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Event Calendar for 2012

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Autumn Greetings, Fiber Friends!



Our world is in continuous flux — climate change, political stalemate, high unemployment, technological advances, and financial unrest. These are anxious, changing times. The world as we knew it 15 years ago will never be the same. We as a nation need to take a deep breath, try to ascertain where we are headed, and re-tool, re-train, and re-invent our future. We need to truly learn what is most important to us and our future. Do we really need all those materialistic, throw-away objects which clutter our surroundings, gobble our finances, and pollute the environment? Do we really need to belong to so many organizations, attend so many meetings, and be so many places which gobble up our time and energy? When was the last time we just sat on the porch, watched the cars go by, visited with our neighbors, puttered in the garden, or read a good book? Too long ago, I bet.

As we all grow older we find our life situations changing. With the passing of both parents this past year my siblings and I are feeling orphaned. To whom do you now turn to to share life's troubles and joys? We're feeling the void. And now our youngest, Rose, has grown up and moved away — too far away. Yup, empty nest syndrome setting in!

Other changes are happening as well. Daughter Rebecca is now sole owner of True Blue Fiber Friends (TBFF Yarns and More) and has developed new knitting patterns. See Pages 8 and 9 for her story and pictures.

A new book on natural dyeing has been published, *Harvesting Color* by Rebecca Burgess who attended a Missouri Dye Workshop here at Hillcreek Fiber Studio a couple years ago. The book features the dyes we harvested, as well as those she harvested with other dyers around the country. See Page 3 for a book review. Contrary to popular myth, my last name is NOT "Leigh." This book does, however, propagate this myth.

Last April, as a reward for finally finishing our book *Continuous Strand Weaving Method*, Rose and I attended the international natural dyeing conference ISEND (International Symposium and Exhibition on Natural Dyes) in La Rochelle, France. See Page 4 for a report and pictures from that trip.

Earlier this week I returned from one of the wettest fur trader rendezvous re-enactments ever, the 10-day national Eastern Primitive Rendezvous near Carrsville, VA. We nicknamed it Rainendezvous! Truly "rain" and "rendezvous" are synonymous. See Page 10 for a report.

As I travel long distances across the United States I've
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and
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