

## Double Ewe Yarn Shop

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Subject: News from Double Ewe - Issue 13

### News from Double Ewe

April 2008

It's spring, and the world is mud-liscious & puddle-wonderful. (Does anybody else remember reading the poem "In Just" by e.e. cummings? Those were his words. Best. Poet. Ever.) Anyhoo, with spring comes some spring knitting, so we have a few more warm-weather choices in the shop. When you're here, just look for the yellow suns that say "Cool Fiber for Warm Days".

A couple of things I want to highlight:

Our Mother Bear Project group will start meeting twice monthly: the first and third Thursdays. Details are below  
The Flower Basket Lace Shawl class will start one week later than planned, and it will run from April 28th - May 19th.

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### New Stuff

**Serendipity Tweed** from Brown Sheep

I just like saying the name of this yarn: Serendipity Tweed, Serendipity Tweed. Doesn't it sound wonderful? It's a light-worsted/DK weight cotton/wool blend. It knits up nice and soft with a subtle tweediness, it'll make beautiful lighter-weight sweaters perfect for spring or cool summer evenings. I'm working on a lacy shrug with it right now...I'm hoping to finish it tonight!

**Cilantro** from Nashua Handknits

I was excited to add Nashua Handknits to my list of vendors. Cilantro is another cotton blend, this time with a touch of stretch. Knits up at a bigger gauge: 4 - 4 1/2 stitches per inch. Available in a wide range of colors for year-round knits.

**Bamboozle** from Crystal Palace Yarns

Bamboozle has returned to Double Ewe with some new colors! A bamboo/cotton blend: bamboo gives it a great feel and a luster, the cotton gives a soft core, and the elastic nylon maintains the shape of a garment and prevents vertical stretching while wearing. And it's machine washable, too.

**Sitar** from Nashua Handknits

You really have to see this one - describing it doesn't really capture it's beauty. Wool and acrylic rovings are twisted together to create a thick and thin blend with exciting mixes of Eastern inspired colors. Striking. I'd call it heavy-worsted weight.

**Alpaca Handpaint Sock/Fingering** from Misti Alpaca

This one's brand new...it's not even on their website yet. Gorgeous sock yarn that's 50% alpaca, 30% merino wool, 10% silk and 10% nylon. And it's handpainted. Just gorgeous.

**Heritage Sock Yarn** from Cascade

Striped socks are cute, and the self-patterning yarns are fun. But, I've noticed there's a lot of interest in *knitting* the design in a sock rather than just letting the yarn do the work: cables, lace, different stitch patterns, the possibilities are endless. Heritage is a solid, richly colored merino sock yarn. Generous yardage means just one skein is needed for a pair of socks.

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## April Classes

We still have a some openings in our April classes. For detailed descriptions, prices and dates, visit our website at: [www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm](http://www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm) and scroll down a bit for the details, or stop in the shop for a schedule. To register you can stop in the shop, send an email to [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com), or call 763-780-2465.

- Knitter's Choice - ongoing, Tuesday mornings & Thursday evenings
- Kid's Knitting - April 5
- Entrelac Spa Cloth - starting April 7
- Lace Soap Sock - April 9
- Fixing Mistakes - April 19
- Flower Basket Shawl - starting April 28
- Finishing Techniques - April 26
- Lacy Round Spa Cloth - Starting April 16

So, where are the **May classes**? They're in the works, but I'm still ironing out some details. I'm pretty excited about what's we've got coming up...I'll keep you posted.

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## Events, Knit Alongs, & other stuff to do with Ewe

### World Wide Knit in Public (KIP) Day

Mark your calendars: Saturday, June 14th is WWKIP Day . Started in 2005, it began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. (See [www.wkipday.com](http://www.wkipday.com) for more info.) It's grown from there, and now groups are getting together all over the world: US, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany... I think we should jump on the bandwagon, too. I don't have anything concrete planned yet, and I'm open for suggestions. Maybe a pavilion at Golden Lake Park? Any other ideas?

### Mother Bear Project

**SCHEDULE CHANGE:** We're having so much fun working on our bears, we've decided to start meeting twice monthly: on the first and third Thursdays each month, from 2:30 - 5:00.

