

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild *NEWS*

A newsletter by and for FVKG members

May 2012

President's Letter

Extreme Knitting

This weekend, I had a classic extreme knitting event – I was casting off for a shawllette and kept wondering if I was running out of yarn. Then I would think, no, I'll be alright; I have that long cast-on tail to use. Then I thought about the Yarn Harlot's commentaries that she writes about extreme knitting. I even whispered things to myself, like, "So, Jim, do what do you think about her confidence? It seems ill-founded to me." "You're right, Mike. It doesn't look good. I am surprised she hasn't noticed that yet, with her experience." Well Jim and Mike, the imaginary commentators, were right. I ran out of yarn, even after spit-splicing the cast-on tail, with three stitches left to cast off. After frantic digging in my stash, I found a similar weight and fiber in the same color. I was saved.

That shawl was the teal Trillian, the latest of those shawllettes I was so obsessed with this winter. Two others are off in their new homes. I have several more still waiting for me to start, and one half done. I think my Shawlette Period will last a little longer.

I also have my eye on some summer tops. I spent my birthday money for cotton-silk to make Gemini from Knitty. I have others waiting for me in my stash. I think I will stay busy this summer.

I imagine you all will, too. I look forward to seeing people around this summer and all the pretties in the fall.

I have been honored to serve as your president and look forward to another year doing so.

~ Kathy Schooley

In This Issue

A Brief Retrospective	2
Bootie Call	4
Editor's Note	2
Finding a Future Location	7
FVKG Board Members	6
FVKG Retreat	7
Hospitality	2
Mission Statement	3
President's Letter	1
Program Notes	3
Quick Tip of the Month	6
Quild Meeting Agenda	6
Scenes from April's Meeting	8
Show and Tell	5
Special Yarn Shops	7
Upcoming Regional Events	6
Welcome, New Members!	3

2011-2012 Meeting Dates

September 14, 2011
October 12, 2011
November 9, 2011
December 14, 2011
January 11, 2012
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012
April 11, 2012
May 9, 2012

St. Charles Episcopal Church
994 N 5th Ave.
St. Charles, IL

Time: 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

FVKG meets the second Wednesday of each month, September through May, in the Fellowship Hall of the St. Charles Episcopal Church in St. Charles. Meetings begin at 6:30 p.m.



Editor's Note

Well, this is the last newsletter of the guild's 2011-2012 calendar year. An especial thanks goes out to all those who contributed to it over the last several months. I literally couldn't have done it without you.

We'll be back in September with the start of FVKG's 2012-2013 year. Be sure to document your fiber adventures over the summer. Your knitting trials and triumphs will serve as wonderful subjects for future articles. Summer vacation may also take you far afield where new knit shops are waiting to be discovered. Do let all of us know what you find.

You don't have to wait until August to submit material. Simply email your articles, photos and tips to fvkgnews@gmail.com whenever inspiration may strike.

Something to consider when submitting material is copyright. Occasionally I've received material from guild members – simply wonderful things we might include in the newsletter, like knitting-related cartoons or fiber-related poetry. I've personally appreciated them and very much wished we could have incorporated them in the monthly issues. However, while it's fine to excerpt a blog entry or feature a short quotation, including whole pieces like an entire poem would violate copyright laws.

In doing the guild newsletter, it's important that we adhere to publishing restrictions, which means we can't run copyrighted material without express permission. If you come across something that you think we all must see in a newsletter, and would like to contact the author and get written permission, I would be more than happy to allocate space for it in the next issue. But lacking that documentation, copyrighted material – whether articles, patterns, poetry, cartoons, etc. – can't be included, as frustrating as it might be.

I prefer to think of it this way: The newsletter is a vehicle to showcase guild members' work and experience, as well as to present opportunities to learn and advance our craft. This is one talented bunch of women. Perhaps the next Elizabeth Zimmerman or Yarn Harlot is in our midst, waiting to be discovered. The newsletter, as a unique space to share our guild members' respective journeys with yarn, should highlight our collective ideas and efforts.

