

ISSUE

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January 2010



DAYLILIES

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You can't wait for inspiration. You have to go after it with a club."

Jack London

Life is a great big canvas and you should throw all the paint you can on it."

Danny Kaye

Creating 2010

January 2010 is a very important time for us here at Daylilies. Not only does it mark the very first January that Daylilies is in operation, but it is a brand new year filled to the brim with creative fun and experiences we have yet to encounter!

Now, if you have been following along with our daily [blog](#), you know that our January start has not been as swift as we would have liked, but this is all about to change. Beginning January 14th, we are going to start our very first Learn-Along: Loom Knitting. I would love to say more about Loom Knitting, but I can't – I really don't know much about it except that you don't need to have any knitting experience to jump right in and give this a try with me. Later this week (the week of the 11th) we will check out the supplies we need and choose a pattern to try before we get working. I hope that you will join us. (Learn-Alongs are free to join.)

And don' forget to check out the [blog](#) the week of the 11th to have your say on the project we try. Read page 4 of this newsletter for our Learn-Along schedule for January and February.

Also brand new for 2010 - our [Etsy shop](#): if you like something you see on our blog, but don't want to try and make it yourself, the project made for the blog may just be sitting in our [Etsy shop](#) waiting for you. But as always, patterns for blog projects are still available through the [Daylilies website](#).

Personally, I hope that 2010 is a great year for all of us – that the sun shines brighter and warmer than it did last year, that laughter rings out more, even in times of frustration, and that we all experience even just a little of the magic of creativity in our lives.

Here's to making 2010 a fabulous year!

Debra O'Connor

Great Reading! Recommended Reads...

For Adults:

In the middle of winter, my creative thoughts always seem to turn a little more towards all things warm, so it should come as no surprise that the recommended reading for this month is all about knitting. *Stitch 'n Bitch: the Knitter's Handbook* by Debbie Stoller is a call to reclaim 'lost domestic arts', and once again embrace the wonders of knitting, but it is also a fantastic how-to for all things knitting.

Not only does this book offer 40 fashionably edgy knit patterns designed by young, fresh designers, but *Stitch 'n Bitch* makes even the most confusing aspects of knitting seem easy to understand. The pictures are humorous and make the written instruction even more clear.

From the newest of knitters, to the experienced knitter looking for great new ideas, this book is for you!



January's Studio Picks: The Neck Warmer Scarf Pattern

Choosing our very favourite pick this month was really not that difficult – as the temperature falls ever lower outside, our thoughts are more and more about all things warm. And nothing is warmer in this cold than the Neck Warmer Scarf.

This pattern was originally featured on the Daylilies [blog](#) November 17, 2009, and is available as a free download on the [Daylilies website](#) or as a finished product at our [Etsy store](#). It is also one of the most re-done patterns in the studio!

So why do we love this pattern so much? Well, it really is because this scarf is just all around wonderful. It is easy to knit (even great for beginner knitters!), takes only a small amount of wool (1½ balls), is comfortable to wear, and is a fashionable way to stay really warm this winter.

This is a great way to be more creative in 2010!

maddy laine™



New in the Studio: Frosty Felted Mitts a Maddy-Laine™ Pattern

Warm and beautiful, these felted mittens are first knit as fabric in worsted weight 100% wool then felted to complete the mitts. Only basic knitting is required to make these professional looking mittens in small, medium and large for all of your family and friends this winter.

Instructions for all five pattern variations are included with the pattern. Pattern price is only \$5.95. Bamboo knitting needles and 100% wool worsted weight yarn is also available.

10 Second Creativity Boost

Kick start your day with a little creativity! Don't just grab your java like you normally do – add a dash of cinnamon, nutmeg, cocoa, cardamom, vanilla, honey or switch up your sugars for a great start to your day and your creativity.

More Thoughts from the Blog:

Giving Handmade and Homemade

This issue of the Daylilies newsletter follows what was a very busy December in the studio. By the week before Christmas there were 38 Christmas gift ideas and patterns posted on the [Daylilies blog](#) – all in an effort to highlight some fun, easy, and fantastic ways to give handmade and homemade in 2009.

