocky staples and a full, springy hand. Avoid a fleece with a harsh handle, especially one which shows hairy britch or kemp fibers. Expect a good fleece to be chalky white in color and light in weight. Spongy is another good word to use in describing it.

Cheviots produce generous fleeces of white wool which is preferred by the mills because its fineness, crimp and length of staple give it superior spinning and combing qualities, and its low grease content causes less shrinkage in scouring.

Spinning tips: Cheviot is easy to spin without carding, because the locks are not well defined. It is an excellent fleece for beginners. It has amazing buoyancy and bounce. It is a wool that when made into a sweater ribbing holds its shape and returns to shape.

Due to the open nature of the fleece this breed is easily cleaned by the handspinner and is often spun in the grease because it is not heavy with lanolin or sticky. The breed has a tendency to shed dirt. With the proper care the Cheviot can be one of the cleanest fleeces available to the handspinner.

One of the fleeces dyers like most is Cheviot. It is very receptive to natural and chemical dyes. It is able to take dye in delicate, clear pastels shades, as well as brighter colors. There is a negative aspect, however. Some of the animals have a tendency to produce kemp.

These stiff, wiry hairs do not accept dye readily and will stand out boldly after dyeing.

For more control in spinning an even yarn, card first and spin with a firm tension. Aim to retain the springy lofting

characteristics of the fleece in a resilient, full-handling, light yarn. Cheviot wool makes great general-purpose, no-nonsense, durable knitting and weaving yarns. However if the kemp sections are kept for Harris Tweed styled singles or coarse rug yarn, even this can be utilized in creative ways.

While the coarser Cheviot is too rough for most to wear next to the skin, it can make marvelous outer sweaters that have less tendency to pill than finer breeds. The coarser wool can also make fantastic runners, rugs, or hangings and, at the finer end of the scale, terrific outerwear.

If this wool is overspun it can be brittle and harsh. Try using a relatively large needle and loose tension in knitting, and set a woven piece on the open side, to preserve the light, lofty feel of the fiber.

Beverly Horn recommends using a firm tension when spinning and a balanced spin. Neither under spun, which she says shows up the spongy character, nor over spun, which robs the light airy texture of the yarn.

The North Country Cheviot is one of the largest hill sheep, and is larger than its southern counterparts. It has large ears held less erect than those on the Cheviot. They originate from Cheviots taken from the Border Country to Caithness and Southerland and have over the years developed into a separate breed.

Staple Length: 8-14 cm

Fleece Weight: 2-3 kg

Numerical Count: 50s-56s

Brecknock Hill Cheviot

Animal Size: Rams 160-200 pounds; ewes 130-170 pounds

Fleece type: Down

Numerical Count: 50s-56s

Staple length: 6-10 cm

Fleece weight: 1 1/2-2 1/2 kg

Sheep characteristics: The Brecknock Hill Cheviot has erect ears and a broad back with white face and legs. They have a ruff of wool behind the ears. No wool is found on the face or legs below the knee or hock. The rams occasionally have horns.

Breeders' Association: American Cheviot Sheep Society, Ruth Bowles, Secretary, RR Box 100 Clarks Hill, Indiana, 47930.

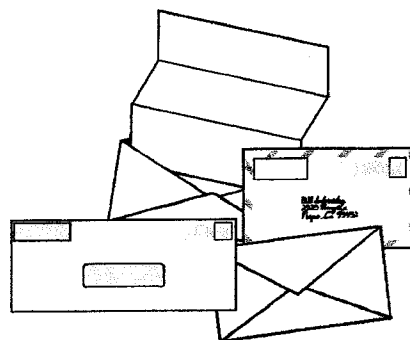
Sources: A Study of Farm Animals, Charles S. Plumb, The Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, MN, 1924, Ashford Book of Spinning, by Anne Field; Breed Wools: Cheviot, Moira Z. Wilson, Sheep Tales Magazine, March/April, 1984; British Sheep & Wool, edited by: J. Elliot, D. E. Lord ATL, J. M. Williams FRAGS; The British Wool Marketing Board, Oak Mills, Clayton, Bradford, West Yorkshire BD1463D, 1990; Cheviots, Sheep and Farm Life, January/February, 1982; In Sheep's Clothing, A Handspinner's Guide to Wool, Nola Fournier and Jane Fournier, Interweave Press, 1995; Know Your Sheep Breeds, Border Cheviot, Linda Berry Walker, Spin-off, summer 1991; Fleece In Your Hands by Beverly Horne; Raising Sheep the Modern Way, by Paula Simmons; United States Department of Agriculture, bulletins, charts, posters.

