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march 2010

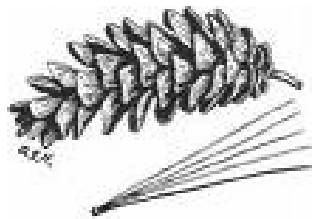
Official monthly eNewsletter
for Pine Kneedlers Knitting Guild
of Bangor Maine

www.Pine-Kneedlers.org



kneedlers knoodlings

come join us every month



contents

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

march challenge

Bring 3 premie hats
or one helmet liner to
the next meeting.

Helmet Liner: Use only
approved colors of
tan, brown, charcoal,
grey, olive drab green,
& black in 100% wool

What is a natural fibre?

from www.naturalfibres2009.org

Natural fibres are greatly elongated substances produced by plants & animals that can be spun into filaments, thread or rope. Woven, knitted, matted or bonded, they form fabrics that are essential to society.

Like agriculture, textiles have been a fundamental part of human life since the dawn of civilization. Fragments of cotton articles dated from 5000 BC have been excavated in Mexico & Pakistan. According to Chinese tradition, the history of silk begins in the 27th century BC. The oldest wool textile, found in Denmark, dates from 1500 BC, & the oldest wool carpet, from Siberia, from 500 BC. Fibres such as jute & coir have been cultivated since antiquity.

While the methods used to make fabrics have changed greatly since then, their functions have changed very little: Today, most natural fibres are still used to make clothing & containers & to insulate, soften & decorate our living spaces. Increasingly, however, traditional textiles are being used



for industrial purposes as well as in components of composite materials, in medical implants, & geo- & agro-textiles.

[On page four are] profiles of 15 of the world's major plant & animal fibres. They range from cotton, which dominates world fibre production, to other, specialty fibres such as cashmere that, though produced in far smaller quantities, have particular properties that place them in the luxury textiles market.

See page four for a great chart.

“Veni, Vidi, Velcro. I came, I saw, I stuck around.” ~ Author Unknown

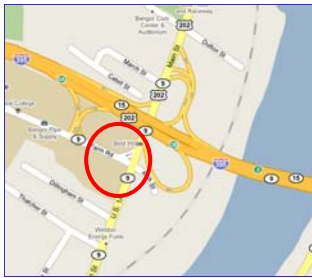


kneedlers knoodlings

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:

Kathy Frazier

Membership Coordinator: Vacant

Librarian: Kristina Sullivan

Helpers-at-Large:

Christy Coombs

Editor: Cheryl L Zeh

meeting minutes

16 february 2010

Members arrived and created a Stash Exchange pile and everyone received a number and a penny. A visitor named Ruth arrived and donated a bagfull of knitting needles and crochet hooks that were her aunt's. Very generous.

Each member took a turn to use the date on the penny to share a personal experience. We heard some very interesting and touching stories.

Business

President: Cheryl announced the guild still needs volunteers for vice president, secretary, membership coordinator, and librarian. She asked the group to review the draft bylaws for discussion next meeting. She also talked about The Knitting Guild Association, asking members to look them up and consider joining as individual members and for later discussion about having the guild become officially affiliated with the national association.

Treasurer: Margo Dow was under the weather, so Cheryl gave the financial report. The bank account stood at \$109.15, with one check for \$30 written for the room rent at The Charles Inn for the How-to-Knit workshop on February 6th. She told the group she still had a couple of membership checks received that day that would be deposited this week.

Continued on page three.

events | trips | workshops

6 march

How-to-Knit

The Charles Inn, Bangor

12:30-4:30pm

Free for members | \$15 for nonmembers

943.6909 to Register

16 march

Guild Monthly Meeting

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. Handout.

april program

Michele Goldman of Fiberphilia in Orono will speak

may program

Kelly Conroy will demonstrate the continental knitting technique

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.citizensam.org [Citizen S.A.M. is composed of volunteers who desire to Support our Armed Forces and help preserve our precious freedom. Please look over our various teams and programs to see where you would best serve. Then invite your friends to do the same.]
- <http://medomakcamp.com/knittersretreat.php>
- www.tkgga.com/cointro.shtm *Cast On* magazine by TKGA. Have a look.

The Little Knitters

by Albert Anker

(Swiss, 1831-1910)

Image is public domain





Pattern of the Month

**Knitted
 Shamrock
 Cloth**

©2005 by Rhonda K. White
 KnittingforCharity.org

Materials: 100% cotton yarn & Size 7 knitting needles

Cast on 38 stitches
 Row 1: (k1, p1) across
 Row 2: (p1, k1) across
 Rows 3-4: Repeat rows 1 & 2
 Row 5: (k1, p1) twice, p30, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 6 and remaining even # rows: (p1, k1) twice, k30, (p1, k1) twice
 Rows 7-8: Repeat 5 & 6
 Row 9: (k1, p1) twice, p18, k2, p10, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 11: (k1, p1) twice, p17, k2, p11, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 13: (k1, p1) twice, p16, k2, p12, (k1, p1) twice

