

The Vermilion Bay Light

The Monthly VBYC Newsletter

2100 Verot School Road, Lafayette, Louisiana 70508 337-216-4564

June 2009



Summertime Children's Knitting Camps

It's time to plan summertime activities for the kids, now that school is out! What better way to engage your children in an activity that's creative, useful, and intellectually challenging! Knitting helps foster manual dexterity, hand-eye coordination, logic skills, and problem solving, just to mention only a few of the benefits. It's an artistic activity suitable for both girls *and* boys. The Vermilion Bay Yarn Company is offering special summer children's knitting camps in June and July for children in grades 3-8. Campers will meet once a week for one hour during each three-week session. The nominal class fee of \$25 per child includes basic beginner's supplies (yarn and needles) and a copy of Lucinda Guy's excellent textbook *Kid's Learn to Knit* (published by Rowan).

Session 1 camp for grades 3-5 meets 11am-noon on June 9, 16, & 23, grades 6-8, 1pm-2pm June 8, 15, & 22.

Session 2 for grades 3-5 meets July 14, 21, & 28, 11am-noon, grades 6-8, 1pm-2pm, July 13, 20, & 27.

Children may participate in both sessions 1 and 2 for \$40. To register, please call the shop or visit.

It's Time To Knit In PUBLIC!

Saturday, June 13th has been designated World-Wide Knit in Public Day. The Vermilion Bay Yarn Company has scheduled the KIP for the Lafayette area, starting at 10am, June 13th at Girard Park. Park near the baseball diamond and find our tent and grilling area set up on the park green adjacent. Additional parking is available nearby within walking distance. Please bring your knitting and/or crocheting projects, and what you'd like to grill for lunch as well as your favorite picnic side dish. VBYC will provide some picnic sides, and some drinks, but feel free to add to our WWKIP picnic offerings! Don't forget to bring a lawn chair!



World Wide Knit In Public Day is an event started in 2005 by a knitter named Danielle Landes. Since then, knitters and knitting groups around the world have staged events on WWKIP day to gather in a public place to work on their projects. It's a way for the knitting community to gather, share ideas, enjoy the company of fellow fiber fans, and also to build public awareness that knitting itself has a unique attribute of being a community activity, not an art form practiced by a few in solitude. We will all be meeting at Girard Park to observe the event by knitting (yes, and crocheting too!), visiting, and sharing a meal. The park is an ideal setting for such a gathering, as the park itself is a place where people gather — not to shop, but to be together as a group in a relaxed setting. The event is open to anyone (knitters and friends/family of knitters and crocheters). Plan to be with us from 10am, or come when you can throughout the day! We'll see you there!

A word from Jason about winding Malabrigo...

A person from out of state recently visited us and took home a quantity of Malabrigo sock yarn. I asked her whether she'd like me to roll the hank for her. Her reply got me thinking, and she was right: "No, thanks. I like to wind the hanks myself. It gives me a chance to learn about my yarn, to experience its personality."

It was a gemlike hank with variations of blues and greens, like the ocean. Around the same time, I had been reading on Ravelry some complaints from knitters and shop folks about the hassles of winding Malabrigo — the finer weight yarns, lace, and especially sock yarn, that is was nightmarish since it tangled easily. Several hundred yards of sock yarn does have horrific potential if tangled, and truth be told, I've been there, starring down a swift heaped with tangled Malabrigo, while an eager sock knitter waited in the knitting area for a ticket to the next knitting adventure. The South American origin of the yarn, along with the statements of the lady from Alabama with her ocean-colored hank reminded me of a fascinating poem by Pablo Neruda entitled "Enigmas". I printed an abridged version of the

verses here. You can read the complete poem online, or in the collection *Canto General*. The secrets of the ocean: who or what knows them, how are they revealed? And ultimately, are they ever really revealed? A hank of Malabrigo has its secrets, just like I was told. And those secrets may not necessarily allow themselves to be unlocked at first. The hank is wound tightly together. It must be released from its twist and returned to an open loop in which all the strands move in proper parallel alignment. Set upon the swift, the ties are cut — or not, depending upon whether the yarn itself is used as a tie — and the ends are located. Do they unwind from inside, or do they follow to the outside? Are they already on the outside? Secrets that each individual hank harbors in particular. Each hank is different in color and personality. Each does not allow itself to be taken for granted. When you work with your yarn, consider its personality, how it acts and reacts. It may not give up its mysteries immediately, but when it does, it will reward you!



