
BLUE NOTES

What's going on....



Welcome to the very first edition of Blue Notes!! A deeper dive into the happenings and creative process here in Blue Moon-land. Just a bit more than I feel works within our regular newsletter format and the blog. The blog is great but I tend to limit myself there to just the important stuff. So please bear with me as I figure the best way to go about this. Okay so I think I am going to start first newsy type things

Lovely backlit spring leaves in the rain. I pass this tree on my way from my house to the dye barn everyday.

like shipping schedule updates and anything pertaining to orders and such.

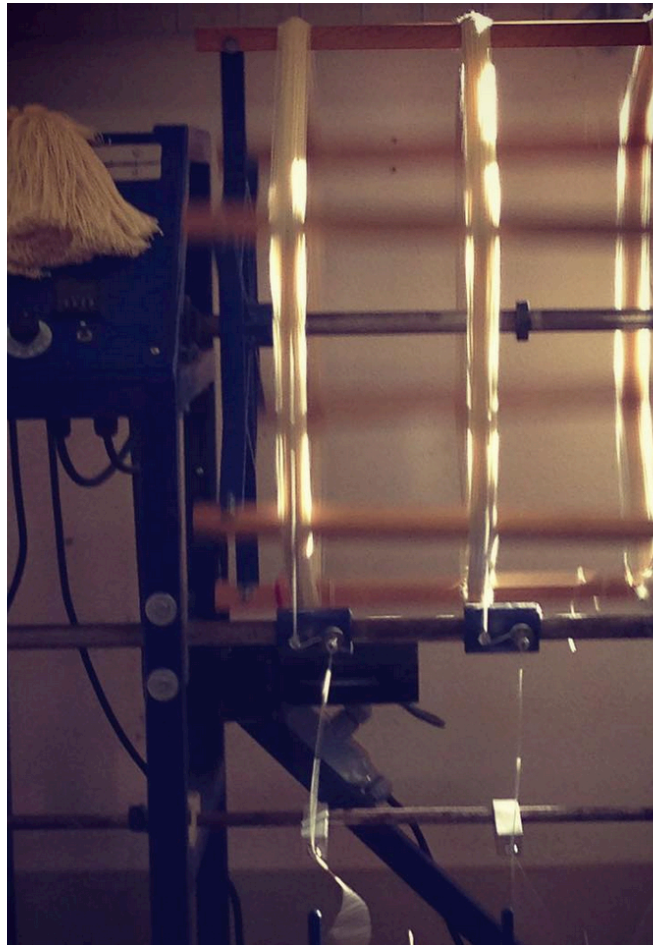
It is still just me here running all of the things. Yes, I have been vaccinated so at some point I will to bring help in. Why have I not done so yet, you are wondering? I've learned a lot working here for the last year pretty much alone. One of the biggest take aways is I do not want to spend my time managing employees. I would rather be in elbows deep in color in the dye barn. So I am restructuring things and setting up systems and cool fun things so I can do that. I am so much happier and more creative this way which is basically why I started Blue Moon.

Another reason is all of the pandemic protocols and shit downs has taken a toll on small businesses and that has been especially true for people in our industry. It's affected everyone from rancher to yarn store owners and then of course you. Also I want to see how all this plays out a bit more before bringing someone else into the mix.

I will bring someone in the next few weeks to help with the reeling of the yarn from cones to skeins. It's a time consuming job but super easy and not something that will take up my time monitoring.

Having help with reeling will make a huge difference!! Our reeler, who seriously needs a name, actually broke down recently. Something I've been worried about for awhile since the people who service it are pretty far away. Anyway I am a little more behind of anything sock yarn related than I hoped to be because of that. I am on a mission though so bear with me.

If you have a knit deadline please do let me know when you order!!



Meet our reeling machine, at least half of it. This beauty is what takes the cones and makes them into skeins. It does 6 at a go.

Which brings us to our next issue, emails. It has come to my attention recently that I am not getting some of your emails. I've gotten emails or phone calls basically asking why I am not responding. I went and looked in our system and there are no emails from the person asking. One of you graciously sent me the notices she was getting from the ticket system that looked like they might be a response from me but please know they are not. In a recent upgrade evidently they added in a function that sends these bot responses out. These responses basically advise you that we have been notified and are accessing. And that is not true. I can't seem to find the place where I disable this function and have a call into their customer service to help with this. If you have emailed and received this bot response I am very sorry. Seriously!! I am working on getting this sorted this week until then you can also email me at tinanewton@gmail.com or call 503.543.8431. If you do call please leave your order number and phone number. ~ Thank you

Where I am with orders and clubs.

So the sock club knows where we are so I will leave that out of this update.

I am sending out emails so both the School of Yarn and The Spinning Club about what and when so please look for those. Spinning club fiber is drying in rafters as I type these notes. It's super flipping hot here so... should not take long and the yarn for last school shipment is dyed!! All I have to do is package and ship.

