

Michigan Fiber Festival Instructors 2022

Julie Benac has been in the world of fiber arts since 2006 and has been in the cut & sew industry for over 30 years. She holds a degree in Fashion Design from Ray College of Design in Chicago (now a part of the Art Institute). Julie is a familiar face in sewing classrooms, as well as inner-city Detroit where she taught homeless mothers how to sew on industrial equipment. Now she is bringing fiber arts skills into the light, teaching carding and fiber prep, as well as artisan yarn spinning at various fiber festivals around the Midwest. Julie enjoys trying different ways to marry fiber arts with sewing to discover new directions in clothing accent and design. She lives on Lake Erie in southeast Michigan with her husband Patrick and three children...and a lot of weaving looms!



M Theresa Brown is a long time professional portrait artist whose art career embraces many areas of the arts. Her years of printmaking and color work led her to explore the fiber arts. Using many similar skills and accumulated knowledge, she evolved as a hand painter, felter and ecoprinter on natural fibers. Theresa uses natural dyes and low impact synthetic dyes and merges them into unique, beautiful designs on silk, wool, paper and even leather; and, turns her transformed work into artisanal clothing, accessories and art. Her articles and designs in the fiber arts have appeared in international publications such as "No Serial Number" and "Belle Armoire". She has created many "How to" DVD's and eBooks in the visual arts in conjunction with the national art chain, Jerry's Artarama. She has been an instructor at many fiber art shows including Southeastern Animal Fiber Fest, Carolina Fiber Fest, Kentucky Sheep, Fiber Festival, Michigan Fiber Festival and many upcoming new venues. Theresa and her artist husband, Stephen Filarsky, reside in rural NC with their alpacas, chickens and family dogs!



Heidi Bukoski grew up in an artistic household where she was able to try many art forms. Her love of fiber arts started with knitting in Girl Scouts. Weaving was added while in high school. Natural dyeing came in college. In the many years since then numerous other techniques have crossed her path. Weaving and traditional wet felting have remained constants. Most recently forays into jewelry and wire work, and knotting and braiding have piqued her interest. Combining techniques or taking them in unexpected directions is her favorite challenge.



Tina Etter, a fifth generation Detroitier who landed on a small farm in Howell, graduated from Michigan State University with a degree in interior design. She is known for her unique needle felted sculptures such as a hat covered with a coral reef, and fantasy birds from 7 inches to 7 feet tall. Tina has had a booth at MMF for the last 6 years filled with felting wool and appreciates this opportunity to nurture others in the art of needle felting gnomes, chickens and sheep!



Barb Gallagher has been weaving since she stumbled upon a weaving studio in Los Angeles in the 70's. She says she was so excited, it sent her back to school where she earned a BA in Art from Edgecliff College (now Xavier University) in Cincinnati, Ohio. She did her thesis on rug weaving, but since then she's enjoyed weaving functional art such as towels, scarfs, shawls, and blankets. Barb has been teaching weaving for more years than she wants to admit. Barb is also the owner of Weavers Loft, a retail weaving supply shop as well as the home of her weaving studio. She is an active member of the Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati as well as a member of several other Ohio guilds and HGA.



Candy Garbacz has had a lifelong career teaching art in Lake Orion, MI where she not only honed her fiber craft, but also had an opportunity to share it with hundreds of students and their families. She also worked as a seasonal Naturalist for Oakland County and spent 18 years teaching workshop sessions and doing demonstrations in a variety of county venues and at the Independence Oaks Nature Center. Currently Candy teaches beginning knitting at Heritage Spinning and Weaving in downtown Lake Orion. She enjoys many knitting techniques, but stranded knitting is what she returns to for

most of her work. Teaching people about fibers has been one of Candy's lifelong passions. "There is great pleasure in watching a single strand of yarn become a three dimensional object that is utilitarian and beautiful at the same time."

Nicole Gillies was born and raised in Trenton, Michigan where she developed a curiosity for art of all genres. She has an Associate's Degree in Art, and a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Art with a major in Crafts/Fiber Art. She now has a Master's Degree in Library and Information Science and works as a Children's Librarian, sharing her love of art with her children and the young people of her community. Nicole has taught felting for years at the Downriver Council for the Arts, and most recently at POST Detroit. In her spare time she is a ravenous felter and owner of Roving Eye Textiles, making beautiful flowers, vessels and nuno scarves for galleries and art festivals in the Detroit area. She is most proud of a felted vessel that she made while attending a workshop at the Michigan Fiber Festival.



