



Lacy Cabled Summer Sweater done in Classic Elite Provence

The Tail Spinner Newsletter

Look for that Silver Lining



Inside this issue:

Silver Lining & Daily Dose of Fiber	1
New Stuff	2
Calendar & Specials	3
What to do With All That Stash!!!	4
Class Information	5
Tips & Tricks	6
CCBOWS Fiberarts Guild News	6

Have any of you noticed that it takes me much longer to get things done? I used to be able to clean house and do the laundry in a day with no problem. Now, I'm lucky to keep up with dusting; and if the clothes get out of the laundry basket into their assigned drawers, it's a miracle! On the downside, I could consider this a result of getting older. — I would prefer to think that I have more patience than I once had; and I now pay more attention to detail, which takes more time to do. — I'm really trying to fool myself, aren't I? — Whatever works!

At this point, you must be asking yourself where in the world is she going with this? — Well, this is actually my excuse for not getting out the past newsletters as I should have. You may or may not have received a copy of the New Year newsletter. If you do want a copy, it will be posted to the website under the "What's New" section. For those of you who would like a copy but don't have a computer, let me know, and I'll send you one.

In the meantime, I've been putting together a great schedule for this summer so you can learn some new techniques and get new ideas.



Another terrific thing is seeing what you all have been making lately. I cannot get over your creativity! The sweaters, the bags, the socks, the hand puppets, and shawls are all absolutely wonderful! I can hardly wait to see what you're going to do next!

For me, I will continue to look for the silver lining in any grey clouds that come my way, and I hope you will continue to put up with my short-comings. Thanks for your patience, and I look forward to seeing you soon!

Linda

Have You Had Your Daily Dose of Fiber?

No, I am not talking about the fiber that you eat — I'm talking about the fiber that makes your dreams a reality. It comes in all types! From raw fibers that come directly from plants & animals to the yarns, threads and rovings we use to achieve a finished product.

There's lots of fiber to choose from, and they are all healthy for you! In today's hustle and bustle and the stress that everyone seems to be plagued with, one can find some peace of mind by devoting a little time each day to your fiber art. Whether it is knitting or crochet or weaving or spinning or felting, studies show that these activities are stress relievers. Concentrating on the process makes you forget unhappy things!

Did you know that Gandhi spent at least one hour each day spinning? When asked to serve as the President of India's Congress, he agreed to accept the position on the condition that the members of the Congress would spin each day. All learned to spin and did so every day.

The fiber arts are not only healthy for us mentally, but they also provide a social outlet and can even be a spiritual / meditative outlet for us. When I spin, I become one with the wheel, and I am unaware of anything else around me. My whole being is encased in that moment, and I truly find peace and tranquility. You could say that my spinning is my yoga!

So, be sure to take a dose of fiber each day and stay mentally and physically healthy!

Special points of interest:

- **Check out "Classes on Demand" to meet your busy schedule**
- **Did you know that Fiber is Healthy for you? Read Page 1**
- **Extra Discount on Yarn Purchases—See Page 3**
- **Clean Out Some Stash!!! —Page 4**



This is the latest book from Schoolhouse Press, which contains all of Elizabeth's original Newsletter designs that were published between 1958 and 1968. The book contains stories from her journals and files, which brings the essence of this woman into your heart. This one will become an essential book in every knitter's library.

Felted Hand Puppets by Melissa Gray

... Wow! is the reaction to these incredible hand puppets that are entirely needle felted, and the details are awesome!

Melissa will be sharing her craft with those who want to learn in a summer class. Be sure to check out the schedule!

Handmade Baskets by Lize Squires

See these beautiful handmade baskets in the store at very remarkable prices!

These baskets would make a great addition to any home, and also are great gifts for a special someone!



New Stuff!

Schoolhouse Press has arrived! Those of you who have been around me long enough know that my idols are Elizabeth Zimmerman and Meg Swasen. Next to my grandmother, these two ladies have had the most impact on my knitting. Needless to say, I am very proud to be able to offer their wonderful books and videos in the store, along with some great fiber. The DVD's have been hard to keep on the shelves and are selling out faster than I can get them in stock. If you are interested in any of their books or videos, please let me know so they can be included in the next order.

