

News from Double Ewe – Issue 17

August 2008

Summer's winding down, and from where I sit, it seems like people are starting to think knitting again. Woo hoo! To the non-knitting world, fall is just around the corner, but here in the knitting world, it's the holidays that are just around the corner. If you're planning on giving handknits this year, now's the time to start. Don't say I didn't remind you. ;-)

In this issue:

- New Stuff: Babyboo, Merino Lace, and more to come!
- August & September Classes
- Charitable Neighbors
- Guest Columnist: Why I Knit
- Events, Knit Alongs and Stuff To Do With Ewe
- Summer Hours
- Class Details

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## New Stuff

Since our last newsletter, we've gotten a couple of new things into the shop that I'll tell you about now. However, in the next 6 weeks we'll be adding a total of 11 more new yarns to our line-up. How fun is that?!? Not sure where they'll all go, but we'll figure that out as we go. Here's what we've added so far:

**Merino Lace from Skacel:** Lace knitting is really hot right now. Really hot. So I wanted to add another lace weight yarn to my collection. I'd hear good things about Skacel's Merino Lace, so I ordered it. It's beautiful. There are 10 solid and 3 variegated colors, each with over 1,300 yards at \$16.00 per skein. HOURS (and hours) of knitting pleasure for not a lot of money.

**Babyboo from Knit One Crochet Too:** This is a DK weight bamboo/nylon blend. It's machine washable (gentle), and very nice and soft. I'm working on a cute toddler's sweater right now – it's a pleasure to knit with. Although "baby" is in its name, it's not just meant for babies; it would be nice for adult garments too, as well as accessories such as hats, scarves, etc. It hasn't even hit the shelf yet, and I'm ready to re-order more of it!

**Addi Turbo Needles:** We're now carrying the very popular Addi Turbo circular needles. They're super-slick so you can knit super-fast, and the cords are so nice and flexible, too. Right now I've got them in sizes 1 – 10. Very nice. Some say they're the Cadillac of needles.

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August & September Classes

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 August & September at the Ewe:

- Knitter's Choice
- Beaded Lace Scarf
- Toe-to-Cuff Lace Scarf
- Basics: Hats
- Sideways Sock Yarn Baby Sweater
- Fixing Mistakes
- Snuglets
- Finishing Techniques
- Hemlock Ring Blanket
- Intro to Socks

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## Charitable Neighbors

This is a repeat from last month's newsletter, but I thought it was worth repeating:

This week I received a letter from Carol Anderson, the knitting guru from Cottage Creations (of Wonderful Wallaby & Rambling Rows fame). She lives in Carpenter, Iowa. I'll share some excerpts here:

"Tonight on the news we learned that 69 of Iowa's 99 counties have been declared "disaster" counties.

"Eleven years ago, Cottage Creations collected hundreds of items for the Red River flood that inundated Grand Forks, ND. Working with the Salvation Army, Paul and I and our friends, the Morrow's, delivered hand-knit items there. The event was heart-wrenching—people were so appreciative. I'm sure many recipients were comforted simply by knowing someone else cared. I'd like to repeat the drive, this time distributing hand-knits to communities along the Cedar River (35,000 displaced in Cedar Rapids alone) and nearby tornado-ravaged Parkersburg

"After talking with Red Cross or Salvation Army people I'm sending out a plea to my fellow knitters for the following items: **mittens, caps, scarves, afghans, prayer shawls, baby blankets, dishcloths, socks, infants, children's and adult sweaters.**"

So, I thought it would be nice to do some knitting for our neighbors to the south. I'll be collecting items here at the shop, so if you'd like to contribute, please do! She asks that we attach a card to the items with the following info: Name of item, Size (if applicable), Fiber content (most items should be machine washable & dryable), and if you'd like your name & address and any words of encouragement. Carol asks that we get them to her by November 1<sup>st</sup>, so if you get them to me by **October 25<sup>th</sup>**, I'll take care of shipping them down.

If you're not sure what to knit, Carol has several pattern booklets that might help you out, and while my supplies last, I'd like to offer them to you for half price: Projects for Community Knitting, More Projects for the Community & Family, and Still More Projects for the Community & Family. I need to limit this to one booklet per customer. At half price, they're just \$3.00 each. But don't feel like you can only contribute items from these patterns; anything is welcome.

Last year we had so much fun knitting baby hats, baby socks and blankets for Afghanistan, I thought it would be great to do something like that again. Want to join me?

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Guest Columnist **

What do I Knit?

