

HILLCREEK FIBER NEWS

Published twice yearly by

\$5.00

Carol Leigh's Specialties

Established 1982

Specializing in Custom Handwoven Textiles, Nature-Dyed Fibers, Handspun Yarns using natural fibers and dyes

Home of the

Spriggs 7' Adjustable Triangle & Rectangle, and 5' Adjustable Square Frame Looms

HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO

Established 1986

Specializing in Workshops in Nature-dyeing, Spinning, and Weaving, and in related tools, supplies and books

Bed & Breakfast and Airport Shuttle Service from St Louis & Kansas City available for students

**Carol Leigh's
HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO**

Spring 2013, Vol XXXI, No 1

Event Calendar for 2013

Subscription \$8.00/year for two issues



Spring Greetings Fiber Friends!

Seems all we talk about lately is the extremes in the weather. As most of you from the Midwest know, the snow and extreme cold has been the most challenging this winter. For a story on our **two February outdoor weekend dye workshops on the Lesser Known Ancient Dyes**, see page 4.

I have been fortunate to have had two opportunities since our last newsletter to study **weaving and dyeing in two other cultures**. I find these experiences inspiring. Every culture has figured a way to make fabric to clothe their bodies and to add nature's colors to make them beautiful. Some techniques or ideas have been learned from other cultures, but many unique methods have been developed by each culture. Women's cooperatives are everywhere, for inspiring and marketing each other's products, for developing new uses and techniques, and for keeping historic techniques alive. For a short report on the International Natural Dye Conference in Kuching, Malaysia and our experience staying in the Borneo jungle with the native Iban weavers, participating in their cotton mordanting ceremony, and learning their ikat preparation and weaving techniques, see page 7. For notes on exploring Oaxaca, Mexico Mixtec and Amusgo villages of cotton growers, spinners, and exquisite backstrap weavers, and also going with a purpura snail dyer of purple dye along the Pacific Coast, see page 8.

Daughter **Bex** is now, again, **offering Knitting Classes here at Hillcreek FIBER Studio**. See page 9 for her Wednesday and Saturday classes.

Our **updated 48-page catalog** featuring our manufactured and nature-dyed products is now available. All 500+ book titles and videos we keep in stock on the fiber arts are listed, along with other spinning and weaving tools, yarns, and fibers. Still only \$5 without purchase, or **free** with a purchase.

GOOD NEWS on the Natural Dye front!

Cochineal prices are back down. Two years ago prices tripled within a few short months due to increased demand and low supplies. During the ensuing years, due to the high prices, more growers are

**Carol Leigh's Specialties
and**

HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO
for weaving, spinning, and dyeing
Supplies & Workshops

7001 S Hill Creek Road, Columbia, MO 65203

Call 573-874-2233 for inquiries,
or the toll free number:

1-800-TRI-WEAV (874-9328) for placing orders

Web Site: www.HillcreekFiberStudio.com

with an **on-line Shopping Cart WebStore**

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

Annual subscription rate for *Hillcreek Fiber News* is \$8.00 for two issues, Spring and Autumn. Single Copy, \$5.00. Students and customers with purchases during the year of \$20 or more will receive a complimentary issue.

CLASSIFIED AD RATES:

For a listing under **Equipment/Fiber Sources** or other classified columns, please remit \$10 by September 15, 2013 for inclusion in the Autumn 2013 issue. Limit ad to 30 words in addition to your name, address & phone number, \$30 for 1/4 page, \$50 for 1/2 page. (See pages 10 & 11.) Circulation is now around 8000 fiber-interested people.

WEAVING STUDIO HOURS:

Hillcreek Fiber Studio is a working studio & mail order service. Please call **573-874-2233** or **1-800-874-9328** before planning a trip to the Studio. **Studio hours** are: **Tuesday through Saturday**, 9 am to 5 pm, by appointment only. At other times, **please leave a message** and we will return your call ASAP.

DEALERSHIPS

carried by **Carol Leigh's HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO**

AURORA SILKS Dyes

ASHFORD Spinning Wheels, Looms and Tools

EARTHUES Natural Dye Extracts

LOUËT Spinning & Weaving Tools & Supplies

HANDWEAVERS GUILD OF AMERICA *Shuttle, Spindle & Dye*pot

HARRISVILLE Friendly Looms

INTERWEAVE PRESS Books and Magazines:

Handwoven, Spin-Off

SCHACHT SPINDLE CO. Looms, Wheels & Supplies

SNIPES Weaving & Spinning Tools

SPRIGGS CUSTOM WOOD PRODUCTS Adjustable Triangle, Square, and Rectangle Looms; Navajo & Inkle Looms; Drop & Navajo Spindles; Warping Boards; Maru-dai, knitting spools

UNICORN BOOKS every type of fiber-related book

VICTORIAN VIDEO PRODUCTIONS

YARNS and FIBERS:

BROWN SHEEP CO., *Carol Leigh's* Nature-dyed Riata, *Carol Leigh's* Nature-dyed wool potholder loops,

