

Kelly at Double Ewe Yarn Shop

Subject: News from Double Ewe - Issue 15

News from Double Ewe

June 2008

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### Trunk Show from Brown Sheep

I got a really fun package from Brown Sheep last week: a trunk show! This is the first time I've taken one of my vendors up on having a trunk show here, and it's wonderful! They sent 6 sweaters, a vest, some socks, a skirt, a rug, and a felted desk set. It's so fun to have so many new samples in the shop, and I didn't even have to knit them! I'll have them here through the month of June if you want to take a peek.

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June - July Classes

Summer's here, and many of you are busy with cabins, gardens and vacations. I've even heard that some people knit less in the summer! That's just crazy-talk, if you ask me. ;-) But, with so many of you enjoying the warm weather & traveling, we've decided to go a little bit light on our July classes. So there's not a ton of them, but they're good ones! Take a look:

Scroll down to the end of this newsletter for detailed descriptions, or visit our website at: 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, or call 763-780-2465.

Here's what's going on in June & July at the Ewe:

- Knitter's Choice
- Malabrigo Loafer KAL
- Bobble Sheep Dishcloth
- Learn to Knit Felted Bag
- Beaded Amulet Bag (day)
- Beaded Sheep Pin

Our Wednesday night teacher, Ann, is going to visit her baby granddaughter in July, so I thought it'd be fun to open the back room for social knitting, just like our regular Tuesday night and Friday afternoon groups. So, join us from 6:00 – 8:30 on the following Wednesdays: June 25th, July 2nd and July 16th.

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# World Wide Knit in Public Day (aka WWKIP Day) – June 14th

Although it's not a national holiday (yet), WWKIP day is getting bigger every year. Started in 2005, it began as a way for knitters to come together and enjoy each other's company. (See [www.wwkipday.com](http://www.wwkipday.com) for more info.) It's grown from there, and now groups are getting together all over the world: US, France, Denmark, Switzerland, Germany...

So, we've decided to have our own WWKIP Day get together at Double Ewe. It's going to be kind of a knitters tailgating event in our parking lot. Bring your knitting, a lawn chair, and your sunscreen (just to be safe; there's some shady space available on the sidewalk next to the building, and I MIGHT be able to get a tent). Bring a snack to share if you like, too, but I'll provide beverages and treats as well. In case of bad weather, we'll just move inside the shop. The fun starts at 1:00, and we'll knit as long as you like, but I turn into a pumpkin at 5:00.

Oh, and did I mention prizes? There will be prizes, too. You can't win if you don't come. So come KIP with us.

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New Stuff

Summer's a great time for knitting socks, so I've added a few new sock yarns to my line-up.

Rockin' Sox

The newest sock yarn from Plymouth; Rockin' Sox is a soft but durable blend of wool, bamboo & nylon at a very reasonable price. Beautiful variegated colors.

Sockotta

A cotton/wool/nylon blend, this is a great choice for summer socks!

Aussie Sock

This is the newest yarn to the shop; so new that, as I write this, it's still sitting in a box in the back room, but it's here and it's available. Beautiful hand-dyed Australian wool blended with nylon. The colors are beautiful, the yarn is soft and springy. (I know, springy isn't a word, but it's what comes to mind when I squish it.) Also, very reasonably priced.

Eco Wool and Eco+

This one's not a sock yarn, but I just couldn't wait until fall to bring it in! Both Eco Wool & Eco+ are 100% Natural Peruvian Wool. The Eco wool is natural wool, undyed, with colors just as they come from the sheep. The Eco+ is the same, minimally processed wool, but dyed with a minimum of chemicals. Soft and wearable, great for felting. Ginormous 250 gram/478 yard skeins. A great value!

Patterns from Vermont Fiber Designs

Vermont Fiber Designs have beautiful, classic sweater designs that come in a very wide range of sizes, from extra-small to 6X.

Patterns from Heartstrings

Jackie Erickson-Schweitzer is known for her clearly-written patterns that will take you beyond the ordinary. I've selected some lace shawl, scarf and sock patterns to start with, and I plan on adding to my collection.

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## Gottalottasock Yarn Sale

So, with the new sock yarns I've added, I noticed I've got a lot of sock yarn. What better reason to have a sale? Starting tomorrow, Tuesday June 3<sup>rd</sup> and ending Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, we're having a Gottalottasock Yarn Sale. Here's how it works:

Buy yarn for **one pair** of socks (100 grams), get a 10% discount.

Buy yarn for **two pairs** of socks (200 grams), get a 15% discount.

Buy yarn for **three or more pairs** of socks (600 grams), get a 20% discount.

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

Please note: All of these groups, as well as our regular Tuesday evening and Friday morning open knitting*, **will continue** through the summer.

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.

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.)

Knitting with Ewe (Open Knitting)

Come knit or crochet with us - bring your friends, make new ones. It's always fun, plus it's a great opportunity to get advice from more experienced knitters. Bring whatever you're working on and join us! Everyone's welcome, and it's absolutely free - no strings attached.

Tuesday evenings, 6:30 - 9:00

Friday afternoons, 1:30 - 4:30

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## Guest Columnist

*This month, **Kayla** shares a moving essay about what our crafts can mean to others.*

We have a saying in our family. If you are under a blanket that someone has made for you, you are getting a hug from the person who made it. My grandson has decided that also means anything that someone has made for you.

