

# 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**

March 2015

## March Madness

*For me, March Madness is a state of mind-not a sports competition. It is the result of months of exposure to winter weather, lack of sunlight, extreme cold and snow, and basic confinement to heated spaces.*

*Don't get me wrong, I love to sit by a nice fire and relax. I love the look of a fresh snowfall-it's driving to work in it day after day that gets to me. I miss sitting outside the shop knitting or spinning and watching the traffic stalled on Route 12. I look forward to getting the camper ready to go on an adventure. Enough of wishing my life away - back to reality. Sanity is such a fickle thing.*

*After last month's "challenge project", I feel revived. I am ready to take on another project-another challenge.*

*The change ringing scarf held my attention because I was both interested in the subject and found the adaptation of the knitting to the subject an artistic challenge. You can do the same. For example, if you like to garden, plan your garden, and adapt your plan to a piece of color work knitting or weaving. Then, plant the garden and compare the similarities between both art forms. You can do the same with quilting, painting, or even music - any area of interest. Let your interests become your inspiration. That's what keeps your hobbies from becoming boring. We are all artists, leaving a unique signature on everything we do. Discover your inner greatness, and let it show in your work. If you run into a technical problem, we are always here to help. Color, texture, form-these are tools for your interpretation of the world around you.*

*So, step up your game and create something awesome that is uniquely you. Push yourself and enjoy the journey. The rewards are many, but are only for those who dare to dream, work to create a path, push toward the goal, and achieve their success. Who knows what you'll come up with-you might surprise even yourself and inspire someone else along the way.*

## Last Classes of this Season

**The Toothbrush Rug** – Tuesdays, April 7-28 (7PM-9PM). Here's a great hobby that will fill your need to work with colors without having to knit or crochet. The toothbrush rug is simple to learn, a great way to recycle old materials or tap into the unused stash of quilting fabric. Toothbrush rugs are both durable and beautiful. There is a sample on display in the shop. The class is \$60, and tools and pattern are under \$10. The cost of the project depends on what you choose and/or what of your stash you want to use. Class is limited to 3 students.

**Spinning 101** - Wednesdays, April 8-29 (7PM-9PM). For those of you who want to spin but still have not taken a class, here is your last chance before the summer. Spinning is easy to learn, relaxing, and rewarding, AND you don't have to own a wheel to take this class. The class fee of \$125 covers use of the wheel, all instruction, and the fiber you'll need for class. We are limiting this class to 3 students, so sign up today to secure your place.

As usual, we will not be scheduling group classes for May-August. However, we are available to teach one-on-one classes. If there is something you would like to learn, please call the shop. We would be happy to arrange a class.

**There will be a winter retreat in 2016. Please see the "Events" page on our website for details and a printable application form.**

## "Fiber in the Forest" a Mini Summer Retreat

Like camping and fiber? Then join us for a weekend of campfires, food, and fun. We will be at Chain-O-Lakes State Park June 26-28 for the weekend. More information is available in the shop. See the "Events" page on our website for complete details.

## Fiber Show Update

McHenry County Fair will have a **Spring Fiber Fling on May 16-17**. The new show will be open at 9 AM both days. This should be a great show, and will include fiber animals, classes, and of course-vendors! And, we plan to be one of them! As usual, we will also be attending **the Wisconsin Sheep and Wool Festival in Jefferson this September**. So, mark your calendars and plan to support these fiber events. For more information on the 2015 Spring Fiber Fling, contact the McHenry County Fair Association. See you there!