



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

April 2025

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

April 5, 2025 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **10:00 AM Saturday April 5**, in the Turkey Red restaurant banquet room. Turkey Red is located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.

Kelsey will give us a recap of our participation in the Homestead Expo on April 4. And if you have any more 4"x4" baby blanket squares please bring to the meeting and pass on to Kelsey.

The minutes from the March meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([March Minutes](#)). And the current ([Treasurer Summary](#))

Sheep Breed Study this month:

There will be a discussion on last month's *Manx Loahgtan* and the next fleece of the month: *Dorset* will be distributed.

To find the latest Sheep Breed Information sheet click the link below:

<https://valleyfiberarts.org/whats-happening/2024-2025-sheep-breed-study-workshop/>

Just a couple of the items from last month's amazing show and tell:



Upcoming Events

Elections in May

The election of officers will be done at the May 3rd meeting.
There is an urgent need for nominees for the treasurer position, as without someone in this position the guild will not have a future:

Officer positions open for nominees are:

Vice President: 1 nominee at this time

Treasurer: no nominees at this time

Other board positions open:

Communications Director: no nominees at this time
Historian: no nominees at this time

These are all 2-year positions This is a good time to take up the banner for Treasurer as you will have an excellent mentor in outgoing Treasurer Tracey Eason. She is willing to help mentor you and get you up to speed FAST on the duties of VFAG Treasurer

Spring Fling April 12th – 13th, 2025:

This is not a VFAG sponsored event, however since the Spring Retreat was cancelled due to scheduling issues this is an alternative for fiber folks to gather, share, and learn. Denise and Shiloh of Fiber N Ice Alaska yarn are throwing a **Spring Fling 2025** fiber weekend celebration of fiber arts. April 12th and 13th (Saturday and Sunday) 10 AM to 5 PM, at the Lake Lucille Best Western.

Registration and classes are open for sign up at
<https://www.fibernicealaska.com/>

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. Stephanie Bass is the host and is reliably there each week.

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is May 3, 2025.

This meeting will be 10:00 AM Saturday at Turkey Red Restaurant in Palmer. There will be election of 4 board positions and a catered brunch paid for by the guild.

Matsu Fiber Festival July 19-20

The 3rd weekend of July all things fiber will be in the Agriculture Building at the Alaska State Fair Grounds. There are food trucks and numerous booths with fiber folk from all over the state. The fiber animals (sheep, alpaca, rabbits) are here for judging and show. There will be classes and gatherings of spinners and knitters.

A PDF file for Vendor application was also attached to the email sent with this newsletter.

Check for updates on the Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/MatSuFiberFest/>.

Sheep to Shawl Demo at the Fiber Festival!!

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild will be putting together a team for the Sheep to Shawl demonstration. Here is the link for the sign up genius for the Matsu Fiber Festival July 19-20, 2025 Sheep to Shawl team:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BAEAF23A2F49-55318023-vfag>

VFAG Equipment Rental

Information on how to rent fiber related equipment from the guild is available on the website page at: <https://valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>

There is information on Equipment Rental Policies, a List of Equipment in Our Rental Program, and a link to a site to pay your monthly rental fees for Guild Equipment.

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.

- *May 3: [VFAG meeting catered lunch with election of new officers](#)
- *May 11: [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm](#) (demo fiber art of your choice)
- *July 19-20: [Fiber Festival](#) at Alaska State Fairgrounds (third weekend of July)
- *Aug-Sept: [Alaska State Fair](#)
- *Oct : [Fall Fiber Arts Retreat](#),
- *Nov 29: [Out of the Box Sale at the Palmer Depot](#)
- *Dec 6: [VFAG meeting catered brunch and gift exchange](#)
- *Feb : [Spinning Bee](#) (outreach and gather to spin and teach others to spin)
- *April : [Spring Fiber Arts Retreat](#)

Membership dues for 2025.

The dues for calendar year 2025 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 876098, 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

When paying dues please be sure to include your email in order to receive the newsletter.

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

Additional Board Positions

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

Historian: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

March Meeting Minutes 2025

3-1-25

Beginning of the guild meeting 10:13

Kelsey does the introductions, discusses the sign-up sheet and door prize

Member directory is available – if you would like to add your information to the directory, please let Kelsey know. It is a great way to have members get to know each other and their talents.

The minutes from Feb. newsletter need to be approved. Motion set by Valeri , seconded by Debbie

Tracey sends her regards and will send the report to Kelsey later this week. Please pay the required dues for this year and if preferred you can do this on the guild website

Vice President: Valeri discussed the donation made by Natalie of the lazy Kate's. The kits for the rental equipment for almost done. Valeri is working on updating the equipment rental portion on the website so payments can be made.

The position of Vice President is up for election in May. Valeri gave details of what is required for the position for anyone who is interested.

Communications director and Treasurer are also up for elections and Kelsey gave details of what each position requires. The positions will start up in Sept. through May. Anyone who is interested and/or has questions please let Kelsey know.

Spring retreat has been canceled due to it being Easter weekend and not being able to reschedule it for another date.

Signup Genius link for expo held on April 4 at the Menard center. Tandy has two-hour slots for spinning demos and a vendor area for those who want to sell fleeces and wares.

Signup Genius for the sheep to shawl project for the fiber festival held July 19th thru 20th.

New Business :

Sheep study – guild members share how the spinning of last month's wool went. Debbie who is filling in for Natalie gave details about March's sheep of the month. Please see her for this month's wool. You can get the information for each month's sheep on the website.

Debbie discussed how the spin-in went in Feb., put on by the guild with Tracey leading the event and wanted to thank all guild members who helped make the outreach successful

The Knit night at Vagabond on Monday nights from 5-7 have been a little slow but will hopefully be picking up soon and Kelsey gave the signs to Stephie to help promote the event. Make sure to bring something to work on while enjoying the good company.

Please fill out the tag when bringing the squares needed for the upcoming baby blanket. 6 -8 baby squares are still needed – earth tones if possible, for the baby boy.

The Vice President and Communications director positions up for election in May has two people who are interested . Please help try to find someone the treasurer position. We will have only one more meeting left.

Move to adjourn the meeting – Motion made by Michelle, seconded by Debbie

Meeting adjourned at 10:42

17 - Pat Miller won the door prize

Treasurer Summary for April 2025

Valley Fiber Arts Guild

Treasurer Report April 2025

Active Memberships

2025 - 31 Paid

Lifetime – 11 paid

Current Balances:

Money Market: \$12282.38

Checking: \$6738.84

Savings: \$37.85

Total: \$19059.07

Gaming Account:

Checking: 402.92

Savings: 25.08