



FAIRBANKS WEAVERS' & SPINNERS' GUILD

Mailing address: PO Box 73152, Fairbanks, AK 99707, Studio: Davis Hall, TVSF Fairgrounds
 website: <https://fairbanksweavers.org>, email: fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

FWSG Presidents' Letter

Hello from Claire and Kim!

Lots going on these days! Is it just us, or has interest in fiber arts really taken off lately? We think it has.

Even though we are on Open Studio hiatus this month, there are still lots of fiber events happening around town. Please take advantage of some of the other options we have in our community.

- Stop by Yarn Over and check out their class schedule.
- Check out Calypso Farm. They are thinking about offering a spinning for weaving class!
- Drop in on the Folk School for a class or a craft night.
- Take an online class.
- Take an in-person class.
- Teach yourself how to knit backwards (it's a thing believe me).
- Meet a guild member for coffee.
- Knit or crochet a hat for someone who needs one.
- Spin in public...or private.
- Finish those UFOs.

Guild member Bonni Brooks just finished teaching a weaving class at the Folk School and is about to release a whole new batch of weavers on the community! These beginning weavers were doing twill and rugs and table linen (in linen!) on all types of looms. It was very inspirational to watch. We hope to see them all soon at our Open Studios.

Don't forget that our own scarf weaving class is coming in April with registration (Cont'd page 2)

Officers & Board Slate for 2022-2023

Co-Presidents: Kim Kortenhof 907-712-4431
 Claire Spann 907-978-7104
 Vice President: Kate Hedstrom 907-590-1420
 Secretary: Cathy Egan
 Treasurer: Maureen English 907-388-4465

Board of Directors:

Helen Howard hmh@acsalaska.net
 Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy
jjohnsonkennedy@gmail.com
 Chris Waigl chris.waigl@gmail.com

Librarian: Shawna Laderach
 Hospitality: OPEN
 Newsletter: Amy Mackinaw
 Website: Chris Waigl
 Fair Committee: Moxie Pender 907-479-8443
 Kate Hedstrom, Rob Cermak
 Education: Kate Hedstrom
 Social Media: Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy
 Chris Waigl
 Dye Garden: Gail Mayo 907-479-2954
 Spinning Group: Kate Hedstrom
 Busy Bees: Jodi Gouwens 907-474-9144



*Claire weaves at
Open Studio*

FWSG Presidents' Letter

(Cont'd from page 1)

around March 10. We have potentially filled all the slots available, but if interest is there, this is a class that can be held again soon. Enrollment will be managed by UAF Summer Sessions. They've been a great supporter of our efforts and will manage our waitlist, so check it out.

Upcoming Meetings

March 22 Monthly General Meeting: 2023 Red Alder Fiber Arts Conference

**Location Change: Gayle Hazen's Studio
748 Gaffney Road, Suite 104**

Our next general meeting is Wednesday, March 22 at 6:30 p.m. and will be a presentation by Kate Hedstrom and me (Kim) on the recent Red Alder Fiber Arts Conference. Because Davis Hall is unavailable this month, we will hold the general meeting at Gayle Hazen's Studio on Gaffney Road. It's a great opportunity to see Gayle's beautiful work.

Directions: 748 Gaffney, Suite 104

Just past the gas station, ground level in the middle of the bldg. To the right of Last Frontier Barbershop. There's plenty of parking so hope to see you there. (No animals, please.)

Resuming April 12: Open Studios Wednesdays from 2:00 to 8:00 p.m.

We are so excited to welcome everyone back next month. We hope you've been busy and can bring in show and tell. There may even be a new batch of bunnies to play with. We've missed seeing everyone!

Happy Weaving!
Kim and Claire



Kim spins

Calendar - March-April 2023

Monthly Guild Meeting, Wednesday, March 22, 6:30, Gayle Hazen's Studio, 748 Gaffney Road, Suite 104 (see Presidents' letter for directions)

Presentation on the recent Red Alder Fiber Arts Retreat.

Open Studios - Wednesdays, Resume April 12, weekly 2:00 pm - 8 pm, Davis Hall studio/meeting space on the fairgrounds in the Lions' Club Building

Bring a project to work on or use the guild's pre-warped looms, sit and chat with fiber friends, and enjoy coffee and a snack. Stop by for a quick visit or spend the afternoon. We hope to see you!

