

Through the Shop Window

For the best in fiber,
yarn, and equipment....



...shop the sheep.
Wool, Warp & Wheel

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

March 2018

Hol-e Knitting

Both Penny and I have been knitting lace-different patterns each according to our ability. Mine is simple - I have few rows to rip out but have to do it more often. Penny's pattern is much more complicated (but she is more experienced and can "hide" the mistakes better). Still, we each have to do our fair share of ripping out and re-knitting. Those of you who think we're immune to frogging are sadly mistaken. As long as you push yourself to become a better knitter, you will have to frog along the way. That's just part of it.

Sometimes, in the height of my frustration I wonder if it wouldn't be easier to just knit a plain scarf and employ a trained moth to "eat" holes in the proper spots instead of constantly fighting the yarn overs, k2togs, and ssk's. Of course, I would then have to deal with unraveling stitches, to say nothing of the loss of pattern due to inconsistent stitch structure. Maybe I should just knit in acrylic and use a match to "melt the holes in the proper places (perish the thought of using stretch-less acrylic, it's too hard on the hands). So, it's back to knit, knit, rip, rip, rip....

As with anything, learning a skill takes practice and repetition. There are no shortcuts. You have to put in the time, be confident in your ability to master the task, and be able to critique your work without condemnation. After all, it's not fatal, it's only wool. If you wear out the yarn you can get more. The time you spend making mistakes can either be wasted or invested. To waste it-just give up. To invest it, persevere.

All knitting is done one stitch at a time, so there's no reason why you can't knit a masterpiece. It just takes time. Since each individual stitch is nothing complicated, I still don't understand why the whole pattern falls apart when you knit those simple stitches in succession. Oh well, knit, knit, rip, rip, rip....

Winter Hours

We are making a small change in our Winter Hours. To reduce our costs, during periods of severe cold we will not have the shop open on Tuesdays or Wednesday evening. However, if you're out and need something, call (815) 678-4063, and we'll open for you.

Tuesday and Wednesday by appointment between 7 PM and 9 PM

Thursday and Friday 11 AM-9 PM

The First and Third weekends of the Month

10 AM – 5 PM

Open Workshop will be on Sundays of the first and third weekends of the month.

We offer one-on-one customized classes as well as individualized help on the projects you have "in process". We can help you with knitting, crochet, spinning, weaving, felting, as well as other fiber related art forms. Winter is the perfect time to expand your knowledge and enjoyment of your craft. Please feel free to contact us in the shop to schedule a time slot.

2019 Winter Retreat

The 2019 Winter Retreat will be held in Fontana, Wisconsin at the Heritage House Inn. The dates are Thursday, Jan 24 through Sunday, Jan 27. Check in is at 1:00 PM on Thursday, and departure is noon on Sunday. Those attending will be asked to help provide a meal for the weekend. We are limited to a total of 18 spaces. The Inn is divided into 3 suites, each having 2 bedrooms, a full kitchen, a living room with a fireplace, and at least 1 full bathroom. Some rooms have a view of Lake Geneva. We meet in the Common Room, which is large enough to spaciouly accommodate all of us.

The cost per person is \$140.00 and must be paid in full when you reserve your place. As of this printing, 14 spaces have been purchased, so we have space for 4 more people. Best of all, the Inn is a short 30-minute drive from the shop.

If you are interested in attending, please get your funds to Penny. This is "first come-first serve", and there are no private rooms left. The 2018 retreat was a great success, and the Inn was very comfortable. By eliminating the two-hour drive and adding Thursday afternoon, we have more time together, more time for fiber, and more time for fun! Since we pay for the Inn in advance, your fee is non-refundable UNLESS we can resell your space.