Row 15: (k1, p1) twice, p15, k2, p13, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 17: (k1, p1) twice, p15, k1, p14, (k1, p1) twice
 Rows 19 & 21: Repeat #17
 Row 23: (k1, p1) twice, p8, k4, p3, k1, p2, k4, p8, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 25: (k1, p1) twice, p7, k6, p2, k1, p1, k6, p7, (k1, p1) twice
 Rows 27, 29, 31, & 33: (k1, p1) twice, p6, k18, p6, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 35: (k1, p1) twice, p7, k6, p1, k2, p1, k6, p7, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 37: (k1, p1) twice, p8, k3, p2, k4, p2, k3, p8, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 39: (k1, p1) twice, p12, k6, p12, (k1, p1) twice
 Rows 41, 43, & 45: (k1, p1) twice, p11, k8, p11, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 47: (k1, p1) twice, p12, k6, p12, (k1, p1) twice
 Row 49: (k1, p1) twice, p13, k4, p13, (k1, p1) twice
 Rows 51-54: Repeat # 5 and #6
 Rows 55-58: Repeat # 1 and #2
 Bind off



Meeting Minutes, Continued from page two.

Cheryl told the group the financial matters for the guild are completely transparent. If anyone has an interest or a question about any financial information, she is welcomed to view any of the records at any time.

Program Coordinator: Kathy Frazier said she is excited about putting together the monthly programs, with Michele Goldman (Fiberphelia) speaking in April. The group discussed another How-to-Knit workshop for March 6th. Cheryl asked about the feasibility of raising the cost for the out-of-town teddy bear workshop from \$65 to \$75 because she is having trouble locating nice accommodations for less than \$50. The group consensus was \$75 is not too expensive for guild members (and probably \$95 for nonmembers).

Show N Tell

Diane brought a printout of several knitting rhymes to share with everyone. See them on the website. Joan had earlier emailed Cheryl with a number of verses, which will also be found on the website.

Continued on page five.

Calendar

- 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
 26-28: **Restful, Knitful, Peaceful, Gathering Getaway** | Sunset Hill Inn | Sugar Hill NH
- april
 6-9: **9th World Sheep & Wool Congress** | Rosehill Gardens Event Centre | Sydney Australia
 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
- may
 8-9: **New Hampshire Sheep and Wool Festival** | Hopkinton State Fairgrounds | Contoocook NH
 15: **7th Annual Jamaica Fiber Festival** | Jamaica Village VT (near Stratton Mountain)

Calling All Members

Please volunteer for treats

mar	Cheryl Zeh
apr	
may	
june	
july	
aug	
sep	
oct	
nov	
dec	Holiday Party



Continued from page one:



Plant fibres		Animal fibres	
Plant fibres include seed hairs, such as cotton; stem (or bast) fibres, such as flax & hemp; leaf fibres, such as sisal; & husk fibres, such as coconut		Animal fibres include wool, hair & secretions, such as silk	
	Abaca: Once a favoured source of rope, abaca shows promise as an energy-saving replacement for glass fibres in automobiles		Alpaca Wool: Alpaca is used to make high-end luxury fabrics, with world production estimated at around 5 000 tonnes a year
	Coir: A coarse, short fibre extracted from the outer shell of coconuts, coir is found in ropes, mattresses, brushes, geotextiles & automobile seats		Angora Wool: The silky white wool of the Angora rabbit is very fine & soft, & used in high quality knitwear
	Cotton: Pure cellulose, cotton is the world's most widely used natural fibre & still the undisputed "king" of the global textiles industry		Camel Hair: The best fibre is found on the Bactrian camels of Mongolia & Inner Mongolia, & baby camel hair is the finest & softest
	Flax: One of nature's strongest vegetable fibres, flax was also one of the first to be harvested, spun & woven into textiles		Cashmere: Cashmere is exceptionally soft to the touch owing to the structure of its fibres & has great insulation properties without being bulky
	Hemp: Recent advances in the "cottonization" of hemp fibre could open the door to the high quality clothing market		Mohair: White, very fine & silky, mohair is noted for its softness, brightness & receptiveness to rich dyes
	Jute: The strong threads made from jute fibre are used worldwide in sackcloth: & help sustain the livelihoods of millions of small farmers		Silk: Developed in ancient China, where its use was reserved for royalty, silk remains the "queen of fabrics"
	Ramie: Ramie fibre is white, with a silky lustre, & is one of the strongest natural fibres, similar to flax in absorbency & density		Wool: Limited supply & exceptional characteristics have made wool the world's premier textile fibre
	Sisal: Too coarse for clothing, sisal is replacing glass fibres in composite materials used to make cars & furniture		

Birthdays

jan	22	Kathy
	27	Sally
feb	20	Gwen
	26	Cheryl
mar		
apr		
may	10	Christy
june	14	Pat
july	1	Margo
aug	12	Kristina
	13	Joan
	16	Melissa
sep	10	Cathy
oct		
nov	15	Jane
	26	Diane
dec	3	Kelly

A Winter Weather Craft Tradition: "Knit Your Bit"

During World War I and again during World War II, the American Red Cross launched nationwide, volunteer-driven knitting campaigns to supply soldiers and war refugees with warm clothing. These volunteer knitters belonged to a Red Cross unit called the Production Corps that also produced bandages and sewn garments (such as pajamas) for veterans and civilian hospitals.