Spinning Saturdays, April 8, May 13, June 10; 3-5 pm, at Davis Hall on the fairgrounds

Bring your wheel or spindle and some fiber, and gather for a spinning session. Any questions, contact Kate 907-590-1420

Monthly Guild Meeting, Wednesday, April 19, 6:30, Davis Hall studio/meeting space on the fairgrounds in the Lions' Club Building

Annual meeting with election of officers.

2023-2024 Proposed Slate of Officers

President Kim Korten Hof and Becky Hammond (shared position)

Vice President Kate Hedstrom

Secretary Cathy Egan

Treasurer Claire Spann

Board Helen Howard

Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy

Chris Waigl

Claire Noomah and Annika Mayer (shared position)

Yarn Review

by Kim Kortenhof

Today I want to introduce (or re-introduce) you to one of my favorite wool yarns: Shetland from Harrisville Designs.



If you are taking our upcoming scarf weaving class, you will become familiar with Harrisville Shetland. This yarn is not made from Shetland wool but is a blend of Australian and New Zealand 100% Virgin wool. It's tightly spun and makes a very durable yarn. The color palette is wide with more than 60 colors to choose from. Most colors can be purchased on 1/2 lb. cones of approximately 900 yards. Harrisville recommends a sett of 10-12 ends per inch (epi) but I love weaving this yarn at 8-10 epi.

The magic of this yarn is in the fulling process. The yarn looks and feels a little rough as it comes off the cone and at 8-10 epi, a plain weave scarf resembles window screen material on the loom. But put it in water and it will become the lightest and loftiest fabric after a couple of minutes (well, maybe 15 or so) of wet finishing. I just use dish soap in hot water and squeeze the fabric until I can't push my finger through the weave structure. After rinsing and towel drying, I take a hairbrush to the fabric and brush it while still wet to raise the nap. (I learned all this from a Jane Stafford Textile video.)

The picture above does not do the fabric justice. It really must be felt to be fully appreciated (pun intended). I usually have samples with me at the studio, so come by and see this remarkable yarn or try it for yourself.

Do you have a favorite yarn? If so, please consider singing its praises in our newsletter. Are you wondering about a certain yarn? Post a question to our Facebook page or email us. There may be a guild member who has experience with it or maybe has the same question!

Calypso Farm Upcoming Classes

Interested in learning to spin? Calypso Farm will be offering spinning classes in the spring and summer. Visit <https://www.calypsofarm.org/> and join their mailing list to keep in the loop!

And stay tuned for future collaborations between Calypso Farm and the Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild!

Member News

For the month of March our own **Elizabeth Irving** will be the featured artist at Ursa Major Distilling. Below is the write-up from the *News Miner*. Elizabeth says she has a couple of weaving drawings in the show, too. She's more than just an excellent spinner!

"Elizabeth Eero Irving is a professional studio artist and third-generation Alaskan. She received her BFA from Cornish College and MFA from Johnson State College at the Vermont Studio Center. In addition to her own studio painting practice, she is an independent curator of exhibits for other artists and teaches art workshops. She is a recipient of a Rasmuson Individual Artist Award and a Connie Boocheever Artist Fellowship. When not making art, she loves skiing, bike touring, chainsawing firewood, and volunteering in feline rescue."

Tanana Valley State Fair 2023

It's never too early to start thinking about and planning for the fair.

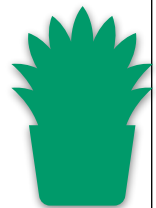
Theme: "Don't Go Bacon My Heart."

Colors: pink, teal, and green.

Fair flower: succulent.

Fruit/Vegetable: zucchini.

Fair dates: July 28-August 6, 2023.



Book Review

By Claire Spann

Designing for Weaving by Carol S. Kurtz



As many of you know I'm on a quest to become a better multi-harness weaver. My bookshelves are full of wonderful books that I have picked up over the years and lovingly flipped through...but now I am determined

to read many of them cover to cover and LEARN from these resources.

Carol S. Kurtz's *Designing for Weaving* is a very good start for the beginner to intermediate weaver. She quickly reviews how to read a basic draft and then takes the reader through exercises in creating your own original drafts. She does a thorough job of explaining the importance of threading and float control when designing. I now have a better understanding of block drafting. This book is less than 100 pages but full of good information, including color theory - a real bonus!

Happy sampling!
Claire Spann



Indigenous Dyes

Thanks to member Jasmine Johnson-Kennedy for letting us know about this really cool project. The Alaska Native Heritage Center collaborated with the Alaska office of the Smithsonian Arctic Studies Center last year to do a project on traditional indigenous natural dyes. Here is the link to the Youtube Series on the Batuk'enelyashi Natural Dyes from Dena'ina Lands Project.