DRAGON TAILS, **FIESTA YARNS**, **GENOPALETTE** wool,

HARRISVILLE wool, **GLIMAKRA** linen, **JAGGERSPUN**, **MAYSVILLE CARPET WARP**,

PERLE COTTONS, **SOUTHWEST TRADING** bamboo, **Ashford TEKAPO** wool, **FROG TREE** alpaca & more,

VERSEIS/FOXFIBRE colororganic cotton,

WEAVING SOUTHWEST wool

AND MUCH MORE

Partial Listing - MISCELLANEOUS Items

Pewter Jewelry by Ram's Horn

Brass Shawl & Kilt Celtic brooches by Mountain Forge

Handmade Bookmarks by Moosetrack Studio

Weaving Picks by Cathy Berlincourt

Lucets by Peggy Ledrich

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HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO WEEKEND & LONGER WORKSHOPS

Taught by **Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser** unless otherwise noted

2013

APR 26 - 29 ... **SPINNING: BEGINNING, DESIGNER YARNS, SPECIAL FIBERS**

June 2 - 7 **FIBER FURLOUGH ONE:** SPINNING, DYEING, FELTING

June 9 - 14 **FIBER FURLOUGH TWO:** WEAVING OF ALL TYPES, NAVAJO, CONTINUOUS STRAND, 4-8 SHAFT, RIGID HEDDLE, INKLE, TABLET, KILIM, FINGER

Sept 7 - 8 **MISSOURI DYE PLANTS**

Nov 17 - 22 ... **NAVAJO WEAVING WITH SARAH NATANI**

PRIVATE WEAVING AND SPINNING LESSONS
ARRANGED BY APPOINTMENT

Tuition: Two days, \$140; three days, \$195; four days, \$260; five and 1/2 days, \$345. Workshop with guest instructor, \$445.

Tuition includes hot lunches. Deposit of one-half tuition will hold a space for you. Bed & Breakfast available at the Studio: \$50/night. Airport shuttle available from St. Louis and Kansas City airports to Studio. Also, some flights arrive at Columbia Regional airport. Call toll free to reserve space in a class or two: **1-800-TRI-WEAV (874-9328)**

10 percent discount on all classes
when registering for 2 or more classes at once.

Time off from some regular workshops is scheduled to work on natural dye book

(continued from page 1) growing and developing markets, so the supply has increased, and the demand has dropped a little. (Perhaps Starbuck's removal of cochineal from their strawberry frappuccinos has something to do with lessening demand?) Also, Lye is back on our dye aid roster — at a lower cost! We have found a new source for Lye, a concentrated alkaline for easy use in Indigo dyeing and soap making.

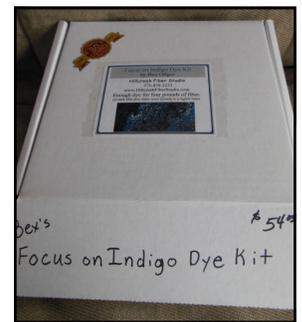
Good deal on dye kits! Speaking of Natural Dye products for you — we have recently upgraded and improved all our Natural Dye Kits, rewriting recipes, adding Alum Acetate to the Complete Kit for mordanting cellulose fibers, adjusting ingredient amounts, and adding muslin bags for dyes which can be reused several times. The now 12-page dye/recipe booklet in the Complete Dye Kit offers a full workshop in a box. These dye kits offer a special value to you. The ingredients bought separately would cost considerably more.



Carol Leigh's Sampler Dye Kit contains Brazilwood, Cochineal, Indigo, Logwood, Madder, and Osage Orange, Alum and Cream of Tartar, and complete instructions for a rainbow of colors on over 5 pounds of wool or other protein fibers. \$89.00

Carol Leigh's Complete Dye Kit contains twice as much of the above dyes, plus cutch, all of the mineral salts to alter colors, plus ingredients to dye cellulose as well as protein fibers to entice over 60 colors on over 10 pounds of protein or cellulose fibers. \$159.00

Bex's Focus on Indigo Dye Kit contains ingredients and recipes for two types of indigo vats, one for emersion dyeing of protein fibers, the other for shibori and tie-dye effects on cellulose and silk fibers on over 4 pounds of fibers. \$54.00



Blog site: New topics include more information and pictures of my Oaxacan textile trip in January, and experiences in the jungles of Borneo last September. Maybe some of you can relate to my dilemma regarding all the new social media technology growing exponentially faster than at any other time in our lives. Think of the changes that have happened in only the past 5 years: I-pad/cell phone/camera which put an encyclopedia of information, maps of anywhere and everywhere, answers to any question including retail products/costs/discounts/location— and much more— at our finger tips. How many more developments will happen in our lifetime? But these all require cost, dependency, and time spent on these devices which provide these services. Many teenagers (and adults) today don't know how to make eye contact when they speak with erratic attention to a conversation with you, due to constant attention to their hand-held "devices." I suppose those who spend their employment on a computer, or have more free time, have more access and opportunity to use these devices. I'm at a little disadvantage. I haven't had time to learn all this stuff (I'm busy dyeing things or teaching or shipping or updating brochures, ads, or newsletters), and some of my tech support (Rose and William) have moved away. But I'm making a pledge to you today to make some time to learn, and at least blog about a few things in which I think you might be interested. We do have a blog site on our web site: www.hillcreekfiberstudio.blogspot.com, so check it out periodically, please encourage me, prod me... I am constantly streaming things in my head which I would like to share with you.

