

Hillcreek Fiber Studio offers Comprehensive Natural Dye Selection

Hillcreek Fiber Studio is known internationally for its comprehensive offering of natural dyes and dye aids. We carry everything from A to Z, Alkanet to Zinc. We also carry Earthues Natural Dye Extracts and are the US distributor of Woad from Bleu d'Lectour, France. Ask for our Natural Dye Brochure for a complete listing, or check our web site, www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com.

We also offer three dye workshops at the Studio each year: Native Missouri Dye Plants, a full color spectrum within walking distance of the Studio, in early September; Ancient Dyes, a full color spectrum with the most common imported dyes during our country's early history, in the winter; and a sampling combination of both during our Fiber Furlough One in July. This year, for the first time, we offered the Lesser-known Ancient Dyes, including Alkanet, Annatto, Pomegranate Rinds, Kamala, Woad, Saxon Blue, Quercitron, Safflower, Red Sandalwood, and Myrobalan. This class was well received with 10 students from around the country. See color pictures on our web site.

Dye Kits One of our dye specialties are the dye kits we offer. These are great for sampling a wide variety of dyes, complete with recipes and dye aids.

***Carol Leigh's Sampler Natural Dye Kit**, \$52, includes six common imported dyes: cochineal, madder root, indigo, osage orange, brazilwood, and logwood, with alum and cream of tartar, pH papers and aids for indigo, and complete recipes for a full color spectrum. Excellent for use in classroom. Enough dyes to dye four to eight pounds of wool.

***Carol Leigh's Complete Natural Dye Kit**, \$97, twice as much of each of the above dyes and aids, plus catch, all of the mineral salt mordants, plus aids and recipes for preparing cotton as well as wool. Enough dyes to dye eight to twelve or more pounds of wool or cotton.

***Earthues Sampler Dye Extracts**, \$160, "Colors from natural materials are comfortable and sensuous. They have a patina and natural aura." Full spectrum of dye extracts, including cochineal, indigo, madder, logwood grey, logwood purple, quebracho red, chestnut, catch, pomegranate, fustic, osage orange, two alums, scour, mask, gloves, plus Michelle Wipplinger's *Natural Dye Instruction Booklet*.

***Alps Industries Sampler Dye Kit**, \$60, from India, includes dyes used by cultures in other parts of the world, many of which we explored during our recent Lesser-known Ancient Dyes workshop: lac, madder, indigo, catch, kamala, golden dock, red sandalwood, myrobalan, pomegranate, alkanet, gall nuts, Himalayan rhubarb, keekar chal, and mordants.

Dye Book Reviews

Koekboya, by Harold Bohmer, \$175, hc 300pp.. Dr. Bohmer teaches at the University of Istanbul, Turkey, and Rebecca and I met him at the 2002 International Dyer's Conference in Ames, Iowa. This is the most comprehensively researched book on natural dyes I've ever come across. Dye history, use, chemical formulae, medicinal uses, and properties, from cultures around the world, loaded with color pictures of plants and textiles. International Natural Dye Resources are listed on Page 257. Hillcreek Fiber Studio is one of three viable companies listed in the US.

Salvation Through Soy, Blissful Dyeing for All Eternity -- the Secrets Revealed with John Marshall as your Guide, \$22. "Brought to you by the Goode Folke at the Church of the Devinely Amused and the Legume Propaganda League." Just reprinted! Rebecca and I have each studied with John. I have admired his skill and glorious technique of surface painting on silk with natural dyes since I first saw his work at Convergence International Weaving Conference in San Jose in 1990. John lived in Japan a major portion of his life and studied with masters learning *Katazome* and other Japanese surface design techniques, employing soy milk and rice paste to bind and resist color.

Natural Dye currently unavailable: Logwood.

Logwood yields grey, lavender, steel blue, and rich lasting black colors on fibers. This leguminous tree is currently in very short supply. Even the medical industry has only a guarded one-year supply. Used as a slide stain for pap smear tests around the world. Grown in Mexico. All logwood available through Hillcreek Fiber Studio is now only contained in Carol Leigh's Dye Kits.