



In the Loop™

Applause, Applause:

Accomplished Knitters Graduate

Denise Chapman of Gwynedd Valley, **Joan Patton** of Ambler, and **Natalie Tine**, of Germantown, joined the ranks of accomplished knitters upon completion of the



Denise, Joan and Natalie picking up stitches.

shop's Introduction to Accomplished Knitting class. On their way

(Continued, Page 2)

The "Best" Designs From Yarn Shops Across the Country

Baby Trunk Show Comes in June

From June 9 through 16, The Knit With hosts a trunk show of garments and other knitting projects for babies, showcasing a variety of styles in a range of knitting skill levels.

Assembled from the best selling designs in independent yarn shops across the country, the trunk show features originals produced by the shops as well as the classic favorites from independent pattern writers.

Featured designs include this shop's own **Onesie Playsuit** – a self-assembling design knit in machine washable worsted weight wool and ideal for knitters who do not like finishing – and original designs from as many as 14 other shops.

This is the first Trunk Show hosted by The Knit With in many years.

Editors' Note:

Where We Are Going

Last Autumn, *In the Loop* readers were surveyed to learn how the newsletter works for them. We earlier reported on the overall results and were gratified by the extremely positive general response.

One area which readers noted needed improvement – often via personal notes, some of which were rather expansive – is for more ongoing contact with the shop. In the survey, the usefulness of four newsletters yearly received only a mid-range rating and the lowest average rating. It certainly is not news that the busy-ness of life, with the demands of family, home, jobs and other lifestyle

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First Hanks 'n Thanks Qualification

Geri Jones, of Lafayette Hill, has qualified to receive the first *Hanks 'n Thanks*™ reward in The Knit With's customer appreciation program.

"I didn't know there was so much competition to be the first knitter to qualify," Geri said when the moment occurred. "I just came into the shop to see what's new. I am happy to qualify for the reward but being the first – well, I am just shopping at my favorite yarn shop."

A retired school nurse, Geri is an avid knitter who makes time to knit almost every day. Her creations are primarily for own wardrobe. Her needles of choice are long bamboo though she 'throws' her yarn. Egyptian cotton is her preferred fibre – which she renders into a signature, textured-stitch pullover, with cables being her recent passion.



Geri Jones

"Knitting is a part of my life, I make time for it," Geri explains.

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New Cashmere Law Matches Reality

Conforming the legal definition of cashmere to existing industry standards, Congress enacted – and in late 2006, President Bush signed into law – the WOOL SUIT FABRIC LABELING FAIRNESS AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS CONFORMING ACT (Public Law No: 109-428).

The amendment to THE WOOL PRODUCTS LABELING ACT of 1939 affects certain wool products, manufactured on or after January 1, 2007, by among other things:

- defining, in micron measurements, the various fine and extrafine grades of wool;
- adopting the industry's standard as to what fibre from the cashmere goat may be branded as cashmere.

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Shop Talk:

Debit Shopping Now Available

The Knit With now accepts debit cards.

Debit shopping is a reality since the shop changed its merchant services provider from an affiliate of Citizens Bank, based in Georgia, to a Texas company. The new merchant services provider's processing methods allow for efficient, confidential and economical processing of debit cards. With the change, most non-cash transactions (personal checks, credit and debit cards) are processed electronically – allowing customers to pay for their yarn purchases in the manner which is most cost-efficient to the customer.

Consumers who pay for their purchases with debit or credit cards are often charged different processing fees by their banks – based solely upon whether a transaction is processed as a debit or a credit and oftentimes despite an immediate deduction of the purchase amount from the consumer's bank account. In addition, merchants services providers assess fees against most business accepting such cards. The shop's previous merchant services provider – tied to a large commercial bank – offered debit processing with onerous terms and conditions which favored the processing of debit cards as credit cards. The new merchant services provider allows The Knit With to accept debit cards and process such transactions as debits to the customer's bank account.