Doing the guild's newsletter has been a sometimes challenging but certainly rewarding creative endeavor for me, one I've enjoyed thoroughly. I'll be looking forward to next fall, anticipating what we as a guild will create together.

~ Lisa Schroeder

The 2011-2012 Year in Review – A Brief FVKG Retrospective

September – Susan Waldron, owner of Waldron Grove Alpacas, presented "From Alpacas to Garments."

October – Carol Rhoades of Madison, Wis., gave us a tour of Scandinavian knitting.

November – Susan Strawn, author of *Knitting America*, discussed the history of the craft.

December – The guild's annual holiday party was a big hit.

January – FVKG's own Gretl Kramer demonstrated the tubular cast-on and bind-off.

February – The successful "Embellishment Techniques" fair.

March – Ann Budd previewed her upcoming book, *The Knitter's Handy Guide to Top-Down Sweaters*.

April – FVKG's Jenny Bezingue talked about polymer clay, how to work with it, and use it with your knitting.

May – The end-of-the-year celebration and sale.

Program Notes – May

It is amazing to me how fast this year has gone. It seems like just a few weeks ago I was waking up at night in a cold sweat wondering how I was going to get speakers for our guild meetings when I didn't know anyone in the "knitting community." With lots of help and encouragement from guild members (both here and in Madison), the programs came together. A special thank you to Linda Jones and Christy Becker who helped me with vendors. Also my heartfelt thanks to the guild members, Gretl Kramer and Jenny Bezingue, who did such wonderful presentations, and to all of the guild members who taught the classes for "Embellishment Night."

FVKG's May meeting takes place Wednesday, May 9. It's the last full-session meeting before the summer and a full-on party. Don't forget your yarn to sell and your dish to pass.

Now it is May and time for our annual "End of Year Party and Stash Sale." It is time to cull your yarn stash, clean out your yarn closets (or yarn bathtubs as the case may be), sort through your knitting-related books, magazines and equipment, and find all those things that are ready to move out of your house and into someone else's! Now is the time free up some space, and sell or give away those things you bought with the best of intentions, but now realize you will never use. Let them find a new home with someone who will create something wonderful (or then again, they may just bring it back to next year's sale).

Please label all of your sale items with your name and your asking price. We encourage you to have your yarn packaged in plastic bags. Bring some change to help with the money exchange. And bring some money for buying those fabulous things that just don't fit in your friends' storage anymore.

We'll have several sale tables set up so there will be plenty of room to show your wares and to look at other member's things that might need to go home with you. We'll also designate a give-away area for those things you don't want to sell, but want to give away to a new owner. This is always a fun event and great way to close out the year.

~ Lorraine Tompkins

Welcome, New Members!

Sue Robinson

Fox Valley Knitters' Guild Mission Statement

The purpose of the Fox Valley Knitters' Guild is to promote and foster an interest in knitting, to provide the opportunity for study and sharing to broaden one's skills, and to encourage high standards of design and technique in various forms of knitting.

Hospitality

Calling all cooks: It's time for our annual appetizer or dessert meeting! Please bring your yummy dish to share and your own beverage.

~ Linda Jones

Bootie Call

Due to the need of new babies placed in the foster care system, I have formed a knitting group to make baby booties, hats and possibly blankets for distribution to these children. A high school friend of mine who fosters babies was lamenting to me that she goes through booties and blankets like crazy, and has a hard time finding cute items to replace them. As a former foster parent, I can sympathize. When these kids are moved around or adopted, as was our case, everything had to go back. We went directly from the agency to the mall to buy our Jay shoes and get his picture taken. I already had a blanket ready for him.

This knitting group is "Bootie Call," but hats and blankets will be gladly accepted. At the end of this article is a very easy two-needle bootie pattern. I also have baby yarn in my stash that I will gladly provide. I also have enough of some yarn to make blankets.

This is strictly *voluntary*, no pressure whatsoever. As knitters we are asked for a lot of charity knitting and it gets stressful. This is not limited to the guild either; I already have others helping out.

