



Knit Wits

Monthly Newsletter



From the Owners

We are so excited to open our doors to Augusta County! We desire our knitting shop to be a place of relaxation, refreshment, and ministry to all members in our community, youthful and experienced. Our motto is "knitting together a community".



Teaching Children A Hobby For Life

Our featured yarn in November is Cashmere.

About Cashmere:

- *Cashmere* goats live at an elevation of 10-15,000 feet from north China to Mongolia. Under their coarse outer coat is a soft, warm fleece, which is the *cashmere* fiber we use.
- To get the *cashmere* fiber, persons hand comb the goats – it takes 1 goat 4 years to produce enough fleece for 1 sweater.

Quality:

- Fleece combed from the throat and underbelly produces the best, longest, (more expensive) fibers. They are stronger, finer, and garments made with them have less pilling.
- Fleece combed from the back and legs produce short, coarse, (cheaper) fibers, which pill more.
- Darker *cashmere* colors can be rougher because of dying the fibers (*cashmere* is naturally white).
- All sweaters will have some pilling, but quality *cashmere* should not pill after the 1st cleaning.

Use and Care:

- Hand wash: dissolve detergent in lukewarm water, soak 5 minutes, gently squish. Rinse, squishing until water runs clear. Roll in towel, lay flat to dry away from sun and heat and block *carefully*.
- To make fibers bloom, place garment inside-out in pillow case, tie closed, air fluff (no heat) in dryer.
- For stains, dry clean.
- Clean every 6-7 wearings.

Tips:

- Let deodorant dry before putting on sweater
- Do not spritz perfume on sweater
- Air fluff after wearing to maintain freshness
- Do not store in an air-tight container



A recent article from the Craft Yarn Council of America states that "Children who are taught to crochet and knit learn so much more than just "stitches". They learn problem solving and math skills. Their reading skills, motor skills, and eye-hand coordination are enhanced. They find an outlet for their creativity, which builds self-confidence and self-esteem." An article from Vogue International Knitting magazine describes the benefits of knitting observed from a primary school in New Jersey. Most of the students were fourth and fifth graders (boys and girls) who chose to knit during recess. This program was very successful. As of the date of the article, more than 250 of the school's 535 pupils (more than 46%) took part in the program. A spokeswoman for the school district stated, "knitting ...teaches children success through persistence, concentration, control, follow-through and mastery. Knitting itself improves fine-motor skills, hand-eye coordination and brain development." The children say a lot about the benefits of knitting and that they "just like it." We will directly introduce the younger generation to the art by offering specific class times for young children, opening our store for special sessions with local schools and community groups, and providing them a section in the store that caters to their age group and interests.



Grand Opening Celebration!

Saturday, Nov. 10th

10a.m. to 5 p.m.



Instructional Classes

We offer instructional classes taught by professionally trained staff. Classes are offered throughout the week and vary from beginner to advanced skill level. Every student in the class will be given a free pattern for attending. We ask that students are at least 6 years of age. Here is a current list of offered classes for **January 2008**:

Beginning Knitting

Cost: \$50 for 4 sessions + supplies

Dates: Each Tues. 10-11am *or* Thurs. 6-7pm

Class Size: 4 – 10 persons

Class Description: Learn the fundamentals of knitting and purling, casting on, binding off, increasing, and decreasing. Also, learn how to read patterns, check gauges, and fix mistakes.

Beginning Crochet

Cost: \$40 for 4 sessions + supplies

Dates: Each Tues. 6-7pm *or* Thurs. 10-11am

Class Size: 4 – 10 persons

Class Description: Learn how to chain, the fundamental stitches, turning, finishing, and how to read patterns.

Specialty Knitting Class

Cost: \$10 for 1 session + supplies

Dates: Each Sat. 10-11:30am

Class Size: 4 – 12 persons

Class Description: These classes vary each week through the month and will vary each month. In January, the classes will be *How to “Measure Beautiful You”*, *How to Alter Patterns*, *Finishing Techniques*, and *Conquering Cables*.

Links of Interest

www.craftyarncouncil.com

www.yarnstandards.com

www.interweave.com

www.knitnstyle.com

Day at T

Delicate, suitably **w words that** *Day at The Knook* on November 17th. Our featured project is cashmere wristies! They are the perfect gift! When you purchase the materials, the pattern is free!

Tips and Tricks

- If you don't want to go the “mothball route” for storing your knitted garments, use cloves, lavender, rosemary, thyme, dried orange peel or cedar chips to discourage moths. Be sure to tie the spices or chips in a cloth sachet or handkerchief and avoid placing them directly on the garment to avoid staining. Note that wood chips absorb excess moisture, thus discouraging mold from growing in storage areas.
- To keep your yarn from getting soiled while you work, keep each color in a separate ziplock bag. This also prevents balls of yarn from rolling away.
- Leave a long tail when casting on stitches to be used later to finish seams.
- Working with mohair can make for a sneezy nose, as the fiber tends to shed. To help, place your yarn in the refrigerator for at least 10 minutes before working on your project.

November Pattern

The Twisted Drop Scarf

This pattern is perfect if you need a simple and beautiful gift quickly. You can complete this pattern with all yarn types. To add dimension, use multiple yarns of varying texture held together when knitting.

Needles size 10-13*.

Cast on 10-15 stitches*.

Row 1: Knit across

Row 2: Knit across in *twisted drop stitch* (see below).

Row 3: Knit across

Repeat rows 2 and 3 until desired length. Bind off loosely in knit.

Twisted drop stitch:

Insert needle into first stitch. Wrap yarn around *both* needles and then around the right (back) needle like a regular knit stitch. Complete the stitch by pulling the loop on the right needle through.

*Depends on yarn weight. Chunky (or multiples) yarn, use larger size needle and cast on fewer stitches. For lighter weight yarns, use smaller size and more stitches.

Web page coming soon!



Our web page will feature links to the yarn suppliers we carry and other useful links for knitting and crocheting reference. Plus we'll have our hours, class schedules, and store information readily accessible – just a click away!