The Knit With will gladly accept any customer's check when the check is drawn on a bank anywhere in the US and made payable to The Knit With; check acceptance may require presentation of a valid driver's license or equivalent governmentally issued identification. The new processing equipment converts the written personal check into an electronic equivalent of the check and upon completion of the transaction, the check is returned to the customer. The change in check processing does not apply to traveler's checks.

The shop continues to accept the major consumer credit cards: Discover, MasterCard and VISA; The Knit With currently does not accept American Express cards but will do so again once the new merchant services provider completes the integration of its processing equipment with the American Express system.

the knit with

Tuesdays to Saturdays 10 to 6
CLOSED Sundays and Mondays through Labor Day

Spring - Summer Schedule

In the Loop™

A newsletter published electronically four times a year to the family of knitters and crocheters of

the knit with

Delighting Knitters (And Crocheters Too) Since 1970 !

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Hanks 'n Thanks First, From Page 1

ed. “ I have several projects underway almost all the time, and I knit on the one project which fits my mood at the time. I even created a checkerboard design to use my remaining bits of the various colors. ”

Applause, Applause, From Page 1

to becoming accomplished knitters, having knitted their vest, are **Ann Morgan, Susan Darrah** and **Carol Hunsiker**, all of Lansdale, **Kim Cox**, from Chestnut Hill and **Carol Ventura**, from



Susan, Ann and Carol with Jim

Elkins Park. Meanwhile **Lynda Oaten** of Chester Springs and **Maryalice Brennan** from Germantown, are mastering twists, crosses and cables.

New Cashmere Law Is Reality, From Page 1

The new legal definitions adopt existing standards – established by the International Wool Textile Organization for fine and extrafine wool and by Cashmere and Camel Hair Manufacturers' Institute for cashmere.

Items labeled as cashmere are now required to be made of the fine (dehaired) undercoat fibres produced by the cashmere goat (*capra hircus laniger*) which fibres may not exceed 19 microns in diameter.

The change seeks to protect consumers and industry participants from deceptively labeled products and to conform US standards to the generally, and internationally, accepted standards.

Where Are We Going, From Page 1

activities, can create intervals between a knitter's visits to the shop. The many notes – from readers who gave the question obvious thought – explain the checked answer.

Readers value Autumn, Holiday and Winter releases when they are thinking most of their knitting; but, they miss contact with the shop for the almost six months between April and September when no newsletter is issued.

Beginning with the next issue, *In the Loop* expands to six editions each year: two Autumn issues (a preview issue in mid August followed by an edition in early October), the Holiday issue in mid-November, Winter in early January, Spring in early March and the Summer issue in mid-May. During the time of the year when knitters most want news about knitting, only six weeks will elapse between editions and no more than 10 weeks will transpire between any two editions.

We are excited about the possibilities two more issues present. The two additional issues allow for new, interesting items; look for a series of feature articles, dubbed Designer's Focus, whereby we introduce you, somewhat in-depth, to a knitting designer each edition.

Dawn and Jim



FIBRE FACTS

QIVIUT

What Is Qiviut

Qiviut is the extremely fine down, or wooly undercoat, of the Musk Ox which protects these Arctic mammals against temperatures as low as 100 degrees below zero F. Musk Ox produce two coats of fibre: the outer coat, of guard hair which hangs almost to the ground in winter and is dark brown and very coarse, and an underwool, called *qiviut* (“kiv-ee-ut”), in various shades of light brown and gray which neither cold nor water can penetrate. Qiviut spins into an exquisite yarn, softer than cashmere, eight times warmer than sheep’s wool by weight and is knit into the most luxurious garments – usually shawls and scarves because qiviut lacks the “memory” of wool and therefore is often blended with fine wool and silks for other garments.