The latest "**Knitter's**" magazine has arrived, along with the summer edition of "**Handwoven.**" By the time you get this newsletter, the latest edition of "**Spin Off**" should be in the store, too! There are some terrific patterns and projects inside.



Addi Turbo Needles have arrived, including their new "**Natura**" Collection. If you haven't tried Addi, you're missing out on a real treat! — New yarns for summer (& some other seasons, too) have

arrived and include **Classic Elite Provence, Fortissima Fingering Weight** from **Skacel**; **Reynolds Odyssey and Saucy Sport, Berroco Boho, Boho Colors and Ultra Silk; Bollicini Dolly** from **Cascade**; **Noro Daria**, and unspun **Icelandic Wool** from **Schoolhouse Press**.

Spinners—Lots of new colors are available in Merino; and Melissa Gray still has a few "to dye for" fleeces available from her flock. Not to mention, silk hankies and bricks are back! The hankies are great to dye in multi-colors and add that special look to your yarns. There is also some wonderful camel down, alpaca, and other fantastic fibers on the shelves waiting for your fingers to draft them into some beautiful yarns.

Felters — More needles are now available in different sizes, and there are more starter kits for those of you who might want to give this fun craft a try. — Don't forget the Nee-

dle Felting Class in June! There are several of Melissa's puppets on display in the shop and for sale!

Weavers & Everybody! — The new **Knitter's Loom** from **Ashford** now comes



New!
Knitters
Loom &
Carry Bag
Combo

with a carry bag combo! These wonderful little looms have been a big hit with weavers and non-weavers. Easy to use, and your imagination is your only limitation to what you can do with one of these looms. — I'm doing a project on it right now with Berroco Boho. The change in the texture of the yarn is perfect for an easy to do project!

Don't forget the new patterns and pattern books that are available.

Martuska - (in book #239)

Our jacket of many colors in a wave stitch actually requires just 1 shade of Boho and 1 shade of Boho Colors.



SHOP HOURS

Shop is open during the hours of 9 am—5pm pm

Shop is open during the hours of 6-9 pm

GATHERINGS

25 Jun—1 Jul 2006

Convergence

www.weavespindy.org

13-16 Jul 2006

Knit & Crochet Show

www.knitandcrochetshow.com

27, 28, 29 October 2006

SAFF—Fletcher, NC

www.saffsite.org

Special Offer

Yarn of the Month!

Each month, additional savings will be available on yarn purchases from the featured yarn company!

June—Crystal Palace

July—Cascade

August—Berroco

September—Skacel

▶ June 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
					Beginner's Weaving - 2-Day Class—9:30 to 4:30	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Guild Field Trip					Beginners Spinning 9:30 to 4:30	Intermediate Spinning 9:30 to 4:30
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Learn a New Technique — Cast On & Cast Off!				
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Learn a New Technique — Increases & Decreases				

▶ July 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
This Month's Project — Baby Surprise Sweater					1	
					Beginner's Weaving - 2-Day Class—9:30 to 4:30	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
		Closed 4th of July				
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Learn a New Technique — Cables & Lace					Intermediate Spinning Class 9:30—3:30	Needle Felting with Melissa 10:30 to 3:30
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Guild Meeting		Socks & Mittens - Learn all about			Socks & Mittens	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
					Beginner's Spinning - 2-Day Class—9:30 to 4:30	
30	31					

Get Nifty Christmas Ideas this Month

▶ August 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Project of the Month— Design a Sweater		1	2	3	4	5
		Learn a New Technique — Hairpin Lace!				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
					Yarns to Dye For—Dye Class	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Learn a New Technique — Shadow Knitting					Yarn Party!!!	Yarn Party !!!
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Guild Meeting					Beginner's Weaving - 2-Day Class—9:30 to 4:30	
27	28	29	30	31		
Wrap up in an Elegant Shawl!						

What To Do With All That Stash!!!

If you knit, crochet, weave or spin, you have a yarn stash. — Don't deny it, you have "oodles" of the stuff hidden in every nook and cranny within your house or any other place you can manage to find to put the stuff. The big question is: What are you going to do with all that yarn?!?!?!? Let's face it—you bought it because you really liked it at the time, and you have been waiting for just the right project to use it. However, that particular project has not yet been discovered. Not only do you have hordes of new yarns that have not seen a needle, but you probably have leftovers from previous, finished projects that you just couldn't part with. There's a little bit of this and that, but not enough to do any one project.

