

# **Workshop Offerings**

## **Short Biography**

**Suzanne has been knitting, dyeing, spinning, designing & teaching since the late 1980s. She has published patterns with Knitter's Magazine, Knitting Digest, Threads and Lion Brand Yarns, and has self-published via Ravelry. She has exhibited and taught at many festivals, including Estes Park, Taos Wool Festival, Big Sky Fiber Festival, Kid 'n Ewe and DFW Fiber Festivals, and recently added Interweave Yarn Fest in CO and Georgia Fiber Festival.**

**Suzanne has been Workshop Superintendent for Estes Park Wool Market and for Taos Wool Festival for many years. She is now happily NOT organizing anything but her OWN workshop and festival schedule. This is a selection of workshops she can offer off-site. More will be added as they are updated and created. If you have an idea for a workshop, feel free to contact Suzanne and let's see what we can come up with!**

## **Workshop Guidelines**

**It is suggested that a minimum number of participants be set at 3 and a maximum number be set at 12 or 15 (12 preferred) - depending on the class and whether it is for half day or full day. Fewer students means more individual attention and Suzanne likes to give that to her students.**

**There is generally a set workshop fee for teaching (middle of the road/reasonable). Assistance in either lodging or travel is appreciated - this can be flexible. Workshop organizers may set whatever student registration fee they chose. Generally the materials charge is separate and collected by Suzanne at the workshop and is kept reasonable but fair for the materials. There is always an excellent handout!**

**For more information, please contact her at: [suzanne@fireantranch.com](mailto:suzanne@fireantranch.com)**

# KNITTING

## A New Take on the Bohus Style

**Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner - must know how to cast on/bind off, and knit in the round (for the full version). I FAVOR using two circular needles, but you may use Magic Loop if you must or certainly 4 or 5 double points.

**Class Length:** This class works best as a Full Day (6 hour) workshop although it can be structured as an INTRO 3 hour class - students will learn and work a chart of Bohus knitting (back and forth) to study the effects of the technique, but will NOT be starting/working on a actual project. In the FULL class, students will also start/work on (in the round) an actual project of a pair of wristlets designed for the class.

Would you like to learn another style of colorwork? Uncomfortable with handling many colors in a row? Come join us in this "modified" style of Bohus Knitting - we are "cheating", but we will learn how to do it the traditional way if you don't want to cheat. Bohus was developed in the 1930s as a mean of economic develop et. It is traditionally done with an Angora-blend color yarn (many different colors) on a plain wool yarn background. Purl stitches add the unique texture that also creates the lovely color blending. We will be working with fingering weight yarn and not with Angora (for those who are allergic).



Estes Park



S'Mores & More Knitting Camp

## **Spiffy Socks – Sassy Socks and Stockings, Suzanne Style**

**Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner – must know how to cast on, cast off, increase & decrease

**Class Length:** This class works best as a Full Day (minimum 6 hours) workshop although it can be structured as a BASICS for a Half Day

**Socks are something that everybody needs but nobody seems to really respect. And such a fun project to knit – fast and portable too. Get as fancy as you like, or as subtle. Hand knit socks are just wonderful and fit SO well. Learn to make your first pair of socks and you'll never be able to stop. OR if you already make socks, learn how to make knee socks that fit – as in Kilt Hose that stay up – for that Scottish gentleman of yours. Fit your sock to YOUR foot. We'll cover basic shaping, a heel or two, and tips on what stitch patterns work best if you want to do a pair of kilt hose or other fancy socks.**



**Kilt Hose/Shaped Hose - we will learn how to shape, but not make a full pair**

## **Toe Up on Two for your Tootsies**

**Skill Level: Advanced Beginner – must know how to cast on, cast off, increase & decrease**

**Class Length: Works best as a Full Day Workshop as we cover a lot of material and finish a sample sock or two. Can be a Half Day, with less material covered.**

