



Valley Fiber Arts Guild Newsletter

May 2021

Matanuska Susitna Valley Alaska

May 1, 2021 Meeting Saturday (still Zooming)

The Valley Fiber Arts Guild general meeting is **Saturday, May 1, 2021, at 10:15 AM** via Zoom (login information is below). May is an important meeting as we hold elections for new board members. This year there will be **elections** for 4 positions: **Vice President, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor and Historian**. After the business meeting there will be show and tell and a door prize drawing.

The **next guild meeting will be in September**, as the guild takes June, July, and August off from meetings to enjoy the midnight sun activities of summer, if all goes well in the health of the community, we will be able to finally resume meetings in person!!

Invitation to Zoom Meeting, Saturday May 1 at 10:15 AM

Topic: VFAG Board meeting followed by General Meeting

Time: 10:15 AM [board meeting starts at 9:00 AM and general meeting at 10:15 AM]

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85491640747?pwd=cnpDMG5DQklSSVhzQ0VSSGEweWNSdz09>

Meeting ID: 854 9164 0747

Passcode: 091411

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 854 9164 0747

Passcode: 091411

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kds4pFwVx9>

Upcoming Events for VFAG

May 1, Board member elections at the VFAG General Meeting

These are the positions up for election and the current nominees:

Officers: -

Vice President: Debbie Johnson -

Treasurer: Sabrina Strosin

Board Positions:

Newsletter Editor: Megan Ernst

Historian: Judy Niemeyer

Nominations are still open, so if you are interested in any of these positions contact President Natalie Wolfe (gnat71@yahoo.com).

Cancelled: Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm

The Musk Ox Farm is remaining virtual this year and there will not be a fiber group there to demo. If you are interested in a virtual tour of the farm sign up for an invitation at <https://www.alaskavisit.com/event/virtual-mothers-day-with-musk-ox/2735/>

May 9, Mother's Day at the Reindeer Farm

After the Saturday meeting there will be more concrete information on this possibility. At this time, we know that the Williams Reindeer Farm in the Butte area has extended an invitation to the VFAG to join them on Mother's Day from 10:30 AM to 5:30 PM to demo fiber arts crafts while the farm brings their tour groups through the grounds.

This is an informal gathering for us and the folks at the Reindeer Farm are providing a space in the barn for us to demo. There will be a food truck and espresso cart available.

May 29 – 30: Scouring Workshop

Who: Instructor: Tracey Eason, dragonfly-creationsAK@gmail.com

What: Workshop is on washing a raw fleece and preparation of that fiber. Tracey will be donating a fleece to use or you can bring your own if you have one. Bring your spinning wheel or spindles to sample the prepared fiber.

When: May 29 and 30 from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Yule Farm, 3855 N. Campbell Road, Palmer, Alaska

Class Size: Limited to 10

Cost: \$40.00 (Plus a \$3.00 charge for registration)

Also: Lunch: Bring your own or order from a menu from one of the local restaurants and Yule farm picks up the food and brings it to the farm.)

To register for the workshop go to dragonfly-creations.ticketleap.com/fleece-preparation

Description of Class: This is a beginner's class to learn fleece preparation. We will wash a raw fleece and then comb or card it to prepare it for dyeing, spinning, or whatever the final process will be.

Goals/Learning outcome: Learn what materials are needed to prepare a raw fleece. Learn the process of washing/cleaning a raw fleece. Learn different methods of fiber preparation.

Supply's/materials needed: All supplies will be provided.

Resources for further study:

<https://joyofhandspinning.com/how-to-wash-your-fleece/>

The Fleece & Fiber Sourcebook: More Than 200 Fibers, from Animal to Spun Yarn ISBN 1603427112
The Spinner's Book of Fleece: A Breed-by-Breed Guide to Choosing and Spinning the Perfect Fiber for Every Purpose ISBN 1612120393

Instructor Bio: Tracey has been working with fiber since 2018. She loves all parts of fiber preparation. Tracey has taught multiple classes and enjoys a very hands-on low-key approach to learning.

Not at the Blues Knit Nights (every Tuesday)

You are free to come and go to this weekly meeting held every Tuesday via Zoom from 5:00 to 8:00 PM. Members visit and work on fiber projects. There is a door prize drawing at each meeting for attendees. If you would like a text message to remind you of the meeting send the text "Tuesday night blues reminder" to Sharon at 907-355-1857.

Zoom Meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85216629072?pwd=NDRreDZDNzBuTnBrOVdZb3J5Z0tHQT09>

Wednesday Weavers (twice monthly)

This group gathers to work on weaving projects and share weaving problems and tips. These meetings are the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month via zoom 6:00-8:00 PM. All members are welcome to attend these meetings even if you are not a weaver. If you would like a text message to remind you of the meeting send the text "Wednesday Weavers" to Sharon at 907-355-1857

Zoom Meeting Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83148957813?pwd=R3lpV3lVMkFnbVg4OGpnd1JZdmYzZz09>

July 10, Palmer Garden & Arts Fair in Palmer

Opportunity to demo fiber arts and do outreach to the public. Lynx Mullen has volunteered to chair this event. She is planning to expand our out reach and will provide greater detail at the May 1 meeting. Volunteers are needed to help her make this event happen.

