

## SHOWS and MERCHANDISE

Almost every weekend since the last weekend in March, either Bex and Eric or Denny and I have been vending and/or teaching at shows around the country. As Denny and I “attempt to slow down” (ha!), Bex and Eric have been picking up more shows. They take with them our adjustable triangle, square and rectangle looms by our son Carl Spriggs, our travel looms, nature-dyed yarns and potholder loops, natural dyes, the popular new “washcloth looms”, and Mini Navajo Loom kits, in addition to Bex’s knitting supplies. This all keeps us busy throughout each week restocking, building, dyeing, and packaging these products. If you would like for us to bring any of our specialty items to you at a show (dates and places are listed in the Event Calendar), please call us ahead of time. Save on shipping!

## NATURAL DYES

As you have probably surmised, our focus lately has been on natural dyes and dye aids. We carry everything from Alkanet to Zinc. (Alkanet; Annatto; Brazilwood extract and wood chips; Cochineal insects; Cutch Extract; Fustic Shavings; Gambier powder; Henna Powder; Indigo in four ways: natural lumps, natural powdered, instant, and synthetic; Kamala; Stick Lac; Logwood Extract and Shavings; Madder Root, Mungeet Root (wild madder); Myrobalan; Osage Orange sawdust; Pomegranate Rinds powdered; Quercitron (black oak inner bark); Red Sandalwood powdered; Safflower Extract and Safflower Petals; Sumac Powder; Walnut Crystals and Walnut Crushed Hulls; Weld and sometimes Woad. Also: 25 dye aids and washing compounds, PLUS a dozen additional Earthues extracts. Check out our web site and secure shopping cart: [www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com](http://www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com). We offer 10% discount on orders over \$200.



Dyed Yarns and Loops on Clothes Line

Another **Cochineal** shipment from Peru is on its way. We obtain our cochineal directly from a family cooperative of four farming families. The patriarch of this coop recently passed away while describing, to his descendents via phone conversation, the fulfillment of this dream for a family cooperative.

NEW! Although we have carried Logwood Extract for awhile, we’ve just added it to our dye brochure and web site. Also, as Brazilwood sawdust has become so scarce, we are encouraging the use of Brazilwood extract in its place for reds/plums/burgundy/purple.

**DYE EXTRACTS** for creative dye exploration. Besides submersion dyeing of yarns, wool potholder loops and fabric, many people are exploring the great dyeing possibilities of painting, wrapping, clamping, resists, and submersion variegation. For smaller color areas, painting with natural dye extracts opens a whole new world of exploration. Mix up only what will be used. Use Gum Tragacanth as a thickener for painting with natural dyes. We carry a full compliment of **Earthues Natural Dye Extracts**, as well as Michele Wipplinger’s *Natural Dye Instruction Booklet* with great instruction and recipes for working with and blending natural dye extracts. We recently hosted a B&B student of fabric designer Sharon Kilfoyle. We were blessed with show-and-tell five evenings after her daily classes. Gorgeous shibori, clamping, wrapping, resist, over-dyeing, eco plant wrapping and many more techniques were exciting to see.

**DYE DISCOUNTS:** We have sufficient quantity of some items to offer 10 per cent discount on one pound quantities of: Gambier powder, Sumac powder, Fustic shavings, Cochineal bugs, Madder Root from Pakistan, Myrobalan, Missouri Quercitron (black oak) staves, Missouri Osage Orange sawdust, and Missouri Walnut Hulls.

Many people are unfamiliar with some of these ingredients. **Gambier** powder comes from leaves and stems of *Uncaria gambier* of the madder family and a woody vine native to India, Malaysia, Thailand and China. It is similar to Cutch, high in tannins, and yields yellows and color-fast red-browns, especially on cottons. It is considered a medicinal herb for toothache and diarrhea. **Myrobalan** is the ground nuts of the *Terminalia chebula* tree grown in Nepal, India, Sri Lanka, Burma and southeast Asia. It is high in tannin content and yields a pale color, making it a good mordant, especially for cotton or silk fabric.