**Tired of boring basic socks? Ready to be adventurous and try the Flip Side? Learn to start your sock from the Toe and work UP! Socks do work both ways and while Top Down has been the most popular way of making them for a long time, there have always been those who have started at the other end. This is a GREAT way to work a pair of socks when you're not sure how much sock you can get out of your yarn or if you're not sure of the sizing - try them on as you go! And using the two circular needles just makes keeping track of everything much easier. Two different beginnings, two heels and a wonderful bind off, plus other techniques.**



**Samples from the Toe Up/Top Down Class**

## Shoulders that Sing

**Skill Level: Advanced Beginner - must know how to cast on, cast off, increase & decrease**

**Class Length: Half Day (3 hour) class WITH HOMEWORK BEFORE or can be a Full Day Class**

**There are shoulders and then there are SHOULDERS. They work well in the round, they work well flat – and they all keep the sweater from falling off your body! All sorts of styles, all sorts of ways of working them. Some of them are easy to do and some are harder, but can be MADE easier. They can be plain or decorative. Sewing can be involved or NOT. Some styles work for some people and look awful on other people.**

**Come learn a bit about the different shoulder styles and several ways of working and finishing them. We will practice on a few types and learn how to put it all together!**





## **Patchwork or Domino Knitting**

**Skill Level: Advanced Beginner - must know how to cast on, cast off, increase & decrease**

**Class Length: Works best as a Full Day (6 hour) class**

**Patchwork Knitting is a very neat way to design sweaters and accessories. You get very striking, designer effects with very little effort. You'll learn and/or refresh your skills in increasing and decreasing, picking up along edges, and joining pieces as you work. You will be able to practice weaving in ends. You'll learn new ways to look at color and texture and how to design garments and accessories using this fun technique that looks so much harder than it really is!**

**This is a great technique for using up all those odds and ends or special yarns we make or buy on impulse.**



# SPINNING

## Making Lumpy-Bumpy and Glamor Yarns

**Skill Level:** Must be able to spin on a wheel but any skill level after that

**Class Length:** Full Day or Half Day

There are two basic ways of making lumpy-bumpy yarn deliberately: **Creating Texture in the Singles and Texture in the Plying.** We'll learn how to do both, including making slubbed and garneted yarns, knot yarns, tufted yarns, snarl yarns, etc. We'll take you through some quick tricks with mohair and other curly fibers, to get quick Designer Yarn results and some easy plying tricks too. We'll also cover ways to spice up your otherwise smooth yarns by experimenting with adding other fibers.

## Spinning with Beads and Knitting with Beaded Yarns

**Skill Level:** Advanced Beginner - should be able to spin on a WHEEL and basics of knitting (cast on, cast off, knit/purl, etc)

**Class Length:** Full Day Class for BOTH sections (Spinning in the AM and Knitting in the PM) - the basics of it work as a half day class

Love those beaded yarns but some are just TOO glitzy? Or maybe not glitzy enough? Want to make your own? Come learn how to spin with beads. We are NOT talking about just stringing the beads along the yarn as you play, but spinning them ONTO the singles, as well as the other methods to add them to your yarns. We will also learn about which beads work best, what projects you can do and how to handle the beaded yarns in your knitting for the best effect for your individual projects and tastes.



**Beads spun on various fibers and knitted up**

# **WEAVING & BRAIDING**

## **Dorset Buttons - a Woven Button Style**

**Skill Level:** Beginner - able to handle a needle and yarn. Working with small, but not necessarily teensy things. A magnifier might be helpful, but not necessary.

**Class Length:** Works best as a Full Day (6 hour) workshop. The basic techniques are easy to learn for the morning session, and the afternoon session can be devoted to learning different techniques and making more buttons. Death's Head buttons may also be covered if there is time.