July 17 and 18 The Mat-Su Valley Fiber Festival

The 3rd weekend of July all things fiber will be at the Agriculture Building of the Alaska State Fair Grounds. The guild will have a booth and do spinning demonstrations and public outreach. The festival organizers have suggested the guild look into holding a form of sheep to shawl. If you have questions Contact Michelle Olsen, email: towerranchalaska@gmail.com

Vendor Registration is open now. Follow this link for the form and information:

https://matsuvallyfiberfestival.wordpress.com/entry-forms/?fbclid=IwAR0kYIM82P-wCe2ay4-nr_XqYz53eeKiQb8DLNOOXDxO_PDy7XZIXf4kgRI

August 6, 7, 8: Alaska State Fair nonperishable Entries and Judging

The exhibit book is out (<https://www.alaskastatefair.org/site/exhibit/fiber-fleece/>)

Volunteers will be needed to help with fleece and fiber:

1. Entry days Friday and Saturday August 6th and 7th.
2. Judging (both judges and helpers) on judging day, Sunday August 8th.
3. Entry pickup day, Tuesday September 7th.

If you have questions contact Superintendent Jude Johnson: Text [989-277-1270](tel:989-277-1270), Email. Judeinalaska@yahoo.com.

August 20 to September 6: Alaska State Fair demos

This year the State Fair will run for 14 days over 3 weekends (closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays August 24 – 25 and August 31 – September 1). We will be provided with more information on how spinning demos can be conducted in the Fiber and Fleece area.

Announcements

Fiber Retreats

The April Spring Retreat was a success and there are many more Fall and Spring retreats in the future.

Mark your calendars for the next Retreat dates:

- October 23-25, 2020
- April 23-25, 2021
- October 22-24, 2021
- April 22-24, 2022
- October 28-30, 2022
- April 21-23, 2023

Visit the Valley Fiber Arts Facebook Page and join the Group

The VFAG facebook now has a group you can join and share ideas, projects, ask fiber related questions, sell fiber item, etc. The Technical Committee has been doing a good job of adding new material and information about the guild and related activities. See the latest at:

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

Donations for a Summer Dye Day at the Wasilla Library

The Wasilla Library is planning to include a dyeing session in conjunction with their summer program for kids. If you have either dyes or dyeing materials you are willing to donate here is your chance to de-stash and help out the community. If you have items to donate or have questions contact Amanda Johnson (email: mandaj_29@yahoo.com)

Seeking Ideas and Instructors for Future Workshops

Members can help make workshops happen. Program Coordinator, Mable Wimmer, is looking for members willing to conduct workshops. If you have ideas for a workshop or are willing to teach a workshop, contact Program Coordinator, Mabel Wimmer at mabelwimmer@gmail.com.

AK Frayed Knot will be setting up shop at the Reindeer Farm this summer

Starting May 1st. There will be local yarn and fiber available, produced for the Reindeer Farm by Coyote Trails Fiber Mill. Daily Demos of weaving on a 100 y/o barn loom, carding, table top carding, spinning, knitting and more.

Guest artists will be coming out to the farm as well. Demonstrations on sock making with a sock loom and scarf painting are tentatively scheduled at this point.

If you are interested in being a guest (fiber) artist, contact Becky at 907-521-9276 email: Akfrayedknot@gmail.com or Lauren at the Reindeer Farm

200 years ago, Dhaka muslin was the most valuable fabric on the planet

This interesting note was posted on our Facebook page

<https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20210316-the-legendary-fabric-that-no-one-knows-how-to-make>

Membership dues for calendar year 2021

Dues are \$30.00 for the calendar year. Please join early to keep in touch with fiber news happenings.

To Pay Dues (\$ 30.00):

- (1) Pay online at website: <https://new.valleyfiberarts.org/home/guild-membership-dues/>
- (2) Send a check to VFAG, PO Box 876098, Wasilla, AK 99687
- (3) Via Venmo (VFAG is a member) by phone or email, but email is preferred.
Venmo payment information is:
valleyfibertarts@gmail.com
907-795-6235

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

VFAG events throughout the year (or at least high hopes for these to happen):

These are events we normally participate and sponsor throughout the year, of course, this year we will be vigilant about health safety and announce if any need to be cancelled. Volunteers are always needed at these events.

- February: Spinning Bee (cancelled)
- April: Spring Fiber Arts Retreat (Uncertain at this time, stay tuned.)
- May: Mother's Day at the Musk Ox Farm (Uncertain)
- June: Art on Fire (Unknown, but it is an outdoor event, so hopefully)
- July: Palmer Garden and Art Faire (An outside event, so it may happen)

- July: Fiber Arts Festival (currently planned to happen!)
 - August: Alaska State Fair (Unknown at this time)
 - October: fall Fiber Arts Retreat (Hopeful this will happen)
 - November: Out of the Box Sale (Hopeful this will happen)
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Board of Directors:

Officers

President: Natalie Wolfe, gmat71@yahoo.com

Vice President: Sharon Hein

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

Secretary: Amanda Johnson, mandaj_29@yahoo.com

Board Positions

News Editor: Julia Lenz, moor.lenz@gmail.com, cell: 907-519-9145

Historian: Judy Niemeyer, jweaves0610@gmail.com

Workshop Coordinator: Mabel Wimmer, mabelwimmer@gmail.com