



Save the Date!

Spin & Knit-A-Thon

Saturday, April 27, 2002

9 a.m. to 5 p.m

Lake Orion Boys & Girls Club

Why? To raise money for breast cancer research

Why else? To share our crafts

What's happening? Participants will get pledges based on their hours of participation – raise \$100 and get a free T-shirt. Non-spinners and knitters, for a small donation, will be able to learn to spin and knit, younger kids can learn to felt, everyone can take part in a silent auction of items near and dear to the hearts of spinners and knitters plus (hopefully) hand-made contributions from you. We will also enjoy a special appearance of some Celtic musicians.

How come? I (Joan) am doing the Breast Cancer 3-Day walk later this spring: 60 miles from Ann Arbor to Detroit. My goal is to raise at least \$2500 in support of this cause that has touched the lives (and taken a life) of my friends. Bettie Rae, Judy, Sue, Jane, Pom this one's for you!

How can you help? Raise pledges and knit and spin the day away. Volunteer to help teach others to knit or spin. Donate an item for the silent auction. *Make a tax-deductible contribution online following the link on our web-site.* Become a corporate sponsor (joining Workforce, Inc. of Lake Orion and Marshall Sales, Inc. of Detroit). There will be other opportunities to help, so if you want to help and don't know how, please let us know!

For more info or a pledge sheet please contact the shop at heritagespinning@aol.com or call 248/693-3690.

Please join us for a fun-filled, inspiring day!

Heritage Spinning & Weaving News

Friends, Fiber & Fun • Issue 2 No. 1 - Winter 2002

First Show & Tell a Success!



What an inspiring evening! So much talent gathered in one place, so many projects, so many ideas. Pictured here are Tress' Regia booties, Sue's Fiber Trends hat, a detail from the coat Doris wove for her daughter, Josie's "collar" made from handspun wool knit with thin strips of raccoon skin, and skeins of silk and wool.

There's lots going on!

It's hard to believe that it is over a year since we first opened our doors. The year has been a full one. Many of you know that in addition to the store, I also have a "more-than-full-time" job as Art Director at Classic Printers (from which we rent our space). It is very challenging work that I love. I get to be a part of many people's businesses and help make them successful. There's an element of that in Heritage, too. I get to help you with your projects, planning color, yarns, patterns, etc.

You make my life richer. It has also been a year of counting my blessings. My heart warms whenever I think of those of you who are so happy to have a store like this that you volunteer your time to make it successful. Just yesterday I checked my e-mail and had notes from three different customers: one with

a class idea (that she volunteered to teach), one with an idea for a product, and another who noticed our site wasn't linked on a couple of our vendor sites. It's that kind of watchfulness and thoughtfulness that is moving Heritage along.

In December, we held our first annual Show and Tell. It was fun! From finished garments to skeins of yarn, we saw a little of everything and a lot of creativity. The largest project was probably the coat made from handwoven Peace Fleece yarn that Doris made for her daughter, the most unusual the raccoon and handspun collar knit created by Josie. Another project that deserves special mention is Sophia's 5-ply DK weight handspun (on a drop spindle) that she was giving to her mom for a Christ-

Continued on next page

mas present.

When I opened the shop I did so to fill a niche I saw: the need for a place to go for spinning and weaving supplies without driving halfway across the state. I quickly realized that we also needed a good yarn store. Needless to say, the money loaned from “the National Bank of Grandma” helped us get the doors open, but it has been your support that has enabled us to expand into what I think allows us now to be called a yarn store. I have spent the year expanding the yarn and knitting/crocheting selections and have a nice selection of patterns and mostly-natural fibers. Our little space is bursting with color and textures that tempt ‘most every fiber enthusiast! It has been a year of testing the market . . . some things didn’t fit for whatever reason and may have found their way to the sale table - be sure to check it out.