One of the things that have been going on the fiber/yarn front is yarn availability due to mills closing down. Once it opened back up everyone is operating with limited staff and new safety protocols in place. Also there are massive shipping issues. All things are taking longer, they just are. So I am doing my best to plan ahead and also stay in direct communication with my mills and reps but since we are operating in new and more limiting ways it is a challenge to stay on top of it all. For example there are yarns I almost always get in skeins but because of the supply and demand issues sometimes this is not the case. I place my order and it shows up on cones and not skeins which of course makes more work for me. Also I do not know it's happening until it shows up that way. And



RAINBOW CONNECTION

this has happened quite a few times and there is no recourse but to adapt. So we roll with the punches and keep on moving!!

One of the other big changes in our industry at large is the massive production of yarns that are super-washed. So much super-wash yarns on the market. I have one supplier I have worked with for years that I've gotten my Targhee yarns and Woobu and Silk Victoria and that Polwarth yarn we had who is moving into mostly Superwash yarns. I know... it's so sad. I will not get my soapbox out on this right now. One of the main reasons for this current trend is that it's what is selling. So basically you the knitter, crocheter, weaver control this with what you are purchasing. It's most definitely a buyer's market. Also super-wash yarns are an easy dye. Speckles work very well on super-wash treated yarns.

What you will see from me as a positive response to this new reality is changing my relationship with ranches and mills to a more direct hands on approach which I will tell you all about in a week. And... a whole lot of promotion of yarns that are wonderful and not super-washed. Along yarns that if they are super-wash treated it's in a more sustainable and limited way that does not strip the yarn of all of its wonderful woolliness and protects the planet and us!!

We are going to start all of this with our beloved Targhee Worsted. Honestly I have felt a little nervous in the past 6 months or so. I'm just waiting on the phone call that says, "hey we are going to discontinue this because of"...and list the reasons. Please know my dear friends that the main reason for this is almost always sales. If it is bringing in revenue they will make it unless there is some sort of mill or ranch production issue. And really if it is bringing in enough revenue they will find a way around the production issues.

So the power is with you my dear knitters. I have not really done a lot of sales or promotions this past year for obvious reasons. However I am close enough to caught up and we need to stay on top of this. We do not want a Woobu or BFL SPORT situation on our hands? If you love a yarn it needs your support!! So let's get ahead of this trend and shift it in our favor!!! I am going to start with a special and a KAL with future delivery times so I am caught up by the time it comes to get these out the door.

Support Targhee Worsted Special!!!! will run for the next two weeks starting with the arrival of this newsletter. Details are below.

At the moment a 616 yd/ 8.9oz sells for \$40.00 which considering the quality and the yardage is a good buy. I am sending you a coupon code that is good for **30% off which**

brings it to 28.00 a skein. Right in time for sweater planning. For the KAL aspect of this adventure I want to focus on the yarn and fiber content itself and with knitting support and community. I am collecting some patterns from designers I love and of course I would love to hear yours. I HIGHLY recommend ordering these in shaded solids. Of course you can order whatever colorways make you happy but please know that the Speckle colorways will not speckle they will watercolor.

Support Targhee Worsted orders will be set to ship mid to the end of August.

COUPON CODE: TGWLOVE

Also... I've been wanting to start a frequent buyer sort of program since almost all of you are long standing Blue Moonies ~ there should be perks for that!! Soon there will be a way for you to sign-up for that and the fun and perks that come along with. When you make this investment in **Targhee Worsted's** future you will be automatically enrolled in that!!

Here is a list of the sweater patterns I am looking at so far so you have it for referencing. We are not limited to sweater knitting. Shawls too!!

Tangential Blues by Carol FellerGinger by Alicia Plummer

Landscape Waves by Carol Feller

Framework Cardigan by Veera Valimaki

Flax by Tincan Knits

Aileas by Elizabeth Kraemer

Laum by Justyna Lorkowska

Please do let me know any pattern ideas you have for this adventure. Along with your yarn you will get the story of Targhee wool in general and our yarn specifically. You will also be considered as a steward partner in keeping our Targhee Worsted alive and well for years to come.

Just think of how good it will feel to be a part of keeping this woolly goodness a part of our knit lives!



I have another really cool project to announce that I am over the moon about but I think that we are already pretty deep on this dive. So look for this announcement in a few days.

Thank you all for your understanding, patience and compassion in general but most definitely in the past year during this pandemic with all of the challenges and loss that we've all experienced. I am blessed being able to serve such a community. I am so grateful especially to those of that took the time to write in or call. You shared yourselves and stories with me and listened to mine. I am so grateful, honored and humbled.

Oh and please if you do not follow on instagram <https://www.instagram.com/bluemoonfiberarts/> do consider doing so. I do all kinds of fun games and give-aways.

Okay I am stopping, so not going over 6 pages!!

Take care of your dear selves!! Stay safe and knit on!!!

your depraveDyer ~ Tina

PS: I write late at night so please excuse typo's and such! My nickname is Typo Tina!! lol