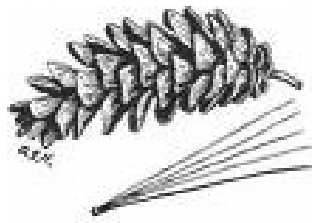




Official monthly eNewsletter  
for Pine Kneedlers Knitting Guild  
of Bangor Maine

# kneedlers knoodlings

come join us every month



## contents

- meeting minutes
- events | trips | workshops
- websites
- pattern of the month
- meeting treats
- calendar
- birthdays

**february challenge**  
**Bring 3 premie hats**  
**to the next meeting.**

## Knit Like a Man

By David Demchuk  
**It's The Little Things . . .**  
From [www.knitty.com](http://www.knitty.com)

The other day, I met a young man (when you're my age, they're all young men) who was knitting his first project. Unsurprisingly, it was a garter stitch scarf. It was about six or seven inches wide, and he had about six or seven inches worth done, so he had what looked like a lovely square garter stitch potholder. He told me that he had started the scarf nearly a year ago, got this much done, put it down for a while – like ten months – and only now had he picked it up again.

I nodded and smiled and told him he was doing a good job and that it would get faster and easier – but in the dark recesses of my brain I thought: “Oh, just bind it off. Call it a potholder and bind it off. It's fine, you've learned garter stitch, it's time to move on.”

What is this thing we do to beginner knitters, this “to begin, you must knit a scarf” thing? Are we trying to build their skills through blind repetition? Are we trying to test their stamina, or attention span, or their commitment to \$195 worth of cashmere in the corner that, dammit, is going to be knit into the most beautiful garter stitch scarf ever created if it's the last thing they ever do?



Many of the men (and a significant number of women) who've told me of their interest in knitting have expressed several key concerns about the craft:

- It takes considerable time and patience;
- To the casual onlooker, it seems boring;
- They're afraid (especially if they're serial hobbyists, trying out one craft after another) that after spending money on yarn and needles and supplies, and time and effort on learning, they'll just get a few inches into their first project, then stuff it into the back of the closet and forget about it.

Continued on page four.

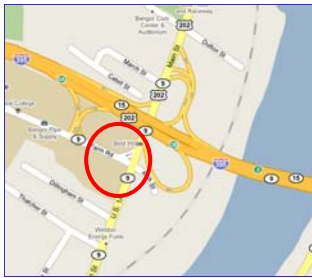


## kneedlers knoodlings

Pine Kneedlers is a member-based, not-for-profit group established to promote and support the many facets of knitting, to offer education in the craft, and to enjoy the company of friends.

Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month at:

**Bangor Parks & Recreation Bldg**  
**647 South Main Street Bangor**  
(Use Farm Road entrance to park in back; come up ramp into building)  
**6pm-8pm**



President: Cheryl L Zeh  
943.6909  
cheryl.zeh@gmail.com

Vice President: Vacant  
Treasurer: Margo Dow  
Secretary: Vacant  
Program Coordinator: Vacant  
Membership Coordinator: Vacant  
Librarian: Vacant  
Helpers-at-Large:

Christy Coombs  
Editor: Cheryl L Zeh  
Contributors: Vacant

## Woman Knitting

Francoise Duparc  
(French, 1726-1728)  
Image is public domain

## meeting minutes

19 january 2010

Five new prospective members attended. Cheryl made introductions and shared her vision for the guild, including plans for workshops, field trips, and other programs for improving skills and methods. The group discussed a guild lending library, the vast number of opportunities for community service knitting, and just the joy of taking part in the camaraderie of group knitting experiences.

Cheryl explained how members are encouraged to participate as little or as much as they want – to just come to meetings and sit & knit or to volunteer to be an officer in the Executive Committee and everything in between.

The group decided a good first project is to create premie hats for the rest of the year for a local hospital to be voted on in November or December. Cheryl challenged the attendees to knit three hats by the February meeting. She was asked to find some patterns and email them to everyone.

The group decided to try having a raffle at each meeting to add to the funds to run the guild. Cheryl will donate something knitting-related using a 40 percent off coupon at JoAnn's, and we will sell tickets for 25 cents each or 5 for \$1.00. The person who wins will provide the raffle prize for the next month. We decided to see how it goes.

Continued on page four.