88 Colors in Zero Degree Temperature and 24 inches of snow!
Is This Insanity? Yes, probably!!

Our February Ancient Dye workshop this year was like no other. In the more than 25 years we have been presenting ancient dyes in the winter, this was the most challenging. Every third or fourth year we offer the Lesser Known Ancient Dyes such as Alkanet, Annatto, Fustic, Stick Lac, Safflower, Red Sandalwood, Kamala, Woad, Weld, Pomegranate, and Sumac.

This year we had so many sign up for the class that we opened it up to two successive weekends. The Thursday before the first weekend we had 12 inches of snow. Anticipating the storm we set up our canvas marquis on Wednesday with two picnic tables and our 3-dog wood stove inside. Denny was up every half hour or so throughout the night to knock the snow off the tent top. All day Friday was spent shoveling the long driveway and parking lot in back for enough space for at least 6 vehicles, paths to and from the house and tent and around all the outdoor propane burners. We considered cancelling the workshop, but a couple was already traveling by train from Massachusetts. During the workshop the wool roving and raw silk and cotton fabric strips were freezing to the screens as we laid them out in order. Saturday night the temperature dipped below 0 degrees F! Thank goodness the sun shown throughout the weekend, though the temperatures did not get above freezing. We did keep apple cider on the wood stove and mugs to keep hands warm. The hearty dye students successfully dyed with eleven dyes -- pre-mordants and after baths evoking 8 colors from each dye. We washed, spun and sun dried the samples, and then cataloged them for everyone to take home a file folder for each dye.



After the workshop, we had many jugs and dye pots of left-over dyes which I needed to use up sufficiently before the next weekend so we would have enough empty dye pots and jugs left to repeat the same workshop the following week. We felt relieved that we had successfully survived the previous weekend. "Nothing could be so grueling for the next weekend!" — WRONG. Flurries were forecast, but an additional 12 inches fell the following Tuesday, then it kept snowing every day! As I was dyeing my Riata yarn and wool potholder loops during the week, the water dripping off the dyed fibers on the clothesline formed ice cycles as they dripped. Then snow covered their tops. The strangest sight!



The second weekend we again considered cancelling, but we had a student with non-refundable plane ticket coming in from California — so we plunged ahead. The second weekend WAS just as challenging as the first. Temperature AGAIN

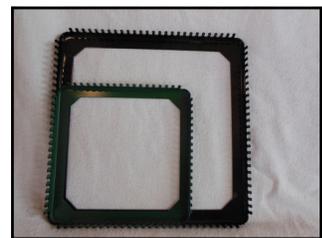
dropped to 0 degrees Saturday night. PLUS, the sun did NOT shine most of the weekend. Thanks to the trooper students, we survived another challenging weekend with another set of file folders to take home! Ironically, students from the two Coasts arrived to the snow with no trouble. However, several Missouri and Iowa students could not escape their own driveways!



(Check the website version of this newsletter for pictures in color)

NEW PRODUCT! Harrisville Designs has introduced a new Professional full-sized potholder frame loom (11-inches square, compared to the original 7). We carry their loom kits

with cotton loops sufficient for two potholders. Also PRO-loops in 8 separate colors. Great for designing full-sized potholders to match your kitchen décor and for gifts! (We're anxiously awaiting longer wool loops for this ultimate potholder loom.)



Hillcreek Fiber Studio 2012 - 2013 Workshop and Event Calendar

Date	Workshops/Events	Location
<u>2013</u>		
April 20	All-Missouri Spring Spin-In, Sponsored Columbia Weavers and Spinners' Guild ...	Booneville, Missouri
Apr 26 - 27.....	BEGINNING SPINNING, Hillcreek Fiber Studio	Columbia, MO
April 27 - 28	SPINNING DESIGNER YARNS, Hillcreek Fiber Studio	Columbia, MO
April 28 - 29 ...	SPINNING SPECIAL FIBERS, Hillcreek Fiber Studio	Columbia, MO
May 11	Chelsea Brack's wedding	Amelia Island, FL
May 14	Presentation on Navajo Weaving and Culture, Weavers Guild of Miami Valley	Yellow Springs, OH
May 17 - 19	Navajo Weaving Workshop, Weavers Guild of Miami Valley Ohio.....	Yellow Springs, OH
June 2 - 7	FIBER FURLOUGH ONE: Spinning, Dyeing, and Felting Beginning Spinning, Spinning Special Fibers, and/or Spinning Designer Yarns, Dyeing and Painting with Natural Dyes, Felting Wet and Dry, HFS	Columbia, MO
June 8	BLUE PARTY Four different blue pots for dyeing, Bex Oliger, HFS	Columbia, MO
June 9 - 14	FIBER FURLOUGH TWO: Weaving of all Types: Continuous Strand all shapes; Navajo & Kilim Tapestry; Pile Carpet; Four to eight-shaft on Floor and Table Looms; Rigid Heddle, Inkle, Tablet, Finger Weaving and more, HFS	Columbia, MO
June 17 - 19	Continuous Strand Weaving Pre-conference Workshop	Emporia, KS
June 20 - 22	Midwest Weavers' Conference (Prairie Winds), Vendor	Emporia, KS
July 12 - 14	Fiber "U", vendor, Navajo Weaving and Continuous Strand Weaving workshops.....	Lebanon, MO
Aug 14 - 15	Pre-Festival Continuous Strand Weaving Workshop, Allegan County Fairgrounds	Allegan, MI
Aug 16 - 18	Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan County Fair Grounds, Vendor.....	Allegan, MI
Sept 7 - 8	NATURAL DYEING: Missouri Dye Plants , Hillcreek Fiber Studio	Columbia, MO
Sept 20 - 28	Eastern Primitive Rendezvous, Cooper's Lake Campgrounds	Slippery Rock, PA
Oct 2 - 4	Natural Dyes International Conference	Taos, NM
Nov 8 - 10	Columbia Weavers & Spinners' Guild Exhibition & Sale . Boone Co Historic Museum, Columbia, MO	
Nov 17 - 22	NAVAJO WEAVING WORKSHOP with guest instructor SARAH NATANI, HFS	Columbia, MO

