

## Thirtieth Year Anniversary

2012 will celebrate our 30th year in business. I plan to take a Sabbatical from teaching at the Studio, January through May. With the book finished, and Rose and William moving to Florida, I plan to have a little more time to travel, to clean and fix up our home, to garden, and to promote the book. I now have no excuse to refrain from my favorite fur trader rendezvous at Alafia in Homeland, Florida in January. I'll be there for sure next year, unless we're trapped in Missouri with another snow storm!

Our focus for shows will change as well. Denny and I plan to simplify our lives, so we won't be packing as many items for set up and sale. (That's a back-breaker, and our bodies are telling us to ease up.) We are down-sizing our cargo trailer options from 16 feet to 10 feet. We'll continue to promote the book at select shows, and to promote the products we make: all the frame looms for the Continuous Strand Weaving, the new *Carol Leigh's Nature-dyed Riata* yarn and *Carol Leigh's Nature-dyed Wool Loops* for potholders and more.

We definitely will continue to carry the spinning, weaving and natural dye items you have grown to know we have, and will continue the mail order part of our business. Our web site is in the process of being revamped and should have a new face soon. Gosh, the program we've been using, though it seems to still be working well, is 13 or so years old — a dinosaur in the tech world. We've established a blog and Flickr spot on our web site, so check in frequently for updates and colorful pictures. (Now I need to learn how and remember to use it regularly!)

## ISEND 2011 (International Symposium and Exhibition on Natural Dyes)

As a reward for finally finishing *The Book*, Rose and I will be attending ISEND 2011 in LaRoche France as this newsletter is being mailed to you. We'll probably blog about it when we get back — and Rose will be taking plenty of pictures! LaRoche is on the Atlantic Coast. The Symposium is being held in a research center there. We also plan to visit Denise and Louis at Bleu de Lectoure in Lectoure, France, home of the Woad pigment we offer. More about both later.

## Focus on Natural Dyeing

You know one of my loves is in evoking the beautiful hues nature provides. My Masters' research was in the historic use of natural dyes. We have developed two new natural dyed lines of fibers for you: *Carol Leigh's Nature-dyed Riata* yarn and *Carol Leigh's Nature-dyed Wool Loops* for potholders.

"**Riata**" yarn was developed by Brooks Farm but discontinued by them. We are now nature dyeing this beautiful 3-ply yarn in a weight perfect for light-weight fabrics woven on the large frame looms (375 yards per 8 ounce skein). Each ply is of a different fiber blend of fine wool (48%), mohair (36%), and silk (16%). Because each ply is of a different blend they each take the dye a little differently yielding a rich complex look — and the yarn is buttery soft!

These are one-of-a-kind colors. I usually dye two skeins (one pound) in the same dye bath. Gradations of color are found in succeeding baths, and sometimes a different color is pulled from the second bath, as natural dyes are of a complex nature. Some, such as madder, will yield one color first and a second color as the first is used up. I also alter colors using various mineral salts to pull a variety of colors from the same dye bath, all harmonizing well with each other. For some pictures, see Page 7 (please check our web site to see them in color: [www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com](http://www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com)).

To order these yarns, call and give your color preference and together we'll select an arrangement of skeins for you: 1-800-874-9328 (TRI-WEAV). They are just \$39 per skein.