



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

March 2025

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

MARCH IS NATIONAL CRAFTS MONTH

March 1, 2025 Meeting Saturday

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday March 1 at 10:00 AM**, in the Turkey Red Restaurant banquet room. Turkey Red is located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer.

The minutes from the February meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([February Minutes](#)).

Sheep Breed Study this month:

There will be a discussion on last month's *Gotland* and the next fleece of the month: *Manx Loahgtan – British Rare Breed* 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/>

Challenge: *Natalie has put out a challenge to participants in the sheep breed study. The challenge is to create something that incorporates one or more of the sheep breeds from the study and enter it at the Alaska State Fair. There will be a \$50.00 prize for the winner.*

Views from the February Spinning Bee



Tracey sent pictures and reported on the February Spinning Bee: "We had a great spinning bee. We gave away 36 spindles and had a great turnout. We definitely need more teachers next year."



Upcoming Events

Spring Retreat has been Cancelled!!

Due to the Retreat Diva experiencing some family health issues the spring Fiber Arts Retreat has been cancelled.

[Alaska Homestead Expo:Friday April 4](#)

The Alaska Home Expo will be held April 4 - 6 (Friday, Sat, Sunday) at the Menard Center in Wasilla. There will be 2 classroom areas and a large vendor area.

The VFAG will provide a spinning demo and educational outreach on Friday April 4 from 9 AM to 4 PM. Members are encouraged to come and spin. Those who register to demo will get free admission to the Expo. Volunteer slots are in 2-hour increments. Click on the link below to sign up for a time slot:

AK Homestead Expo on April 4th, 2025:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BAEAF23A2F49-55318085-vfaq>

[Sheep to Shawl 2025 July 19-20 at the Fiber Festival](#)

VFAG is putting together a team for the Sheep to Shawl competition/demonstration at the Matsu Fiber Festival July 19-20, 2025. For details and to signup

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

[Future Workshops](#)

*Fleece Preparation in March (location & date: TBA)

*Intro to Rigid Heddle Workshop in May (date: TBA) at Turkey Red. This will be a two-day workshop.

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)

Announcements

Next VFAG meeting is April 5, 2025.

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

Baby blanket squares

Deliver your finished 4" x 4" squares at the March meeting or if unable to attend contact Kelsey Gerke via email: (knitwitak007@gmail.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.

Alaska State Fair August 15 - September 1, 2025

The 2025 Exhibitor Guide will be available in April 2025

Directory of helpful members and member engagement

The VFAG focus this year is on member engagement. Members are reminded that a *Directory of Helpful Members* has been assembled and that Knit Night is every Monday at Vagabond Blues in Palmer, 5-7 PM. If you are willing to give a short fiber skill program after the general meeting contact the Vice President.

Other opportunities include attending a retreat (next is in October). There are numerous chances to spin at events throughout the year: Upcoming events will be the Homestead Expo April 4, Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm May 11, and the Fiber Festival July 19-20.

The *Directory of Helpful Members* lists the member's name, fiber skills they are willing to share and contact information. The directory is available as a paper copy only and can be picked up at any meeting.

Board positions open for election this year (in May)

VFAG is seeking nominations for these positions on the VFAG board. Elections are held at the May meeting.

There are two officer positions open:

Vice President

Treasurer

And two volunteer positions:

Communications Director

Historian

Important note: If the two officer positions fail to be filled, the VFAG can no longer function. So these are important positions to step up for

Palmer Arts Council is looking for art teachers for "Art for Fun"

As I was getting ready to send this newsletter out this request arrived in the guild email box. Some of you might be interested in this opportunity.