2014

Jan 15 - 25	Alafia River Rendezvous, Suttler and seminars	Homeland, FL
Mar 7 - 9	Jefferson City Fiber Retreat, Tom Knisely featured weaving workshop	Jefferson City, MO
July 15 - 19	Convergence International Weaving Conference, Continuous Strand Weaving, vendor	TBA

All workshops are taught by Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser, unless otherwise noted.
Events in **BOLD** and **ALL CAPS** are workshops offered at *Hillcreek Fiber Studio*

Call 1-800-TRI-WEAV (874-9328) to register for weaving, spinning, and dyeing workshops.
Bed and Breakfast at Hillcreek Fiber Studio is available for students.

Scholarship opportunity If you would like some financial assistance
to attend a Hillcreek Fiber Studio workshop, please inquire about our Scholarship Fund.

We are always open for impromptu classes. If our workshop schedule does not fit your schedule,
don't hesitate to contact us and arrange for a mutual time for a couple lessons.

Workshops Offered at Hillcreek Fiber Studio

Nestled in the Little Bonne Femme Creek Valley amidst woods and pastures in view of a major state park, Hillcreek Fiber Studio offers the serenity for a true getaway. Let someone else do the cooking. Just focus on learning a new skill or on exploring an older one. Cuddle up with a book from over 800 titles on the shelves. Relax. You deserve some quiet time for yourself.

Workshops at Hillcreek Fiber Studio allow the student to immerse her or himself in the study and exploration of a number of textile-related subjects. We offer sessions in Spinning, Natural Dyeing, Four & More Shaft Weaving, Navajo Weaving, and Continuous Strand Weaving. We periodically add classes in Spinning Special Fibers, Spinning Designer Yarns, Children's Fiber Weekend, Inkle & Tablet Weaving, Felting, Knitting, Dyeing with Lesser-known Ancient Dyes, among others, as the demand warrants. In the past we've added special workshops with guest instructors in subjects such as mushroom dyeing, and kumi-himo. Let us know what subjects interest you!

BEGINNING SPINNING/ SPINNING DESIGNER YARNS/ SPINNING SPECIAL FIBERS. April 26 - 27, 2013, Friday/Saturday Beginning students will learn basics of spinning, choosing and skirting fleece, cleaning, carding & combing techniques, spinning on spindles and on a variety of spinning wheels.

April 27 - 28, 2013, Saturday/Sunday Designer Yarn students will learn color & fiber blending and Navajo 3-ply techniques. They will create novelty yarns such as slubs, knop, marl, core-spun, loop, and feather yarns, among others.

April 28 - 29, 2013, Sunday/Monday Spinning Special Fibers students will comb wool for worsted-spun yarns, dress distaffs and spin flax, unwind cocoons & spin silk from several preparations, spin cotton and other fine fibers on charka & ahka spindles.

FIBER FURLOUGH ONE, Spinning, Dyeing, Felting: Five and one-half days, June 2 - 7, 2013. Class tailored to students' interests. Beginning through Intermediate levels. Dye, blend fibers, and spin designer yarns. Use dye immersion or painting on fibers, yarns, or fabric. Felt vessels, wearables, or whimsical sculptures using both wet and dry felting techniques.

FIBER FURLOUGH TWO, Weaving of all Types: Five and one-half days, June 9- 14, 2013. Beginning through Intermediate. Students choose own focus for week: rigid heddle, four or more-shaft structures, Navajo, continuous strand on triangle, square or rectangle, tapestry, inkle, tablet, kilim, pile carpet, fingerweaving, kumi-himo braiding, lucet cordage, macrame. Obviously, no one person can explore it all, but students choose what and how many projects to explore during the week. What you don't have time to explore yourself you can observe others doing.

