

Bear in Mind

An electronic newsletter from Bear Threads Ltd.

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From The Editor –

There are lots of celebrations happening this time of year – school is out, students are graduating, final touches are being put on June weddings, a myriad of summer activities are being planned, and...***Bear in Mind* is celebrating its' 3rd birthday.** It is difficult to believe that three years ago we published the first issue of our newsletter, *Bear in Mind*. I hope you will agree that we have 'come a long way'.

My vision of the newsletter was an educational tool to better inform and educate you as shop owner, teacher and student. While I have strived to keep you all informed with up to date information of what was available at Bear Threads and in the market place, I have also tried to teach you what the products are and why they are what they are. The newsletter has never been intended to be a monthly sales flier, as education is my first priority.

We are excited about the coming year for the newsletter. We will be publishing 10 times a year combining June/July and November /December. We have wonderful guest artists on the calendar and we will be doing more articles of a 'series' nature, enabling a more in-depth approach to some subjects. I will also be adding more 'how to' projects for shop owners and consumers. Another addition will be a 'FYI' column with excerpts from my teaching files, to clarify some tidbits of information you may have questioned. The first of these is elsewhere in this issue.

If you as a shop owner, or consumer, have an idea you would like to share please let us know. Don't be shy as your thoughts might just solve a fellow stitchers' dilemma. All of the newsletters are now published on our website: www.bearthreadsltd.com. Therefore, since we are being read by stitchers' all over the world, we would like to broaden our spectrum of interests. Again the site is intended to be educational and entertaining, as well as providing product information. Finally I am available for your shop, guild or other group for lecturing or teaching. Please inquire.

Till August, Happy Stitching - Sheila

Chatelaine

My Favorite Sewing Tool

Linda Patterson

Do you have a favorite sewing tool? Could your favorite tool be a special pair of scissors, a well-fitting thimble, or a vintage stiletto? My favorite tool is my chatelaine. My chatelaine keeps all of my needlework sewing tools close at hand. I don't have to hunt for my scissors, a pen or a ruler as they are all arranged neatly on my chatelaine. I knew I needed a chatelaine when I saw an article, "Lily of the Valley Chatelaine", by Lillie McAnge in Creative Needle, December 2006. It was a beautiful ribbon chatelaine that had loops and ribbons for all of my sewing tools. I was fortunate to attend one of Lillie's Madeira Schools where she taught us how to make a linen Madeira embroidery embellished chatelaine. Her chatelaine was beautiful and it was one of the few projects that I worked on continuously until I finished. I love it and it made me interested in learning more about this useful device.



Chatelaines have been used by women for hundreds of years. The word chatelaine originated from the term applied to the mistress of the castle in France, châtelaine. She always kept the keys of the castle suspended from her waist. It was in 1845 that the term chatelaine was first applied to the decorative waist-hung ornament. These plain to ornate pieces of jewelry were very practical. Prior to the early 1900's, ladies' garments did not have pockets and the chatelaine offered a way for ladies to have useful items close at hand without having to carry a bag. Their chatelaines carried items such as a perfume bottle (very useful as people did not bathe very often), a watch, a pencil and notebook, a mirror, a spectacles case, and a small bag.

neck were introduced. This is the style that is still used today.



If you would like to read more about chatelaines these two books contain information on the history of this tool that has been around for a long time.

Chatelaines, Utility to Glorious Extravagance, Genevieve E. Cummins and Nerylla D. Taunton, Antique Collectors' Club, 1994

Antique Needlework Tools and Embroideries, Nerylla Taunton, Antique Collectors' Club, 1997

Specialized chatelaines were used by women who were nurses or who enjoyed tennis and painting. The most commonly recognized chatelaines were those used for needlework. These chatelaines usually had a thimble, a needle case, scissors, a pencil, pincushion, bodkin and ruler suspended from the central brooch. In 1903, chatelaines worn around the

FYI

ENTREDEUX vs. FAGGOTING

Contrary to what some believe, Faggoting is NOT large Entredeux!

Entredeux is defined as:

A French word translated to mean 'between two'. An insertion characterized by woven square holes and used as a joining median for the purpose of adding strength. It is used to join lace to lace, lace to fabric, and sometimes fabric to fabric. If using an embroidered insertion or edging, that would be considered the fabric.



Entredeux



Faggoting

On the other hand faggoting is defined as: An embroidered insertion that has been embroidered with rectangular holes. They may be of various sizes, but not square. Larger rectangular holes may accommodate ribbon. Note that without ribbon being woven through the rectangular holes, it may actually deter from offering strength as the large 'bars' in the faggoting will move and could contribute to the weakening and hence tearing of lace. Faggoting is NOT large entredeux.

And **NOW YOU KNOW!**

All In The Family

We wanted to introduce you to Thelina and Theodore, two members of our very large bear family. They are 27 and 28 years old respectively and have been a part of our Bear Threads family from the time we adopted them from Margarete Steiff in Giengen am Brenz, Germany.



This snapshot was taken as they were having a board meeting to discuss strategy and product development for the 2012-2013 season. Frankly, they don't seem to be 'breaking into a sweat' overworking, but more likely 'breaking into the sweets overeating'. Theodore has always been on Thelina's case for being a little chubby, but, hey! I don't go there. I have tried to tell Theodore that sugar will get him further than salt, but you know male bears!

Anyway, one decision that they came to was to have 'mom' and 'dad' go to the SAGA convention in October with some of their very special antique laces, vintage ribbons, and specialty items. They will be sending you more information in the coming months, but just to give you a heads up to be saving those pennies, because we will not be taking credit cards.

I did not get any further news from them for this press release, but do stay tuned. Knowing them, you never know what they are up to.

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