



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

February 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

February Meeting

The general meeting is Saturday February 3, at 10:00 AM in the Turkey Red Banquet Room, 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.

Time to pay annual dues:

Dues for calendar year 2024 are \$30.00 for both new or renewing members.
Your options to pay are:

- (1) Pay online at our website: <http://www.valleyfiberarts.org/>
- (2) Attend the meeting.
- (3) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876142, Wasilla, AK 99687

When making your payment please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter. If you have paid your dues but are not getting the newsletter, please contact Julia Lenz at moor.lenz@gmail.com.

Upcoming February Events for VFAG

Knitting Machine Workshop - Building a Hat

The workshop is on Saturday February 10th, 2024 from noon to 4:00 PM. It will be held at the instructor's home in the Palmer area. There are only 5 spots available so register soon if you want to attend.

Click this link for more information and to register:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/valley-fiber-arts-guild/knitting-machine-workshop-building-a-hat>

Spinning Bee: Saturday, February 24, 2024

The annual spinning bee will be held at the Turkey Red banquet room 10 AM – 3 PM. This fun event is both the chance to gather and spin with fellow members and an educational outreach to teach spinning to the valley community. Volunteers are needed to come spin and help teach spinning to visitors.

1st Annual Fiber and Ski Weekend February 16, 17 & 18, 2024

There are still a few slots open for this fun relaxing retreat.

Spend the weekend at Mountain Streams B&B near Hatcher Pass. <https://www.mountainstreamslodge.com/>.

This fabulous weekend is being planned with the Anchorage Guild, so we'll see some of our Anchorage friends too.

There are groomed ski trails right at the B&B so bring your favorite fiber project as well as your ski gear. No vendors or formal classes. However, sharing your fiber knowledge is always welcome.

For more information and registration use the following link:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44AEAC2BA1FC1-45343289-february>

VFAG 2024 Year-at-a-Glance 2024

See the bottom of this Newsletter to view the Year-at-a-Glance: [VFAG 2024 Calendar](#).

Future Workshops

Feb 10: Knitting Machine Workshop (see explanation above)

Mar 23 or 24 Advanced Plying at Turkey Red with Laurie Sitkiewicz

May (Date TBA): Fleece prep and scouring at Yule Farm by Tracey Eason

In the works: Rigid Heddle Workshop

Oct 18-20 Fall Fiber Retreat: Natalie is working at bringing up a Master Wet Felter from the Seattle area to hold workshops for the weekend.

If you have an idea for a workshop you would like to see, or if you are willing to teach a class or workshop, contact Natalie (gmat@gmail.com; phone: 907-312-3107)

Fiber Retreats at Camp Maranatha

April 19-21 Spring Retreat, this will be held at Langley Hall only, not in the gym.

Oct 18-20 Fall Fiber Retreat, this is expected to be a larger event, so we will be using the gym with plans to have a master wet-felter teaching workshops during that weekend.

Fiber Festival VFAG needs volunteer to run sheep to shawl:

Sheep to Shawl Exhibition is happening Saturday and Sunday July 20 & 21. The VFAG needs a volunteer to coordinate the team for the Sheep to Shawl for both the Saturday and Sunday of the exhibition.

State Fair Fiber and Fleece Update

State Fair Superintendent, Jude Johnson, updated us on dates for fiber and fleece exhibits. Entry submissions will be August 2 and 3, Judging will be August 4, and fleece judging will be Aug 7/8.

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is March 2, 2024.

This meeting will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer.

Baby blanket squares

VFAG Vice President Valerie Groseclose, is due in May. We are accepting donations of finished 5" x 5" squares to assemble for a baby blanket. The squares can be knitted, crocheted, or woven. The preferred colors are blues or blue-greens. Please tag your square with your name. Bring your finished squares to a future meeting or if unable to attending a meeting contact Kelsey Gerke via email: (knitwitak007@gmail.com).

Board positions open for election this year (in May)

Time to start thinking about nominations for these positions on the VFAG board.

President

Secretary

Workshop Coordinator

Online VFAG Swag Store Up and Running

Don't forget you can order your own VFAG swag in the form of T- shirts, hoodies, aprons or totes. Click this link to view the goods and order: www.hiresgraphicsak.com/valley-fiber-art-guild

Name Tags:

A new source for the name tags has been secured and a new supply is on order.

Knit Night every Monday at Vagabond Blues

After 5:00 pm. An informal gathering of fiber folks for fellowship and working on fiver projects.

VFAG events throughout the year:

Upcoming VFAG events: These are events which the guild sponsors or participates in throughout the year. Volunteers are always appreciated to help at these events.

- *Feb 24: [Spinning Bee](#) (outreach and gather to spin and teach others to spin)
- *May 4: [VFAG meeting catered lunch with election of new officers](#)
- *May 12: [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm](#) (demo fiber art of your choice)
- *April 19-21: [Spring Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat](#)
- *July 13: [Palmer Garden and Arts Faire](#) in Palmer
- *July 20-21: [Fiber Festival](#) at Alaska State Fairgrounds (third weekend of July)
- *Aug-Sept: [Alaska State Fair](#)
- *October: [Fall Alaskan Fiber Arts Retreat](#),
- *Nov 23: [Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot](#)
- *Dec 2: [VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange](#)

Board of Directors:

Officers

President: Kelsey Gerke, knitwitak007@gmail.com

Vice President: Valerie Groseclose; groseclosevr@gmail.com

Treasurer: Tracey Eason, tracey.eason@gmail.com

Secretary: Amanda Johnson, mandaj_29@yahoo.com

Volunteer Positions

Communication Coordinator: Julia Lenz, moor.lenz@gmail.com

Historians: Malin Campbell, Linda Loven, Julia Lenz

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

Year at a Glance:

Valley Fiber Art Guild 2024 Calendar

January

January 6th, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Dues Reminder
Goals for the year- Committee Sign-ups
New Year's Declarations read and made
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: Make Drop Spindles for St. Distaff's Day

February

February 3, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

February 10, 2024 Knitting Machine Class, noon to 4:00, Instructor: Lynx Mullen

February 24, 2024 Spinning Bee: 24th from 10am-3pm in the Turkey Red Banquet Room

March

March 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

March 23/24, 2024 Advanced plying workshop, Instructor: Laurie Sitk

April

April 6, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Board Nominations Committee
Spring Retreat at Camp Maranatha in April, Date: TBA
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

May

May 4, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Board Elections and Catered brunch
Plan Summer events – [Musk Ox Farm Mother's Day, Garden & Art Mid-Summer Fair, Matsu Fiber Festival, Alaska State Fair, etc.]

May 12, 2024 Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm

Valley Fiber Art Guild 2024 Calendar

June

No meeting

July

No meeting

July 13, 2024: Garden & Art Mid-Summer Fair in Palmer

July 20-21, 2024: Matsu Fiber Arts Festival – Sheep to Shawl at State Fairgrounds

August

No meeting

Alaska State Fair - Entry dates: August 2 and 3

Alaska State Fair: Judging date: August 4

Alaska State Fair: Judging of fleece August 7

Alaska State Fair: Fiber arts demonstrations throughout the fair

September

September 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

October

October 5, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Planning for November Sale, November 23
Fall Retreat, Date: TBA
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

November

November 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
Planning for November Sale- Last minute details
Show-n-Tell

After Meeting Program: TBA

November 23, 2024 *Out of the Box Guild Sale* at Palmer Train Depot, Setup at 8am. Sale runs 10am-4pm

December

December 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

Holiday Brunch Meeting
Gift Exchange/Show and Tell