**Next meetings: Thursday, April 3rd and April 17th**

**Why:** Join us as we knit bears for Mother Bear Project to bring comfort & hope to children in Africa affected by HIV/AIDS. For more information, visit [www.motherbearproject.org](http://www.motherbearproject.org).

**What you will need to bring:** Size 7 needles. I have some yarn available to use, but if you have yarn you'd like to use or share, you're welcome to bring it as well. Each bear takes a "fist size" ball each of three colors: one "bear colored", one for his pants, and one for his shirt. The yarn needs to be either acrylic or machine washable wool.

**Cost:** Coming to our group is free. I have patterns available for a \$5 donation.

### Great American Afghan Knit Along (a.k.a. GAA KAL)

Meets Saturday mornings from 9:00 - 10:30. Don't worry if you haven't started yet - you can join us any time!

**The Scoop:** This is going to be fun! In making this afghan, we'll explore a broad range of knitting techniques one square at a time: Entrelac, cables, lace; the list goes on. We'll be doing two blocks a month, but they're interchangeable, so feel free to repeat or omit blocks. Knit all 25 blocks for a full-size or make as many as you like to make a smaller throw. Each square is unique and uses different techniques. Each block was designed by a well-known knitting designer, such as Meg Swanson, Melissa Leapman, Sally Melville, Lily Chin, etc.

**Cost:** Free

**What you'll need:** The Great American Afghan (\$12.95)

**Suggested yarns:** Plymouth Encore, Cleckheaton Country 8-Ply (Because the afghan is knit a square at a time using different colors, you can feel free to purchase the yarn as you go rather than all at once.)

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## Upcoming Fibery Events in the Twin Cities

### **Yarnover 2008**

April 12th, 2008

Location: Hopkins High School

For details, visit: [www.knitters.org](http://www.knitters.org).

### **Shepherd's Harvest Sheep & Wool Festival**

**When:** Mother's Day Weekend, May 10th & 11th

**Where:** Washington County Fairgrounds, Lake Elmo, MN

**Cost:** Free admission, free parking

**What:** Minnesota's Premier Fiber Festival: There are lots of great vendors, some really interesting classes, fun activities for the whole family, and (...this is my favorite part) there are the animals! Sheep, llamas, sheep dogs, etc.

More information: [www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org](http://www.shepherdsharvestfestival.org)

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## Guest Columnist

Living With Yarn

by Sharon Knutson

There is more to organizing and living with knitting stashes than finding storage places for yarn; although that does make up the bulk of what I consider my knitting stash. The perfect answer would be to have a studio or a room or even a dedicated closet to hold my knitting paraphernalia. But in reality I don't have the extra space for that in my house, which is filled with 2 kids, one funny pug dog, my retired mom and me, a full time working mom. Someday I may have a true studio with big shelves filled with my yarn neatly organized by type and color. The wall colors would be a soothing backdrop and wouldn't conflict with the riotous colors of yarns in their bins. Windows would flood my space with natural light all year round. A bookshelf with all my knitting books and patterns would run along one wall. The books would be in alphabetical order and my loose patterns would live in three ring binders, each pattern neatly tucked into plastic sleeves, so I can use post it notes or removable correction tape to mark my place on a chart as I work through it. My studio would have a nice cozy chair and footstool next to my adjustable floor lamp, which would give me the ability to see small stitches in all colors of yarn any time of the day or night. Next to my chair would be a basket containing my current project, neatly arranged and ready for me to pick up the needles at a moments notice. But that is my dream; in the real world my knitting must fit in my bedroom.

All of my yarn is kept in my bedroom, or as I've said before, my knitting room which has a bed in it. I typically keep my yarn in fabric cubes and wicker baskets. I do semi-sort it by type: have all my sock yarn in one cube, baby yarn in a cube, lace weight in a cube, and finally the large basket of miscellaneous yarn. I keep these cubes and baskets tucked under an antique wooden drop leaf kitchen table I've had for years. On top of the table I put my ball winder along with my yarn filled vase and my small TV. There is no room for any kind of chair in my bedroom but I sit comfortably on my bed, propped nicely with pillows and next to a great floor lamp. But that still leaves me with baskets of books, knitting needles, knitting gadgets, and the various knitting projects in various stages of completeness to organize.