Zoologically and Geographically, Where Do Musk Ox Live

The Musk Ox, *Ovibos moschatus*, is a remnant mammalian species from the Pleistocene Era when it co-existed with mastodons and mammoths. Despite resembling bison, the Musk Ox is more closely related to Tibetan goats and sheep, having wandered across the Ice Age land bridge now known as the Bering Strait; fossil evidence indicates they ranged as far south as Ohio and France. Currently inhabiting the tundras of the American far Arctic North – where they subsist on a wide variety of foods such as lichens, grasses, and leaves and in winter even woody plants – the largest wild populations can be found in the Canadian Northwest and Nunavut Territories and in Greenland. No other hoofed animal has a natural habitat so far North. In the 1930’s, musk oxen were reintroduced to Alaska having been extinct there since the 1860’s due to human predation.

In 1917 the Canadian Government passed legislation banning musk ox hunting; global warming now threatens their environment by tundra melt. The Arctic wolf is the only serious natural predator of the Musk Ox although Polar and Grizzly bears pose seasonal threats. When threatened, the Musk Ox run to high ground and form a defensive ring, shoulder to shoulder with their heads lowered and sharp, upturned horns ready to gore attackers. Adult bulls stand at 5 feet and can weigh up to 1000 pounds; a single bull can maintain a small herd of as many as 12 adult females. Females are considerably smaller and while they have horns, females lack the males’ forehead bosses. Two breeds are commonly recognized: *Ovibos moschatus moschatus* (Barren Ground musk ox) and *Ovibus moschatus wardi* (the Greenland or ‘white face’ musk ox) although interbreeding can occur.

How Qiviut Is Harvested

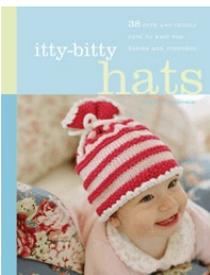
In the wild, Qiviut is naturally shed in the Spring and is simply gathered; when exposed to prolonged sunlight, qiviut “bleaches” to a dirty grey. Domesticated animals are combed much like cashmere goats. Like cashmere fibre, qiviut is de-haired to separate the coarse guard hair from the soft and very fine underwool although some processors are known to spin all musk ox fibre as qiviut. Unlike other natural fibres, qiviut does not dye well and is usually available in its natural color; when spun with guard hair, qiviut presents with a flat toned, dark tan yarn while de-haired fibre is often more lustrous and in a deeper light chocolate brown.

Production

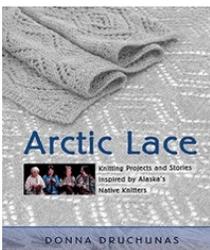
Five to seven pounds of this rare fiber can be collected from each animal every year; after de-hairing, about six ounces is available for spinning into the finest grades of qiviut yarn. The Inuit of Nunavut are piloting a program to commercially produce qiviut yarn; Alaskan qiviut is reserved for native production of finished knitting.

Newly Released Books Reviewed

Itty-Bitty Hats: Cute And Cuddly Caps To Knit For Babies And Toddlers by Susan B. Anderson published 2006 by Workman Publishing ISBN: 1-57965-295-6 coilbound at \$ 17. 95. Directed to the new knitter, who both has accomplished all that scarfknitting can teach and is ready to move on in her knitting, the admittedly self-taught author uses knitting baby hats as the medium for a surprisingly comprehensive exploration of basic knitting techniques and forays into the creative construction and embellishment of the simple stockinette cap. The basics of stitch architecture are well explained and adequately illustrated. A good book for those who must learn on their own.



Arctic Lace: Knitting Projects and Stories Inspired by Alaska's Native Knitters by Donna Druchunas published 2006 by Nomad Press, ISBN: 0-9668289-7-9 softbound at \$ 26. 95. Celebrating Qiviut, spun of the down of the Arctic Musk Ox (see, Fibre Facts on page 3 for more information about Qiviut), the author shares her journey in discovering this fibre and the Alaskan Oomimgmak (Musk Ox) Cooperative. The bulk of the writing is neither a true knitting book nor a comprehensive (nor, a critical) cultural survey but rather a collection of seemingly unrelated reminiscences; the book suffers from the author's grudging and lethargic style, which lacks personality and purpose and is overly reliant on doses of political correctness.



