

Locally grown and processed yarns and fibers, and fair trade fiber products for knitters and weavers

We are fortunate in Missouri to have a number of people raising fiber animals, of small mills and spinners processing fibers, and of local dyers dyeing yarn. Hillcreek Fiber Studio and True Blue Fiber Friends both support and encourage local natural fiber providers as well as fiber producing small fair trade cooperatives around the world. The following is a listing of just a few suppliers we support. Please call for more information if you are interested.

ABC Ranch, needle felting kits with dyed angora fibers, dyed wool batts and roving, Bonnie and Carl Ahrens, Martinsburg, MO

Alpaca d'Auxvasse, huacaya and suri alpaca roving and yarns, natural and hand-dyed colors, Ann Mayes, Auxvasse, MO.

Bextraordinary, merino sock yarn, brushed mohair and more, dyed in limited quantities, Bex Oliger, Hallsville, MO.

Carol Leigh's Nature-Dyed Pearls, raised in Mid-Missouri, super soft lofty merino bound with fine Romney dyed with nature's colors, Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser, Columbia, MO.

Dalcrista, curly mohair locks dyed with Country Classics, Chris Hunsberger, Turney, MO

Dome Hill, hand-dyed sock yarns, Kay Luke, Warrensburg, MO

Frabjous Fibers, fair trade coop in Nepal, needlefelted notion bags, fibers.

Frog Tree, alpaca, cotton, and merino fibers produced in fair trade coops in Peru and Bolivia.

Humble Hills Farms, champion merino and Romney fleece, "pearls" yarn, Andy McMurry, New Franklin, MO

JWray Company, nature-dyed yarns, Janet Wray and Leslie Carroll-Bartlett.

Mirasol Project, fair trade wool, silk, organic cotton, portion of proceeds go to building schools in Peru.

Mongolian Nomad, fair trade hand-spindle spun camel yarns, Nancy Shand, KS.

Ozark Carding Mill, Gail White, OK

Ozark Handspun, art yarn raved about in national and international journals, David Gentzsch, Jefferson City, MO.

The Alpaca Company, Diana Peckam, Columbia, MO

Custom One-of-a-Kind Spriggs Adjustable Triangle Looms

For each biennial international weavers' conference, Convergence, Carl Spriggs of Hillcreek Fiber Studio designs a unique adjustable triangle loom, often with a matching stand, and sometimes with a matching loom of another shape. They are each a work of art signed by the maker, complete with an artist's statement.

For 2006 Convergence in Grand Rapids Michigan he created a "Bubbles" loom and stand, inspired by his then two-year old son Vincent who was fascinated by soap bubbles. The design displayed playfully inlaid bubbles made of a variety of wood types, some grouped, some independently "floating" around the perimeter of the loom, head of the stand, and even on the pegs of the stand.

For Convergence 2008 in Tampa, Florida he and his wife Jodi designed a musical theme inspired by a Pete Seager folk song "Oh, had I a golden thread". A musical staff with the notes for the tune were inlaid on the hypotenuse of the loom. The note stems and bar lines are wood-burned into the loom. Two golden strands of cherry wood were inlaid through the two side boards of the triangle. The artist statement includes the score and words to the Pete Seager song.

Earlier designs included cross-cut layered wood types flowing through the loom boards, and another year he inlaid a starburst of different woods. This one is on the cover of the video "Triangle Frame Loom Weaving Magic".

If you are coming to Convergence 2010 in Albuquerque, NM look for his newest creation. These looms are becoming collector's items as they are each a true one-of-a-kind art piece.

"Bubbles" just sold as we were about to go to press. "Golden Threads" is still available. If you are interested, please call 573-874-2233 for further details. See Pictures on Page 10.

(NOTE: Check out the on-line version of this Newsletter to see all of the pictures in full color)