

Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063

April 2010

When the "spring" has sprung

At this point I am confident that winter is over. It's been a slow and agonizing passing, to say the least. For the most part, we have survived intact. No broken bones, no lingering illness, just normal "wear and tear".

That being said, I can't say I'm jumping with excitement at the approaching season. Don't misunderstand me-I don't like that much about winter-and the same can be said about spring. Yard cleanup, spring cleaning, rain, mud, and flooding-need I go on? I haven't recovered from the hours spent behind the snow blower and a long list of impending chores defines my immediate future (did I mention all the treasures the melting snow has revealed? I'm sorry, but there's a lot more there than two dogs can produce-did somebody park an elephant in the yard?)

But, like the deposits in the yard, spring too, shall pass. Spring will yield to summer, and some badly needed vacation will eventually come. Until then, we'll work our day jobs, tend the shop, and squeeze in a chore or two when we can. By God's graciousness and some method I can't explain, everything seems to get done and time marches on. TNNA is just around the corner. It will be followed by the Midwest Folk and Fiber Arts Festival, Irish Fest, and then the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival (and autumn).

It's a good thing I've already started on next winter's sweater-it will take me all summer to get it done!

We are in the process of forming a fiber guild based at the shop. For more information, call the shop on Thursdays between 10AM and 5 PM.

We are expanding our hours on a trial basis. In addition to our evening and weekend hours, we will be opening Thursdays from 10AM to 5PM. Stop in and see what's going on!

May Classes

Using the Spinning Wheel Tuesdays May 4-25 7 PM – 9 PM Spinning is not only an ancient art, it's a great way to get rid of stress-fantastic handspun yarn is a bonus! Spinning is easily learned. Simple techniques and lots of practice are all that's required. If you've always wanted to spin-this is your chance. The class fee is \$60, which includes 50 grams of prepared fiber to spin. If you don't own a wheel, you may use a studio wheel for a \$20 bobbin rental fee. Class is limited to 4 students.

Beginning Knitting Wednesdays May 5-26 7 PM – 9 PM It's not too late to join the knitting craze. Knitting is a skill anybody can learn. This class will teach the basics: holding the needles, casting on, knitting, purling, and binding off. You'll also be introduced to the basics of reading patterns, counting stitches and rows, and how to determine your gauge. Class fee is \$60, and does not include materials or tools. Class size is limited to 6 students.

Friday Night Specials

We've started something special on Fridays. The first Friday of the month is "Knitting Masters". It's a time when those working on the TKGK Knitting Masters program can meet and work on the program.

The third Friday of every month is a Knitting Sampler workshop. This year long class will cover everything from basic through cables and lace. We are using a knitting workbook for patterns, and the resulting project will be a blanket made of the sample squares.

For more information on either program, contact penny at the shop during regular business hours.

Please Note: The shop will be closed Friday, April 2nd and Sunday, April 4th for the Easter Holiday.

Changes for the 2011 Winter Retreat

The 2011 Winter Retreat will be held Jan 28-30 in McGregor Iowa at the Little Switzerland Inn and McGregor's Landing. Prices are based on the choice Inn and your choice of a private or shared space, and range from \$80 to \$145. The package includes breakfast and lunch on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Our maximum number of tickets is 25. At this time there are only 3 spaces remaining. All tickets must be paid by May 31, 2010, and are NOT refundable (we pay the Inns in advance). Please contact us at the shop for tickets-payable by cash or check (please, no credit cards due to their additional fees).