

Color, what draws our attention.

Advertisers use it because it works. We all have a favorite color which our attention is always drawn to even if we only see it out of the corner of our eye. When we come to a yarn shop to create a new item, we want choice and color is no exception. What color we choose tells a lot about us...for example...

REDS

courageous, confident, humanistic, strong-willed, spontaneous, honest and extroverted

ORANGES

enthusiastic, happy, sociable, energetic, sporty, self-assured and constructive

YELLOWWS

good humored, optimistic, confident, practical and intellectual

GREENS

understanding, self-controlled, adaptable, compassionate, generous and humble

BLUES

loyal, tactful, affectionate, inspiring, inventive, caring and cautious

INDIGO

intuitive, fearless, practical, idealistic, wise and a truth seeker

VIOLETS

inspirational as leaders, kindly and just, humanitarians, self-sacrificing, creative and strong mentally

Whatever color you love, never be afraid to be yourself.

Going Green?.....Knitting Green....

Everything is going green but hasn't knitting been mostly green with yarns like wool, cotton and silk? Being "green" is more than just wool, cotton and silk fibers but how it is produced and processed. "Green" or organic fibers are part of a growing \$160 million US organic fiber industry, that expanded by 44% in 2005. Organic fibers are produced in places that support sustainable agricultural and business practices that minimize the negative ecological impact to the earth.

At The National Needle Arts Association Trade Show, Paula and I saw many companies that had new "green" fibers. From Vermont Organic Fiber Co. we ordered a new organic yarn called O~Wool™ Balance, a 100% certified organic fiber blend of 50% merino wool and 50% cotton. The earthy look this yarn affords knits 5 stitches to the inch on a size 6

needle. No harsh chemicals were used in the dyeing process of this blended fiber giving the yarn a subtle tweed-like effect. The light weight of this yarn is perfect for the climate in North Carolina.

Vermont Organic Fiber Co. also produces O~Wool™ Classic a 100% wool that is a 100% certified organic fiber. All of the O~Wool™ line represents the highest standard available for certified organic wool products. An astonishing fact is that 1/2 acre of organic land is used to produce one skein of O~Wool™ Classic that will make one hat.

The show had many exotic fibers and books to go along with them. One of the books was “No Sheep For You” by Amy Singer about alternative knitting fibers other than wool. We saw fibers made of corn, soybean, chitin, yak, milk, bamboo and camel, some organic, some partially but all natural fibers.

So come check out the new “green” wave at The Needlecraft Center.

Some Needlecraft Center history....

In September 1971, when Peggy McConnell and I bought this shop from Pat Trexler, I never dreamed that this many years later I would still have the opportunity to be doing something that has been my passion for so many years. Peggy and I had been running the shop for several years when the opportunity came up to purchase the shop. Peggy retired a number of years ago, but I treasured the years that we had together as partners.

The shop was much different in 1971. Our yarns consisted of baby, sport, and worsted weight yarns. The yarn was beautiful but no fancy textures or fibers – mostly wools and acrylics. Cottons, hemp, soy, silk, cashmere or the other vast arrays of fibers that grace our shelves today were not available. Knitting needles were all aluminum or plastic...no bamboo, rosewood, blond wood, or ebony wood...NO Addies!!!

Needlepoint consisted of mostly preworked canvases – not the absolutely exquisite hand painted designs from Julie Poitrus, the whimsical designs of Cooper Oaks, or the sophisticated art from Trubey Designs. The fiber of choice was usually tapestry yarn...no Silk & Ivory, no Impressions, no Watercolours, not even Medici or Paternayan Persian Yarn.

We did have a large selection of crewel embroidery, and a huge variety of latch hook rug patterns and yarns. Counted cross stitch was just making its first introduction from Ginny Thompson at the Hammock Shop in Pawley’s Island, SC.

In 1971, All in the Family debuted and introduced a trend in socially conscious TV programming, Intel introduced the microprocessor, the median household income was \$9,028, the cost of a first class stamp was 8 cents, Richard Nixon was president, and

Phyllis Ann George was Miss America. So things have changed in a big way, but they have also stayed the same.

After 35 years, everything has changed except our service and dedication to our customers. The Needlecraft Center has a knowledgeable staff that is always willing to help answer a simple question or explore a more complicated pattern. In our business, experience counts. We learn from our customers their needs and how to best serve them by offering valuable assistance and advice that cannot be found elsewhere. We have always taken pride in offering the best products for the best price and we will continue to focus on this goal. We are committed to continuing our tradition of friendly and personal service to the experienced stitcher or to the novice.

There is always something new to get excited about at The Needlecraft Center whether it is the best selection of quality knitting yarn in irresistible colors and an array of incredible textures or beautiful hand painted needlepoint canvases with traditional and classic designs.

Our deepest thanks go to our customers for the success we have enjoyed. Without you there would be no shop. If you have not been to The Needlecraft Center, we look forward to having you join our family of satisfied customers.

The next time you're looking for someone you can count on.....someone with experience.....you will know who to call.
We are eagerly looking forward to many more years of serving the needlework community.