Students may choose both **Fiber Furlough** weeks for a **10% discount** on both tuition and B&B for both weeks. Create a true heirloom by designing the whole textile process - weave something the second week from the yarn you created the first week! University credit is available for these classes.

NATURAL DYEING, MISSOURI PLANTS: Two-day weekend, Sept 7 - 8 2013. A full color spectrum will be obtained from foraged plants within walking distance of Hillcreek Fiber Studio — red from pokeberries, blue, lavender and green from elderberries, yellows, greens and oranges from flowers, browns and blacks from trees. Students will go home with over 60 dye samples on wool, cotton, and raw silk fabric. They may bring items of their fiber medium to dye.

BEG, INTERMED & ADVANCED NAVAJO WEAVING: Five and one-half days, Nov 17 - 22, 2013. Guest instructor Sarah Natani has become family. This will be her sixteenth visit to Hillcreek Fiber Studio. Sarah's focus will be on Intermediate and Advanced Navajo Weaving techniques, including twills and two-faced structures (different design on each side) by using 4-shed techniques. Carol Leigh will assist beginning weavers. Sarah shares stories and traditions of her culture.

CONTINUOUS STRAND WEAVING ON TRIANGLE, SQUARE, OR RECTANGLE LOOMS Two or Three days. In two days students can complete a full 7-foot Triangle Shawl using the simple, unique continuous-thread method. Or choose three days, take your time and learn a few intermediate or advanced techniques, such as twill, leno lace, and double weave, plus color patterns such as log cabin, tartan plaids and color blending, or create wearable and household textiles on the square or rectangle loom.

BEGINNING/INTERMEDIATE FOUR TO EIGHT-SHAFT WEAVING: Four days: Beginning students will warp their loom twice, complete two projects, learn threading and weaving techniques and how to read and understand pattern drafts and basic weaving theory. **Intermediate students** will work independently on projects with guidance from the instructor. They may choose to weave a "Colonial Weave Structure Sampler," learn traditional loom-dressing methods for a "Tartan Dancing Shawl", or explore another weave structure and project of their choosing.

ANCIENT DYES: Two-day weekend Every color in the rainbow from common historic dyes: Brazilwood, cochineal, indigo, logwood, madder root, osage orange. Every couple years we explore the less commonly used Ancient Dyes of Alkanet, Annatto, Fustic, Lac, Pomegranate rinds, Red Sandalwood, Safflower, Sumac, Weld and Woad. Premordanting and altering color with afterbaths are covered. Students take home samples of a full color spectrum of dozens of colors on wool roving, raw silk, and cotton fabric.

BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE NAVAJO WEAVING: Four days. Students will warp their looms and learn basic Navajo weaving techniques and color joins. The experience will include readings and discussions of the Navajo/Diné culture. Most students will finish a sampler, learning finishing techniques for the tight ending.

Private Spinning Lessons, Two three-hour sessions are recommended for beginning students. \$25 per hour. Dates and times To Be Arranged.

The above unscheduled classes will resume again in 2014.

Tuition: Two days, \$140; three days, \$195; four days, \$260; five and 1/2 days, \$345. Guest instructor tuition \$445 for Sarah Natani's class. Tuition includes a hot, nutritious lunch every day. Deposit of one-half tuition will hold a space for you. Bed & Breakfast is available at the Studio: \$50 per night. Airport shuttle service available from St. Louis, Kansas City, and Columbia Regional airports to our front door. Call toll free to reserve space in a class or two: 1-800-874-9328 (TRI-WEAV). Ten percent discount for two or more classes.

**ISEND-WEFT 2012, International Symposium and Exhibition on Natural Dyes—
World Eco-Fiber and Textile Forum, Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia**

Traveling to the other side of the world is an experience in itself, but having the opportunity for pursuing my passion for studying natural dye practices of other cultures was a dream come true. Daughter Rebecca (Bex) and I attended the ISEND conference in Malaysia last fall. We stayed in a small, unique Hotel called the Batik Boutique, which was an experience in itself. Highly recommended. The owner and manager, Jackie and Jo-Lynn respectively, could not have been more friendly and accommodating. Jackie is also a co-owner of a textile weaving studio carrying on an intricate silk supplemental weft embroidery technique. The conference attracted 350 dyers and textile artisans from 35 countries who gathered to offer presentations, demonstrations, vending, workshops, and research papers, on dyeing techniques, women’s cooperatives, eco-friendly practices, and more. There were also experiences at local museums, historic living history village, to experience the intricate ikat tying and backstrap weaving practices and historic dances and entertainment of the local indigenous peoples. They even got me up to dance the “bamboo dance” with them.

The highlight of our trip was a post-conference opportunity for only a couple dozen of us to travel by plane and 6-hour boat trip, organized by Edric Ong of China, into the jungles of Borneo to stay in a long house in a native Iban weaving village for a couple days to participate in their mordanting ceremony. They prepared a mordant of a nut oil, palm salt and ginger root for the first day’s soaking of their hand-spun cotton skeins. Then those ingredients and several more were cooked up for the second day of cotton mordanting. This process is followed by several days of drying and setting the mordants in skeins before the warp was measured and then intricately tied with a thin plastic wrap in detailed tiny symmetrical design patterns for ikat resist in their morinda red root dye. This tying process can take months on one fabric before the dyeing takes place. Then, after the morinda red dye is set, the ties are untied and then re-tied before immersing the fabric in an indigo dye for an exquisite three-color fabric (the resisted white cotton being the third color.)

