

The Slipped Stitch

May 2020



Wahoo, It's our anniversary! Chris and I have owned the store for an entire decade! It does not seem like it's been that long and yet it seems like we've been here forever. And I hope we're here for a long time to come. As always we truly appreciate your support, especially during the current difficult times.

With the time on our hands we have been doing some reorganizing in the store. Once we're finished, I will be giving a virtual tour through Zoom, so stay tuned for more information on that.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to the store when this virus has run its' course. I hope and pray all of you are keeping safe and well. We love you all!!

The latest news . . . We are returning to our regular 10 am opening time; however, we will not have a late night at this time. So our new hours will be 10 to 5 Monday through Friday and 10 to 4 on Saturdays. We are still limiting the number of customers (three maximum) in the store for the foreseeable future. We will also not be doing in-store classes or sit-and-knit for at least the month of May; however, we are still open and you can come in for assistance if you need to. We are having virtual sit-and-knit on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Saturdays through Zoom.

Due to the restrictions that are still in place, I am only scheduling virtual classes a month at a time and plan to continue them as long as necessary. I also plan to keep offering the virtual classes in conjunction with in-store classes when we are able to do so. So please check out our Virtual Class schedule included with this email or available on our website:

<https://thefiberhouse.com/virtualclasses.aspx>. Our classes are being offered through a free sign up program called Zoom.us. If you would like to participate in any of our virtual classes, please email me so that I can send you the proper Zoom meeting link with an ID number and password. Zoom requires a password for all meetings and I will not send them out in a global email.

The **Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners** conference in Helena in June has been cancelled. The **Black Hills Fiber Frenzy** in Rapid City has been postponed and will hopefully take place in August.

Our 3rd annual **Cowboy Yarn Crawl** is still scheduled; however, we are shortening the time to August and September only. We are hoping that we will still be able to do this at this later time.

World Wide Knit in Public Day. At this time we are still planning to hold our Knit in Public Day picnic on Saturday, June 13. We are hoping we can hold this in Kendrick Park in one of the pavilions. We will be providing sub sandwiches and are asking those of you who attend to bring a dish to share. Please let me know if you plan to attend, so that I can get a head count for the subs. This year more

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than ever I think it is important that we celebrate and encourage our crafting community. Crafting is an awesome way to combat the stress of social distancing and isolation.

May Anniversary Month Special- All Books– 40% off

Our yearly blowout book sale. Although digital media is readily available and very handy, I still like having a hard copy in my hands. No battery or printer issues, I can write notes if I want, and I can keep it forever without worrying that it will disappear into the ether.

We have books on all kinds of knit, crochet, weaving, and spinning topics. How-to books, patterns books, stitch pattern books, and books that are just plain fun to look through and read. Looking for a particular book? Check with us first!

NEW! NEW! NEW!

The latest issue of *Little Looms* is here! This yearly issue has tons of projects for all sorts of small looms – rigid heddle, inkles, pin looms, tablet weaving, tapestry weaving, etc. Lots of useful information and cool tools to drool over and covet. We also have the latest issues of *Piecework* and *Interweave Knits*, with *Spin Off* and *Handwoven* due in soon. These are all available on our website, too.

Mountain Colors – we got a box of their yummy *yarns* and two of their special LYS day kits featuring mini skeins of their new *Tweed* yarn. We have one skein of the *Tweed* available and also one skein of their luxurious *Silk Dance* yarn, plus more kits and other yarns. Although we only have one or two skeins of any colorway in assorted base yarns, have no fear. They drop ship! Check out more info on that below. The box included a sample skein of their new *Tweed* yarn. So of course I had to immediately try it out – so scrumptious and squishy and gorgeous to knit with. Yep, it's that good! If you stop by the store ask to see the Pine Bark Cowl I'm making.

Judy and Van spent part of their Arizona vacation making beaded stitch markers. They made so many they offered them to us to sell. If you stop in the store check out these beautiful and functional markers. Most come in packs of 6. We have angels, owls, keys, a really cute tea set, and more!

DROP SHIP PROGRAMS

Polka Dot Sheep (www.polkadotssheep.com) – Hand-dyed yarns, kits, and patterns. You can order directly from her website and she is offering free shipping. When you check out, put The Fiber House in the “Notes” area and we will get credit on our next wholesale order.

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For all of the following companies, you can check out what they offer on their website. Then you place your order with us (even if it something we don't generally keep in stock), we submit the order to the company, and your items are shipped directly to you. In most cases there is a drop ship fee (\$7 to \$11 per order).

Mountain Colors (www.mountaincolors.com) - Hand-dyed yarns, kits, and patterns.

Berroco Yarns (www.berroco.com) - All Berroco, Amano, Lang, Wool Addicts, and Lopi Yarns and Drop Ship kit of the week specials.

