

2017 Michigan Fiber Festival Instructors

Kelly Brandt

#106-Felted Hat of the Steppes

#206-Felt Under Foot

#324-Holey Moley Scarf

Kelly started on her wool craft odyssey in 1975 with four (4) horned Dorset sheep which came to her five acre homestead in Lake Odessa "just to keep the pasture down." The next spring she fell in love with the lustrous fleece revealed by the shearer's work. She designed a queen sized picture quilt top and hand carded the filling to make her first comforter. She had so much fun with for her first project that she went looking for more things to do with her fleeces. She taught herself locker hooking, felting, and hand spinning and is still exploring knitting, crocheting, weaving, and other fiber skills. Through her fiber based cottage business, Team Effort Artisans, Kelly has shown and sold fine wool craft at shows, galleries, and festivals. Her enthusiasm for sharing fiber craft and animals has led Kelly to teach spinning and felting to children and adults at festivals, guilds, and schools throughout the Midwest. www.teameffortartisans.com

Heidi Bukoski

#105-Dying the Shibori Way

#222-Wire Wrapped Gemstone Bracelet

#232-Kumihimo Leash

#301-Needle Felted Chickadee

Heidi grew up in an artistic household. She learned to sew, knit and weave before going off to college to further her study of weaving and dying. She has spent her life increasing her knowledge of different techniques. She has experimented with most fiber processes and loves to combine them to achieve her desired end. The last 12 years she has become more serious about jewelry and working with wire in various ways including making it. She conducted her first workshops in the mid 70's, took time off for family and children, and now teaches throughout the Midwest. www.teameffortartisans.com

Henry and Roy Clemes

#103-Exploring the Drum Carder

A lifelong woodworker and small business owner, Henry has been building fiber art equipment for over 45 years and drum carders for 38 years. Roy grew up in his family's wood shop and is one of few 30 year olds with 25 years of experience in his field. Together they have introduced many innovations to the fiber arts community and their equipment is known not only for being thoughtfully engineered, but also visually pleasing and durable. They regularly consult and instruct spinners, felters, fiber growers, and professional fiber artists in the use of drum carders for fiber prep. <http://www.clemes.com/>

Carol Densmore

#202-Batt Building for Yarn Design

#332-The Good Fleece

Carol's interest in fiber and fabric began while growing up on a Michigan farm. She came from a family of makers where she developed an artisan's spirit. Carol's fiber passion soared while raising a small herd of alpacas and llamas, and now together with her husband operates Cross Wind Farm where they primarily raise longwool sheep. Carol crossbreeds the purebred sheep to study new variations of wool. Carol holds a Master Spinner Certificate from Olds College and is immersed in shepherding, shearing, handspinning, dyeing, and loves antique spinning wheels. Visit www.crosswindfarm.com.

Lori Evesque

#209-Dyeing with Japanese Indigo
#303-Natural Dye/25 Colors One Dye

Lori has been interested in fibers for most of her life. This interest started when she was 8 learning to knit. She learned spinning 30 years ago in Australia. A background in chemistry and interest in growing plants lead her to try natural dyeing. Demonstrating dyeing through a Viking reenactment group expanded her knowledge. She has been natural dyeing, sourcing many dyes locally, growing many, for over 15 years.

Expanding the range of colors possible from locally sourced materials, including Japanese indigo and madder, is a pastime she greatly enjoys and with it a desire to share her knowledge with other interested dyers. She has recently purchased a farm in Allegan where she will continue growing dye plants and finally get sheep of her own.

Barb Gallagher

#101-Color for Weavers
#200-Demystifying the Warping Process

Barb has been weaving since 1971. She has a BA in Art from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she did her thesis on rug weaving. Her focus for the last 30 years has been primarily rugs, but she also enjoys weaving tapestries, and other useful items such as towels, scarves, shawls & throws. She's been teaching weaving for more than 15 years. She is a member of many weaving guilds and organizations.

www.weaversloft.com

June Grabemeyer

#223-Suspended Drop Spindle
#233-Make It Fit
#302-Knitting Textured Sweaters

June Grabemeyer has been knitting for over 50 years and hand spinning yarns since 1980. She has been designing and adjusting patterns for use with hand spun yarns ever since she started spinning. June has taught workshops and individual lessons on spinning and knitting in New York and Michigan. She has extensive experience in public speaking and conducting workshops. June is a native of Michigan, recently retired, and currently lives in Bangor, MI.

Mary Jo Harris

#121-Portuguese Knitting
#131-Think Small Shawls
#224-Two Color Knitting
#234-Montage of Mosaic
#326-Christmas Stocking

Mary Jo Harris lives in the knitting mecca of Madison, WI. She has been a teacher all of her adult life and has formally taught knitting for the last 9 years at various Sheep and Wool Festivals, Fiber Festivals, Knit-In's, and teaches locally for Madison College and the Wisconsin Craft Market. In the last several years, she has added Chair Caning classes to her teaching repertoire. Mary Jo designs knitting patterns and under her designer name of Jo Harris, has written a book entitled 'Double Knitting - Inside Out' which is available through Amazon or Ravelry. As an active member of the Madison (WI) Knitters' Guild she has an almost constant opportunity to discuss anything and everything knitting-related.

