

## Is it the weather that is crazy or us?

Everything in today's world is sensationalized and dramatized. Whether a person is aware or unaware of it, it affects us all. Sensationalism makes us pay attention to any topic more and is just an easy thing to give into, which then influences you. The weather has become a sensationalized topic. I hear more people say, "can you believe it is 38° today and going to be 70° this weekend?" Well yes, because that has been our weather in Macon for as long as I can remember. We go from being pretty cold to being pleasant and back to pretty cold all winter long. To my memory, it seems less dramatic in recent years than years ago. We opened our Macon Mall location back in 2000. It was either the first or second year we were open that Christmas week and the week after we had highs in the 80's every day. This was followed by a harsh cold front that moved in until mid-January. I think the reason weather is being dramatized is the Climate Change issue. The average global temperature has been rising slowly for many years. The Climate Change issue is whether humans are causing it or it is a natural process the Earth cycles through. Both sides have strong arguments. This slight change in the globe's average temp is affecting rain and wind. But how cold of a winter we have or how hot of a summer we have won't be affected for many decades. We have had many cold days this winter and many pleasant days. Next year and for

many years it will be the same. I think we had one of the nicest falls this year. Many years we go straight from hot to cold without having nice fall / autumn temps. It is good to remember that winter doesn't start until the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of December and it stays with us until April. So you can never be sure the cold is done until April. I have been wanting to go to the Magnolia



Soap Box for a few years and never made the time. We made it in 2022 and it was on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup>. It was freezing. I made the mistake a lot of our customers make in that I wore a leather jacket of mine instead of my men's sheared mink overcoat. It was my idea to leave earlier, because I was cold. I had just worn my

sheared mink I would have been comfortable the whole time. So if you want to have some fun in the cold, stop by and see all that is new at Barnes Furs or view our gallery online.

# Is It Time For a Mink Stole ?

Mink and Fox Stoles have been getting more and more popular for years. Many people misunderstand this garment. I was in one of our dress stores that we work with, and a customer was trying on a dress she was planning on wearing to a formal wedding. She asked me if the mink stole she had with would be "too much" to wear with it. I told her I thought it was perfect. It was a great color combination with the dress and the dress style looked great with the stole. I asked her why she thought it would be "too much." She said it was a winter wedding, but what if it wasn't that cold. I smiled and said it doesn't have to be cold to wear a mink stole. Actually if it is cold, you may not be warm enough. I have had a few customers tell me they wore mink stoles to outdoor wedding in the Highlands and that they were cold. That doesn't surprise me because there is very little material / coverage with a stole. The original idea of the mink stole was for it to be worn inside, not as a jacket or coat for outside. When the mink stole was most popular was the

1940's and 50's when it was worn with a ball gown. Ballrooms of that time were large. Insulation was nowhere near as advanced as it is today and the ballrooms were cold in the winter. If you think about it, today's cars are by far better



insulated than a nice house in the 1950's. Today's car can be heated to 80° with a few minutes of starting. Houses, cars, and ballrooms of the 1950's were never that warm. You can wear a mink stole inside and it isn't hot. It is an accessory to keep you a little

warm. A couple years ago the design group Dolce and Gabbana released a summer fur collection. So I never understood why there were summer sweaters until I spent some time in Southern California, where at night in August you can wear a sweater. Something you just don't do in Macon. The same for the summer fur collection, it was meant for the West Coast. The collection included beautiful summer colors of mink and fox stoles. They were Chartreuse Green, Tangerine Orange and Barbie Pink all meant to wear on cool summer nights. So stoles are perfect for not just cold events. Today many ladies wear mink stoles casual, the same as you wear a vest. Ladies in large cities led to the redesign of the mink cape into today's ponchos. Ponchos are similar to stole in that they can be worn inside, but provide more coverage and can be worn in the place of a jacket outside. When you have time, stop by Barnes to see the new mink stole and poncho options.