Universal Yarns (www.universalyarn.com) - Universal, Wisdom, Rosetti, Nazli Gelin, and Fibra Natura Yarns, kits, and patterns.

Urth Yarns (www.urthyarns.com) - Yarns and kits. This is a company we have not yet stocked at the store but they have some nice yarns that we may stock in the future. Right now you can order through us and get it drop shipped to you.

Knitting Fever/ Euro Yarns (www.knittingfever.com) - special drop ship kits only.

Rowan Yarns (www.knitrowan.com) - special drop ship kits only.

Ashford Looms (www.ashford.co.nz) - weaving and spinning supplies and equipment.

Kromski (www.kromskina.com) - weaving and spinning equipment.

May Virtual Classes

Mondays and Tuesdays, 1-3 pm and Saturdays Noon to 1 pm, Virtual Sit and Knit Social Hour

Wednesdays, 1-3pm, Mitered Square Baby Blanket.

Thursdays, 1-3pm, The Hub on Smith Group (not just for seniors either). A virtual social gathering.

Fridays, 1-3pm, Origami Knitted Slippers. Since most people are finished with their Raglan Sweaters, we are going to try a new class for knitted slippers. I'm calling them origami slippers because you knit them flat and then fold them up into the slipper. And there are so many ways to vary the pattern by changing colors, etc. Check out this pattern from Garn Studio for one idea on what the slippers look like: <https://www.garnstudio.com/catalogues.php?type=drops-children&lang=us>

Saturdays, 1-2:30 pm, Half-pi Shawl Knit a-long

Saturdays, 2:30-4 pm, Juliette Shawl Crochet a-long.

Weaving and Spinning News

The weaving and spinning meetings will be on hiatus until the virus epidemic is cleared.

Handweaver's Guild of America Small Expressions Exhibit. The CFG will be co-hosting this event with the Bradford Museum in from March to May 2021. Thank you to everyone who has offered to help.

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Request for Submissions

Sheridan's Creative Fiber Guild and Brinton Museum will be co-hosting the Handweaver's Guild of America's *Small Expressions Exhibit*, March 15 through May 9th, 2021. For this exhibit we would also like to include pieces completed by Wyoming fiber artists. Submissions must meet the following minimum requirements:

- 1) Include a handwoven, handspun, or hand dyed component as part of the piece. Any art medium is welcome (fiber, wire, paper, mixed media, etc.)
- 2) Garments will be considered. All other items must be less than 15" in any dimension.
- 3) Items must be display ready.

We will initially request a photograph and details of the item to be submitted for consideration. Once we have decided on the pieces to be added to the display we will then request the item. At this time we do not have a firm deadline for submissions but it will most likely be December to January time frame.

If you would like to submit an item to be included in this exhibit, please contact Donna Stubbs (email: donna@thefiberhouse.com or phone: 307-673-0383) for further submission guidelines.

In Consideration of . . . (also known as - Donna's Soapbox):

Never Stop Learning

I'm a tech junkie, only not the kind you're thinking. For me, it's not about having all the latest technology gadgets, but about learning new techniques. It's kinda silly really but I get all kinds of giddy and excited about learning new stuff with my crafts. Once I get really comfortable with the basic stuff (in the case of knitting that took many, many years), I start looking for new things to learn.

This is why I know four different ways to knit (English, Continental, Portuguese, loom) and I'm pretty sure there isn't a crochet technique that I haven't done at least once - Tunisian, Bavarian, Filet, Broomstick, Hairpin, Crocodile Stitch (not really a technique, more like a stitch pattern). And also why I know about six ways to weave (multiple harness, rigid heddle, inkle, tablet, tapestry, pin loom). Nine ways to knit a sock - top down, toe up, sideways, sole first, at an angle, on straights, two circulars, magic loop, double points - yep, done 'em all.

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When I first taught myself to crochet and then knit, I had to learn from a book. I'm one of those lucky people who can generally figure things out from written instructions - although pictures sure do help a lot! Learning a new technique now is easier than ever - (all together now - say "You Tube").

I mentioned above that I'm knitting the *Pine Bark Cowl*, a pattern from Mountain Colors. And right away I had to learn a new way to cast on - it's called the Chinese Waitress cast-on from Cap Sease's book *Cast On, Bind Off: 211 Ways to Begin and End Your Knitting*. I was so excited about this, that I immediately started showing it to everyone on the virtual classes. And while I may not know all 211 ways to cast on and bind off, I am now one step closer to that goal.

Besides adding to my crafting repertoire by learning new stuff, I'm also keeping my brain active and fighting stress at the same time. Many good things happen when you learn, so remember this advice from kindergarten: NEVER STOP LEARNING.