

(New Yarns cont. from Page 4)

One of my favorite new yarns is **Humble Hills "Pearls"**. Raised here in Missouri from champion fleece, Andy McMurry has designed a soft merino bulky grey yarn bound with a fine romney strand. When the yarn fluffs up after washing, it looks like a strand of pearls. Talk about "comfort factor"! Wow, is this *soft*. I have been dyeing this yarn with natural dyes, and made my newest grandson Charlie's baby blanket from it, as well as a shrug and my "Pearl Berries" Rectangle Shawl, dyed with pokeberries and elderberries. Skeins 110 yards, 4 ounces, \$20 natural grey. Skeins natural dyed, \$24.

Full Sets of Colors

For all the basic yarns we carry, we make a concerted effort to keep every color available in stock. These yarns include:

Maysville cotton 8/4 carpet warp, 62 colors, \$5.80 per 800-yard 8-ounce tube (natural ivory \$4.30) Use for rug warp, placemats and other heavy cotton fabric, knits great washcloths!

Lamb's Pride 85/15 percent wool/mohair, 79 solid colors plus 10 new variegated colors, in both worsted weight and bulky weight, \$7.40 per 4 ounce permanently mothproofed pull skein. Use for both knitting and weaving, especially on frame looms.

Rio Grande Single ply Rug Wool, 360 yards per pound, 73 hand-dyed colors (\$36) plus 3 natural colors (\$25) We also offer this in 4-ounce balls at \$9.50 and \$6.75 respectively. Use for weaving rugs, Navajo tapestry, and for knitting heavy "jumpers" or fisherman sweaters.

Churro Single ply wool, 23 hand-dyed and 6 natural colors, \$4.20 and \$3.15 per ounce respectively, in 4 to 5-ounce skeins. Use for finer Navajo weaving and tapestry and other coarse weaving.

Harrisville Highland 2-ply wool, 56 colors, \$16 per 8-ounce cone. Great for weaving blankets or heavy fabric. Use Shetland weight for finer wool fabrics.

Dragon Tales 4/2, 8/2 cotton, plus 1.8/1 cotton flake, and rayon slub, 12 solid colors (2 new ones) and 6 variegated colors in each of the four yarn types. The cottons are all \$10.00 and \$11.70, solid and variegated respectively, the rayon is \$10.80 and \$12.70.

Ashford Tekapo 2-ply merino wool, 28 solid colors and 10 new variegated colors, \$8.70 and \$9.50, respectively, per 100 gram pull skein.

We also carry a selection of colors in **Pearl cotton 3/2, 5/2, and 10/2 weights**, and a full compliment of 10 colors of **FoxFibre Colorganic 10/2 and 18/2 cotton yarns**.

Check our web site for color cards on the above yarns and much more: www.hillcreekfiberstudio.com .

New Products

Schacht Lady Bug spinning wheel. Great little wheel. Same great sturdy construction as Schacht's "Matchless" wheel, but lighter weight (only 12 pounds) and lower cost. It features a true double treadle and scotch tension, with double drive option. Spinning ratios are from 5:1 to 16:1. Great portability with built-in handle grips, and a unique design with red nylon fly-wheel and a little lady bug hidden somewhere unique on each wheel. Price \$550.

St. Blaise Wool Combs. Two-pitch, hand-held combs with table mount, hand-made in cherry. Combs hold 3 3/4-inch polished steel finely tapered tines, suitable for a wide range of fibers from kid mohair to Navajo churro. Table mount allows the comer to mount the comb for pulling off the fiber with a diz, or to comb the fiber from a stationary position as is customary with English style combs. \$150. Diz and pull sets available for \$18.

Book Reviews — Natural Dye Books

Natural Dyes, Sources, Tradition, Technology, and Science, Dominique Cardon, 778pp., Archetype Publications, 2007, \$165. The ultimate natural dye authoritative book!! "At a time when more and more plants and animals are threatened with extinction by humanity's ever-increasing pressure on the land and oceans of the planet, this book sets out to record sources of colorants discovered and used on all the continents from antiquity until the present day. Some 300 plants and 30 animals are illustrated and discussed by the author.... Although natural dyes have been replaced largely by synthetic dyes, increasing worldwide awareness of the harmful consequences of the pollution resulting from the production and use of some synthetic colorants has led to a significant revival and renewed interest in natural colorants. As potential renewable resources, natural dyes are an integral part of the major issue of our time—sustainable development."

Dyes from American Native Plants, A Practical Guide, Lynne Richards & Ronald Tylr, 339pp., Timber Press, 2005, \$29.95. "The authors have compiled extensive information to bring the techniques, plants, and lore of natural dyeing within every reader's reach.... they emphasize the science, history, and practical aspects of dyeing... easy-to-follow-instructions." The book includes an exhaustive reference to hundreds of colors obtained from 158 commonly encountered North American plant species. The authors have cross-referenced each color to the Munsell color system, and offer a practical botanical field guide to locate and identify plants in the book.

Dye Plants and Dyeing, John & Margaret Cannon, Royal Botanical Gardens, Timber Press, 2004, \$19.95, first printed 1994, beautiful color-illustrations by Gretel Dalby-Quenet. Back in print. Colors expected from each dye plant are even better than depicted in the book.