In addition to wanting a place for people to come to feed their fiber habit, I also wanted to inspire others to join in the fiber arts. Classes are beginning to fill rapidly – in fact, our weaving class filled over a week before it was scheduled and we are already registering for the May session. My heart sings! I love to teach these age-old arts. I get shivers when I think about the heritage that spinning on a drop spindle brings, when holding a set of knitting needles that came from Europe early in the 19th century, from thinking about all the spinning and weaving that went into making sails for the early sailing ships. Yes, what is happening at Heritage Spinning & Weaving is worthwhile and it makes me feel good. I hope you share in that feeling when you think of the crafts we do and the community of modern artisans we are building here in Southeast Michigan.

Juxtaposed on the heritage of the arts is the modernity of the Internet and the expanding world it brings. Because of it and our website, I have shipped products to about 10 states and Canada. Because of it, we have Anne Field teaching in our shop, wool from Australia and New Zealand, mohair from Ohio. Before I began spinning, I hadn’t given New Zealand much thought since my Navy days (I was stationed in Australia and many of my friends went to NZ on

vacation). Then Anne Grassham (Fleecewood Farm, near Nelson, NZ) answered my plea for fiber samples for our guild and the rest, as they say, is history. Anne and I began corresponding and we regularly “have tea” via e-mail, sharing life’s trials and tribulations half a world apart. Next month Mariah and I will actually get to visit both Anne’s in their homes – watch the website for a photo story upon our return.

As I write this, I can’t help but think of Lake Wobegon and Garrison Keeler – only his quaint little community is purely fictional, and ours is real. Thanks to each of you for your support. If you haven’t been in lately, do stop in and see all the “new stuff.” I think you’ll be pleasantly surprised.

Joan

New Yarn

My favorite yarn rep was in a couple weeks ago. Jessie has a delightful New York/Jersey accent and is younger than my son – he’s just 21, yet he has fire and he knows his stuff (although we still haven’t convinced him that he needs to be a knitter). Jessie works for KFI/Euro Yarns and their products are, well, very cool! We are already getting in new Regia 4 and 6 ply; Mohana a very, very crawl-into-soft wool blend; and Linie, a funky blend with a halo that makes great scarves or sweaters for teens or the young-at-heart. Still to come in are some very special cottons, including some denims (yes, denim yarn), one of which has a metallic sparkle (perfect match to the new sparkly jeans at the Gap).

We recently added washable 100% wool from Dale of Norway. The quality is incredible. Also from Dale is Kolibri, a 100% mercerized cotton that looks like satin.

In the fall we added Wool Pak and have the full line of Fiber Trends patterns to go with it. While Wool Pak is great used as a regular yarn (worsted, heavy worsted, and bulky weights), it also felts superbly and is used when making knitted-then-felted hats, mittens, slippers, clogs, bags, and stuffed animals. Trust me, it is too fun! Try one and you’ll be addicted. A hat takes only 4 to 6 hours to knit. It looks big enough to crawl into (knit in double or bulky yarn

on BIG needles), then you put it in the washer and it shrinks and turns into a really stylish blank canvas. Add a pin, embroidery, or felted embellishments or just wear it “as it.”

New Spinning Stuff

The *Spinner’s Companion* is in. Lots of wisdom from years of Spin-Off magazine and other sources compiled into one place. Don’t miss our new roving. I’ve been having fun mixing and matching, blending and dyeing. Ooh la! Your eyes will love the colors in the roving corner. Don’t miss the mohair/Fleecewood blend: light natural gray mohair and cabernet (as in wine) colored Fleecewood. Yummy. And for those with a desire for fine spinning, try the 50/50 blend of cloud-soft Polwarth (from Australia) with silk in a natural color so you can dye it (or not) in the color of your choice – it takes color beautifully. Perfect for spinning on your Lollipop spindle as a take-along project.

Weaver’s Goodies

Check out the jewel-toned mohair from Henry’s Attic. We are expecting an order of new maple shuttles from Shacht any day now. Have you tried an end-feed shuttle? A bit more expensive than a standard boat shuttle, but hold more yarn and they seem to fly across your warp. If you haven’t picked up your copy of the new *Weaver’s Companion*, there’s no time like the present!