Well, get out the boxes, bags, drawers, and any other receptacles and see what you have in there. Sort your yarns by colors. Put the pinks together, reds with reds, blues with blues, and so on and so forth. Start to play with colors and textures; and you might be surprised what you can come up with. If you have difficulty mixing colors, use a "color wheel." If you haven't seen one, I have them in the shop. BUT another interesting way to make decisions is to look at some variegated color ways that you like and mix your yarns per the colors in the existing yarn. Using your stash in scarves, hats, purses to glitz up a project is very easy to do. Just use garter stitch, and you can mix and match up your yarns and see what you get!



If you have a "tried and true" pattern that you really like, jazz it up by using up some of that stash. I made the following sweater for my granddaughter Kourtney using the **Knitting Pure 'n Simple Baby Raglan pattern**. The majority of the yarns used in the sweater met the gauge requirements or were very close to it. I then threw in a ribbon yarn for a couple of rows, and I used an add-in yarn with little flags to make it interesting. For the ribbing, I chose not to use a traditional rib and used the "wavy" rib pattern. (I encourage all of you to experiment with different rib patterns. This make your item much more unique!)

Another neat thing to do is combine your yarns! For the poncho, I had one main yarn that I used. to

"guesstimate" my gauge. The other yarns were chosen by color. Some were very thin, so I knitted two thin yarns together for a couple of rows to even out the stitches. However, this is not necessary, as the thin and thick yarns knitted on the same needle can give you a lacy effect. The double rectangular poncho is a VERY EASY pattern to do, whether you knit or crochet. Just make two rectangles that are the same size and join them together. The long side of the rectangle should be twice as long and the width. You can adjust this a bit by subtracting one or two inches from the length. An easy way to determine the correct sizing is to make a pattern from newspaper first, and see if it fits. Naturally, you are not going to get the same look from newspaper; however, it can give you a good idea of the size with regard to length, etc.



Weavers! Use your imagination and take some of these great textured and novelty yarns and weave them together to make some very unusual texture combinations. There is no limit to what you can produce by mixing a great variety of yarns. — Don't be afraid to add some eyelash for some cool FX! This is great for pillows, scarves, vests, or whatever!



Spinners! Combine the yarns together to make some very unusual novelty yarns of your own! The yarns can end up chunky when plied together and will knit up fast! The look can be very "Bohemian" and fashionable, and definitely unique! — Hint! When tying the yarns together, use a fancy knot or use a bead to cover the knot.

Felters! Use up your yarns to make great color patterns for fulling or for embellishing an article by needle felting.

If any of you want some help on what to do with your stash, just bring it in and we can do some brainstorming and color matches!

Summer Fun! — Lots of Classes

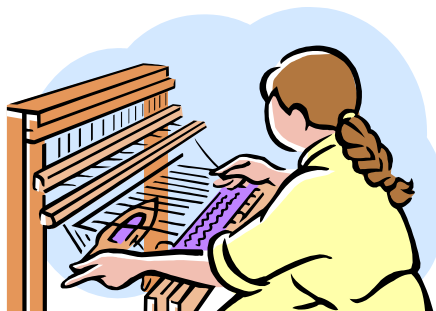


Due to the overwhelming success, I am going to continue with “**Classes on Demand.**” Since no one has the same schedule, these classes have proven to be invaluable to those who work and for mothers on the go! If you are interested and want more information, just give me a call or be sure to ask about these classes when you come into the store.

As noted on the calendar, there will be weeks where I cover special techniques. Come and join in to learn about “**Cables & Lace,**” “**Socks & Mittens**” and “**Shadow Knitting.**” Some of these classes are progressive in nature and will require more than one session. We will work this on the “Classes on Demand” method to get you started or keep you going until finished with all aspects of the subject. If you have any questions—just call the shop!

Spinning — I teach beginner and intermediate spinning classes. The beginner class is usually a two-day class. If you have a

group of two or three individuals, a class can be scheduled for you at your convenience. Please call for details or get more information on the curriculum on the website at www.tail-spinner.com — **Preregistration Required.**



Beginner Weaving — This is a two-day class. You will learn the basics of weaving, including how to determine warp and weft for any project. In this class you will complete a scarf. A loom will be provided for use during the class. Again, more detailed information is available on the website. — **Preregistration Required.**



SPECIAL—NEEDLE FELTING CLASS!

