

Contrary to our notion of “slowing down”, we keep ordering dyes. (Why not? That’s what we love!) This year we have received additional shipments of Cochineal bugs from Peru, Madder Root from Pakistan, Safflower Petals, Tin (*Stannous chloride*), Iron (*Ferrous sulfate*), Lime, and Cream of Tartar. Cochineal prices have gone down, Safflower prices have gone up, Chopped Madder Root is easier to handle and yields better color than the full-sized large roots. We carry natural dyes and dye aids from Alkanet to Zinc, many plant parts for dyeing, as well as natural dye extracts for painting and surface design. Please “Refresh” your tab on our web site and secure shopping cart to have current prices. I’ll probably continue to carry natural dye items until I die, as dyeing naturally is what I love —naturally! (By the way, when speaking of coloring things, please spell the word with a “YE” so as to not confuse the concept! I’m getting too close to that other natural dying, and don’t care to rush it!)

We keep ordering spinning wheels, including Schacht’s Side Kick and Lady Bug wheels which have been popular at Bex’s Hillcreek Yarn Shoppe. Also all Ashford models. Spinners meet at the Yarn Shoppe the 4th Thursday of each month. (The 3rd Thursday November and December.) We still offer discounts on wheels if you take a spinning lesson, or discount on lessons if you buy a wheel. (Added value, which on-line shopping does NOT provide!) PLUS, we have a rent-to-own spinning wheel policy, so customers may try out several wheels before deciding on the one they prefer.

AND, we’ve added a **new Schacht 8-shaft Mighty Wolf** folding floor loom to our pack of wolves at the Studio! (Baby wolves, 26”, Mighty wolves, 36”, and Wolf pups, “18”).

Schacht Side Kick Wheel



Speaking of On-Line Shopping, I’m sure most of you have heard how on-line shopping with Amazon and big box companies is affecting closures of many small businesses and brick-and-mortar stores. That’s not good for our nation’s economy, putting many local businesses and workers out of business. Plus, the service-after-the-sale and support, with lessons and guidance for items purchased, is no longer available. How hollow our future will be if we allow this to continue! We need to support a movement to change the nation’s mentality of “cheaper is better” and to learn to value the value-added aspect of supporting our local brick-and-mortar stores and small businesses in person or on-line. Can you imagine the lowest of low: customers in stores look through books, find a book they like, copy ISBN#, then order the book from Amazon due to discounts, free shipping, and no sales tax, while still in the store! Where will they go to peruse a book if every customer were to do that, forcing the store out of business? See our secure shopping cart at www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com, or www.hillcreekyarnshoppe.net, and support small businesses!

National Small Business Saturday. To help defray some of the damage done on Black Friday with big box companies, National Small Business Saturday is designed to put the emphasis back on small businesses, to which most of your spinning/weaving/ dyeing/ fiber and natural yarn suppliers belong. Take advantage of our Small Business Saturday Sales. **See page 7 for National Small Business Saturday discounts.**

Returning EVENTS

Christianson Native Crafts Workshop (CNCW), Shannondale, MO, and Southeast Animal Fiber Fest (SAFF), Asheville, NC. These are two events we always enjoyed and had attended for over two decades, each. We did not attend either of these for three years in our effort to “slow down.” However, each event persuaded us to come back this year! And we’re glad we did.

CNCW is Missouri’s best kept secret. It is a week-long family craft camp in southeast central Missouri Ozarks. It provides offerings of a variety of crafts for all age groups, from nursery school through