From under the loom looking up at reverse embroidery weaving



The 52-hour trip home included a 19-hour layover in Singapore. Bex was excited on the bus tour around the island to be able to get out and walk around the famous Formula One Race Track route through the city. (Meant nothing to me!) See web version of newsletter to see pictures in color: www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com.

Iban Ikat Weaver



Iban mordaanting process. Ingredients put in wooden trough before handspun cotton skeins are lowered in and tromped on



Oaxacan Sunrise



TEXTILE TOUR of Oaxaca, Mexico



In January 2013 Eric Mindling lead a small handful of textile enthusiasts (just 5 of us) on 8 days of a rarely experienced textiles exploration into the hills of Oaxaca and small villages of native Mixtec and Amusgo colored cotton growers, spinners, and weavers. The intricately woven embroidery and guaze weaving techniques obtainable on a back strap loom were incredibly intriguing. We visited five weaving families/village cooperatives plus markets. Side trips included a sugar cane/processing family farm, mask carving family, goard carving, Three Kings Day celebration, a black slave history museum, shore-line sea food restaurants and rooms on the beach for the last two nights. Sunrises were breathtaking (See page 7 for Oaxaca Sunrise).

The highlight for me on this trip was traveling with an indigenous dyer of the *purpura* snail for purple dye on handspun cotton skeins of yarn. The snails are found on the rocks along the Pacific shore line. They are startled, then “milked” to secrete a juice which is dabbed onto the skein. As the juice oxidizes in the air it turns from yellow to green to purple before your eyes. It takes about 100 snails to dye one skein of yarn completely. The snails are replaced on the rocks to survive and produce more dye juice for a future expedition. This practice has been performed for centuries by the indigenous peoples of central America. Unlike other purple snail shell colors obtained throughout history, such as the Tyrian purple, the snail is not killed to extract the color from its shell. The *purpura* snail is now endangered due partially to unskilled use by the Japanese for their “royal purple” during the 1980’s, as well as due to recent increased population of the area who love to eat the snails.

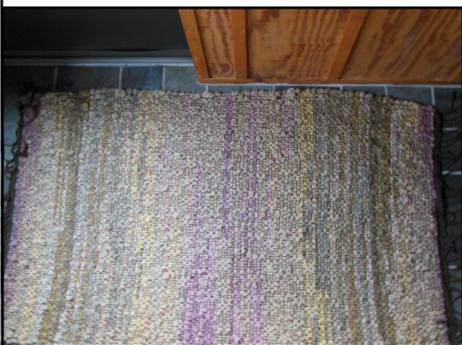


Sarah Natani will be returning again in November to teach Intermediate to Advanced Navajo Weaving. She has endeared herself to us and to her former students with her stories and wisdom of her culture, her fry bread and good humor. She has been a part of Hillcreek Fiber Studio curriculum every year since 1997, with the exception of 2012 when her son passed a few days before she was to join us. We miss her, and are happy she has chosen to join us again this year. She recently wove this 4-in-one rug for me.



Wool Loop Rug Speaking of rugs .. Do you recall that my first reorder of wool loops for the potholder loom came too fat for that use? Well, I have nature- dyed them anyway, and have them available for looping together for rugs. I *finally* got my first wool loop rug off the looms! What I love about these loops

is the opportunity they provide to color-blend the color sequence for designer effects. I used a Fibernacci series of colors (1+1=2, 1+2=3, 2+3=5, 3+5=8, etc.), reversing the color sequence on the last rug shuttle, planning and reversing the middle two shuttles for a roughly symmetrical color arrangement, but because the colors start and end at different points in the rug, the result yields a Monet effect. Dyed rings of 40 loops are \$9.00 each. It took about 4-1/2 pounds of loops for a 3 x 5-foot rug. About 8 rings per pound. 10% discount on \$100 or more.



BEX OLIGER Teaching KNITTING CLASSES
At HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO

Join Bex every Wednesday 10:30 am to 2:30 pm to just sit and knit.

Ask knitting questions, resolve knitting challenges, join a knit-along of one of Bex's patterns, or just join the companionship of knitting. One-on-one help, \$15 per hour.

See Autumn 2012 *Hillcreek Fiber News* for pictures and descriptions of Bex's knitting patterns.

April 20, Saturday, 10 am—12 pm, Continental Knitting, \$20

Whether you have never knit, are left handed, or already knit and want to learn this faster, more ergonomic technique, this class is for you. Best idea is to start a small simple project with knit and purl that you can work entirely continental. Class also available during any Wednesday session.

April 20, Saturday 1-3 pm, Knitting Beyond the Basics, \$30

Lovingly called "25 things you never knew you didn't know about knitting" by my former students. A must-have class about YOUR knitting! Topics covered include gauge, charts, substituting yarns, casting on, binding off, **adjusting patterns....** Class also available during any Wednesday session.

