

# Connecting Threads

JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
2004

**Inside this issue:**

What's New in Silk 'n Colors & Ribbons	2
What's New in Savoir Faire & Silken Pearl	2
What's New in Wild Hairs	2
The Year of the Thread	3
Market News	4

## A New Year To Care For

January ushers in the 'quiet' month. Here in Idaho the snow blankets every tree and it is indeed a winter wonderland. It has been said that "Winter Becomes Us" and I agree. Looking out over my sleeping garden, blanketed in snow, I savor the sounds of solitude and quietly reflect on the year before me. Truly we do have a new year to care for.

- A winter night in a Yurt. . .
- Leafless branches against grey skies. . .
- Garden seed catalogs. . . .
- Steamed eggnog. . .
- Making snow angels. . .
- An unexpected letter. . .
- A good book. . .
- First footprints after a snow storm. . .



A glimpse into our own "Secret Garden". . . .

**Special points of interest:**

- Beautiful new colors!
- Serene Music & Books
- A New Year to Care For. . .
- The Year of the Thread



A Snow Angel in our Garden keeps watch over the Small Animals of the Forest. . . . .

- A few winter 'life savors' :
- Snow on snow. . . . .
  - Wild Geese feeding. . . . .
  - A cold, star lit night. . . . .
  - The sound of silence. . . . .
  - A candle light parade. . . . .
  - The hoot of an owl. . . . .
  - Frozen Ponds & covered bridges. . . . .

## Serene Moments with Music & Books

At our house Santa fills HER own sock. The good thing about that is I always receive all the items I want! This year I received a CD from the Secret Garden Once in a Red Moon. The music is serene and very beautiful. I highly

recommend it!

I've also been reading Homer Hickam's The Keeper's Son. The story is set in 1941 on Killakeet Island of the wind-swept outer banks of North Carolina. The jacket of the

book reads: "a romantic tale of the power of the human heart forever searching for redemption". It captured my attention right away, and kept it until the last word.



## What's New in Silk 'n Colors & Silken Ribbons

It is almost Trade Market time and we are adding some gorgeous new colors. All are available in the Silk 'n Colors and we've noted which ones are available in the Silken Ribbons & Savoir Faire Ribbon also.

SNC 175 Straw into Gold  
SNC 176 English Ironstone  
SNC 177 Simply Strawberry  
SNC 178 Cherry Wine  
SNC 179 Crimson Wood  
SNC 180 Belvedere Garden  
SNC 181 Golden Pines

New colors also available in SR4 & SR7 ribbon include

numbers: 175, 177, 178, 181  
Rapunzel would have loved our new *Straw into Gold*. *Simply Strawberry* captures the ripening berry. *Cherry Wine* is a deep purple/burgundy. *Crimson Wood* is a rusted crimson red, with an 'aged' look. *Golden Pines* is greens into gold. *Belvedere Gardens* (belvedere means Summer House) is a combination of complex color mixes. Combining blue, rose and mossy green in an unusual color that reflects a cottage garden of delphiniums and roses. *Cherry Wine* and *Golden Pines* were designed for Nan

Hempel Canvases.

The first six of our 'Year of the Thread' collection include:

Pagoda Red  
Yellow Crane  
Green Dragon  
Lotus Flower  
Mandarin Duck  
And  
Kimono Kraze

*As you remember summer  
in the midst of winter, let  
your thoughts transport  
you to the Belvedere  
(Summer House) Garden.  
Inhale the  
Sweet scent of blooming  
flowers.*

## Other Color Additions

New colors being added to our Wild Hairs Line include: Lime, Hogwart Purple, and Root Brown

Pharoah's Gold is a new color in our Sheep's Silk and Shepherd's Silk lines. Upcoming planned colors include: Pompeii Ash, Hickory Smoke,

Earth Stone & Putty.

Sheep's Silk has been dyed to match Silk 'n Colors in Acorn Woods, Egyptian Nights, Vintage Browns and Autumn on the Cape.

Our Silken Pearl lines appeal

to crazy quilters, paper artists, bead artists, and cross stitch & needlepoint. Check the website for colors being added to this line in April.

## A Custom Weaving "oops!" brings us a New Ribbon

We ordered the Savoir Faire Ribbon approximately 1/2" wide. However, the mill made a mistake and wove the new ribbon the correct width, but with tiny, tiny woven ridges. It is beautiful, but is not the same. As it turns out this ribbon is beautiful. Useful for knitting (by itself or combined with a silk thread) it knits beautifully. For book makers

it will be very useful. It is 100% silk. Other uses include embellishment, finishing edges etc.

It is available by special order only.

# The Year of the Thread

This is the “Year of the Monkey” in China. We invite you to travel with us ‘East to the Orient’, where we are celebrating “The Year of the Thread”. Good fortunes await you as you add colors of hand-dyed threads and ribbons into your needle art.

The first six of twelve colors in our Year of the Thread Collection were released at the Nashville Market. They included:

**Pagoda Red**—a rich red-orange. Depending on whether you are comparing it to a true orange or a true (blued) red it appears differently.

**Yellow Crane**— an intense golden yellow that we developed from a yellow on a stamp from China.

**Mandarin Duck**—A beautiful, peach/apricot/soft orange color .

**Green Dragon**—Another solid hand-dyed color that appears ‘heathery’ when stitched. A nice ‘grass green’ color.

**Lotus Flower**—A beautiful blue-violet from a complex mix of 3 colors in the dye formula.

**Kimono Kraze**—The only multi-colored thread of the six is evocative of a flowered kimono in soft pastel colors

SIX more colors will be released in June at the Columbus Show.

Originally planned to be a limited collection for 2004, I suspect that several of these colors will find their way into designs. They are available as individual colors or as a pack from your local needlework shop.



Colors left to right:

Lotus Flower  
Green Dragon  
Kimono Kraze  
Mandarin Duck  
Pagoda Red  
Yellow Crane

We will be sharing customs, recipes, and festivals as part of our Year of the Thread. The following Lantern Riddles are from *Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats*, a book from The Children’s Museum of Boston.

“This guy runs fast but cannot stand. People ride this horse who never eats grass.

Two small boats, five guests in each, Sail on land but never on water; Busy during the daytime, Anchored at night.

Branches grow on its head; It wears spotted clothes. Not a donkey or a horse, It runs like the wind.

A thick head, an empty belly. Whack it with a stick, It cries tong, tong, tong.

(Answers: bike, pair of shoes, deer, drum)”

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*Reminders of Gentler Times in Hand-dyed threads and ribbons...*

**We are pleased to offer you a free pattern designed by Ellen Chester. Eliza's Pillow uses four Silk 'n Colors and finishing techniques include the use of our SR7 ribbon in Slate Blue. Many, many thanks to Ellen for designing this lovely piece.**

Attending the Needlework Trade Shows provides us with the opportunity to visit with our customers, make new friends, see designer friends as well as showcase new colors and thread lines. It is always like a big family reunion!

I wasn't able to attend the TNNA show myself (sent my husband and son-in-law to represent our threads). I missed seeing the newest painted canvases, but always my favorites include those from: Nan Hempel, Birds of a Feather, Melissa Shirley, and Ewe and I and Friends. I especially love to see the fabulous finishing techniques.

I enjoyed seeing so many designer friends and shop owners. If you are in Nashville don't miss eating at The Yellow Porch or Ellendales.

We hope you will thank your local shop for attending either of these trade shows in order to bring you the latest in new canvases, patterns and threads. It is costly for the shops to make these shows, so please support your local shops.

There were many new patterns using our threads. I will post a list of new charts using our threads to the web-site.