



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

May 2025

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

May 3, 2025 Saturday Meeting

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild March meeting is **Saturday May 3 at 10:00 AM**, at Turkey Red Restaurant banquet room (located at 550 S. Alaska Street, Palmer).

This will be the last meeting before summer break, the next guild meeting will be September 6, 2025. The minutes from the April meeting are posted at the end of this newsletter ([April Minutes](#)).

- Catered brunch by Turkey Red
- Election for new board members:
- Approval of the proposed budget.
- Baby blanket presentation



Election of Board Member Positions:

- . These are the positions open and nominees:
 - Vice President: nominee: Nancy Krebs
 - Treasurer: nominee: Maggie Brown
 - Communications Coordinator: nominee: Terry Schweitzer
 - Historian/Member at Large: Unfilled

Sheep Breed Study: last month for the study:

There will be a discussion on last month's *Dorset* and the last fleece of the study, *Boreray*, will be distributed.

A Couple Items from last month's Show and Tell



Teri's woven bobble scarf



Jennifer's needle felted mushroom

Summer Events



May 11 Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm

- *Jude and Amanda set up a table as outreach to the public.
- *To participate: Come! No need to stay all day, just chose a convenient time, bring any portable art project or just come to talk fiber.
- *Come see the musk ox babies.
- *Hours are 10 AM to 6 PM.
- *The Musk Ox Farm is located off the Glenn Highway north of Palmer at 12850 E Archie Rd
- * [Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm 2025](#)

July 19 and 20, Fiber Festival

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. If you have questions contact event organizer Michelle Olsen, email: towerranchalaska@gmail.com.

Check for updates on the Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MatSuFiberFest/>.

Sheep to Shawl Demo at the Fiber Festival!!

The big event for the summer is the Sheep to Shawl for the 10th Annual Matanuska Fiber Festival!

Here is the sign up to volunteer to make this year's demo a great success:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0E4BAEAF23A2F49-55318023-vfaq>

Dates are July 19 & 20th, 2025. Saturday the Sheep to Shawl is 10am-5pm and on Sunday we will be working from 10am-3pm. This is a great opportunity to connect over the summer. We hope to see you there!

August 2, 3, 4: Alaska State Fair Entries and Judging

Volunteers will be needed to help with

1. Entry days Friday and Saturday August 1 and 2, from 11 AM to 7 PM.
2. Judging (both judges and helpers) on judging day, Sunday August 3rd (10AM - 7PM).

A Sign-Up-Genius page will be sent out sometime in July.

See the Fleece and Fiber exhibit information at:

<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/fiber-fleece-2025/>

Announcements

Scenes from the Alaska Homestead Expo

At the April meeting Kelsey reported on the grand success of the Guild's day at the Expo on April 4. Here are some scenes from the event.



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 holds a table for us to gather round and work on projects.



Membership dues for 2025.

Dues 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

Volunteer Positions

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

Historian: Linda Loven

Workshop Coordinator: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

April Meeting Minutes

5 April 2025 General Membership Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Julia Lenz, Cary Fremin, Debbie Johnson, Amanda Johnson, Michelle Olsen, Natalie Wolf, Nicole Fernandez, Shiloh Morrison, Dawn Sloan, Christine O'Conner, Malin Campbell, Tracey Eason, Samantha Jamison, Amy Durgeloh, Nancy Krebs, Judy Niemeyer, Ute Olsson, Linda Loven, Jessica Newton, Tina Osgood, Michael Hannon, Kelsey Gerke, Susie Magone, Marjorie Bellringer, Carol Johnson, Tulena Huddleston, Stephanie Bass, Gina Bradley, Dayle, Linnea Nystrom, Pat Miller, Sally Hoople, Maggie Brown, Jennifer Jennings, Teri Schweitzer

1014 Call to Order

I move to approve the minutes from March. (Tracey, 2nd Debbie)

Membership runs off a calendar year

News

- May Meeting May 3 2025
- Catered brunch
- Elections

Elections

- 7 member board
 - Treasurer: nomination is Maggie Brown
 - Communication: nomination is Teri Schweitzer
 - Vice President: nomination is Nancy Krebs
 - Historian/at-large: open

Upcoming

- Summer
 - July: Fiber Fest (19-20 July 2025)
 - There will be sheep to shawl
 - Fleece donated by Michelle
 - Prep to be done by Tracey
 - Loom Julia
 - Will look into entering shawl into the fair
 - Vendors, classes, and demos
 - 24 Vendors so far

- Free admission
- More events provided at May meeting

Treasurer Report

- 31 paid members 2025
- 11 Lifetime members
- Budget up to date
 - Balances
 - Money Market Account \$12, 282.38
 - Checking Account: \$6738.84
 - Savings Account: \$37.85
 - Total: \$19059.07
- Taxes finished

Vice President

- Rental program
 - Just let a board member know or head over to the website

Knit night at Vagabond: 4:30-6:30

New Business/ Announcements

- Spring Fling: April 12-13
 - Best Western Wasilla
 - \$45 weekend, \$25 per day

Workshop: Sheep Breed

- Sheep breed award for the entry into the fair will be entered into a drawing
 - Highlight to the Sheep Breed Study
- Valleyfiberarts.org Sheep breed study page

1042 adjourned (Deb Johnson, 2nd Michael Hannon)

Door Prize Winner: Sally Hoople