Sarah's pet rabbit and wool needle-felted projects

Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild FAQs:

Mission Statement: Our mission is to connect fiber artists across Interior Alaska and build community through practice, teaching and learning in the arts of weaving, hand spinning and related textile arts.

Membership Dues: Annual \$30, due in April, email fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Membership Meetings: Monthly may be either in person at Davis Hall/Lions' Club building on the fairgrounds or other locations as noted

Website: <https://www.fairbanksweavers.org>
Find events calendar, newsletters, general guild info, by-laws and other fiber-related resources.

Social Media: Follow the guild on **Facebook** and **Instagram**. We welcome photos and events for those pages to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

More questions? Email:
fairbanksweavers@gmail.com

Members wind off yarn to be used in a community hat-making project. Thanks to all who made hats to share.

Member Focus - Becky Hammond by Kim Kortenhof



Members of the Fairbanks Weavers and Spinners Guild include everyone from brand new weavers and beginning spinners to seasoned fiber professionals. Today's member focus is on one of our professional artists, **Becky Hammond of White Fireweed Farm.**

Becky is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in Juneau and has been interested in art and animals all her life. She didn't really get interested in fibers until she learned to spin. Once she got her first fiber animal it was a natural passion to combine her love of art and critters into loving raising her own fiber animals and creating from their fiber. A natural marriage of love of art and critters!

In 1984, she moved to Fairbanks and learned to spin and knit from Laura Lee DeLuca. While she loved all the fibers, it was clear that mohair was an early favorite. A wheel was bought, followed by the all-too-familiar 20-year gap of work getting in the way. It wasn't until 2000 that an angora goat at the fair set Becky on the path she continues to this day. Becky bought a goat and got re-acquainted with the spinning wheel. With support from Susan Miller at A Weaver's Yarn, Becky began spinning her own mohair. At the same time, she relearned to knit from YouTube videos. Now, knitting her own patterns from her own animals is a favorite activity, affording her the opportunity to watch the evolution of the design from the fiber to the finished product. Headbands, purses, scarves, and custom teddy bears are just part of Becky's product line. (Cont'd page 6)



Beautiful Colors of White Fireweed Farm Angora Rabbits



Handknit Headband



Custom Teddy Bears

(Cont'd from page 5)

White Fireweed Farm, Becky's home in Two Rivers, is named for a patch of white fireweed that was on her property. Becky raises satin and giant angora rabbits, angora goats, and merino sheep on her farm and specializes in producing fiber and finished products all from her own animals. She does her custom dyeing in house while also showing animals statewide and selling fiber and products in bazaars, fiber festivals, and stores across Alaska.



White Fireweed Farm February 2023 WAFSA Sale - Becky Hammond and Alicia Andrus



Dyed Mohair Locks

The COVID years made Becky realize that another venue was needed to expand her presence in a time when people couldn't get together. That led to her involvement in [WAFSA](#) (Wool and Fiber Arts). WAFSA is a fully online fiber festival with monthly vendor sales. Becky is currently focusing on online sales of her fiber, roving, and yarns across the country. She's built a loyal following at WAFSA with many repeat customers for her vibrant fibers.

Becky's signature spinning is mohair lock spinning. Keeping the integrity of the mohair in lock form produces a beautiful art yarn with amazing sheen, highlighting the beautiful hand-dyed colors.

(Cont'd page 7)



White Fireweed Farm Headband



Custom Angora Hat

(Cont'd from page 6)

Becky's work can be seen at statewide fiber festivals and livestock shows across the country. She has been a great supporter of the Fairbanks Weavers and Spinners Guild and an inspiration to a new generation of rabbit owners and fiber artists.

Becky's advice to fiber artists is to just let it go and enjoy the process. No matter what you create, you can make something beautiful.

Come visit with Becky (and maybe a bunny or two) at an Open Studio or visit her online!

Thanks for sharing, Becky!

Contact Information:

<http://whitefireweedfarm.com/>



White Fireweed Farm Fiber Purse

Next Newsletter Deadline - Wednesday, April 5, 2023 Send any items to fairbanksweavers@gmail.com Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP FORM

Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

PO Box 73152, Fairbanks, AK 99707-3152

Annual Membership (April through March)

\$30 per year

Check One: Renewal New Membership

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

An email announcement is sent when the newsletter is available on our website, so please provide a legible email address. Please enclose your check (to: Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild) and this form in the envelope using the address shown above.

Thank you for joining the Fairbanks Weavers' & Spinners' Guild.