For my works in progress, I've done a couple things. One thing is I only have about 3 different projects going at a time. Once I got up to ten things in various stages of completeness and I felt like nothing was ever getting done, so I worked and got it down to 3 and that seems a manageable amount for me to have going on at the same time. Keeps boredom at bay but doesn't leave me feeling scattered. For my smaller portable project (fingerless mitts currently) I keep the yarn,

pattern and my knitting in a small bag that goes with me back and forth to work. It is easy to grab as I run out the door so I can have something with me at all times for those odd moments I can find during the day. I also have 2 larger projects in progress that stay home and those I mainly work on at night. The first project I keep upstairs in my room, currently this is an afghan worked in 4 strips made up of 4 different patterned blocks. The different block patterns and colors keep it interesting and challenging. I work sporadically on this one, so I keep the pattern and all the yarn in a large oval metal basket right next to my bed. The second afghan is a simple ruched stockinet lap blanket worked in a lovely cream that I use for my mindless knitting. Perfect for television watching. I again keep all the yarn for the project with the afghan in a basket I move from chair to chair when I'm working on it.

I've also started decorating with my knitting. Not in the usual way of pillows or throws. Nope I decorate with balls of yarn. When I've finished working on something, invariably I have left over yarn. Yarn that I love and am not about to discard (can't even say the words "throw away"). So I used to put them in a basket with a lid, never looking at them much, but knew where they were. Still that seemed silly, I couldn't see them, couldn't enjoy the colors, and wasn't using them. So I found a large glass vase type container and pulled out all my left over yarn. I used my ball winder to create yarn cakes from the bigger leftovers while hand winding the smaller ones into little balls of yarn. I slowly filled up that glass vase until I was approaching the top. The colorful effect was beautiful. I can remember projects I made with each yarn, I see trends of colors I favor, which encourages me to branch out and try other areas of the color wheel. It also reminds me to try and use up even more of those yarns. Currently, I'm making kid socks and mittens out of the leftovers. Combining colors in ways I wouldn't normally think of but which turn out great. As the yarn comes near the top of the vase, it means my next portable project will be created from this yarn. Using my leftovers also helps my yarn budget. I've surprised myself with how much I can make from my odds and ends.

My other yarn decorating appears by looking at a corner wall in my bedroom, where I hung my wooden sock blockers with my new favorite socks on them. Sometimes they match, sometimes they are totally different. If you get second-sockitis, you can have 2 different socks on the wall to use as encouragement to finish the second sock.

I pick up odd items when I find them, old pieces of wood trim, spindles, architectural type pieces, and on my window ledge, I have an old wooden thing, looks a bit like a big ol' candle holder but I doubt that is what it started out as in the world, and instead of a candle, I put a pretty cake of yarn in it. I always smile when I see it; I change the cake as I get new "favorite" yarn.

I'm still trying to figure out a decorative way to control my needles.... I've put some in an old blue mason jar I have, which works well for straight needles, but the circular needles not so much. And all the little gadgets and gizmos run amok in a basket near my bed. I use a saucer of an old teacup and saucer set to hold my stitch markers. I broke the teacup but didn't want to toss the perfectly good saucer, so I started throwing my earrings in them at night. Earrings are gone and now it holds my pretty stitch markers.

Someday I may have the studio of my dreams, but until then I will continue to find new ways of integrating my yarn into my daily life and decorating style of my home.

*\*\*Each month, I feature a guest columnist. Maybe you like to write, but don't have the time to commit to a knitting blog. I'd love to see personal essays, technique articles, and book reviews. Tell us about your visit to a woolen mill or to an alpaca farm. Share your personal knitting trials and successes. If you're interested in contributing, just email me at [kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com](mailto:kelly@double-ewe-yarn.com). Don't be shy!*

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Again, I want to thank y'all for your support!

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Weds - Thurs 10:00 - 8:00  
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