

Worth the Trip

By Evangeline Doyle

The last time I went to Clatskanie it was by motorcycle, the trip seemed a bit longer then, or perhaps I was just incredibly focused on getting over Clatskanie Mountain in one piece. Either way, the drive recently was incredibly nice – through the trees, over the mountain and you're there – about a thirty-five to forty minute trip.

As the column goes, I found my visit to the Golden Spire Yarn Shop that day "Worth the Trip." If you are looking for spinning, knitting, felting or other fiber arts supplies, you won't be disappointed.

Golden Spire focuses on natural and exotic fibers -- Alpaca, wool, mohair, bamboo, cotton and more. Many yarns are from locally grown animals and are hand spun and hand dyed. In addition to skeins of yarn, they have roving fiber for spinning, even felting puffs. I walked around the shop touching everything! Vernonia has its share of "Llama Mamas," and I've visited their farms, but I'd never seen the end product – it's just beautiful. I also learned that Alpaca fiber can be three times warmer than wool; it's super soft, hypoallergenic, lanolin free and comes in twenty two natural shades.

I was also surprised by the variety and quality of the supplies, everything from standard knitting and crocheting supplies, with prices competitive or better than the big box stores, to hand-blown glass knitting needles. And those who are in to felting won't be disappointed either.

Owner Deborah Taylor conducts several classes, tutors in spinning, and hosts a free "fiber support



group" every Thursday and Friday afternoon where you can bring your projects and enjoy good company, free coffee and perhaps leave a bit more inspired.

Since 2004 Steve Simpier and Deborah Taylor have been raising their seventeen alpacas on a seven acre farm just East of downtown Clatskanie. The Golden Spire is a direct result of their love for the animals and desire to find uses for their fiber.

Coming from Vernonia into Clatskanie, head East on Hwy 30 and turn left at the traffic light. The Golden Spire is on the right-hand side. **Golden Spire 147 N. Nehalem, Clatskanie, Oregon. Open Tuesday thru Friday from 10-5 and Saturday from 11-5. 503-728-9020.**






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