By Sharon Knutson

When I started knitting in earnest a year or so ago, I envisioned making lacey shawls, beautiful afghans, baby blankets that would be cherished both by the parents as well as the child. My knitting would have a place of honor, someplace worthy of all my labors. Right, then I took a look around my home, lacey shawls have a place in the world but would end up in a closet in my house to keep from being snagged by my pug, Gadget, who is the best lap dog in town, but one with toenails that could snag that lacey shawl in one jump for a cheese snack. But a shawl that is sturdy yet warm would serve me well in my dog and child filled life and in my heat challenged house this winter. Afghans that are practical and have the ability to keep my child warm as she snuggles next to me while reading a book are what I need, not an afghan that may be ruined from cookie crumbs or careless tugs by little fingers. And finally, baby blankets. If it can't be cared for easily it may find a place of honor in the closet! Not destined to become the cherished blankie I envisioned as I knit, one that may be dragged around as the security blanket of choice.

What I've come to realize in the last year or so is I want to make lovely, colorful yet helpful items for my family. I want to enjoy the process of knitting yet still wind up with something that I can actually use in our day to day lives. Socks are something that fit into that category. They are simple, used daily for most of the year in MN, and easy on the go projects. The colors are amazing. The yarn ranges from wool, to cotton, to bamboo, to soy. The fiber content is constantly being added to in order to achieve long lasting, warm or cool, great fitting results. Sock knitting can fit into almost anyone's budget and fulfills my need to provide my family with warm clothing.

What took me longer to appreciate were washcloths. When I started knitting I laughed and scoffed at the idea of making a washcloth. A dishcloth? Scrub dishes with it? Remove dirt and grime with it? With MY KNITTING? Not likely! MY knitting was going to be treasured and looked at with appreciation. Ya right, well when I got to looking around my house; I saw that I had dirty dishes every day, seemingly every HOUR with two children. And if I have to stand there and clean those dishes, why not use something that I think is pretty, different, yet accomplishes a couple goals. They fill my home with decorative colorful hand knits and I can

use them every day. The dishcloth can be made from strong and sturdy everyday cotton or even string as well as the more refined look of linen, which only gets softer and yet stronger the more you use it. My children would use colorful fun washcloths to clean up with that I had made just for them. Almost like giving them a special hug each morning.

What I was learning was that my knitting was filling even more of my life than I anticipated. While I do hope one day to make something truly worthy of being passed down to my girls and hope they appreciate it because it was made by their mom, I also have come to appreciate incorporating knitting into my everyday life. Whether it is socks or dishcloths; mittens and scarves that while not "fancy" keep my child warm from the wild winter winds. Blankets to snuggle under but which can be cared for in an easy manner. I knit to fill my world one stitch at a time with color, texture, and beauty every day....not just for special occasions.

***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. Don't be shy!*

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

Please note: All of our groups, as well as our regular Tuesday evening and Friday morning open knitting\*, **will continue** through the summer. Please visit our website at [www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm](http://www.double-ewe-yarn.com/Classes.htm) for details.

**Mother Bear Project:** First & Third Tuesdays, 2:30 – 5:00  
**Great American Afghan Knit Along (a.k.a. GAA KAL):** Saturday mornings, 9:00 – 10:30...or is it 11:30...or whenever classes start  
**Knitting with Ewe (Open Knitting) :** Tuesday evenings, 6:30 – 9:00 -and- Friday afternoons, 1:30 – 4:30

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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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## August & September Class Details

**Knitter's Choice** (Instructor: Kelly)

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.

**Beaded Lace Scarf** (Instructor: Ann) - FULL

2 sessions, Wednesdays August 6<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30

Price: \$23 plus materials

Join Ann in making a beautiful beaded scarf from Jackie Erickson-Schweitzer of Heartstrings Fiber Arts. This is a luxurious scarf with small beads knitted into a flowing lace pattern. It's knit in laceweight yarn with size 8/0 beads. It would make a beautiful Christmas gift, or keep it for yourself! Skill level: intermediate

**Toe-to-Cuff Lace Socks** (Instructor: Ann)

3 sessions, Wednesdays August 20<sup>th</sup> – Sept 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30

Price: \$33 plus materials

Are you tired of making plain socks and want to try something new? Learn new techniques with these socks: they have a pretty lace rib stitch pattern and are quick to knit in worsted weight yarn, and they're knit from the toe up. Fun!

Supplies needed: 215 yards worsted weight yarn (addl. Yarn needed for larger sizes)  
size 4 Double Point Needles

**Basics: Hats** (Instructor: Kelly)

2 sessions, Saturdays August 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 – 3:00

Price: \$22 plus materials

This is the first in a series of Basics classes we're going to be offering. Using Nancy Lindberg's classic and versatile patterns, you'll learn how to knit an item using any weight yarn you'd like, from fingering to super chunky. Gauge is the key. Once you know the basics, you can get very creative knitting truly one-of-a-kind projects!

