

Shows and Workshops

Although Denny and I are slowing down and not doing as many large shows or large workshops at the Studio, that doesn't mean our "presence" won't be felt. Now that Bex is back with **Hillcreek Yarn Shoppe**, we are working closely with her and Eric to bring more weaving, spinning and dyeing supplies to her knitting and yarn shop. They will be taking all supplies with them to shows. It may be a little time before they can get in to all the shows they intend. At some of the larger shows, such as SAFF (Southeast Animal Fiber Festival) in Asheville, NC, one of us may also attend to assist in the booth while Bex is teaching. See Pages 5 and 9 for **Bex's shows and classes**, check out *HillcreekYarnShoppe.net*, and sign up for Bex's bi-weekly e-newsletter.

Our last week-long workshop here at the Studio is scheduled June 28 through July 3, **Fiber Furlough II, Weaving of All Types**. If you would like to explore any number of weaving techniques, this is your opportunity. See Page 6 for more information.

We will continue to offer **Private Lessons** on any aspect of weaving, spinning or dyeing. Please call to set up a time for one to four people. See also Page 6 for details.

Bed and Breakfast is available to welcome any textile artist traveling through Missouri or taking private lessons. This is a great opportunity for a quiet retreat immersed in textile study — or just read some of the textile books from over 500 titles. Or, hike some of the trails through Rock Bridge State Park (across the street from the Studio) or on the Katy Trail, which follows the Missouri River from St. Charles to Clinton, Missouri.

Ancient Dye Workshops and Upcoming Natural Dye Book

The last two weeks of March were filled with rainbows of color. The **Lesser-known Ancient Dyes** of Alkanet Roots-lavender and grey, Annatto Seeds-yellow/orange, Kamala-gold/brown, Stick Lac-red/lavender, Mungeet (wild Madder Root)-red/orange, Pomegranate Rinds-tan/charcoal, Quercitron (Black Oak Inner Bark)-clear yellow/greens, Red Sandalwood-russet, Safflower Petals-yellow/pink/salmon, and Woad vat-blue.

Then the more **Common Ancient Dyes** of Brazilwood sawdust-red/purple/plum/burgundy, Cochineal scale insect-scarlet/pink/lavender, Cutch resin-brown, Fustic sawdust-gold/forest green, Indigo vat-blue, Logwood-purple/lavender/navy/grey/black, Madder Root-orange/red, Saxon Blue (Indigo plus sulfuric acid)-turquoise/teal, and Weld-clear yellow/kelly green/lime. Nuances of color were brought out with various mineral salts.

Besides rainbows from all the above Ancient Dyes, the **Missouri Dyes** of Bidens flowers (in coreopsis family)-gold/orange/brown, Elderberries-lavender/teal/green, Goldenrod flowers-yellow/gold/green, Ironweed flowers-greens, Osage Orange wood chips-yellow/gold/khaki, Pokeberries-fushia/purple/rust, Staghorn Sumac berries-tans/black, and Walnut-browns, also provide a rainbow.

Is it any wonder I'm so enamored by Natural Dyes? Nature DOES Provide. Hence the book title: **Nature Provides** (not just food, medicines, and fibers for textiles, but also) **Dyes for Rainbows of Color**. The book will cover my approach to offering weekend workshops whereby full rainbows of color may be obtained. Of course, full recipes for each of the above dyes will be covered. Thus, readers may choose to either present full rainbow workshops or choose to explore just one dye at a time.

Progress on the book: nearly all the color pictures have been taken. Most of the text and bibliography is written. Still to do: finish text on ancient dyes, glossary, index, editing of words and pictures, assembly of pictures and words, sending manuscript to at least 4 readers. We hope to have the manuscript ready for readers by the end of July. (Any volunteers?) Has to be done *before* the baby is born! We'll be accepting pre-orders for the book after July 31, 2015.

