

New Dyes: The historic **Quercitron** is now back. Back in 1795 Bancroft discovered the great dye properties of the inner bark of the black oak tree, and was granted a permit to export it to Great Britain — one of the very few dyes historically exported from the USA. Today I've found a forester who has provided me with some staves of this treasured dye. One pound: \$50, 4 ounces \$15.15. Use 4 ounces to dye one pound of fiber. The beautiful clear, bright, lasting yellow compares favorably with Weld. (I like it even better.) With a little Cochineal, you get a bright Hunter Orange color. Or, over-dyed with Indigo it yields gorgeous Kelly greens. **Ground Madder Root** is back. For the longest time I was not able to obtain the ground version of Madder Root, of the highest Afghani quality. Also available is **Mungeet**, or wild madder from India.

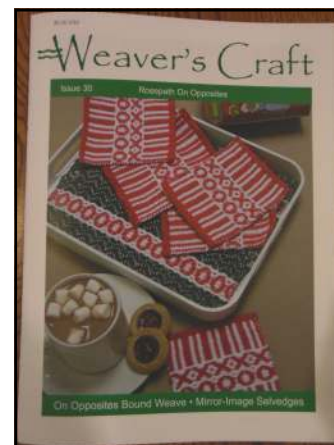
Speaking of Dyes, The Dye surprise of the year happened to me this summer! Fermented pokeberries yield a rich red-purple. When I lamented last July that I wish I had more poke for dyeing, Denny reminded me we had a bucket of poke in vinegar left over after the MO Dye workshop in 2012. The bucket was sealed pretty tight and had been left outdoors through the winter. Much to my surprise, the color obtained was a much richer and intense red-purple than I had ever seen before from Pokeberries. I have also learned we can get a lovely strawberry rust color by cooking the berries too hot. For the brightest lasting color, mordant protein fibers in vinegar bath (pH of 3 to 4), stem pokeberries (a gallon per pound of fiber) and mash them, cover with vinegar water and bring up to low simmer for 10-20 minutes, strain out the seeds, then combine the mordant bath and the dye and simmer very gently for just a few minutes.

Don't let the berries OR the dyepot with wool boil, or you will lose the red and get more rust color. Remove the dye pot from the heat and let it set overnight before letting the berry-dyed fibers cure on a line a couple hours before rinsing with cool water (no soap). We have put the poke seeds on our compost pile in the past. This year we added compost to our strawberry bed. Guess what! We have quite a crop of poke plants in our strawberries. Hmm, which one is more important to preserve?



Five Pokeberry Colors
(See colors on web version)

Weaver's Craft Monographs by Jean Scorgie (past editor of Handwoven Magazine) are a treasure for beginning as well as any weaver. Each issue focuses on a particular weave structure, offers several how-to projects using that structure, and then offers tips and tricks of all types for weavers. Clear instruction and lots of pictures. We keep all the issues in stock. **Issue 30, Boundweave, and Rose Path on Opposites**, has just come out. Other issues have addressed such topics as: Point Twill, Canvas Weave, Huck Lace, Easy Plaids, Weaving Overshot, Gingham Towels, Easy Inlays, Complimentary Plain Weave, Summer and Winter, Easy Pick-up Techniques, Twill and Basket Weave Combined, Log Cabin, Double Weave Pick-up, Barleycorn, Mock Satin Damask, Waffle Weave, Petit Point. We offer individual issues as well as complete sets for a discount saving enough for 4 free issues. Highly recommended resource for all weavers. For a complete index of all the issues, check out our web site at www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com/Weaver's Craft Index. Issues 1 - 22, \$6.45 each; issues 23 - 30, \$8.00 each. Regularly \$205.90, full set only \$175.



Kayaking down the Missouri River. As you probably know, my "Bucket List" includes studying weaving and dye techniques of other cultures, but this summer I satisfied another on my list, and enjoyed it so much I intend to set aside time every year to do more. I kayaked 85 miles down the Missouri River from Huntsdale to Hermann by myself, camping out two nights. Regretfully, my camera wasn't working at the time, so no pictures. But I did keep a journal. The wilderness along long stretches of the River was an experience to be treasured. Observed does with fawn, many blue herons and other shore birds. followed the freight and Amtrak trains along the way, stopped at a few of the put-in points where signboards included quotes from Lewis and Clark journals about their experiences at each of the sites. The distance between Kansas City and St. Louis is 340 miles. I figure I'll do another part of the River next year, and eventually go the whole distance.