But what about 2010? Although the economy is slowly getting better, prices in stores are still high and selection is very low. Homemade and handmade is a great way to save money and have the goods that you want when you want and just the way you want. So, whether you are still thinking gifts for others (the most organized of us are already planning for Christmas 2010) or gifts for yourself, we still wish to encourage you to try handmade and homemade.

And to do that, we would like to share some of our very favourite internet resources for great ideas, patterns and instruction.

[Lion Brand Yarn](#) – Lion Brand Yarns are great yarns – but this site is also a

treasure trove of knitting and crochet patterns. There are patterns posted for children, women, adults, toys and household goods. Some are free, and some are purchased, but all are gorgeous.

[Craftster](#) - Craftster is a wonderful site with tonnes of how-to information for just about any creative activity you want to try out. Since much of the site is forums, you can ask your own specific questions and read how other crafters have solved the problems you might be facing. Contributors of the forums also post their own pictures so you can see what other people are doing!

[Skip to My Lou](#) - This is an awesome site for ideas, especially for kids and those of you who work with kids. The site also has areas set aside for holiday craft ideas – look to this site for some really neat valentines! (And we think that the magnetic paper dolls is also a really great idea.) And, if you are still looking to give handmade for 2010 – Skip to My Lou has a really [great list](#) of gift ideas to make and give.

Great Reading! Recommended Reads...

For Kids:

I came across this book quite by accident when I was randomly pulling titles from the library shelves a year ago, and I am glad that I did. *Crafting Fun: 101 Things to Make and Do with Kids* by Rae Grant is jam-packed with seasonal ideas to keep the kids busy and creative through every month of 2010!

The instructions in this book are easy for older kids to read and follow as they lean to make everything from handmade paper to pens, jewelry, scrapbooks and so much more. It is also a great resource for parents with younger kids – loaded with lots of solutions to “Mom, I’m bored!”.

If your kids ever wondered how to collect spider webs, cast animal tracks during a backyard camping trip or make beads out of rose petals, this comprehensive book makes family creativity fun and easy for kids and parents alike.



Creativity for a Cause: Using your Creative Skills to Help Others in 2010

There are lots of ways that you can use your creative skills to help out the needy in our communities this year. Please review the opportunities below and consider lending your hands to making this world a better place in 2010.

[Project Linus](#) – Make a blanket for needy, sick or traumatized children aged 0-18 years. Project Linus has chapters throughout North America. All manner of blankets are accepted – your creativity is your limit!

[Alzheimer's Art Quilt Initiative](#) – Lend your quilting skills to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. This initiative sells donated 9 x12" mini quilts through online monthly quilt auctions to raise funds for research funding. This initiative is U.S. based, but will accept quilts from anywhere, and research funding helps us all.

[Angel Hugs](#) – Donating much needed items to hospitals and shelters, Angel Hugs is a Canadian support organization that provides patterns and lists of needed goods in the Mississauga, Ontario area. Knitters, crocheters and quilters wanted!

[Chemocaps](#) – Help a cancer patients in hospital or in hospice by knitting a soft, hand-knit cap. Patterns are listed on the website – for both beginner and advanced knitters alike.

[Blankets for Canada](#) – Blankets for Canada takes knit or crocheted blankets and distributes them locally to where you live in Canada. They say that only 8 minutes of knitting or crocheting daily will help keep Canadians warm.

Please note that Daylilies does not specifically endorse any of these organizations, but we do encourage you to experience the joy of giving and the joy of creating. Happy creating!

Learn Along Schedule

January 14 – 30: Loom Knitting

February 4 – 20: Drypoint Needle Felting

February 25 – 27: Kool Aid Dyeing

Monthly Webstore Specials at www.dayliliescreative.com

January 2010 (starting Jan 19th)

10% off all

Pre-ordered drypoint needle supplies

February 2010

10% off all books and patterns

Coming Soon to Daylilies

- Knitting Patterns by Maddy-Laine™, Knitwits™, Vadis Designs, and Ilge Lela
- How-to Books by various authors
- Your Personal Creativity Assistant

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