Quick Tips

Tired of chasing your ball of yarn (or having the cat chase it)? Put it inside a 2 liter soda bottle, feed the business end out the top and your yarn will be neat and clean and contained.

Spinning for crochet? Try spinning “backwards.” Spin your single “S” (counterclockwise) and your ply “Z” (clockwise). The action of crocheting can take twist out of your traditionally spun yarn.

Having a problem with lumps and bumps when spinning from commercial roving? It might not be your spinning! Try turning the roving around and spinning from the other end. Some fibers like to be spun the same way they come off the mill.

Weavers: have you tried using old film canisters as weights for broken warp strings? Weight them with coins or sand and seal them right onto the broken thread. Move them along as you go.

It's magic

I am becoming more and more enamored with steam. Steam? You say? Yes, steam!

When I first learned to spin, I was told to wash my yarn after spinning it and that would "set the twist." Then I took a class at SOAR from Stephanie Gaustaad (illustrator of *Alden Amos' Big Book of Spinning*) and saw how she uses steam to set the twist. That got my brain going! It made sense. I remembered how Josie uses an iron to set a crease when she is tailoring and how important it is to creating a professional finished garment. Hmm, said I. Same principle. Heat.

The more I thought about it, the more sense it made. By raising the temperature of the yarn (steam is definitely hotter than plain water) you are making it remember the shape it held at that temperature. Unless you get the yarn to that temperature again, it's pretty much going to remain where you "set" it. Finishing your yarn using steam will help ensure your finished garment doesn't change shape after it is completed.

Not only is it easy to do, it's fun! You can actually see the yarn move during the steaming process. The other day I was at Mt. Bruce Station and Yvonne showed me some wool she had commercially spun into a three-ply sport weight from her Corriedales (it is gorgeous). She thought it had lost one of the key characteristics of the wool: springiness. I suggested we steam it. Here's what we did: put a wide stock pot on the stove with an inch or two of water, put a cookie/cake cooling rack on top of that, put the yarn on top of that so it was all on top of the water (none hanging over the edge that could burn over a gas flame!), then topped it all with an inverted steel bowl. Let it sit for about 10 minutes and took a look. Oh my what a difference! It was fluffy, springy and simply delightful. It was also considerably shorter. I'd say we lost about 10 or 15 percent of the original length of the yarn. Because the yarn can look "squig-

gly" when it comes off the steam, I stretch the skein between my forearms and let it cool under slight tension, and that seems to keep it looking nice. At this point you may chose to wash the wool or simply let it dry and start your project.

We use steam in our beginning spinning class and even first skeins are improved and become more balanced thru the application of steam. Give it a try and see what you think!

Anne Field Returns

By popular request, Anne is returning this July to do a weaving workshop: the Wide World of Weaving. A world-class person and fiber artist, Anne is very good artistically and technically - a rare combination. Author of the *Ashford Book of Spinning*, the *Ashford Book of Weaving*, *Spinning Beyond the Basic*, and others, Anne loves to share her knowledge and is a very good instructor. Visit her website: annefield.co.nz to learn more about Anne, her studio and her classes. Whether you are a new weaver or been weaving for years this workshop will expand your horizons. Don't miss this opportunity to expand your weaving skills. Class size is limited. Pre-payment required. See the class listings for more information.

Holly & Deb are back, too!

Holly Shaltz (www.hjsstudio.com) is a fiber artist who has been perfecting her art for nearly 20 years. A spinner, weaver, knitter, dyer and real technician, Holly has lots of good info to share. Watch for an article by Holly in the Spring Spin-Off magazine.

Deb McDermott (www.stonehedgefibermill.com) practices what she preaches every day. Deb and her husband, Chuck, run an extremely successful fiber mill from their farm in East Jordan. Most of the wool in the shop is processed at their mill. Deb shares her knowledge of fibers and dyeing with us again this spring.