"Enigmas", Pablo Neruda

You've asked me what the lobster is weaving there with his golden feet?
 ...You ask me whom the Macrocytis alga hugs in its arms?
 Study, study it, at a certain hour, in a certain sea I know

...I want to tell you the ocean knows this, that life in its jewel boxes is endless as the sand, impossible to count, pure, and among the blood-colored grapes time has made the petal hard and shiny, made the jellyfish full of light and untied its knot, letting its musical threads fall from a horn of plenty made of infinite mother-of-pearl.

I am nothing but the empty net which has gone on ahead of human eyes, dead in those darkneses, of fingers accustomed to the triangle, longitudes on the timid globe of an orange.

I walked around as you do, investigating the endless star and in my net, during the night... the only thing caught, a fish trapped inside the wind.

Did you remember to get me that Bettz Bag at VBYC?



The Knit Kit

Disappointed when you saw the Knit Kit peg empty? It's full again, folks! Come get your Knit Kit, if you've been waiting for them to arrive. About as big as a compact, this little case contains all the basic must-have's any fiber fan can't do without!

VBYC: THE BLOG!
 For up-to-the-minute info about Your favorite Yarn Shop!
www.vermilionbayyarn.blogspot.com

More Hiya-Hiya Grooviness!
 Bamboo needle lovers! VBYC now stocks standard lengths of the smaller sized bamboo circulars (sizes 0-4). We also have 9" circs!



Indisposed? We Ship!



QUEENSLAND SUGAR RUSH! SWEET!

If you love working with bamboo fiber, you absolutely can not miss out on the Sugar Rush! It's much softer than most bamboo yarns, and has a lovely sheen! Made of 100% sugar cane fiber, Queensland Sugar Rush is ideal for almost any project from baby wear to summertime garments for adults! You will be pleased with the excellent stitch definition your fabric displays, its great drape, and overall luxurious appearance!

KUDOS TO YOU!
 The new shipment of Plymouth Kudo has arrived! Kudo is a fine blend of Cotton, Silk, and Rayon in vibrant, cheery color ways! If you read Knitter's Magazine, you have seen the delightful garter stitch top made of Kudo in the color way shown in our shop display. We have both the pattern and the yarn! Stop in and start this quick, delightful summertime project!

Can't find the right pattern? Let VBYC design it for you!

CLASSES IN JUNE

Secrets of "Gauge" and Pattern Reading: Sat., June 20, 10am-noon
 Working with DPN's: Sat., June 27, 10am-noon



www.ravelry.com

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The Vermilion Bay
 Yarn Company



If you follow tweets on twitter, you can now follow VBYC's tweets on twitter! We're VerBayYarn! Follow us!

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**ULL STUDENTS
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**Priscilla
 By Della Q**

Need a project pouch that's more a bag than a pouch? Something a little more stable than a drawstring bag, but not as bulky as your main knitting bag? You need the Della Q Priscilla: flat bottom, sturdy construction with two jaunty handles. The Priscilla is ample enough to contain one project and supplies for a quick day trip or an evening outing to Knit Café! We have them in mauve, green, blue, and pink.



**1. Gauge
 2. Patterns**

? These two words often make beginning knitters run screaming from the room, when they really should be tools to help. What is gauge and why is it important? Those of you who have ever started making a garment in an adult size "Large" and ended up with a preemie vest know that gauge is important when it comes to making things that really fit. And then there's the mystery of the patterns: what's the logic with them? The words are English, but the jargon and syntax make them read like some lost code? If that's how you feel, you need to come for Gauge and Pattern Reading. Saturday, June 20, 10am.

Classes At Vermilion Bay

Check the class calendar in this newsletter and at VBYC:THE BLOG! If you have a particular project in mind (either Knitting or Crocheting) that isn't featured in the month's class schedule, we are happy to accommodate you in scheduling a time for a private class. Class flexibility is available only here at VBYC. Beginners in knitting and crochet learn in one-on-one sessions at the student's convenience.



SALE!!
 Selected yarns by *Lana Grossa*
 On sale NOW!
 Pashmina
 New Cotton Seta
 Linarte
 Baby Kid (mohair)
 Belfilo
 Cambio
Unbelievable summer savings!

Knit Café
 Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm: the bi-weekly potluck and fiber arts get-together at VBYC.



What are these?

Hair pins? Chopsticks? Plant stakes? Stealth Ninja weapons? Double pointed needles have been around probably as long as knitting itself. Even the ancient paintings of the Knitting Madonna show a project in progress...on DPN's! But how to use them? It's really not difficult. Learn how to work in the round on DPN's. Saturday, June 27, 10am.

When are Y'all open?

The Vermilion Bay Yarn Company is open Mon. Noon-6pm, Tues. 10am-8pm, Wed. 10am-6pm, Thurs. 10am-8pm, Fri. 10am-6pm, and Sat. 10am-4pm. Knit Café Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6pm-8pm.