Wonderfully illustrating the Cooperative's lace patterns but without documenting those patterns, the book admits, but does not explore, that spinning and knitting Qiviut were unknown to traditional Alaskans but does document the late 1960's introduction of knitting to Alaskan native people years after the re-introduction of the Musk Ox. Perhaps the best part is the fully illustrated section about lace knitting and the author's lace stitches; we were enchanted with the North Star motif.

Knitting Beyond The Edge: Cuffs & Collars, Necklines, Corners & Edges, Closures by Nicky Epstein published 2006 by Sixth & Spring Books, ISBN: 1-933027-01-0 hardbound with dustjacket at \$ 29. 95

Home Knits: Luxurious Handknits for Every Room of the House by Suss Cousins published 2006 by Potter Craft, ISBN: 0-307-33591-7, hardbound with dustjacket at \$ 32. 50.

The Encyclopedia of Crochet Techniques: A Step-by- Step Guide to Creating Unique Fashions and Accessories by Jan Eaton, published 2006 by Quarto Publishing hardbound with dustjacket at \$ 27. 95.

Crochet Instant Expert: Patterns, Techniques, Stitches Inspiration by Katy Bevan published 2006 by Thunder Bay Press, ISBN: 1-59223-708-1 coilbound at \$ 21.95.

Why Are Merino Lambs Mulesed ?

Mulesing is the cutting away – using wool shears – of the wrinkled, wool bearing skin in the lamb's breech (rump) to prevent blowfly strike. As the cuts heal, the adjacent non-wooled skin pulls tight producing a smooth saddle which does not get fouled by feces or urine.

Flystrike, properly known as *cutaneous myiasis*, is an almost always fatal disease caused by the sheep blowfly to which merinos are unusually susceptible – because of their wrinkled breeches. In the absence of mulesing, the wrinkles become stained with urine and dung and serve as ideal hatching areas for the blowfly (*Lucilia cuprina*); when hatched, the blowfly maggots feed on the live lamb.

Glad You Asked

Sporadic answers to queer queries

Before onset of blowfly season and a few weeks after birth, lambs are mulesed, a procedure accomplished in only minutes, with little blood loss and promising permanent protection against flystrike and rarely causing death.

Named for John W.H. Mules – who discovered the technique – mulesing has been, since the 1930's, an approved husbandry practice in Australia where flystrike is common.

The Australian wool industry is investing millions of dollars researching alternative flystrike prevention methods and has pledged to phase out mulesing by 2010; mulesing is banned in Britain but is practiced elsewhere – wherever flystrike occurs.

An alternative approach is crutching, which is the repeated, regular shearing of the breech during each wool growing season although flystrike can still occur.

Yarn Recall Continues

The recall of six defectively spun and/or improperly labeled yarns – all sourced from Knitting Fever, Inc. – continues.

Announced October 16 by The Knit With, the recall is based upon extensive scientific testing performed on all cashmere content yarns stocked by the shop; the recalled yarns are not spun with the labeled quantities of cashmere and the Debbie Bliss yarns are not spun with cashmere at all. KFI has refused to provide a written guaranty of the cashmere content of the recalled yarns.

KFI and Debbie Bliss have challenged both the basis for the recall and The Knit With's testing methodology.

Purchasers of any of the six yarns recalled by The Knit With are requested to timely complete a recall claim. Claim forms, and complete documentation concerning the recall, are available in the shop; purchasers who no longer have a receipt or ballband labels as proof of purchase can participate in the recall via a constructive proof of purchase requiring their name to appear on the shop's customer list and a signed affidavit of purchase.

PUBLICLY RECALLED YARNS

Yarn	Brand
Cashmerino Aran	Debbie Bliss
Cashmerino Baby	Debbie Bliss
Cashmereno DK	KFI
Amagi	Noro
Cash Iroha	Noro
Lotus	Noro