

February 2007

EWES news

A proud presentation of the

www.gvhg.org

GENESEE VALLEY HANDSPINNERS GUILD

President's Message

Tina Turner

First and foremost I would like to thank our new member, Courtney Richards, for volunteering to be our new newsletter editor! It is a big job, but she has experience in the field and will be a great asset to our board.

The January meeting was a big success. We made over \$430 at our "auction"! Thanks to all who contributed to this wonderful event. We even made the deadline the church set, so that they could set up for their other function. I was impressed that we were able to do such a big meeting in such a short time!

February's meeting will be more relaxing. The only goal of the meeting is to arrive in one piece because we never know what the weather will be like. Then, relax and visit with everyone as you admire their current spinning projects. We will have extra time during this meeting since there will be no program. If you have a collection of show and tell items that you would like to show off, this would be a perfect time to display them.

I would also like to get ideas for future programs. So put your thinking caps on! We've had suggestions like learning to use a drop spindle and spinning angora. How would you all feel about doing another special event for May? Last year we had chair massages going on during the meeting that many enjoyed. Let me know what you would like to see and do! After all, this is your guild and should include programs that you enjoy.

Remember to bring in fiber, or anything you've made that are in the colors of pink and/or red to add to our calendar pages. The more the better!

Stay warm and happy spinning!

Events Calendar

February 17	Spin-in
March 17	TBA
April 20-22	Stella Maris Retreat Felted Mitten Demo

Except where noted, the Guild's regular meetings are:

*Third Saturday of each month
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.*

*First Presbyterian Church,
70 East Main St., Victor, NY.*

Come join us!

Editor's Yarn

Courtney Richards

Thanks for the kind words, Tina! Our guild is a warm and welcoming group and I sincerely appreciate the hospitality and kindness you have shown me.

I'm honored to serve as your editor, and I hope to continue the quality my predecessor, Sharon Ward, has established. Please extend your thanks to Sharon for her generous service.

As Tina mentioned, I'm a new member. I'm also new to spinning. I've been using a drop spindle for a few months and hope someday to spin laceweight yarn. I'd like a wheel eventually but I'm sticking with spindles until I can ~~get a job~~ afford a wheel.

Professionally, my background is in information technology and technical writing. Personally, I am interested in a wide variety of activities, from the abacus to German language to knitting to playing various musical instruments. Oh, and spinning! Who knew?

This is **your** newsletter! Please send your feature ideas, events, and articles to me by the 25th of every month. Comments and suggestions are welcome anytime. As I make the transition, please let me know if you have any problems receiving or reading the newsletter.

Spin on and spin happy!

Birthdays and Lots of 'Em!

January	February
3 Joan Berner	2 Kris Shanahan
4 Sean Osborn	3 Nancy Lebda
6 Ann-Marie Bird	6 Irina Pivtchev
10 Marcia Weinert	7 Lisa Gwinner
13 Diane Fudalik	10 Bonnie Weidert
21 Anne Marie Graham	11 Amanda Doherty
23 Sharon Ward	13 Peggy Green
24 Marnee Sacco	16 Carolyn Ravello
25 Nancy Vandivert	20 Cheryl Anne Tucker
27 Mary Ann Young	21 Donna Howland
30 Jo Hayward	22 Denise Syed
	23 Jan Delles
	24 Joan Bartos
	25 Lori Hicks
	27 Ray Rossiter

Important Membership Reminder!

Diane Seely

Please remember to renew your membership for 2007. Dues are due in January and the membership year runs from Jan. 1 through Dec. 31.

From time to time, I receive notices of special events and activities that may not get into the newsletter. You may want to supply me with your email address so that you can get these extra tidbits, even if you get your newsletter via the USPS.

Remember to check our web page www.gvhg.org (wonderfully and efficiently maintained by Carolyn Ravello) for updated information and events.

New Members

Diane Seely

Please welcome our new members (since November 2006):

Caroline Baker-Drake
 Genelle Thurman
 Phoebe Daniel
 Nancy Topolski.
 Kaitlyn Diaz Cruz
 Dana Rae Tucker
 Samantha Diaz Cruz
 Natasha Turner
 Courtney Richards
 Kelly Zodl

Many of our newbies are family of existing members.