Supplies needed: Approximately 100 grams of selected yarn and needles appropriate to your yarn: 16" circular and dpn's

**Sideways Sock Yarn Baby Sweater** (Instructor: Ann)

3 sessions, Wednesday afternoons, September 3 – 17, 2:00 – 4:00

Price \$33.00 plus materials

A cute, cleverly-constructed baby sweater. Any sock weight or fingering weight yarn should work well; the self-striping sock-yarns work up wonderfully, with sock-like striping on the sleeves and interesting vertical stripes on the body, or choose a variegated yarn for a more subtle effect. With so many choices in sock yarns there are endless variations. The pattern includes instructions for newborns, 3 months, 6 months, 12 months, and 18 months, but it also includes instructions for a very small size that will fit a standard 18" doll.

Supplies needed: Approx. 350 - 450 self-striping sock yarn, size 2 or 3 dpn's and 2 sets of size 2 or 3 24" Circulars; Pattern is included in class fee.

**Fixing Mistakes** (Instructor: Kelly)

1 Session, Saturday September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00

Price: \$30 with book, \$15 without book

Even expert knitters make mistakes; the difference is that they know how to deal with them. We'll learn some techniques to fix a variety of mistakes, and how to avoid them, too. We'll cover how to "tink", unravel, and do vertical fixes. You'll learn to recognize twisted and skipped stitches, accidental yarnovers, and other knitting snafu's. You'll leave class with some new skills and a great reference: Knit Fix by Lisa Kartus. If you already have the book (or would rather not buy it), a reduced class fee is available.

Supplies needed: You'll need to bring a couple of swatches knit up but not bound off for this class. You'll receive a list when you register. Needles & crochet hook

**Snuglets** (Instructor: Kerri)

3 sessions, Mondays, Sept 8 – 22, 6:30 – 8:30

Price: \$35 plus materials

These are the cutest felted slippers I've seen in a long time: they're quick to make, easy to put on and off, and they come in sizes from baby to adult. The exterior is wool and the interior is alpaca: this combination makes for a very warm, super soft slipper. The pattern is from Pick Up Sticks, and Kerri's furiously working on a sample for you to see in the shop - we'll have it soon, but if you can't wait, you can see a picture of them on their website: [www.sticksknits.com](http://www.sticksknits.com).

Suede pads for traction is included in the class price.

Supplies needed: Size 10 16" circular (size 10 DPN's for baby sizes)

Adult sizes: 400 yards EACH alpaca & wool

Child sizes: 200 yards EACH alpaca and wool

**Finishing Techniques** (Instructor: Kelly)

1 Session, Saturday September 13<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00

Price: \$10.00

Finishing can make or break your project. In this class we'll be learning a variety of finishing techniques, including: shoulder, side & arm seams, set in sleeves, 3 needle bind-off, the kitchener stitch, picking up stitches, buttonholes, and weaving in ends. These are great skills to have, and they don't just apply to sweaters. You'll need to bring some swatches to this class - I'll give you the details when you sign up.

Supplies needed: Swatches, darning needle, crochet hook, matching yarn.

You'll receive a list of the swatches you'll need when you register for class

**Hemlock Ring Blanket** (Instructor: Ann)

4 sessions, Wednesdays September 10 – 24<sup>th</sup> and October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 – 8:30 (class does not meet October 1<sup>st</sup>)

Price: \$40 plus materials

There's been a lot of buzz in the online knitting community about this one, and for good reason. Have you seen Ann's Hemlock Ring Blanket in the shop? It's stunning. And using Cascade Yarn's Eco wool, it's not a huge investment, either. Join Ann in making a blanket for yourself; I think you'll find it fun and maybe a little bit addictive.

Supplies needed: Needles: Size US 10 1/2 DPN's, 24" circular and 40" circular

Yarn: Cascade Eco Wool - 2 skeins (478 yards each)

**Intro to Socks** (Instructor: Kelly)

3 sessions, Saturdays Sept 20 – Oct 4<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 – 4:00

Price: \$30 plus materials

Socks continue to be one of the most popular things to knit! If you've been intimidated by socks, it's time to jump on the bandwagon and learn how it's done! In this class, we'll be knitting traditional top down socks; you'll have the choice of knitting them in regular sock yarn, or for a quicker project you can choose sport or worsted weight. While making a pair of socks, you'll learn how to make socks in any size, using any weight yarn, using Nancy Lindberg's great sock pattern.

Supplies needed: Yarn: 100 grams sock, sport or worsted weight

Needles: DPNs, size depends on yarn selected

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

Kelly Judson

Double Ewe Yarn Shop
9201 Lexington Ave N #5B
Circle Pines, MN 55014
763.780.2465
www.double-ewe-yarn.com

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