

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

September 2011

Disconnected

This summer Penny and I actually went on vacation-a REAL vacation. We found a spot to go camping that has no cell phone service, no wireless internet, and no television of any kind (no, it is not a third world country-it's northern Wisconsin-although some of you might equate the two). For all practical purposes, we were "disconnected" from our regular world. No news, no radio (not even AM), noting but the whispering winds in the pines and the sound of the falls on the river. We savored the sweet smell of the balsam, listened to the birds, and were very thankful that the Wisconsin State Bird (mosquito) was nowhere in sight. The aroma of the campfires drifted on the breeze, and distilled in the evening dew.

Sometimes you need to totally disconnect. You need time to recharge and re-energize. This was one of those times. And, now that the vacation has had the desired effect on us, we are focusing on making improvements in the shop-from adding new product lines to developing new classes and programs. We will be offering more technique classes for advanced knitters, along with more "project based" classes for beginners. We have also rearranged the shop to give it a fresh new look and an "open" feeling.

The Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival marks the beginning of our sales season, and this year we will be devote 20% of our booth space to show specials, with deep discounts on exotic and natural fiber yarns, books, and accessories. This year, you can save cash and still build your stash, as we clear out some items to create space for our new product lines.

Now, for those of you who follow this newsletter every month-yes, we used our small RV. After a week in it, we've made some adjustments, developed a decorating scheme, and we are comfortable with the amount of space we have (provided that the amount of clutter and number of knitting projects are kept at sustainable levels). Another requirement is related to our continual acquisition of stash and treasures-the number of cubic feet of goods acquired must not exceed the available space in the rear seat of the truck-since it can't fit in the living space inside the RV (I'm sure this will become a hardship for somebody-but so far we haven't had to send PPS directly home via UPS). [PPS definition: Penny's personal stash]

So, the "happy campers" have returned, and hope to reconnect with you soon. Come in and see what's new-you'll be glad you did!

October Classes

Beginning Knitting Tuesdays Oct 4-25 7 PM- 9PM Have you always wanted to knit, but could never learn from a book or video? Here's your chance for live instruction! You can learn how to knit-it's all in how you hold the sticks. You'll learn how to cast on, knit, purl, and bind off-all the basics for a simple first project. You can knit-and we can help. The class is \$60, and does not include your tools, yarn and patterns (Approx \$25-dependng on the material you select). Class is limited to 6 students.

Winter Hats Wednesdays Oct 5-26 7 PM – 9 PM Be ready for winter with this sampler of winter hats! Choose from several patters to either knit or crochet. We'll discuss material choices, construction tips, and different finishing techniques. Hats are quick, and make great gifts. The cost is \$60, and does not include specific materials. The class is limited to 6 students.

Building Blocks Thursdays Oct 6-27 7PM – 9PM Vivian Hoxboro has developed so amazing techniques that are simple to execute and fantastic to use. This class covers her "square knitting". Using her technique we'll build hats, shoes, and bags from simple blocks that are interconnected as they are knit. The class is \$60 plus the cost of your materials. Limit 6 students.

WE WILL BE CLOSED SEPT 2-4 FOR THE LABOR DAY HOLIDAY

September 9-11 **WISCONSIN SHEEP AND WOOL FESTIVAL**

The shop will be closed as we will be vending in the Country Store.

THE 2012 WINTER RETREAT HAS ALMOST SOLD OUT! WE HAVE 1 SPACE REMAINING

The cost is \$100 per person (double occupancy) or \$150/\$165* (single occupancy) and is limited to 25 people. Tickets are non-refundable, as we pay the Inns in advance. The price includes 2 nights lodging, Friday night dinner at Old Man River Brewery, breakfast on Saturday and Sunday, and lunch on Saturday. Transportation and additional meals are not included.

Note: This year we will depart about 6AM on Friday for some Sunrise shopping at Blackberry Ridge Mill, and plan to arrive in McGregor before noon we we'll have time to explore the shops in the town.

***rates apply to specific rooms. Call the shop for details**