2008 Calendar Project

Don't forget to bring in items of the month to be photographed for the 2008 calendar!

January	white/silver/lt. blue	July	red/white/blue
February	pink/red	August	Caribbean blues
March	green	September	Fiber Fest picture
April	yellow	October	orange/black
May	purple/lilac	November	harvest colors
June	flower colors	December	gold/red/green

GVHG Board

Position	Member	Phone	Email
President	Tina Turner	585-473-1265	turner@frontiernet.net
Vice President	Joan Berner	585-352-0852	jskberner@eznet.net
Secretary	Michelle Jarzyna	585-245-9778	tfh@frontiernet.net
Treasurer	Roberta Grainger	585-787-2144	—
Church Liaison	Wendy Caffee	585-398-3079	largewhitedogs@aol.com
Fiber Festival	Anne Marie Graham	585-323-9556	ariccil@rochester.rr.com
Educational Coordinator	Stefanie Ecker	716-432-0397	lotus585@cs.com
Website & Library Coordinator	Carolyn Ravello	585-381-4309	daverivello@earthlink.net
School Age Education	Susan Sommers	585-352-5132	susan.sommers@juno.com
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Warm Extremities	Lisa Gwinner	585-461-2014	gwincourt@frontiernet.net
Newsletter Editor	Courtney Richards	585-288-5412	cyrichards@gmail.com
Demonstrations	Val Gropp	585-468-5887	ggropp@hotmail.com
Immediate Past President	Sue Sayre	585-223-4945	gsayre@frontiernet.net

Knitted Bunny

A complimentary pattern from HeartStrings and Jackie E-S.

Make a bunny out of a square piece of knitting. It's almost as clever as pulling a rabbit out of hat!

Yarn and Needles

Any slightly fuzzy, smoothly twisted yarn in your choice of bunny color. You will not need much yarn—enough for about a 6" square plus a little more for the ears and sewing makes a nice size bunny.

Needles to knit your yarn to a gauge firm enough so stuffing won't show through unpleasantly, but not so firm as to reduce the "cuddly soft" feel and fuzziness.

If there is a recommended needle size on your yarn label, usually this or a size smaller is fine. Larger may be too loose. Example: 35 yards sport weight yarn on size 5 needles.



Other Supplies

- Tapestry needle
- Straight pins
- Stuffing

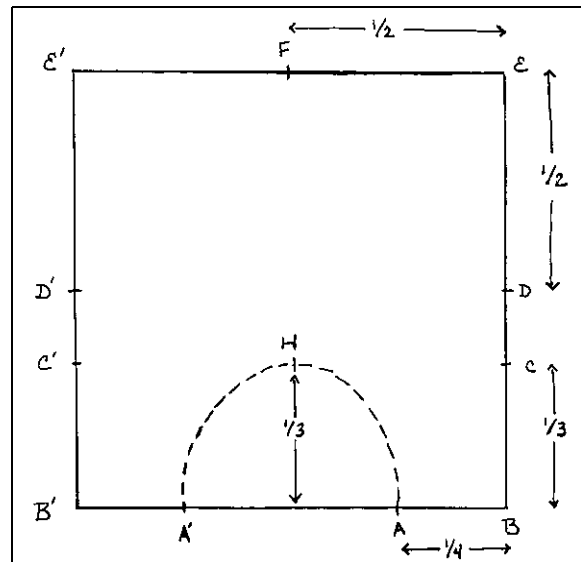
Instructions

Step 1: Knit the body

Cast on enough stitches for about 6". [Example, in sportweight yarn on size 5 needles, cast on 35 stitches.] Work plain in stockinette (knit 1 row, purl 1 row) until length is same as width. Bind off. Decide whether you want to use the knit (smooth) or purl (bumpy) side for the outside of your bunny.

Step 2: Sew the head

Using schematic as a guide, mark points A, A' and H with pins. Thread tapestry needle with a length of yarn about 24". Leaving tail about 8", start at A and sew with long stitches in a semicircle through point H, and back down to point A'. Gather this seam and tie ends in a square knot. Stuff head. Using ends of the gathering thread, sew chin closed.



