

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

August 2009

Be Careful What You Say

One of Penny's birthday presents this year was a new parrot. He is three years old and talks. You would be surprised at what the bird has taught us about his previous owners. First, we know they had children, since the bird screams "mommy mommy" whenever you are out of sight. He also laughs like a little child. We also know they had a smoke alarm that needed a new battery (perhaps that is why they sold the bird).

Be careful what you say, because you never know who is listening or when what you said will be repeated. I'm sure we haven't experienced the bird's entire vocabulary, and God only knows what else we'll learn about his previous owners-like it or not.

For now, Calypso will be joining Mollie and Mr. Bean in the shop on the weekends. Stop in and say "hello", and he might even answer. However, if you hear a cat, well; the previous owners had one of those, too.

September Classes

Beginning Knitting Tuesdays September 1 - 29 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. Note: There will be no class on Tuesday, September 8.

Drop Spindle Spinning Wednesdays September 2 - 30 7 PM - 9 PM You don't need to own an expensive spinning wheel to make your own yarn. Drop Spindles are inexpensive and portable! You can easily learn to make beautiful multiple plied yarns with just a few lessons and a bit of practice. This class will take you through the entire process-from spinning singles to balanced plying. The class fee is \$60, and does not include materials or tools, all of which are available at the shop. Class size limited to 6 students. Note: There will be no class on September 9.

Rug Braiding Thursdays September 3- October 1 7 PM - 9 PM Rug braiding has seen a revival in this country. This American art is simple, and even the beginner can produce an heirloom piece. This class will focus on creating a simple round rug. You'll learn all the basics, including how to start, change colors, shape the rug, and finish the edges. All materials and tools are available for purchase at the shop. The class fee is \$60, and space is limited to 4 students. Note: There will be no class on September 10.

Mark your calendar for the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival At the Jefferson County Fairgrounds Sept 11-13

This is the big one! There'll be the Crook & Whistle Dog Trials, classes, vendor, sheep shows, fleece auction, and a lot of activities for the entire family to enjoy. If it has to do with sheep or fiber, chances are you'll find it there.

We will be taking a "mini-vacation" in August, but the shop will remain open, and Dawn will be there to help you. We will be checking out the Wisconsin State Fair and the Irish Festival in Milwaukee. Among other things, hope to find a few new suppliers and some new music for the shop.

Richmond will be hosting the Cullpepper & Merriweather Circus (Aug 24), the Creekside Blues Festival (Aug 28-30) and Richmond Days, so town should be busy this month!

Tickets for the 2010 Winter Retreat are now available

The 2010 Winter Retreat will again be held at the Little Switzerland Inn in McGregor, Iowa. The dates are January 29-31. The cost is \$80 per person, and includes 2 nights lodging, two breakfasts, and lunch on Saturday. We do have some limited space remaining. Stop in the shop and reserve your spot today!

Take a look at this!

Check out Penny's Buffalo Wrap in this month's issue of *Knit & Style Magazine*. Congratulations Penny!