Compiled by: Roni Rospert -1996



Year of the sheep

The Chinese year of the sheep began Feb. 1 and will continue until next February. If you were born in any of the following years you, too are a sheep: 1907, 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, and 2003.



From the mailbox

Medina Spinning and Weaving Guild will hold a workshop on Twined Rag Rugs with Bobbie Irwin Thursday, May 22, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Medina Presbyterian Church on Burgundy Bay Blvd., off Rte. 18. No looms are necessary. The materials fee of \$7 will include a loom to make the extremely durable and beautiful rugs using fabric for both warp and weft. Attendees will make hot-pad sized samples on a small frame. A sampler takes about a yard of fabric and needs two or more colors. New or recycled fabrics work. A detailed materials list will be mailed when registration is received. Cost will be \$70 for members, \$75 for non-members. Send checks and registration to Rosanna Ludwig, 7323 Kennard Rd., Seville, OH 44273

The Ewe Tree in Peninsula will close this year after 20 years in business. The owners are retiring. Many items are for sale. Call 330-650-6777, or www.ewetree.com The Ewe Tree is at 61 Geoppert Road, Peninsula, OH 44264.

Western Reserve Spinners and Knitters will have a workshop on painting a silk scarf Saturday April 26, from 9 a.m. to 5

p.m. \$30 for members, \$35 for non-members. Materials fee \$15. Send check and registration to: Bonnie Toth, 2656 Busheness-Campbell Rd., Fowler, OH 44418

Linda Roghaar is seeking stories, recollections, essays, anecdotes, humor and inspiring tales about anything having to do with knitting for another book of stories, "Knitlit Too: Stories from Sheep to Shawl" which will be published by Three Rivers Press/Random House in Spring, 2004.

The first book, "KnitLit" Sweaters and Their Stories and Other Writing About Knitting" was published in October 2002 and is already in its third printing. The stories that are being sought are about any part of the process of creating knitwear, and that includes spinning. Deadline is April 30, 2003, and they can be sent to Knitlit Project, PO Box 3561, Amherst, MA 01004-3561 or email to

contribute@knitlit.com

Length can be up to 1,200 words, no pictures, and material will not be returned. A small fee will be paid if the story is used. For more information see the website www.knitlit.com

Sock It to Me, a conversion guide for shoe size to sock length is being offered for knitters. It converts U.S., Mexican and European sizes. The gauge is 4 1/4 X 10 1/8 and is laminated for durability. \$6.95 each, postage paid. Sock It To Me, PO Box 1297 Shingle Springs, CA 95682 or call 530-676-4640. Visa/MC orders.

Ohio Want Ads

For sale: Peyton Loom, 1930-1940. \$425.
Information: Beverly Paidmore, 4026

Stratford Road, Boardman, OH 44512, 330-782-1326

For sale: 60-inch LeClerc 4 harness counterbalance with bench. Nora Easton, 440-543-7058

For sale: Antique loom, solid maple, labeled Union Loom Works, Boonville, NY. \$1,000. Includes shuttles and tool for threading heddles. Antique yarn winder, \$125. Made in early 1900. Joy Sloan ajsloan@bright.net or Linda Zeiter, 440-392-2454.



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