Step 3: Sew front legs

Mark points B, B', C and C'. With ends of gathering thread in Step 2, sew edge AB to edge BC; and A'B' to B'C'.

Step 4: Sew back legs

Mark points D, E, F, D' and E'. Thread tapestry needle with a length of yarn about 24". Leaving tail of 12", start at F and sew edge FE to edge ED. Then re-thread needle with tail and sew edge FE' to edge E'D'.

Step 5: Complete the body

Firmly stuff the legs and body. Sew tummy seam closed. Bring the legs forward on the sides and sew the ends to either side of the bunny's tummy. Work in remaining ends invisibly.

Step 6: Make ears

Cast on 5 or 6 stitches. Knit in garter stitch (knit every row) 10 or 12 rows. Now, decrease a stitch every other row to form a long triangle. When only 2 stitches remain, knit one more row, then knit the 2 stitches together. Cut yarn and thread through remaining loop. Thread tapestry needle with cut end, and weave down through ear. Make another ear. With yarn ends, sew ears to each side of bunny's head, then fasten off invisibly.

Step 7: Tuft a tail

Take a small ball of stuffing and sew securely in place at bunny's rear. (Alternatively, you may pull a small amount of stuffing through with a fine crochet hook or similar.)

Enjoy!

Jackie E-S

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Bunny Tail Variation

Nicole Huan

I recently made a couple of these *cute* bunnies for a friend's baby shower. She had a bunny theme! I decided I wanted to make a more "secure" tail for the bunnies since this would likely end up in a child's nursery. Here's my simple version of the tail.

1. Using the same brand of yarn, but in white, knit an i-cord 4-4.5 inches long.
2. Finish off, tuck in ends.
3. Make a flat spiral with the i-cord. Using a sewing needle & white thread, sew in loose end and draw needle through to the other side of the spiral to make sure it won't come undone.
4. "Shape" the spiral into a good- looking tail and sew to bunny's bottom securely.

Just another idea I thought I would share! I've already been asked by a few folks who attended the shower for the cute pattern and have gladly sent them to the website!

Bunny Ear Variation

Barbara White

Dear Jackie,

I teach knitting here in East Tennessee. I send my beginning students to your site to print off the free bunny pattern. As first-timers they love to look at the site and the future things they will be able to make. It is also energizing to take the first swatch they do in stockinette stitch and make something out of it. It appeals to children and grandchildren of all ages. Thank you, thank you for making it available.

Some of my students had trouble making the ears stand up and resorted to calling their bunny a lop eared bunny. I made the following change to the ear pattern and the ears seem to stand up better.

Cast on 5 stitches.

Row 1: K

Row 2: K2, p, k2

Repeat these rows 5 times.

Decrease one stitch every other row, maintaining pattern until 2 stitches remain, then K, K2tog.

I would be honored if you would consider adding these ears to your pattern. I am enclosing a scanned picture of the ears which I had to flatten to scan. But if you try the pattern I'm certain you will see the more upright effect.

Thank you again.

Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild Membership Application

Full Membership: \$12/year

Includes attendance at all meetings, receipt of *Ewe's News*, GVHG's newsletter, advance information for special workshops, the annual *Finger Lakes Fiber Festival*, access to GVHG's library, and the camaraderie of other hand spinners!

Family Membership: \$17/year

Newsletter Only: \$7/year

*Please make your check or Money Order payable to
Genesee Valley Handspinners Guild
and mail along with this form to:*

GVHG Membership
C/O Diane Seely
800 Chili Avenue Ext.
Churchville, NY 14428

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Birthday (mm/dd): _____

I would like to receive my newsletter by: E-mail -or- USPS

E-Mail: _____

What spinning wheel(s) do you own? _____

What other fiber arts or hobbies do you do? _____

How long have you been spinning? _____

Do you have a favorite fiber(s)? _____

Have you ever demonstrated spinning? _____

Would you like to demonstrate spinning? _____

GVHG Newsletter
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Rochester, NY 14622