Robin Goatey is a periodic John C Campbell Folk School instructor, woodcarver, woodturner, broom maker, coppersmith, folkways instructor. He is a student of folklore, ancient metallurgy, spinning, tapestry weaving, glass making, ceramics & lapidary work. Creating heirloom quality handmade items based on the Ancient Guild Trades and sharing the Folkways skills learned over a lifetime are the main focus of his artisan practice and life. Past President of The Artisans Guild of Southern IL and award winning craftsman participating in the global marketplace for handmade goods, he and his wife Teresa established 'The Dancing Goats' craft business in 1987 and have been online since 2000. Available for teaching engagements & presentations nationwide in Ecommerce studies and traditional craft practices. Studio Member of 'The American Tapestry Alliance' and 'The Hand Weavers Guild of America'. Robin's You Tube channel has free craft lessons for his students and customers.



Social & Ecommerce:

Instagram: TheDancingGoats

[Http://TheDancingGoats.com](http://TheDancingGoats.com)

<https://www.etsy.com/people/TheDancingGoats>

<https://www.amazon.com/Handmade/thedancinggoats>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/TheDancingGoats/videos>

TheDancingGoats@gmail.com

Sharon Herwig learned to crochet as a child. She is a member of the Crochet Guild of America (CGOA) and has completed the Master of Advanced Stitches and Techniques program. Sharon also enjoys knitting, spinning, and dyeing. With a background in graphic design, she loves to play with color and texture, and experiment with free-form crochet. You can currently find her teaching crochet at Heritage Spinning & Weaving, in Lake Orion, MI.



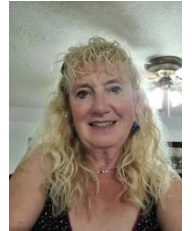
Christina Hornby is a certified McGown teacher and has a BA in Art from Siena Heights University. Christine is the owner/proprietor of Green Dragonfly Studio, which specializes in rug hooking, fiber arts, watercolors, and interior accent pieces. Green Dragonfly Studio is both an outlet for her fiber works but also supplies tools for other artists and craftspeople. Rug Hooking is Christine's special outlet for design and use of color. She enjoys designing patterns for herself and other hookers. Born and raised in Holland, Michigan, Christine comes from a long and rich heritage of artists dating back to her mother and grandmother who painted landscapes and other subjects in oils. Following in their footsteps Christine has enjoyed her pursuit of art since she was a small child and has switched from oils to watercolors, to fibers. The foundation of most of her art is the fun that comes from playing with color. She enjoys concepts of design and the need to create art that is both rich in heritage and contemporary. She applies her knowledge of art history and crafts to historical re-enactment, educating the public on the importance of arts and crafts in their communities. Her work is currently in local collections of JSJ Corporation, a Grand Rapids law firm and private collections, as well as at Grand Valley State University.



Bev Larson has been weaving since 1988 and teaching since 1999. She loves to share the joy of basket weaving with those around me and have done so by teaching in Indiana, Illinois, Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Wisconsin, California and the Caribbean on the Basket Weaving Cruises. Making basket weaving fun, relaxing, and inspiring is her goal. In 2003 she won the Eiteljorg Museums Weavers Challenge. In 2009 she added broom making as an outshoot of weaving and it too is now a passion. In 2016 she received the honor of being named an Indiana Artisan by the State of Indiana for both broom making and basket weaving.



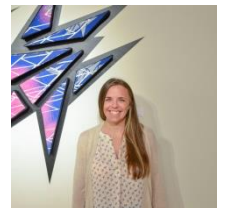
Susan McFarland opened Susan's Fiber Shop (Columbus, WI) in 1979. She is also the owner of the largest Teeswater flock in the state. With a wealth of experience Susan is eager to pass on her knowledge of all things fiber- from sheering to the finished product. Washing, carding, dyeing, spinning, felting, knitting, weaving... Susan has done it all!



