



The Woolery Wows



by Sarabeth Parido

We are exploring The Woolery, Frankfort's own international fiber art supplier! The Kentucky Fiber Trail has many fiber producers, but we also have some amazing retailers. The Woolery provides a broad array of fiber arts supplies and lessons at competitive prices with fast turn-around time and world-class customer service. The shop is staffed daily by experienced Weavers, Spinners, Knitters, and Rug Hookers. The owners of The Woolery, Wave and Perri McFarland, gave us the opportunity to talk to them about how they came to Kentucky, their amazing staff at the shop and all the great opportunities going on in historic downtown Frankfort.



The Woolery is worldwide; how did it end up in Kentucky?

In 1981, Tim and Marianne Horchler decided to offer retail wool, basic supplies, and spinning lessons at the family farm in Genoa, NY. In 1995, The Woolery became one of the first fiber arts suppliers with a website. After selling the farm, Tim and Marianne moved the business to Murfreesboro, North Carolina in 2001. Chris & Nancy Miller bought the business in 2009 and moved it to historic downtown Frankfort, Kentucky where they expanded locations twice. In 2015, current owners, Wave & Perri McFarland, purchased

The Woolery, upgraded and expanded retail space yet again, improved the online experience, and expanded the classroom accommodations! We are proud to be a family owned small business for over 35 years, and look forward to serving the fiber arts community all over the world for years to come!

Are you originally from Kentucky? If not, what brought you to Kentucky? If so, what is it about Kentucky that made you stay?

We are originally from the Chicago area. Employment opportunities took our family all over the country with a final stop in the beautiful Commonwealth of Kentucky.

How involved are you in the local fiber community? What local fiber opportunities are there at the Woolery?

The Woolery provides a broad array of fiber arts supplies from all over the world including, fiber arts supplies from our own beautiful Commonwealth of Kentucky.

We offer classes and private instruction in our shop, as well as help on the phone. We can provide guidance and help with your fiber arts projects and help with equipment selection, repair and maintenance. Our mission is to provide fiber arts supplies at competitive prices with fast turn around times and excellent customer service. We strive to be a part of the fiber arts community, and festivals, and **it is part of our mission to strongly support guilds, festivals and other fiber arts people** that work so hard to keep the crafts alive and improve them for future generations.



We believe that it is essential for a fiber arts supply company to provide the following services:

- Have a brick and mortar shop in which customers can visit, shop, attend classes, learn, and fellowship.
- Have knowledgeable people available to provide assistance and answer questions to people over the phone.
- Stock the products in house (How can you know about a product if you have never

seen or used it?).

- Offer an outlet for new craftspeople to sell their stuff such as tools, spindles, finished fiber arts products and more.
- Participate in the development of new products, and strive to provide new sources for products that are hard to source or difficult to find.
- Support fiber arts publications, festivals, guilds and artists.

We are very grateful to be involved in something that we all know and love. We take much care in selecting and recommending products and fiber to our customers.

The Woolery has earned their world renown status with their reliable knowledge

of the fiber arts and their commitment to the local fiber art community. We are proud that they are a member of our trail. To find out more information, visit their website: www.woolery.com. Be sure to visit them at their location in Frankfort and their booth at the upcoming Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival.

Sarabeth Parido, is the Director of the Kentucky Sheep and Fiber Festival. She raises her own small flock of sheep in Clark County, Kentucky along with her husband and four sons. She spins and dyes her fiber into yarn and has taught knitting classes for 14 years. Sarabeth is passionate about Kentucky fiber and wants to see great things happen for Kentucky wool producers.



To join or travel the Kentucky Fiber Trail visit www.kentuckyfibertrail.com