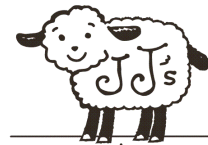




# Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



Children's Knook

## From the Owners

Silk is our featured yarn this month, and we have over 14 yarns here at J.J.'s Knitting Knook that contains silk: including two 100% silk yarns. Many are blends of silk with fibers such as llama, wool, and alpaca. We continue to enjoy the opportunity to supply you with quality yarns and assistance and be able to share with you what we love to do! Thank you for choosing our shop! Blessings to each of you.

## Specialty Classes = SOCKS!

Pre-registration required

In June, we will be hosting a SOCK CLASS! If you know how to knit and purl, and would like to learn how to knit socks, this class is for you!



We are pleased to announce that we will be having a guest teacher, Mrs. Peggy Vreuls. Peggy is a fantastic knitter, with over 50 years of experience. She has been a knitting instructor for many years including places such as the Augusta County Library, the Daily Grind, and in California. She also leads "From the Heart" in our area, which is a non-profit group that knits for charity. Not only is Peggy an incredible knitter, she is a wonderful woman. Come meet her and learn something new!

Dates: Session 1: June 21<sup>st</sup>  
Session 2: June 28<sup>th</sup>

Times: Session 1: 9:00 – 11:30am  
Session 2: 8:30 – 11:30am

Class Cost: \$30 + cost of supplies

Class Description: During the course of this class, you should be able to complete the first sock of your pair! You can choose the method and the yarn for your very own pair of socks! You can choose to work on double points, one circular, two circulars, or use the Magic Loop method. The yarn you choose will determine what size needle you will need. This is going to be fun!

**To register for the class, there will be a \$10 deposit, which will be applied to the class cost. Come by the Knook to reserve your place today! As always, you receive a 10% discount on all purchases for the day you attend the class!**



June's  
Featured  
Yarn is...  
*Silk*



## Silk History

- Silk production is called sericulture
- Begun in China 2600 B.C. and kept secret until AD 300 when silk worm eggs were smuggled into other countries

## Two Varieties of Silk

- *Bombyx* – silkworms that feed on chopped mulberry leaves which produces brilliant white silk
- *Tussah* – "wild" silkworms that eat leaves from various trees, producing a silk ranging from ivory to light brown

## How Silk is Made

- Silkworm (caterpillar) eats for 30 days, growing 10,000 times it's original size
- Caterpillar then secretes liquids from its' head called fibroin (silk) and sericin (protective to seal cocoon), rotates itself about 200,000 times to spin a cocoon, producing 800 yards in one continuous thread
- The cocoon is the size of a peanut shell.
- Silkworkers collect cocoons, soak them to soften the sericin coating, and unwind the fiber by hand.
- Fiber has scale-free finish looking like a rod of glass

## Types of Silk

- Reeled – unwound fibers twisted together directly from the cocoon. Reserved for weaving and fabric yarns – very slick and prone to snags
- Spun – fibers cut to standard lengths, carded and spun. Generally made from using the waste silk from the reeling process (damaged cocoons, threads silkworm uses to anchor its' cocoon, etc.)

## Silk Properties

- Absorbs and releases moisture and feels warm to skin, even when wet
- Extremely strong
- Slow elasticity, so it stretches out – never wet block silk

## Uses and Tips for Silk

- Use 100% silk for dreamy lacey shawls and slinky tops
- Use silk blends when working ribbed patterns, or more fitted garments.
- If shimmer is important to you, choose a tightly twisted yarn, or if you use a single ply, knit with a tight tension.

## Trunk Show & Demonstrations

Featuring yarns from Classic Elite

Arriving June 27<sup>th</sup>

This trunk show features 5 unique projects that you will be able to see, touch, and even try on! The projects are made from yarns we stock and patterns from books here in our store, (Make it Modern, Summer Book 1, Summer Book 2, and Curvy Knits). This is a perfect way to feel the yarn worked up, and see the finished product before you begin!

Demonstrations for some of the patterns will be held on Saturdays at 2:00pm. Come see how to follow one of the lace patterns, and to learn how to do a provisional cast on.

You will receive a 10% discount on *all* Classic Elite purchases and special orders over \$25 during this event. Don't miss out!

## Tips and Tricks

1. When knitting with silk, if the yarn is slipping off your needles, try dropping your needle size by 1 or 2. Be sure to check your gauge, but often, this causes no change in your gauge. Also, silk will tend to snag, so you may want to use wooden needles, such as bamboo or rosewood when knitting.
2. If you have trouble counting the chains for your foundation row in crochet, place a safety pin on every 25 stitches. When using a yarn that is difficult to see the chains, you may want to place a pin every 10 stitches. This can save a lot of "re-counting" time.
3. Ever been working on a project and forgot to bring along your measuring tape? Well, if you have a dollar in your pocket, you're in luck! A dollar bill is exactly 6 inches long. Fold it into half for a 3 inch "ruler", or fold it into thirds for a 2 inch "ruler".

## June's Free Pattern

Plain Rolled Brim Hat

### *Sizes:*

Child's (ladies small, ladies large)

### *Materials:*

2 skeins of a soft dk weight yarn

Size 5 16" circular needles

Size 5 double pointed needles

1 stitch marker

*Gauge:* 5.5 stitches = 1 inch

### *Directions:*

Cast on 90, (100, 110) stitches. Place marker, and join being careful not to twist the stitches.

Knit every round until total length is 6½(7, 7½) inches, ending at the marker.

On the next round, begin decreasing as follows, changing to double pointed needles when necessary:

Round 1: (knit 8, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 2 and every even row to 14: knit

Round 3: (knit 7, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 5: (knit 6, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 7: (knit 5, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 9: (knit 4, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 11: (knit 3, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 13: (knit 2, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 15: (knit 1, k2tog) repeat around.

Round 16: (k2tog) repeat around.

Cut the yarn leaving a 12" tail, thread it through the remaining stitches, draw up tightly and secure. Weave in all ends.

This pattern is a nice, simple pattern that can easily be used for a chemo hat.



"Oh, give thanks to the Lord,  
for He is good. His mercy  
endures forever."  
Psalm 136:1

## Product Spotlight – The Knitter's Companion

Have you ever forgotten a cast-on technique that you once learned? Or, want to know a different way to seam your finished project? This book is a *wonderful* knitting reference guide. It gives short and easy-to-understand directions for various techniques and methods, which are clearly pictured in full-color drawings. This guide has tons of information about yarns, taking measurements, different knitting methods, a knitting needle gauge, casting-on, binding-off, blocking, seaming, increasing, decreasing, fringes, and much, much more. This is a must have book that will answer most all of your questions and is small enough to carry with you!