



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

March 2024

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

MARCH IS NATIONAL CRAFTS MONTH

March 2, 2024 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday March 2 at 10:15 AM**, at Turkey Red Restaurant banquet room. Turkey Red is located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.



Group Show and Tell at February Meeting

Upcoming Events

Fleece Preparation and Processing Workshop, March 23, 2024

Noon to 4pm at the Turkey Red banquet room

Cost: \$20.00

Interested in learning how to prepare and process a raw wool fleece into top or roving for spinning or felting? Please join us for an afternoon of fun and hands on learning! Instructors will show you different fleece preparation and processing techniques, to include:

1. How to skirt and wash a fleece
2. Different fleece prep techniques
3. What is worsted versus woolen prep
4. How and when to use hard carders and/or drum carders to make roving
5. How to use combs to make top
6. Wool prep tools and tips

You will be supplied with washed fleece that you can learn to process for spinning or felting. You will be given the opportunity to practice using combs and/or carders. You can take home the fleece that you prepare at the workshop that is procured from a local sheep farm! To register click on this link or scan the QR code:

<https://www.ticketleap.events/tickets/valley-fiber-arts-guild/fleece-prep-and-processing>

Spring Fiber Arts Retreat April 19-21, 2024:

April 19-21, the spring retreat will be held at Camp Maranatha. Due to expected lower attendance at spring retreats, this retreat will be at Langley Hall only. If you plan to stay, overnight be sure to register early due to limited number of rooms available. Registration information will be out soon.

[Note that the October Oct 18-20 Fall Fiber Retreat, is expected to be a larger event; therefore both Langley Hall and the gym will be in use. There are plans to have a visiting master felter teaching workshops during that weekend.]

Future Workshops (still in the planning stages):

Dye Day in May (date: TBA)

Advanced Plying

Intro to Tablet Weaving

Intro to Rigid Heddle Workshop

Wet felting class from a Master Wet-Felter at the October Fiber Retreat

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)



The Fiber and Ski Retreat was a great Success!

This joint retreat with the Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild Feb 9-11 was relaxing, fun, and a great opportunity to meet and get to know fellow fiber art enthusiasts. Many new fiber friendships were made.

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is April 6, 2024.

This meeting will be 10:15 AM Saturday at Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer.

Baby blanket squares

VFAG Vice President Valerie Groseclose, is due in May with a baby boy. 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. Please tag your square with your name. Deliver your finished squares by the April meeting or if unable to attending a meeting contact Kelsey Gerke via email: (knitwitak007@gmail.com).

Seeking someone to coordinate the Sheep to Shawl

VFAG is looking for someone to volunteer to coordinate the sheep to shawl exhibition at the Fiber Festival in May. This is an important position and without a coordinator we will not be able to participate in this lively fun event.

Board positions open for election this year (in May)

Nominations are still being accepted for these positions on the VFAG board.

President: current nominee: Kelsey Gerke

Secretary: current nominee: Amanda Johnson

Workshop Coordinator: current nominee: Natalie Wolfe

Online VFAG Swag Store:

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:

Name tags have been ordered. Since the new source for the tags has proved costlier, we will be charging \$6.00 for replacement cards.

Opportunities for Fiber Gatherings

Knit Night every Monday at Vagabond Blues

After 5:00 pm. An informal gathering of fiber folks for fellowship and working on fiber projects at Vagabond Blues in Palmer.

Common Threads at the Sutton Library

Common Threads meets every other week on Friday at 12PM (noon) from September through April.

Meetings in March are the 8th & 22nd.

This is a casual meeting open to all fiber folks. Bring a portable fiber project, gather and visit in a relaxing beautiful area.

Sit and Spin at Fiber and Ice

The first Saturday of each month spinners gather at Fiber and Ice yarn shop in Wasilla to visit and spin. Starting at noon.

Knitting at the Palmer Senior Center

Every Thursday 10 AM to Noon

Shop Local

Peak Outpost in Palmer: <https://www.facebook.com/thepeakoutpost/>

(Check in with them for possible fiber art classes.)

Fiber and Ice in Wasilla: <https://fibernicealaska.com/>

(A great source of yarn and all things fiber plus they offer various classes)

Yule Farm in Palmer area: <https://yulefarm.squarespace.com/>

(Check for upcoming workshops)

Becca's Alpacas in Palmer: <https://beccasalpacas.com/>

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. [Also see VFAG Calendar](#) at the end of the newsletter.

*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 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](#)
- *Oct 18-20: [Fall Fiber Arts Retreat](#),
- *Nov 23: [Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot](#)
- *Dec 2: [VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange](#)
- *Feb : [Spinning Bee](#) (outreach and gather to spin and teach others to spin)

Membership dues for 2024.

For new members or those who haven't yet paid dues for 2024. 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

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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

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

VFAG 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

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

Dues Reminder, Goals for the year,- Committee Sign-ups, New Year Declarations read and made

February

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

After Meeting Program:

Knitting Machine Workshop February 10th

Spinning Bee February 24th from 10am-4pm 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

After Meeting Program:

March 23rd 12-4pm Fleece Woolen & Worsted Prep (Comb/Card) at Turkey Red Banquet Room

April

April 6, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room

After Meeting Program:

Board Nominations Committee

Spring Retreat April 19-21st- Langley Lodge Only, space limited

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

Summer Events Planning

Dye Day- date TBA

Musk Ox Farm Mother's Day May 12th- Spinning

June

No meeting

July

No meeting

July 20-21 Matsu Fiber Arts Festival – Sheep to Shawl

August

No meeting
State Fair -

Entry dates: August 2 & 3
Judging date: August 4 & 5

September

September 7, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

October

October 5, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

Planning for November Sale
Fall Retreat October 18-20th- Out of State Felting Artist Weekend Long Workshop

November

November 2, 2024 9:00 am board meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
10:15 am general meeting at Turkey Red Banquet Room
After Meeting Program:

Planning for November Sale- Last minute details

November 23rd, Saturday *Out of the Box Guild Sale* at Palmer Train Depot
Setup at 8am 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
After Meeting Program:
Holiday Brunch Meeting
Gift Exchange