

It's Official! Margaret Klein Wilson will be coming to Vermont on June 6-7.

Our long awaited workshops w/ Margaret Klein Wilson of Green Mountain Spinnery fame are here at last. We have scheduled Margaret to teach two of her most popular workshops, Introduction to Fair Isle Knitting and Fearless Steeking.

Fair Isle will be offered on Saturday, June 6 from 12 noon until 4PM. Through working a small 3-color gem of a Teddy Bear Sweater, students will gain hands on practice in using this practical knitting technique when working Fair Isle projects. The discussion includes a review of Fair Isle basics.

Steeking workshop will be held on Sunday June 7 from 10AM to 2PM. Beginner/Intermediate (3-4 hours) Traditional knitters from several cultures have, for centuries, included steeks in the structure of sweaters knit in the round with several colors in a charted design. The mere mention of “steeks” or cutting knitting is enough to inspire some knitters to shriek “no, no, no” and run fast in the other direction. In this class our project includes knitting a simple 2-color “wrist” with “steek” stitches. The steek sts will be cut to give you a mini-steeking experience; then finishing touches will be added and voila – a decorative wrist “ornament”. The methods of knitting in the round with 2 colors, cutting open the steek sts and finishing the edges securely and practically are easily transferable to other more complex garments designed with steeks.

Margaret authored the Green Mountain Spinnery book and has her own line of marvelous yarn from her own flock of Merino sheep. She will be having a small trunk show while at the shop, and it will be possible for knitters to acquire some of her yarns & patterns. All knitters and fiber artists are welcome to stop in and visit, but class sizes are strictly limited so don't delay; sign up today!! You may take both workshops for \$125, an impressive addition to your skill set; or if you like, pick one or the other for only \$65. And as always, class materials will be discounted. Green Mountain Fibers will provide light refreshments for our students but feel free to bring a lunch if you like.

Please call or write to the shop for any further information, and to register. And if you just can't wait until June, check our website for other classes.

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Mitered Square Workshop - Saturday, April 25, 1PM to 5PM.

If you've been admiring the fabulous mitered square vest designed and made by Mary Jeanne Packer from Finger Lakes Fibers, now is your chance to learn how to make it... as one of three great projects in the mitered square workshop. Select the vest, the Modern Quilt Wrap by Mags Kandis, or slightly-felted mitered bag in a pattern called Syncopation by Sheera. Cost for the workshop is \$55. Materials for these projects will be available at Green Mountain Fibers at a 10% discount. Call today to register!

We're also offering the mitered square workshop as part of a Spring on the Farm Retreat, April 24-26 - a knitting getaway at Liberty Hill Farm in Rochester, VT, an 1825 farmhouse providing the ultimate farm experience, including hearty farm fresh dinners and full country breakfasts. We'll tour a local fiber farm, enjoy leisurely hours of knitting while sipping wine and snacking on VT artisan cheese, visit Green Mountain Fibers in Rutland, and attend the 4-hour workshop on one of three mitered squares projects.

The anticipated cost for the 2-night retreat is \$275, which includes accommodations on Friday and Saturday, the workshop, tour and shopping transportation, and meals. We can arrange to meet you or pick you up from public transportation so call for travel information if you would like to attend. Registration for the retreat will close on April 27.

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Socks... Socks... and More Socks...

Have you heard about or seen the “monkey sock?” It gets its name because once you learn it, you'll be hooked on making this simple, yet interesting pattern. Gwen will be teaching the monkey sock in three sessions.

- Friday, May 1st from 6-8PM, start the sock
- Saturday, May 9th from 1-3PM, turn the heel
- Saturday, May 16th from 1-3PM, complete the toe

Cost for course is \$35. Sock is made from Jitterbug, which will be available at a 10% discount to class registrants.

Starting with the Monkey Sock, we're calling it “Sock Summer.”

We will offer three additional sock classes this summer in June, July, and August using the new and fabulous book, *Sock Innovation*, by Cookie A. (designer of the monkey sock). In June, we'll offer Ange made from Jitterbug; July will be Milo made from Lorna's Laces; and August will be Sunshine made from Schaefer. Cost for each class is \$35. With the purchase of *Sock Innovation*, you'll receive a special “buy two, get one free” ... classes that is. Stay tuned for specific details on dates and times for Sock Summer!

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Four Hundred Years of Green Mountain Fibers, July 24-26 – combines Vermont's agricultural heritage with the whimsy of “Champ” (Lake Champlain's own “sea monster”). Visit local sheep, alpaca, and goat farms to see how fiber is produced in Vermont (self-guided driving tour); take a class at Green Mountain Fibers in Rutland to learn how to design and create original clothing from local fibers for the “Dress Champ” competition, take part in spinning and dyeing demonstrations and related classes, and more. For Festival details visit:

http://celebratechamplain.org/component/option,com_eventlist/Itemid,66/func,details/did,137/

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Knitters Getaway in the Green Mountains, July 30 – Aug. 2 - designed by the Monday Night Knit Group at Finger Lakes Fibers. While in Vermont, the group will plan their itinerary together each day – and may include just sitting and knitting or a hike on Vermont’s Long Trail and a hot stone massage at the end of the day. Possible side trips to Green Mountain Spinnery in Putney, yarn shops in Saratoga, NY or Northampton, Mass., or Shelburne Museum’s quilt and textile collection. If you’d like to join the gals from Finger Lakes, check their website for details (www.fingerlakesfibers.com).

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New arrivals...

We now have sweater quantities of Cascade Sierra cotton in beautiful spring and summer colors!

It’s been on the shelf for a month or so, but if you haven’t put your fingers on the new Araucania Ruca made from Sugarcane then you’re missing quite a treat. It’s softer than a baby’s bottom and way more colorful!

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And lastly, don’t forget our Helmet Liner project that is well underway.

During World War II “Knit Your Bit” appeared on a famous poster showing a pair of socks in progress including the line, “Our boys need socks!”

Today our military men and women need helmet liners. Uncle Sam provides only silk liners, and an industrious local group has been knitting helmet liners in washable wool to keep our soldiers warm. When a wool helmet liner has been provided to someone we usually hear back that everyone in their group would like one.

With requests from one to fifty helmet liners at a time, we could sure use your help. If you know someone in the military who needs one or if you can help knit for others, please contact us.

We knit as a group on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 pm, at Green Mountain Fibers Yarn Shop on Woodstock Ave, Rutland, or you can knit at home and bring in the finished liners. We’ll get them to a soldier who’s cold. And if you’d like to sit & knit with us on Sundays and work on your own project that’s fine, too. We love company.