A few days ago, my grandson Tyler was home with me because he had misbehaved and wasn't allowed to go to his brother's Family Fun Night at school. It was a rightful punishment which also included no video games, DVD's or TV watching but being separated from his mother was by far the worst part of the punishment. When he got tired, he got a blanket and laid down on the couch with me while I was knitting. After a few minutes he asked me who had made this quilt for him. "Why, your mother made that quilt for you before you were born." I answered his query. "Oh good, Grandma, 'cause that means I am getting a hug from her right now even when she isn't home." was his reply. With that said, he went off to sleep.

I have thought about that day several times over the last few weeks. I have been going thru a time recently that looks like it could be the final days for my mother. She was known in our family to crochet a certain pattern baby blanket for every baby born. My cousins have told her that of all the blankets they received, hers was the one that was washed to death and still retained the same quality as when the gift was originally given. What a great compliment. People wanted her work and looked forward to getting it. I have tried to talk with her about all the years she spent crocheting but she doesn't remember ever being able to do it. She remembers trying to learn how to crochet but knows she never finished the 2nd square that she attempted to make so she gave up. I can't even count the number of baby blankets she made. When she started to slow down on her crocheting, I bought yarn and had her make one more baby blanket. It's in my closet waiting until my son has a child of his own. I didn't want that baby to miss out on Nana's hugs. Each one of her children has a queen-sized afghan that she made for them at the foot of their bed. Even if she can't remember it, she continues to give me hugs on those nights when it's extra cold or during an afternoon nap when I just want to feel close to her.

My oldest sister Carole Lynn was an amazing crafter. She was an excellent cross-stitcher. She would make these huge pictures and frame them before giving them to you as a gift. She made an 11x13 cross-stitch picture with a loving saying for each of my 2 children. My daughter has used them to decorate the walls for her 2 children. She made wonderful pictures of roses for her sisters and pillows for our mother that had pictures of my mothers' dog on them. She was a whiz! She knit sweaters and mittens. She crocheted afghans galore. I remember one in particular. It was cream color done in Tunisian crochet. After making the blanket, she used duplicate stitch to make a huge bouquet of flowers in the center and little nosegays in each of the corners. It is a thing to behold. My sister died several years ago. It was decided to have a picture board with pictures of her life for people to look at during the wake. I suggested that we all bring in something that she made for us and display it as well. I am so glad we did. To see so much of her work on display was wonderful. It was a powerful statement to her many talents but also to her love of family. That wonderful afghan was at the center of the display. It is hugging her grown daughter and grand-daughter now. It will be here to hug several generations of her family yet to come.

So, it doesn't matter if your mother is physically a few miles away, as with my grandson Tyler, a few mental miles away as with my mother or gone from this world as with my sister. The work that we do with our crafting stays with our families. We do make and leave an impression with our handiwork. When we can't be there to give hugs with our arms, we are there to give hugs with our yarn.

*\*\*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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Summer Hours

Tuesday 10 am - 9 pm
Weds-Thursday Noon - 8 pm
Friday Noon - 5pm
Saturday 9 am - 3 pm
Sun-Monday Closed

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## June - July Class Details

**Knitter's Choice**

Ongoing: Tuesday mornings 10:30 – 12:30 **-or-** Thursday evenings 6:30 – 8:30

Price: Pay as you go for \$10.00 per class session, or \$48/6 session punchcard

Instructor: Kelly

Description: I call this class Knitter's Choice with a nod to Elizabeth Zimmerman, my knitting hero. Knitter's choice is just that - YOUR choice: you pick the project, we provide the support. Knit what YOU want, but if you get stuck, don't worry, we can guide you along the way. This is a great option if you want to take a class with a friend, but you knit at different levels. Come to just one or all of the classes – knitter's choice.

**Malabrigo Loafer KAL**

1 Session, Saturday June 7<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – close

Price: \$15.00

Instructor: Kelly

Description: Knit with mmmmmMalabrigo merino yarn, these loafers aren't only cute, they're so soft on your feet! Another excuse to knit with a super-yummy yarn. They're an awesome Christmas gift idea, too. Because they knit up fairly quickly, we're offering this as a one session knit along style class - feel free to stay as long as you'd like, (but we'll have to kick you out at 5:00 ;-)) Pattern is included in the class fee, but if you already have the pattern, class fee is \$9.00.

**Bobble Sheep Dishcloth**

1 Session, Wednesday June 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30

Price: \$10.00

Instructor: Ann

Description: Ann brings us another dishcloth to practice yet another technique. Knit a cute dishcloth with a fluffy sheep on it, while perfecting your bobbles. Don't be a bobble-hater...embrace the bobble!

**Learn to Knit Felted Bag**

2 Sessions, Saturdays June 21 – 28<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00

Price: \$20.00

Instructor: Kelly

Description: Learn to knit or practice our knitting skills while making a simple felted bag. You'll learn to cast on, knit, purl, increase, decrease, and bind off.

**Knitted Beaded Amulet Bag (Daytime)**

2 sessions, Wednesday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, and Thursday July 31<sup>st</sup> 2:00 – 4:00

Price: \$20.00 plus \$12 materials fee

Instructor: Ann

Description: Looking for something different to knit? Are you in a spring/summer knitting slump? Try this one! Ann will guide you in knitting a cute little beaded amulet bag. Using size 11 seed beads, pearl cotton, and size two 0000 needles, you'll knit a small bag that can be worn as a necklace. While this isn't a beginner project, don't let the small needles intimidate you - stretch yourself!

**Beaded Sheep Pin**

2 sessions, Wednesdays July 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Price: \$20.00 plus \$18 materials fee

Another fun beaded project from Ann! Have you seen the cute beaded sheep pin in the shop? You can make one too!. All materials are included in the materials fee, including a set of 0000 needles. The kit includes enough materials to make two pins: one for you and one for a friend.

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

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