**Do you think a garment isn't finished until it has buttons? Do you have your mother's or grandmother's button tin? Are buttons your favorite souvenir because they're pretty, don't take up much space and can be used for more than just fastening things? Do you just love buttons? Then come play with us and learn a button technique that combines your love of buttons with weaving and yarn!**

**This style of button started in the late 1600s as a cottage industry in the Dorset district of the UK, and had its heyday up until WW1. The originals are highly collectible and the modern interpretations are gorgeous. Come enjoy this easy, portable, FUN buttons technique!**



**Examples of two Dorset button weaves.  
Can be used as buttons or jewelry**



## **A Good Beginning: Card Weaving**

**Skill Level: Beginner (or as a refresher) - No experience necessary**

**Class Length: Full Day Class recommended although it can be a Half Day**

**You can weave with cards? With holes in them? Yes indeed! Cards, Tablets, Beer Coasters, anything that is somewhat stiff, comfortable to hold in the hand, and generally square, although other shapes can be used. This is a simple, easy-resource method that can produce very complex weaves, or not, as you choose.**

**Work to a pattern, or create your own. And oh so portable! You are only tied down to the weaving when you are actually weaving, or not at all with a frame. Think of this as a Beginner or Refresher class in the ancient tradition of Tablet Weaving – a multicultural, warp-faced weave generally used for narrow goods.**

## **EVERYTHING ELSE!**

**Rope Making, Cord Making, Lead Ropes & Leashes - REALLY FAT YARN!**

**Skill Level: No experience necessary**

**Class Length: Works great as a half day class**

**Come discover or re-discover the fun of making rope al la Girl Scouts/Boy Scouts, with a bit of refinement. We will learn how to make our own cordage using a strong WOOL, (yes, wool) yarn, and everybody will go home with SOME sort of rope, generally a leash for the family dog. We will learn about the beginnings (the raw materials), the middles (the twisting) and the ends (finishing touches). There will be lots of laughing and teamwork is the key!**



**Wool Rope**

## **How to Play Dirty - aka - Mud Dyeing!**

**Skill Level: Any - no experience necessary**

**Class Length: Can be either Full Day (6 hr) or Half Day (3 hr) Class**

**Come join us as we play in the mud and get great natural colors to boot. Mud and clay can be used for soak dyeing and painting on many fabrics and fibers. We will explore these techniques using different muds and clays, plus different fixatives. Some results can be seen immediately (think of the kids' clothing when they come in from playing in the mud), while others may take weeks, or even months to see the final (spectacular) results which are Semi-permanent to Permanent and another version of natural dyeing.**

## **Knitted/Crocheted/Woven or Cut & Sew Cocoon**

**Skill Level: Any level of fiber worker in any discipline - simple sewing skills needed**

**Class Length: Good Half Day (3 hr) Class**

**Make a glamorous yet so easy garment that is flattering to just about every female shape. Gauge it for your own yarn, needles & style of knitting, crocheting or weaving. Or go through that stash of fabulous drapeable fabric you couldn't resist buying! This is another great idea for those odds & ends that you wouldn't necessarily want to use in a Patchwork Knitting garment or accessorie. Take some of those older rectangular shawls and wide scarves you played around with and turn them into a dramatic garment.**

## **Inlaid Felting - a Hot Pad Project**

**Skill Level: Any - no experience necessary**

**Class Length: Good Half Day (3 hr) or Full Day Class (6 hr) with more finished felting**

**This is exactly what it sounds like: Putting one piece of felt into another. Learned from Alexander Pilin, a noted Russian felter, this method is light on the use of water or soap, until the final hardening stage. We will use felting needles and threads and yarns not so much as design elements, but for beginning construction of the pieces. In a Pilin workshop, you would most likely be making a rug - here we will make a hot pad or two.**

## **In the Works or being Revamped**

**Kumihimo (Japanese Braiding) - reworking it with new braid ideas & tools**

**Make your own Fiber Tools - an old favorite that is getting a makeover**

**Using Weaving (Sewing) Patterns for Knitting - more ideas like the Cocoon**