## events | trips | workshops

6 february

Learn to Knit  
The Charles Inn, Bangor  
12:30-4:30pm

20 february

Bangor Public Library Fiber Arts Exhibition  
Look for the knitting guild table  
9am-3:30pm

## february program

Do you have unused, leftover, unloved yarn? Bring it to the February meeting for a **Stash Exchange**. Everyone who brings something will receive a number, and going in numerical order, will get an opportunity to choose from the pile. You just might find something new to fall in love with.

## march program

Come to the meeting with Size 7 or Size 8 needles (any size you're comfortable working with) and a skein of worsted weight yarn, and we'll **Practice Four Stitches**: Seed Stitch (also called Moss Stitch), King Charles Brocade, Windmill, and Little Shell.

## Websites

Just some fun | interesting | crazy sites I've run across. Please feel free to offer your own discoveries for the others to enjoy.

- [www.knittingpatterncentral.com/directory/premies.php](http://www.knittingpatterncentral.com/directory/premies.php)
- [www.knittingforcharity.org](http://www.knittingforcharity.org)



How knitters see sheep

- [www.zazzle.com/how\\_knitters\\_see\\_sheep\\_card-137893887906950754](http://www.zazzle.com/how_knitters_see_sheep_card-137893887906950754)



Pattern of the Month

# Itty Bitty Valentine Hearts

For anyone looking for a last-minute handmade Valentine's Day gift idea, done and done! These little hearts make a perfect topper for a box of chocolates, as a pin, or a little handful of them will make your sweetie smile.



## Materials

- Rowan 4-ply Scottish Tweed (or any wool yarn that will felt)
- Size 4 straight knitting needles (or sized to your yarn)
- Tapestry needle
- Polyfil or scrap yarn for stuffing
- Embroidery thread or small beads for eyes (optional)

CO 2 st  
**Row 1:** kfb, k to last st, kfb  
**Row 2:** p 1 row  
 rep these 2 rows 6 times total (14 st)  
**Row 3:** k2 tog, k5 and turn, leaving remaining 7 st on the needle  
**Row 4:** p2tog, p2, p2tog  
 BO 4 st, cut a long piece of yarn (about 10 in) and weave through back of piece to reattach to other side (where you left off when turning)  
**Row 5:** k5, k2tog  
**Row 6:** p2tog, p2, p2tog  
 BO 4 st

Repeat the above pattern for opposite side of heart.

Weave in loose ends and felt pieces in a washer and dryer. Add optional eyes after felting if you like, either with a few small stitches with embroidery thread (pictured), or by sewing on small beads. With wrong sides facing each other, sew up the two heart pieces using mattress stitch, and stuff with polyfil before making the last few stitches.

Sew in that last loose end, and you're done.

meeting treats	
february	Cheryl Zeh
march	Margo Dow
april	
may	
june	
july	
august	
september	
october	
november	
december	Holiday Party



## Learn To Knit

Saturday February 6th

at The Charles Inn | 20 Broad Street

12:30pm-4:30pm

943.6909

\$15 (Free for paid members of the Guild; go to [www.Pine-Kneedlers.org](http://www.Pine-Kneedlers.org) to join)

Includes Afternoon Tea & Handouts

**Space is Limited; Preregistration Required**

### What You'll Learn

Slip Knot, Cast On, Foundation Row, Knit & Purl, Binding Off

Learn to Knit Workshop 2/6	
The Charles Inn   20 Broad Street   Bangor	
Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Telephone	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>
Please make check payable to <b>Pine Kneedlers</b> Send to PO Box 37 Eddington ME 04428	

## Calendar

### february

13-14: **Pittsburgh Knit & Crochet Festival** | Four Points Sheraton North | Mars PA

16: **Pine Kneedlers Knitting Guild Meeting** | Parks & Recreation Building | Bangor ME

20: **Bangor Public Library Fiber Arts Exhibition** | BPL | Bangor ME

27-28: **Spa Knit & Spin** | Hilton Garden Inn & Harraseekett Inn | Freeport ME

### march

11-14: **Mindful Knitting Retreat with Tara Jon Manning** | Highland Lodge | Greensboro VT

12: **Knitting, Yoga & Meditation** | Burlington VT

27: **Woolapalooza** | Audubon's Drumlin Farm Wildlife Sanctuary | Lincoln MA

### april

17: **Denmark Sheepfest** | Denmark Arts Center | Denmark ME

19: **Martha's Vineyard Fiber Fest Weekend** | Agricultural Hall | West Tisbury MA