Kathy McMinn started weaving baskets over 30 years ago. She has owned The Basket Sampler in Highland, MI since 2007. There are many styles of baskets that interest her, from simple pencil baskets to more complicated twill patterns. She often incorporates yarns and fibers into her baskets. She teaches all age groups from preschool to senior citizens. You can see some of her work at her website www.thebasketsampler.com.



Heather Macali is an artist, designer, and educator. She received her MFA from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is currently an Associate Professor of Fashion and Fibers at Wayne State University in Detroit, MI. She has a vast knowledge of fiber techniques, specializing in dyeing, textile design, floor loom and jacquard weaving.



Nancy Macali has been teaching for 44 years and taught high school for 35 years. Throughout her retirement she has continued to give workshops and guest lectures. Nancy's love of fibers started in her youth living next-door to her grandmother who taught her to knit, sew, and garden. Nancy continued her pursuit of fiber knowledge throughout college to present day. As an artist and creator, she is skilled in weaving, knitting, felting, dyeing, spinning, sewing, and other various techniques. Nancy is passionate about sharing her knowledge with others and encourages the exchange of creative discourse.

Bex Oliger grew up in her mother's (Carol Leigh Brack-Kaiser) Hillcreek Fiber Studio. She started to learn weaving and dyeing at a young age and has traveled the country for over 35 years with the family business vending and teaching at fiber, weaving and knitting Shows. She helped design and weave several of the projects in Carol Leigh's book, *The Continuous Strand Weaving Method* and assisted at numerous natural dye workshops featured in *Nature Provides: Rainbows of Color*. Bex is now a knitwear designer; knitting, weaving, and natural dyeing instructor and consultant; and, owns Hillcreek Yarn Shoppe in Columbia, MO. She and her husband, Eric; son, Charlie; and apprentice, Alexis, travel to 18 states a year to vend and teach at festivals and for guilds and groups.



Esther Peregrine began raising silkworms in 2006 and fell in love with the whole progression of watching the silkworms spin their cocoons, processing the cocoons into yarn or thread and ultimately weaving or knitting a finished silk scarf or shirt. In addition to domesticated silkworms, Esther raises Cecropia and Polyphemus, some of the largest moths native to North America and spins silk yarn from their cocoons. Esther and her silkworms have come to schools, museums, and fiber festivals. She leads workshops on silk reeling and making hankies and caps (mawatas) throughout the Midwest. Besides silk, if it is a fiber that can be spun she has probably tried it! To follow her fiber journey, check out facebook.com/essiespinner.



Joan Sheridan is a weaver, knitter, spinner, fiber explorer and, since 2000, owner of Heritage Spinning and Weaving in Lake Orion, Michigan. Trained as an educator and curriculum developer by the United States Army, Joan is a natural teacher. She volunteers in the textile conservation department at The Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan, where she loves combining her passion for textiles with her fascination with history. She has taught and presented at conferences, festivals, for guilds and shops, and on tour in Norway.



Amy Tyler of Interlochen, Michigan has degrees in modern dance, kinesiology, and physiology. She uses this background in art and science to inspire her fiber arts work. She spins, knits, teaches, writes, designs, and thinks a lot about process and creativity. She has had numerous articles published in Spin-Off and PLY Magazine. You can find out more about her work on her website, <http://www.stonesockfibers.com>



Elizabeth Whitton is a mompreneur who turned her love of wool into a thriving family-run needle felting business called Felted Sky. Her line of kits and supplies can now be found online and in many shops across the US and Canada. Her work has been featured in Better Homes and Gardens and numerous times on Etsy. Elizabeth enjoys teaching through her kits, in person and online. Through needle felting she is able to promote stress-relief, creativity and joy.



Megan Williams is a maker. She prefers maker because it encompasses all the things she is; sewer, dyer, weaver, spinner, felter, crocheter, leather worker, builder, grower, teacher, and student. She is focused on making both beautiful objects and wonderful communities. Megan owns and runs a small textile arts business called Adventure Textiles. She likes using her business to make products with whatever technique she is currently experimenting with. Check out her website, www.adventuretextiles.com for examples of what she does with natural dyes and cyanotypes. Megan has been teaching natural dye workshops all around Michigan for over 5 years and is excited to bring her knowledge of natural dyes to the Fiber World. She structures her workshops as an in depth study into the process and science behind dyeing with natural materials. She hopes every student will learn a lot and be confident in being able to replicate the results at home.