The knitted items will go to the DCFS office that my friend Lois is associated with. Her licensing supervisor will hand out the items as the babies come through. I might add that the supervisor is thrilled at this endeavor. This has never been done before for them. I hope I am up to the task.

The response I got at the April meeting made me cry all the way home. You ladies are fabulous!

I intend to have a summer knit-in at my house in the Windings for everyone. I am hoping to have Lois, her current baby, and maybe a few others there to meet everyone. The date will be announced later.

Thanks again, and here is the pattern. It was distributed at the April meeting, but I rewrote it for easier comprehension.

I rewrote the pattern using one color for the bootie instead of two, but you are free to knit any way you want. The supervisor stated that more boys than girls seem to pass through. Go figure. You may also use any pattern you want. Crochet is fine, also. If you feel very generous or creative, make any type of garment you want, any medium you desire. I thought starting with "baby steps," the appropriate project would be to ask for booties.

I hope this pattern works for you. If there are any mistakes, call or e-mail me. I will also be at the May meeting selling and buying yarn at the stash sale.

Thanks, everyone! You guys are great!

Baby Booties

Needles: Sizes #3 and #5; two small stitch holders

Yarn: Sport or DK weight is good for this pattern – Cascade Baby Aran or Cherub works well, too.

Sizes: Sizes are x-small, (small, medium and large). I find x-sm/sm. the best for the newbies.

Cuff: Starting at top with #3 needles, cast on 35(37-39-41) sts. Work in k 1, p 1 ribbing for 4 1/4", (4 1/2", 5"), ending with wrong-side row. Cut yarn.

Change to larger needles.

Instep: Next row: Sl first 12 sts to holder. K 11 (13-15-17); sl remaining 12 sts to second holder.

Beginning on wrong side with p row, work in stockinette st for 1 1/2"(1 3/4" - 2" -2 1/4"), end with p row. Cut yarn.

Foot: Right side facing you, with #5 needle, knit across 12 sts of first holder, pick up and k 9 (10-11-12) sts. On right-side edge of instep: K 11 (13-15-17) sts. At end of instep, pick up and k 9 (10-11-12) sts. On left side edge; k 12 sts from holder – 53 (57-61-65) sts. Begin p row, work in stockinette st for 5 rows, ending with a p row.

Shape Toes and Heel:

Row 1: K1, k 2 tog, k 19(21-23-25), k 2 tog, k 5, k 2 tog, k 19 (21-23-25), k2tog, k1.

Purl 1 row.

Row 3: K1, k 2 tog, k 17 (19-21-23), k2 tog, K 5, k 2 tog, k 17 (19-21-23), k 2 tog, k1.

Purl 1 row.

Row 5: K1, k 2 tog, k 15 (17-19-21), k 2 tog, k 5, k2 tog, k 15 (17-19-21), k 2 tog, k 1.

Purl 1 row.

Bind off.

Sew back leg and sole seams, gathering fullness at toe.

Show and Tell – April 2012 Meeting



Here we present a small selection of lovely items our guild members presented at the April 2012 meeting. To see other inspiring projects, please visit www.fvkg.com. Photos by Claudia Frost.

Quick Tip of the Month

A cast-on idea:

Even though I know a cable cast-on is useful, I find it tiring to do. When it's called for, I would usually do a knit cast-on: Start as though to knit, but put the stitch back onto the left needle. Effective, but a little loose and sloppy. When I used it on a garter stitch item, the result was knitting into a knit stitch instead of a purl stitch on the way back. I tried a purled cast-on. The result was wonderful. Simply purl, but put the stitch back onto the left needle. Now in garter stitch, you knit into a purl stitch, and the resulting edge is even.