24: **23rd Annual Sheep Shearing Festival** | Gore Place | Waltham MA

24-25: **Washington County Fiber Tour** | Battenkill Valley | Washington County NY



### Knit Like a Man, Continued from page one.

Fair enough. Knitting, unlike – I don't know, competitive checkers? – does take considerable time and patience to learn and to master. And it doesn't have the edge-of-your-seat excitement of, say, skydiving, pole dancing or designing amateur fireworks displays. (Some of us are grateful for this.) But why would we take a beginning knitter, one who may rightly fret that they'll never make it through their first item, and assign them a one-yarn, one-colour, one-stitch rectangle that is eight inches wide and seventy inches long? Are we trying to drive them to needlepoint? (Ardent needlepointers, please: Don't hate.)

I'm not ashamed to admit it – I'm the kind of guy who thinks instant gratification is just not instant enough. I like the feeling of accomplishment that comes with completing a small project quickly. I find that it motivates me to learn more, to try harder, and to get closer to finishing the other works-in-progress I have on the go.

If you're a newborn knitter and you have your heart set on knitting a scarf like this because you need it, you ache for it, deep in your soul, then by God you should knit that scarf and no one should stand in your way.

For the other 94 percent wondering, "What should I knit first?" I would like to propose a new rite of passage. Something small – more challenging than a scarf, with texture, colour, pattern or shaping, yet achievable. A washcloth, perhaps. A winter hat. A baby jacket. A pair of socks.

I know, I know – heresy. I must be tied to a giant oaken swift by the Spun-ish Inquisition and flailed with cruel feathery whips crafted from bamboo yarn, seasilk and modal. (You have your naughty fantasies, and I have mine.)

But really, how much better is it for a junior knitter to make something engaging and intriguing, something where they're learning new skills over the course of the project, something they'll finish within three seasons of casting on?

More to the point, how many of us started with the ubiquitous garter-stitch scarf, grew annoyed with it before the 12-inch mark, abruptly frogged it and then started on something we really wanted to knit? Something we were willing to really push ourselves to accomplish? My guess is that many promising knitters got as far as the frogging stage, decided prematurely that knitting wasn't really for them, and switched to Bedazzling.

If you are one of those tragic cases – one who turned away from knitting when you felt knitting had turned away from you – I beg of you. Put down the Bedazzler, for all our sakes. And come back to knitting, which welcomes you with open arms.

**David Demchuk** is happy to help men, and knitters of all genders, get over their size issues. The many washcloths, socks, Knucks, baby jackets and toys he has knitted that have led to the successful procrastination of his larger long-term projects. (Yes, honey, that means your off-white David Beckham belted cardigan is on the back burner . . . again . . .)

### Meeting Minutes, Continued from page two.

Cheryl invited everyone to Show & Tell. Kathy taught herself to knit just this last Christmas Day on a roadtrip and shared her first scarf. We all remarked at how even her knitting is. She is now working on a headband in the same yarn. Gwen shared a new book and yarn she picked up to knit socks. She has been knitting quite a while, but does not know how to purl, so she would like to take a class. Sally shared a book of dog sweaters and the yarn she plans to build it with. Very nice. Kelly sat during the meeting knitting a lovely pink variegated hat. She said she has bunnies and does a lot of bunny fur knitting. We all oo'd and ahh'd over how yummy her yarn is (which she spins and dyes herself). She went to her car and retrieved a number of items that we all enjoyed seeing and touching.

The group discussed monthly programs, and Cheryl offered some examples, such as a yarn shop fashion show, designer videotapes, and buttonhole hints. She passed around a sheet looking for ideas. At the February meeting, we'll have a Stash Exchange, so everyone bring unused and unloved yarn to swap.

Three of the attendees paid for their 2010 membership and the other two will be sending their payments in soon. So with Cheryl as the original paid member, we now have four official members, with two more on the way! Bravo!

The group also discussed various knitting classes offered in Bangor, and Cheryl said she would set up a beginner's class very soon. (See the notice of a class on page 3.)

There was a drawing for three door prizes, and refreshments were enjoyed.

Birthdays		
january	22	Kathy Frazier
	27	Sally Reed
february	20	Gwen Julien
	26	Cheryl Zeh
march		
april		
may		
june		
july	1	Margo Dow
august	12	Kristina Sullivan
september		
october		
november		
december	3	Kelly Conroy