Come join Melissa Gray on Saturday, July 15th, for a Needle Felting Class to be given by Melissa Gray. The class will begin at 10:30 and lasts approximately 4-5 hours. During the class, you will learn the fundamentals of sculpting with wool using a felting needle. The cost for the class is \$20.00, which covers your class materials and supplies. — **This Class Requires Preregistration to ensure enough seating and supplies are available.**

Dyeing — Spend a day playing with wool and colors and learning about how to dye. Cost of class is \$20.00 which covers the cost of your fiber or yarn and dyes used. Please call to **pre-register.**

Knitting/Crochet Techniques — Want to learn a specific technique? Many times all you need is someone to show you how to do a certain technique or stitch that you just can't seem to figure out. Just bring in your project, and I will help you through it.

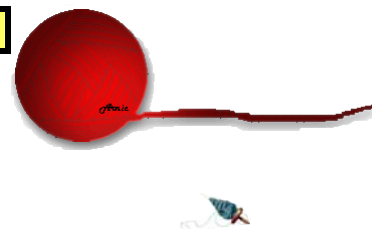
PROJECTS

We will also be doing certain “projects” each month that don't necessarily require a class session. During July, the featured project is the “Baby Surprise Sweater”, which was designed by Elizabeth Zimmerman. In August I will challenge your expertise with “designing” a Gansey sweater. Patterns for these projects can be purchased at the store, as well as the yarns. Check with me about details.

(Please look at the calendar on page 3 for dates and times of classes.)



Weaving Classes



NEEDLE FELTING CLASS

July 15th

10:30 Noon—3:30 PM

with

Melissa Gray!

“begin to create your own designs and patterns” in August with the Gansey Project!

P.O. Box 36
109 North Wilmington Street
Richlands, NC 28574

Phone: 910-324-6166
Email: linda@tail-spinner.com
Web: www.tail-spinner.com

Your Project is My Passion!

SHOP ON-LINE
AT
WWW.TAIL-SPINNER.COM

This list of tips and tricks can apply to knitters/crochetiers alike!

- Have a simple project going, such as a sweater with a fancy yarn in stockinette stitch, for traveling. No pattern repeats to worry about...just knit away.
- If you have access to a good copy machine or scanner, you can copy and enlarge the project, chart, or stitch pattern you are working on. This makes it easier to see and follow.
- A large basket or nice wicker hamper can be a nice place to hide your current knitting project, needles, gadgets, and yarn and keeps it from being unsightly when you are not working. Just whip out your project while watching TV or just sitting with family. If you get the right one, the hamper can double as a table, which you can use to hold your pattern directions and other things.
- Use a magnetized board or a plate holder to prop up you directions and stitch patterns, making them easier to read.
- Pry the plastic bottom off of a liter soda bottle. It's tough but keep at it. It makes a great yarn holder to use as you're knitting, keeping the yarn clean and tangle free.
- A small tackle or tool box makes a great container for holding knitting or crochet gadgets. They come with lots of compartments and open on two sides.

Coastal Carolina Belles on Wheels Fiberarts Guild



Jennifer Wisener, one of our new members, demonstrating Spinning Techniques

The Belles have been very busy! The group supported the Onslow County Museum for the Annual Civil War Encampment—Living History weekend in April. It was a good time! The museum will be expanding this event in the future to include more historical exhibits and demonstrations.

The Banks Party at the Pelletier House was held on the Sunday before Memorial Day. What a great event! Old time crafters were on display, and there were several local authors there to discuss their work. The grounds of the house were immaculate, and the day could not have been nicer. The ducks were playing in the water, spectators and participants had picnic lunches, and it was certainly a reminder of less hectic time in peoples lives.

In May, the group did some dyeing! In the end, several people took home some beautiful emerald green and sapphire blue icelandic pencil roving. There was also a pile or raw wool in the same colors that will need to be carded for spinning. Other

techniques were discussed, such as variegated/hand painted/patterned yarns.

The group will be doing a visit to Tryon Palace in June and will be at the Mall this Summer in either July or August.

In the meantime, the number of blocks for the quilt is growing, and time will be set aside for judging the blocks and putting together the quilt.

Anyone interested in joining our guild should give the shop a call.