May 18, Saturday 10 am—2 pm, Bex's Climbing Clematis Cardigan, \$45

This beautiful 3-season Cardigan is made all in one piece with after-thought sleeves. Even the shoulders are seamed as you go and the stitch pattern is "TV easy!" Receive a copy of Bex's pattern with the class.

June 8, Saturday offered all day, Blue Party!, Cost \$5 per 8 ounces per three dips

Drop in as you can throughout the day. Four different blue dye vats/pots to choose from: an Indigo especially for protein fibers; an Indigo for shibori/resist/tie-dye on cotton or silk; a Woad for blue; and Saxon blue for turquoise.

July 20, Saturday 10 am—12 pm, Mobius Eternity Scarf, \$20

Learn how to make this simple yet mysterious cowl with a twist that is cast on in the middle and knit in two directions at once. Free pattern with class.

July 20, Saturday 1—5 pm, Double Knitting, \$40

A technique to create two-color patterns on both sides of your work at once! Deceptively easy! Free felted trivet pattern with class. **Take both July classes** and receive a **free copy of Bex's *Infinite Eternity Cowl*** pattern, which is a double-knit Mobius. Stay tuned for **Double-Knit Entrelac!**

August 17, Saturday 10—1 pm, Two-At-A-Time Toe-Up Socks for any yarn and any pair of feet!, \$30

Size and adjust on both socks at once as you go! Never have SSS (Single Sock Syndrome) again! Part 1 of 2, students will arrange for next class individually.

September 21, Saturday 10 am—12 pm, Bex's Brioche Hat, \$25

This fun two color vertical striping technique is so much easier than it looks! You only have to use one color per row. Great project for school colors. Receive a copy of **Bex's *Brioche Hat and Scarf*** pattern.

September 21, Saturday 1-4 pm, Entrelac Headband, \$30

Interwoven diamond shapes are simple to make and a fun way to show off special yarn. Learn how to knit backwards, too! Free pattern with class.

October 26, Saturday 10 am—1 pm, Two-handed, Two-color Fair Isle Knitting, \$30

Learn this technique for intricate looking color patterning in the round. Small pouch pattern included.

October 26, Saturday 2—4 pm Fair-Isle Christmas Ball Ornaments, \$20

Get started now on these adorable ornaments or decorations for the holidays. Basic pattern and chart included. **Take both October classes and get *Blackwatch Tartan Christmas Pickle* pattern!**

Weaving Equipment for Sale
Complete Teaching Studio Contents

Items/Products..... new/used

Floor\ looms:

- 60" four harness Nilus LeClerc Loom,
with separate sectional back beam. \$3371 /\$900
- 45" eight harness Gilmore Loom..... \$3203 /\$800
- 7 x 36" 4-harness, Artisat LeClerc Looms \$1883 /\$550 = \$3850
- 15" eight harness Ashford lift lever Loom \$800 /\$375

Table Looms:

- 15" eight harness Dorothy LeClerc Loom.....\$980 /\$300
- 4 x 15" four harness Dorothy LeClerc Lm ..\$722 /\$200 = \$800

Tapestry Frame Looms:

- 12 x 18" X 24" Adjustable Frame Looms\$120 /\$50 = \$600

Inkle Looms:

- 3 x LeClerc Inkle looms\$257 /\$75 = \$225

Wooden Loom Benches:

- 7 x 23" X 38" lift seat, side pocket LeClerc \$460 /\$175 = \$1225
- 3 x 21"-25" X 24" adjustable LeClerc.....\$252 /\$100 = \$300
- 1 adjustable seat angle Weavers Loom Craft\$550 /\$175

Warping Boards:

- 2 x 40" LeClerc Warping Boards-21 yards....\$144 /\$70 = \$140
- 36" Harrisville Design Warping Board-12 yards.....\$120 /\$60
- 36" Warping Board -12 yards\$100 /\$50

Studio Shelving designed for Yarn and Equipment:

2 of Wooden Units 5 feet 5-1/2 inches tall X 12-3/4 inches deep
 X 8 feet long, sectioned into 9 equal sized open compartments.

No charge w/Studio

Heavy Duty Wooden Table for Tapestry Weaving with the
 Frame Looms: 31 1/2 inches wide X 68 inches long X 29 3/4
 inches high **No charge w/Studio**

Shuttles:

- 12 of 15" LeClerc Rag Shuttles..... \$25.75 /\$12 = \$144
- 2 of 15" LeClerc Boat Shuttles.....\$33 /\$15 = \$30

LeClerc Flat Stick Shuttles for Tapestry Weaving:

- 13 of 10 - 28-inches \$107.35/\$45.90

Miscellaneous Studio Accessories:

Sword Sticks, Bobbins for Shuttles, Heddle Hooks, Screwdrivers
 for the Looms, Back Beam Cranks, Wire Heddles, Weighted
 Tapestry Beaters, Reeds, Raddles, Tensioners, Umbrella Swifts,
 Hand wool Carders.....\$5219/\$2564

