

I can't bring myself to be writing a "fall" newsletter, as there is plenty of summer left. However these notes bring both summer and fall news to your attention.

Summer Sale: our very first sale will be August 19-28<sup>th</sup> and will feature cottons, summer seasonal and other yarns that we need to clear out to make room for the fall/winter offerings. Selected yarns are discounted 20% and we hope that you will find some treasures.

Trunk Shows: We have three shows scheduled for the fall.

- Mac and Me is a designer of sweet knitting patterns. We carry her entire line of patterns at the back table. In late October we will feature several of her finished items to inspire you to try her patterns.
- Classic Elite is sending us two trunk shows; one in October and one in December. Finished items range from wristlets and caplets to sweaters and more.

Holiday Wish List: Did you know that we could keep a list for you? If this would help your loved ones select the perfect holiday or birthday gift just let us know and we will update your customer record.

Fall Class Schedule is attached

New arrivals include so many items it's hard to mention them all but here are some highlights:

Needles:

- Addi Turbo's in the longer lengths – ask for them as they are behind the counter.
- Colonial circular needles in bamboo and rosewood (coming soon) - these stunning needles feature a pliable cord that will not coil; not to mention their lovely feel. They are an excellent gift idea for yourself and others.

Patterns and Books:

- Lorna Laces sock patterns featuring beadwork
- Patterns for hemp
- Felted Bag patterns

Yarns:

**Alpaca** is becoming more popular as a "wool" fiber to knit with. It is soft as cashmere and lighter than most wools and has less "itch". It comes as a 100% alpaca yarn or blended with wool, silk, or other fibers in weights from fingering to bulky. And, did you know that alpacas are in the same family as camels and llamas however they have distinctly different characteristics? If you are interested in these sweet natured, earth friendly animals, check out <http://www.alpacainfo.com/> We will be carrying oodles of this fiber from several companies.

**Bamboo** and **Soy Silk** from SouthWest Trade come in luscious colors, are earth friendly and fun to knit with. You can download their free patterns from their site: [www.soysilk.com](http://www.soysilk.com) or we can provide them free with purchase of yarn. Check out Napa Valley on Top (tank top) that uses 3-5 skeins of Oasis (soy silk) or the Moebius that uses 3 skeins of Fur Real. I saw both of them at a recent trade show and they are spectacular.

**Hemp** is Hip! If you think that hemp is stiff and itchy, think again. It has beautiful drape, is cool in the summer and warm in the winter. It is a long lasting fiber and can be machine-washed. In fact it softens with each washing. However, since hemp has no natural elasticity, pattern choice is important. To assist you we have selected patterns for a baby sweater, tee, tank and long sleeve tops, a market bag and bath trio. This hemp has been produced free of chemical, herbicides or pesticides.

**Felting yarns**

Manos, Cascade 220, Donegal Tweed, Outback Wool and Mohair are just a few of the many 100% wools that felt well, each providing a different look. Novelty yarns can add zest to your felted piece so consider topping a bag or trimming a hat with something special.

Other New Additions:

**Beaded bags** – I spotted the most beautiful little beaded bags at the recent trade show. Bitty (knit) is a little beaded coin purse about 4inches around. Estelle (crochet) is 6in x 4in and can be done in raffia and adorned with fish buttons makes a great summer bag. Lissa (knit) is a good starter project and will hook you on these bags. There's not enough room here to tell you about the Miser's Bag, so ask about it the next time you come in. These precious bags come in kit form or you can purchase the pattern book and design your own. We carry the beads you will need.

**Beads** – speaking of beads, we carry a wide assortment of seed and triangle beads that can be used for knitting and crochet. If you would like something even more special, Lucinda's is right down the street and offers a variety of specialty beads to accent your project.

**Bag handles and purse linings** – we carry a variety of handles for your bag projects and continue to find more. Let us know what you are looking for and we will add it to the list. We also offer a service to sew up your purse lining if you would prefer not to do it yourself.

**Funky rhinestone separating zippers** – for child and adult sized garments several colors.