~ Christie Cunningham

Guild Meeting Agenda

- 6:00 p.m. Set up
- 6:30 p.m. Gather to knit
- 7:00 p.m. Meeting begins:
 - Introduce new members/guests
 - Announcements/reports
 - Show and Tell
 - Door prizes
- 7:30 p.m. Break
- 7:45 p.m. Program
- 9:00 p.m. Lights out

2011-2012 FVKG Board Members

- President:* Kathy Schooley
- VP and Website:* Lorraine Tompkins
- Secretary:* Jennifer Duncan
- Treasurer:* Deanne Karamanian
- Hospitality:* Tammy Caltagirone; Linda Jones
- Membership:* Marge Clark
- Newsletter Editor:* Lisa Schroeder
- Gallery Show:* Claudia Frost
- Library:* Barbara Palmer; Marianne Moye

Upcoming Regional Fiber Events

May 19

Michigan Fiber Fiesta

Greenville, Mich.

<http://mifiberfiesta.yolasite.com/>

May 26-27

Great Lakes Fiber Show

Wooster Ohio

330-264-9665

www.greatlakesfibershow.com

June 19

Milwaukee Brewers Stitch 'n Pitch

Miller Park, Milwaukee

<http://milwaukee.brewers.mlb.com/>

June 22-24

Midwest Fiber & Folk Art Fair

Grayslake, Ill.

www.fiberandfolk.com

July 28-29

Fiber Arts Festival

Charlevoix, Mich.

www.castlefarm.com

August 1-5

Midwest Felting Symposium

Madison, Wis.

www.midwestfeltingsymposium.com

August 4-5

Chaplin Creek Fiber Fair

Franklin Grove, Ill.

www.chaplincreek.com

August 9-12

Stitches Midwest

Schaumburg, Ill.

www.knittinguniverse.com

August 15-19

Michigan Fiber Festival & Workshops

Allegan, Mich.

www.michiganfiberfestival.info

Special Yarn Shops

These shops are special because they offer discounts to FVKG members

Esther's Place

201 W. Galena St. (Route 30), Big Rock
630-556-WOOL (9665)
www.esthersplacefibers.com

Fine Line

6N158 Crane Road, St. Charles
630-584-9443
www.finelineca.org

Fishbed Knitting Emporium, Inc.

320 N. River Street, East Dundee
847-844-YARN (9276)

The Fold

3316 Millstream Road, Marengo
815-568-5320

Gene Ann's Shop

117 East Station St., Barrington
847-842-9321
www.geneannsyarns.com

Knitche

5150-B Main Street, Downers Grove
630-852-5648
<http://knitche.com/>

Loopy Yarns

47 West Polk St., Chicago
312-583-9276
www.loopyyarns.com

Needle Things

426 South Third Street, Geneva
630-232-9915

Never Enough Knitting

119-121 North Main, Wheaton
630-221-1007

Stitches in Time

300 W. Washington, Oregon
815-732-4599

*Wool and Company

107A West Main Street, St. Charles
630-444-0480
www.woolandcompany.net

**Wool and Company has switched to a Stash Cash card program instead of a traditional discount.*

2012 FOX VALLEY KNITTING GUILD RETREAT

ARRIVAL DATE: October 26, 2012

ARRIVAL TIME: 2:00 p.m.

DEPARTURE DATE: October 28, 2012

DEPARTURE TIME: 1:00 p.m.

Room Rate:

Double – \$125 per person

Single – \$205 per person

Deposit: \$50

Balance due by September 12, 2012:

\$75 – for a double room

\$155 – for a single room

We are currently looking for members interested in being on the door-prize committee for the retreat. Their responsibility would be to contact various vendors to ask for donations.

We once again will have massages on Friday night. Reservations will be taken, and space is limited.

Please note that, once all rooms have been reserved, an amount will be announced for those wishing to attend only on Saturday, October 27, 2012.

~ Sandy Andrews

Finding a Future Location

FVKG membership is growing, and it's great! However, we are reaching capacity at meetings, and would like to entertain the possibility of meeting somewhere that can accommodate our growing numbers more comfortably. FVKG's board is looking for volunteers to create a Task Force to research a different venue for the 2012/2013 FVKG meetings. If you're interested in scouting out a new location for the guild, please join the Task Force. A sign-up sheet will be passed around at the April and May meetings.

Scenes from April's presentation

