



The Baa Ram Ewe Banner

The Newsletter of The Dancing Lamb

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Wow! It's January already! Welcome to the first issue of The Baa Ram Ewe Banner, our newsletter for The Dancing Lamb. Since "it takes a community to create a fiber shop," I hope that some of you will consider contributing to the future issues of the newsletter. Perhaps you have a favorite pattern or a nifty tip to share with others. We'd love to be able to include photos of finished products made from the yarns and fibers we carry here as an inspiration to other fiber folks. If you'd like to contribute, just send an e-mail of your article or photo, and we'll put it in the next issue of the Banner.

What's new this month

Just after the holidays, I headed over to Blackberry Ridge Woolen Mill and brought back a huge shipment of new yarns. We have more of the popular sport and fingering weight wool and silk blend, and there is a new wool and cotton blend in both sport and fingering weight. Both of these yarns are elegant and are perfect for those spring projects you will be starting soon. Remember, wool is *breathable*, so it can be suitable for spring and early summer wear, depending on the type of project you make. Projects such as lace, with lots of open, airy areas, are great for fingering and lace weight wools.



I have been dyeing some lovely fibers from Rainbow Fleece Farm in New Glarus. We have some beautiful English Leicester roving which soaks up color like a sponge. For those of you unfamiliar with this beautiful fiber, the English Leicester is a heritage breed and is fairly rare in the U.S. The breed was common during the Colonial period and was reintroduced to the U.S. at Colonial Williamsburg in Virginia. Since then, there has been a renewed interest in the breed, and those who know the fibers love them. The wool has a long staple, very high luster, and is softer than Border Leicester but not quite as fine as Blue-Faced Leicester. This makes it an extremely versatile fiber - smooth, satiny, durable, and strong. If you're a spinner and have never tried English Leicester, do come and check out our rovings.

We also have collectible, custom made drop spindles which are being made for us by a master woodworker in Mazomanie. These are amazing spindles made from all different woods including box elder, cherry and maple burls, teak, and walnut. Each one is unique. If you are collector of spindles, these are worth checking out and very affordable.

Gwen Maitzen's amazing mohair yarns are a featured item at the shop. Gwen, who is a painter in addition to being a fiber artist, has a small flock of goats in Oregon, WI, and in addition to finished yarns, has custom blended batts available for your spinning pleasure. Gwen dyes her own fibers, and the resulting yarns and batts are soft and lustrous. Mohair has a beautiful halo effect and is warm but not weighty. In addition to yarns and fibers, Gwen is working on a line of greeting cards for the shop featuring goats, sheep, and, of course, corgis.



Upcoming classes and Events

KNIT ALONG WITH JANE AUSTEN, Sundays Feb. 1 and 8 , 1 - 4 p.m. (\$20.00 + \$28.50 for tea cosy kit) — What could be more romantic for Valentine's Day than a Jane Austen romance? Join us as we enjoy knitting a tea cosy while watching "Pride and Prejudice." Please contact us by January 24th to reserve your space and select your specially prepared yarn color, made for us by Blackberry Ridge in Mount Horeb. Prior experience with basic cast on, knit and purl stitches. Instructor: Mildred Olsen.

VALENTINE HEARTS, Thursday, Feb. 5, 6- 8 p.m. (\$10.00 + materials of your choice) —

Harvest will be teaching a basic crochet workshop with Valentine's Day hearts as the theme. No experience is necessary. Once you get started, they are addictive, and you can yarn bomb your sweetheart with dozens of them by Valentine's Day. Instructor: Harvest Brown.



CARDING BASICS - Saturday, February 7, 1 - 4 p.m. \$15.00 (+\$10.00 for materials)

Take the next step in learning to make your own yarn. Learn how to card washed wool to make spinnable fiber. We will cover woolen and semi-worsted preparations. Bring your hand cards and your spinning wheel or drop spindle if you have them. A selection of washed wool will be available for you to experience preparing your own fiber. Instructor: Holin Kennen

BEGINNING KNITTING II - A SIMPLE HAT - Mondays, February 16 and 23, 2 - 4 p.m. *or* 6 - 8 p.m. (\$25.00 + materials of your choice)

Learn to circular knit by making a simple hat with worsted yarn. Mildred Olsen will guide you through your first hat. Circular and double point needles and yarn can be purchased here at the shop.

COLOR BLENDING- Saturday, February 28, 1 - 4 p.m. \$15.00 (+\$10.00 for materials)

Have fun creating unique and colorful fiber blends using hand cards or a simple drum carder. Mix and match fibers, add mohair or glitz, and spin a sample of your blend. Prior spinning experience necessary. Please bring a drop spindle and/or wheel and hand cards if you have them. Instructor: Holin Kennen



The Dancing Lamb featured in *Isthmus* article

The December 8, 2014 issue of *The Isthmus* featured an article on the shop. Shelby Deering did a fabulous job on capturing both the ambience of our shop and our intention to provide a place for local fibers and craftspeople to share their products with the community. We enjoyed visiting with Shelby and her husband, and we even got to meet her corgi. This article has done so much to encourage people to come visit us and to enjoy Evansville. We have met so many great people as a result of the article, and we look forward to meeting many more.

Spinning Guild forming

If you are a spinner, we want you! Dianne D. is forming a spinning guild for us. Beginner to advanced. Contact us at the shop for more info.

Behind the scenes - Kim Kruger



You may not see her often, but Kim Kruger of Blackhorse Web Designs is an important part of the success of our shop. Kim is the designer of our wonderful website: thedancinglamb.com and maintains our calendars, updates photos, and helps in innumerable ways to make keep on-line presence a reflection of our intentions. A gifted wordsmith, Kim developed a website that was just right. In addition to being our web designer, Kim has provided advice in setting up our accounting and cash transaction systems (without her, you wouldn't be able to swipe your credit card). She has two delightful corgis, and although she doesn't make it widely known, she is also a knitter of considerable experience.

WINTER HOURS:

Sun. & Mon. 12 - 6 (8 p.m. on class nights)

Tues. - by appointment. Just call and we'll open up for you.

Wed., Fri., Sat. 10 - 8

Thurs. 10 - 9 (Late Night Fiber Night - bring your fiber projects and enjoy tea, treats, and good conversation with us!)

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