February 26, 2025

Palmer Arts Council Art For Fun Classes

Palmer Arts Council <palmerartscouncil@gmail.com>

Hi,

My name is Meggie and I am the Managing Director of the Palmer Arts Council. This spring we are offering a series of free art classes for students age 13-18 called Art for Fun. The classes are made possible by two grants we have received. We have offered classes in stage makeup, hip hop dance, drumming, drawing, and upcoming classes include ballet, painting, sewing, and creative writing. I'm reaching out to see if anyone on your board or member of your organization might like to teach a class for us. The classes meet every Monday from 3:30-5:30 at the log church in Palmer. I am looking to book teachers from the end of March through May. We pay the teachers \$150 for teaching and cover the cost of any supplies you may need to teach your class. Please let me know if there may be someone who has interest in teaching a class for us. Thanks!

Meggie Aube

PAC Managing Director

Membership dues for 2025.

For new members or those who haven't yet paid dues for 2025. 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 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687

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

VFAG throughout the year:

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

- *April 4: [Homestead Expo at Menard Center](#) (demo spinning)
- *May 4: [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)
- *April : [Spring Fiber Arts Retreat](#)
- *July 19-20: [Fiber Festival](#) at Alaska State Fairgrounds
- *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](#) (gather to spin and educational outreach)

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 Meeting Minutes Feb 1 2025

Valley Fiber Arts Guild General Meeting Minutes

Date: 1 February 2025, begin: 10:15 AM

January meeting minutes approved.

President report

Members are reminded of the *Directory of Helpful Members*. Available as a paper copy only at meetings. The directory lists the member's name, fiber skills they are willing to share and contact information.

Request for baby blanket squares. It is a tradition of the guild for members to submit knitted, crocheted, or woven squares. The finished squares should be 4" x4", in earth tones (the sex of the baby is unknown at this time) with any kind of yarn. Bring finished squares to the March meeting and give to Kelsey.

Positions up for election in May are:

Treasurer

Vice President

Communications Director

Historian

It was stressed that the VP and Treasurer positions must be filled or the guild cannot continue.

Vice President report

Kits for the rental spinning wheels are being assembled in bags that will contain Lazy Kate's and tools for operating the spinning wheels.

Treasurer report:

Copies of the latest budget were shared and a budget summary reported.

There are 9 lifetime members, 20 active members paid for 2025.

Treasurer position is up for election and Tracey is willing to mentor anyone interested.

Tech Committee Report

Event calendar is updated and posted on the website

Sheep breed study sheets are posted on the website

Website is a good way to pay your dues

Knit Night is posted

Spinning Bee is Saturday February 8 10 AM to 3 PM, there will be a few vendors with fleece to sell.

Alaska Home Expo will be held April 4, 5, 6 (Friday, Sat, Sunday) in the Menard Center. The VFAG will provide a spinning demo and educational outreach on Friday April 4 only from 9 AM to 4 PM. Kelsey will post a SignUpGenius page for people to register for time slots to demo. Those who register to demo will get free admission to the Expo.

Michelle Olson reported on the Fiber Festival:

The 10th annual Fiber Festival is the 3rd weekend of July (July 19-20) at the Alaska State Fairgrounds. ~ 50 vendors, a sheep to shawl demo knitting and spinning groups

Natalie Wolfe Reported on Spring Retreat

Dates and time shortened to Friday and Saturday April 18th and 19th (till noon) because of the conflict with Easter Sunday.

Natalie needs at least 12 people signed up by April 4 or the retreat will need to be canceled.

Workshop Coordinator report:

The new fleece (Gotland) for the Sheep Breed Study is available at this meeting

Workshop challenge for those in the sheep breed study: make something from one or more of the fleeces and enter in the Alaska State Fair. There will be a \$50.00 prize for the winner.

Future Workshops

Fleece Preparation: will be in March (date is not firm yet but will be the 20th, 22nd, or 29th) at Natalie's house, How to scour a fleece, rinse, carding and combing

Rigid Heddle Workshop: 2 day (day 1 will be warping, day 2 weaving) can sign up for 1 or both days. Will be held at Turkey Red, date TBA but aiming for May

The Alaska State Fair booklet will come out in May

General meeting adjourned: 11:07 AM

Submitted by J. Lenz

Pat Miller won the door prize