Natural Dye Class at Mt. Bruce Station

It's officially an annual event. The first Saturday in August is natural dye day at "the Farm." It's a day for experimenting and getting familiar with the concepts

of natural dyeing. We discuss mordants, tramp the woods and fields for dyestuffs, make pots and pots of dye, and come away with some awesome colors. Participants are encouraged to bring their own yarn or roving to "toss in the pot."

Stumped with a Knitting Problem?

The doctor is in! Send an e-mail to our own Knitting Doctor - Barbara Konopka, PhD. Okay, so her doctorate is in exercise physiology . . . but she is an avid, prolific knitter and a very good pattern reader. Send your questions to her at knitdoctor@yahoo.com.

Heritage Library

Next time you are planning a project: weaving, knitting, spinning, dyeing, feel free to stop by and take advantage of our reference library. We have many back issues of Spin-Off, Handwoven and other magazines and many books relevant to the arts. Don't be shy. It's there for you to use. Sip a cup of tea, homemade hot chocolate or coffee and browse to your heart's content.

Help Still Wanted

I am looking for someone who can come in on an as-needed basis to help out in the shop. It is helpful if you can answer knitting, spinning and/or weaving questions. If you are interested, please call the shop.

Guild & Adult Class Visits

We are happy to host your Guild meeting. Just call the shop and we'll make arrangements to accommodate your group. Ask about our group discount program. With enough notice, we have access to trunk shows and traveling slide shows from associations and magazines that are perfect for fiber lovers.

Kids Love Fiber

We love to have kids come in. Kids are still full of wonder and questions. It is a real eye-opener for them to see yarn made, work a loom, make a piece of felt, created a felt animal, or twist their own rope. We've hosted Scout, 4-H, home-schoolers and art classes. A small fee applies and the kids will do a fiber project of your choice. Call for more information.



Heritage Spinning & Weaving

47 E. Flint Street
Lake Orion, MI 48362
248/693-3690
www.heritagespinning.com



Anne Field

Wide World of Weaving

Join us for three days devoted to weaving and advancing your skills. Space limited. Register now! Class info inside.
July 7, 8 & 9, 2002

Kits, Kits, Kits

Kits are an easy way to pick up a project and run. Check out our very special Heritage Kit that includes all the yarn to knit a short jacket from the new Knitter's Stash book . . . the colors are to die for (or is that to dye for?!). We also have sock kits that include everything to knit your very own colorful Mountain Colors or Regia socks. There are a couple knitting kits with sweaters perfect for summer from Aurora in silk and cotton. We also have learn to knit, spin and felt kits for all ages.

Your Favorite Products

No longer do you have to drive a huge distance to buy yarn or wait for a festival to see a nice selection of fiber for spinning. Better yet, we've got all the tools to feed your passion. Here are just a few of our vendors: Schacht, Ashford, Louet, Bryspun, Mountain Colors, Valkyrie, Kokovoko, Dale of Norway, Crystal Palace, Peace Fleece, Wool Pak, Fiber Trends, Regia, Henry's Attic, UKI, and many more!

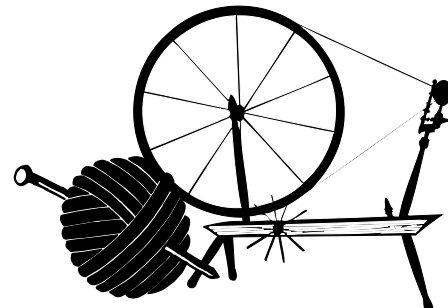
248/693-3690 • Wednesday thru Friday Noon to 6 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. • www.heritagespinning.com



Heritage on the Road

May 18 – Mt. Bruce Station's Spring Fiber Day, Romeo
August 16, 17, 18 – Michigan Fiber Festival, Allegan
September 28 & 29 – Mt. Bruce Station Sheep & Wool Festival
December 7 & 8 – Christmas Weekend at Mt. Bruce Station

NOTE: This year the shop will remain open even when we are on the road!



Spin & Knit-A-Thon

To raise money for breast cancer research

Join us April 27 as we pedal and click away the hours for a good cause. Sign up to help or pick up your pledge form at the shop and help us make a difference for women everywhere.