Used Weaving Books, Approx. 12 No charge with Studio
 Approx. 100lbs. of **assorted** wool tapestry/ rug wools, cotton
 warp cord, novelty **yarns** No charge with Studio

**Total special price of the contents of The Weaving
 Studio = \$12,484.50. If you think you can take it
 all, I will sell it to you for \$10,000.**

**Please contact Robin Perez, Bridgehampton, NY,
 perezbusiness120@yahoo.com, 1-631-726-4962**

Carol Leigh's Trunk Show

Below are a few fashions found in Carol Leigh's
 book, *Continuous Strand Weaving Method,
 Techniques and Projects for Triangle, Square,
 and Rectangle Frame Looms*. These and other
 textiles are now available for sale. Ask if there are
 some others in the book which interest you.



**Hyacinth Triangle Shawl
 \$250**



**Buckskinner's Shawl
 with Shoulder Fringe
 \$275**



**Log Cabin
 Pooch Pouch Poncho
 \$325**



**Buchanan Tartan
 Blanket \$495**



Scheherazade \$675

CLASSIFIEDS: Equipment/Fibers**FOR SALE:**

Original Rick Reeves 24-inch Saxony Spinning Wheel with brass signature plate. Reeves signature lazy kate with four extra bobbins. Excellent condition. Asking \$1200. Call 573-874-2233. Carol Leigh

Loom4Sale: 72" MACOMBER 4-Harness (add 6 harnesses later). Bench and 12, 15 & 21 dent Reeds, and Sectional Warp beam. Model-B4L; Serial # 4356. Pictures by request. 816-669-3613 Stewartsville, MO suzannejones1955@yahoo.com

For Sale: Large 2-shaft Rug Loom: Rocker Beater, needs TLC. 69" wide x 72" long x 73" high. Homemade with mortise & tenon joinery. Has 38" regular steel, 16 dent reed, rusty. Needs new Heddles, otherwise complete. 9 spool thread rack and sturdy homemade Bench, 27" wide x 17" x 30" tall. Good piece for Historical Museum or Cultural Center. Will consider delivery within 100 miles of Sedalia, MO. Make offer, will negotiate, can send picture. (660) 668-3169 or drumwinds2@yahoo.com D. Scott

Loom for Sale: Heavy frame 4-shaft 36" Macomber, some handmade parts. Best offer. Bob Scribner, 573-819-2436, Columbia, Missouri.

2013 - 2014 Event Contacts

All Missouri Spring Spin-In, April 20, 2013, Boonville, MO, Kandys, kebleil@hotmail.com or www.cwsg.missouri.org

Navajo Weaving Workshop, May 17-19, 2013, Weavers Guild of Miami Valley, OH, Antonia, antoniaharter@yahoo.com, 937-572-7874

Midwest Weaver's Conference, and preconference Continuous Strand Workshop, June 17-22, Emporia, KS, www.midwestweavers.org/conference

Fiber "U" - Fun, Fiber, and You! MOPACA event, July 12 - 14, 2013, Lebanon, MO. Liz Mitchko, 417-533-5280, info@whirlwindranch.com

Michigan Fiber Fest, and pre-festival Continuous Strand Workshop, August 14-18, 2013, Allegan County Fairgrounds, Allegan, MI, www.michiganfiberfestival.org.

Eastern Primitive Rendezvous, Sept 18 - 28, 2013, Slippery Rock, PA, Chuck, chasbo@zoominternet.net www.nmlra.org, www.nrlhf.org

Alafia River Rendezvous, Jan 15 - 25, 2014, Homeland, FL, www.floridafrontiersmen.com.

Fiber Retreat, March 7 - 9, 2014, Jefferson City, MO., Leslie carroll-bartlett@missouri.edu

Convergence Weavers Conference, July 14 - 19, 2014, Handweavers Guild of America www.spindyeweave.org

We hope to see you at these events!!

HFA Fiber Fair

Saturday, May 18, 2013

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Webster County Fairgrounds

Marshfield, Missouri

Free Admission & Parking

Theme for 2013:

"A New Twist! From Traditions to Today"

Featuring Handicrafts using the
Natural Fibers of Animals and Plants

- *Animal Exhibits
- *Demonstrations
- *Free Mini-Workshops & Children's Crafts
- *Vendors
- *Speed Spinning Competition
- *Young Crafter's Contest
- *Quilt Block Contest

All of our products may be ordered on our toll-free line:

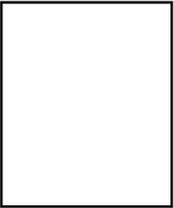
1-800-TRI-WEAV (874-9328)

**or on our Website: www.HillcreekFiberStudio.com
with a secure "Shopping Cart" WebStore**

We accept MC/Visa/Discover

SPRING, 2013 ISSUE
HILLCREEK FIBER NEWS

Carol Leigh's Specialties
 HILLCREEK FIBER STUDIO
 7001 Hillcreek Road
 Columbia, MO 65203



Return Service Requested



Directions to visit Carol Leigh's Hillcreek Fiber Studio

