

# Through the Shop Window

...the "little shop around the corner" on Mill Street



"From the unique to the antique!"

**5605 Mill Street, Richmond, IL 60071 (815) 678-4063**

August 2013

## **A Rabbit's Tale**

*Some people just don't know when enough is enough, or when to keep their nose out of other people's business. We experienced this "first hand" last month. It seems that some lady who came into our shop thinks she knows everything about rabbits, and in her opinion, our rabbit suffers from abuse. Here is her list of our transgressions:*

- 1) *We have too many rabbits in the hutch (we have only 1).*
- 2) *The hutch is too small (it is the largest commercially built hutch available).*
- 3) *Our rabbit does not have hay available 24/7 (we feed him daily at 9PM-both pellets and hay-and he consumes them entirely).*
- 4) *Our rabbit is never out of the hutch (well, not when Dobbie is in the shop-since he thinks rabbits are to be eaten).*

*The McHenry County Animal Control department came to investigate and found our Mr. Bean to be healthy, well cared for, very well fed, and one of the best looking rabbits in the county.*

*When the person lodging the complaint was not satisfied with their findings, she contacted the State of Illinois. The investigator working for the state had never in 30 years received a complaint about a rabbit (Go figure!) I'm sure she won't be happy when she hears back from Springfield, so I'm expecting a call from the Obama Administration any day now.*

*If this keeps up, my solution is to simply dress Mr. Bean and make some rabbit stew. I'm sure that is not the busy-body's desired result, but it would stop any reason for her to continue to complain (although I'm sure Mr. Bean is quite happy with his current accommodations and would rather not be relocated into a stew pot).*

*So, be careful what you complain about. You never know what trouble you can cause when you stick your nose (or rabbit tail) where it doesn't belong.*

## **September Classes**

**From Ewe to Yarn** Tuesdays 9/10 – 9/24 7-9 PM Got fleece? Now what! This class will cover all the basics, from skirting a fleece to getting it ready to spin. We'll cover basic washing, picking, carding, flicking, combing-everything you'll need to know to get that fleece ready to spin. We'll cover what equipment you'll need, as well as how to make the basics like a skirting table, drying rack, and tips on how to use your washing machine to minimize the work without felting the fleece. The class fee is \$60, and we encourage students to bring their own fleeces.

**The Toothbrush Rug** Wednesdays 9/11-9/25 7-9PM Here's a quick no-sew technique that will allow you to use up fabric scraps and quickly create durable rugs and place mats for your home. You'll need the basic tool (under \$3), some fabric, and an iron. We'll cover the basics on how to prep the material, use the tool, and follow the pattern. Additional project patterns are available. The class is \$60, and we'll have the iron set and ready to go. You may bring your own material, or purchase material from our shop.

**Tips and Tricks for the Beginning Spinner** Thursdays 9/12-9/26 7-9 PM if you know the basics of spinning but don't feel you're ready for an advanced class, here's just what you need. We will work on basic techniques such as controlling yarn diameter, achieving consistency of twist, and improving basic spinning techniques. We'll focus on how to plan and spin for specific projects, as well as cover some techniques to re-work yarn that's already been spun. Students should have their own wheels. The class fee is \$60, and does not include fiber.

***We're Expanding!*** In addition to our yarns and fiber, we will be adding a sampling of quilting fabrics. Shop early for the best selection.

**Please Note:** We will be closed Aug 11-17 for vacation and Aug 30-Sept 9 for Wisconsin Sheep & Wool Festival

## **2014 Winter Retreat Tickets are Available**

The 2014 Winter Retreat will be held January 24-26 at the Willowood Inn located in Baraboo, WI. Tickets are \$125/person double occupancy, or \$175/person single occupancy, and include: 2 nights lodging, dinner on Friday, breakfast and lunch on Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. Tickets must be paid in advance (check or cash only), and are not refundable. This has been one of our most popular events. Please contact Penny to secure your place.

**Mark your Calendar for the  
Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival  
September 6-8**

**At the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Jefferson, Wisconsin**