

Brenda Bothe's world

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Sporting rubber boots, with a bucket crooked in her arm, she has gathered golden rod, walnut hulls, coreopsis, and other wild flowers and weeds for making natural dyes. Her trial and error experiments have filled a wicker basket with wool yarn samples, showing how one flower or nut can produce various colors depending on when it was picked and how it was prepared.

Her skills in shearing sheep and sheep management, she said, were learned by attending Penn State workshops at the Berks County

Agricultural Center.

"Steve and I work hard to keep the fleeces clean because we sell to handspinners. We've built special feeders so the hay doesn't fall on their necks as they eat."

"When I'm shearing, I strive for no second cuts. And, I make sure the sheep are clean when they're shorn, taking time to pull off the manure."

"Otherwise it's basic sheep management, flushing the ewes before we breed them and rotating our pastures for parasite control."

As part of her busy craft career, Brenda represents eastern Penn-



Brenda's latest effort in 'growing' her own silk, called mawata (she's holding some), and will spin it into yarn for all-silk garment, like the sweater she made, shown here.



Brenda holds a drop spindle, the predecessor of the spinning wheel, made by her fiance, Steve Day. Steve's woodworking skills find him turning out tools of the trade, such as the spindle and crochet hooks, on his workshop lathe.

sylvania in the Natural Colored Wool Growers Association, an organization formed about eight years ago in the western states. She also is a 2-year jury member of the Pennsylvania Guild of Craftsmen, which signifies her work has met the group's rigid standards of quality and workmanship.

Taking her natural fiber hats, sweaters, and coats to craft fairs throughout the state is one way Brenda markets her wares. She also does special orders for people asking for a certain color or style garment.

So the spinning wheel goes round in Brenda's world. The 'shuttle' on her modern loom zings across the wires as it knits a sweater from homespun wool, mohair or silk.

Making clothing from natural fibers, with colors warmed from

natures plants — Brenda Bothe keeps this ancient art and pioneer

craft alive in Berks County with the help of partner Steve Day.

District to sponsor youth conservation school

LANCASTER — The third annual Youth Conservation School, sponsored by the Lancaster County Conservation District and the Lancaster Federation of Sportsman Clubs, will be held the week of July 26 to August 1, 1981. The co-education resident school, open to boys or girls, age 14 to 16, will be held at the Northern Lancaster Fish and Game Association.

The cost of the school will be \$65 and students must be sponsored by a sportsman club, service or civic organization, or conservation related group.

A wide range of conservation related topics will be covered including soil and water conservation, energy conservation, forestry, fish and wildlife

management, survival, and aquatic biology.

For more information, contact the Lancaster County Conservation District at Room 6, Farm and Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road, Lancaster, PA 17601, or telephone 717/299-5361.





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