Military knitting patterns were designed to be compatible with soldiers' and sailors' uniforms and were required to be knitted in olive drab or navy blue. Production Corps volunteers would also knit from patterns designed for convalescing soldiers, such as the "Walking Cast Toe Sock," the "Cap for the Bandaged Head" and the "Man's Coat Sweater."

Try your hand at our selection of World War II-era knitting patterns from our archives and "knit your bit." www.redcross.org/museum/exhibits/knits.asp



Kelly shared a darling pink cabled back-zippered child's hoodie and was actively knitting another one during the meeting. She also passed around more of her spun yarns. Melissa also spins and showed the group some of her yarns, saying she has heard comments about how heavy it is, but we all agreed her yarn is wonderful. Kathy is working on a basketweave scarf in a lovely maroon color. Christie is working on a very pretty complicated hat and requested help with a part of the pattern. Diane shared a lovely short row scarf with ruffles and bobbles of red varied yarn and modeled it for us. Very nice. Cheryl showed a child's raglan sweater she knitted for afghans 4 Afghans in red with fair isle colors on the front. The group had a discussion of the ease of raglan sleeves. Later in the meeting, Kelly was demonstrating her swift for making center pull balls. Jane showed the group the completed pieces of a terrific cabled child's sweater and asked for advice in assembling it. [If I missed anyone, I apologize. See, we need a secretary! Editor]

President's Challenge

Hats Turned in So Far	
Sally Reed	3
Gwendolyn	3
Kathy	1
Kelly	3
Diane	5
Joan	3
Cheryl	6

March Challenge: Either three premie hats or one helmet liner for the troops. Or both!

Monthly Program

One-by-one, members went to the stash pile and chose from a variety of yarns, knitting needles, and crochet hooks. The leftovers will be saved for future programs, workshops, and any members in need of supplies or tools.

Homework for Next Time

Cheryl reminded the group to review the bylaws and to check out TKGA. Her homework includes contacting any other guilds in Maine because she had received a message from a woman way up north asking for advice in starting a guild in her community. The woman had also suggested a once-a-year statewide group meeting, which sounds like a great idea. Gwen suggested having a guild gift available in the form of skewers and yarn to give out whenever one meets and has an opportunity to teach someone to knit. Cheryl said this is a terrific idea and will put some together for the Saturday Fiber Exhibition.

The remainder of the meeting was spent knitting and visiting. Diane helped Christie with her pattern question, and Cheryl demonstrated an assembly technique for Jane's sweater.

Knitting Pattern Prescription

The Daily Knitter Staff

Pattern selection is a major decision in a knitter's life. You spend a small fortune on the yarn and countless hours knitting. What if you choose the wrong pattern? Nothing is more frustrating than being overwhelmed or even bored half way through the design. Increase your odds of selecting the perfect pattern by understanding the different skills levels assigned to patterns by designers.

The Craft Yarn Council of America offers four designations for knitting pattern skill levels as Beginner, Easy, Intermediate, and Experienced. Most knitting patterns follow these standards or some similar variation.



BEGINNER

Beginner indicates projects for first-time knitters using basic knit and purl stitches with minimal shaping involved. These knitting patterns are never mentally taxing and are perfect for knitting on the go or with distractions. Knitting for therapy projects also typically fall into this category.



EASY

Easy patterns are projects using basic stitches, repetitive stitch patterns, simple color changes, and simple shaping and finishing. There are no rectangles here. You will find basic sweaters patterns with straightforward shaping in this category, plus beginner type designs with more complex stitch patterns and color changes.



INTERMEDIATE

Patterns designated Intermediate are projects with a variety of stitches, such as basic cables and lace, simple intarsia, double-pointed needles and knitting in the round needle techniques, mid-level shaping and finishing. Designs in this category are for seasoned knitters desiring a challenge and a chance to improve on their skills.



EXPERIENCED

Experienced projects use advanced techniques and stitches, such as short rows, fair isle, more intricate intarsia, cables, lace patterns, and numerous color changes. These patterns require concentration and keeping track of where you are in the instructions at all times. Often, each row of the pattern is different. Patience is also a necessity. When choosing a skill level, don't forget to make sure the selection is appropriate for your needs at the time. Many expert knitters complete a beginner pattern now and then. Sometimes a bit of Mindless Knitting is just what the doctor ordered.