Linda Hardwood

#208-Rug Hooking

Linda practices the early American art of rug hooking. Her skill and eye for color have brought her commissions both in America and Internationally. The themes, texture and color of the rural landscape emerge in her work influenced by her family life on a sheep and cattle farm. In her hooking she uses recycled wool as well as new material. She wants the hooked pieces to look old, therefore she over dyes the wool. She has been hooking since the early 1980's and teaching since the early 1990's. As a fiber artist Linda has enjoyed sharing her knowledge with others. Her work has been seen in magazines, books and on television. Visit her web at www.harwoodhookedonewe.com

Suzanne Higgs

#112-Jewel Vessels

#213-Felt Like Heaven Wall Hanging

#306-Fashionable Felt Hat

#402-Nuno Felt to Dye For

Suzanne has been making felt for 10 years and grows more fascinated with the medium, the process, and the possibilities. She invented the Needle Felting on Foam Forms, owns www.hookedonfelt.com and blog. She has taught throughout the Midwest and continues to take classes whenever possible. Her hats are sold in galleries, at fiber and art shows, and on the internet. While she loves all aspects of felt-making, hats will always be a favorite felt fashion.

Gail Hollinger

#104-Coiled Rye Basket

#205-Seat Weaving with Rush

#323-Cane Weaving on Rocks

#333-E-Textiles: Soft Circuits

#400-Seat Weaving with Cane

Gail has worked with fiber for, well – a very long time and learned to spin on a cranky, antique flax wheel, oh – a long time ago. Her museum work gave her opportunities to view historic needlework and needlework tools first hand. She has degrees in Art and Adult and Community Education. Gail has taught classes on many different arts and crafts including; spinning, weaving, marbling, metal clay jewelry, bookbinding, beading, constructing folk instruments, making boxes for rare books, e-textiles, etc. Curious folks can see more of my work at my website, www.HandBlarneyStudio.net, including vinegar paint pieces and some of my ecclesiastical work; altar cloths, banners, and installations

Letty Klein

#108-The Shepherd's Rug

Letty Klein has been making custom braided rugs for over 15 years. She has raised Karakul sheep for 30 years on Pine Lane Farm near Kalamazoo, MI. and has judged sheep/fleece shows across the country. A graduate of Michigan State University with a degree in Microbiology, she is a retired research scientist from Upjohn/Pfizer Animal Health. She writes a column in the Black Sheep Newsletter. In 2006 she coauthored "The Shepherd's Rug - a braided wool rug from roving"

Bev Larson

#201-The Ultimate Weavers Basket

#321-Small Knitter

#331-Broom Maker Primer

She has been weaving since 1988 and teaching since 1999. She loves to share the joy of basket weaving with those around her and has done so by teaching in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Wisconsin 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.

Annie Modesitt

#221-Combination Knitting

#231-Double Knitting

#320-Fabulous Finish

#330-Brahmin Moth Workshop

A native of Ohio, I taught myself to knit at age 25 before a move from NYC to Texas. The Texas tenure didn't last, but knitting did. Upon my return to the NY area I began knitting for other designers, and designing for major knitting magazines. My work has appeared in Vogue Knitting, Interweave Knits, Knitters Magazine, Cast On, Piecework and many international fiber & yarn oriented publications. I teach worldwide and across the United States. I knit using the Combination Method and believe that there truly is no wrong way to knit.

Ruthanne Morningstar

#111-Bead Weaving on a Loom

#212-Catch All Wall Basket

#305-Loom Rag Weaving

#420-Apache Beaded Earrings

#430-Silk Scarf Dying

After moving to the country and finding herself bored, Ruthanne decided to take an Easter Basket class at a local craft shop. That was 34 years ago and now she is a Basket weaver, Instructor and confirmed beader, loom weaver, spinner, hand knitter, machine knitter, dyer, herbalist, and master gardener, etc. You all know the words to the story, but she still finds time to teach and share her knowledge, creativity and enthusiasm with others.

Chiaki O'Brien

#102-SAORI Weaving

#203-Weave a Warp Stenciled Scarf on SAORI Loom

#322-Discover Yourself SAORI Weaving

Chiaki is a, SAORI Leaders Committee Certificate recipient. She is one of the two certified instructors in Midwest as of 2016. Chiaki worked as an instructor for the SAORI head office in Japan. She brought SAORI Weaving to Minnesota when she moved from Japan in 2004 by opening a home studio—SAORI Studio "FUN." She has been planting "SAORI Seeds" whenever and wherever she can such as teaching at schools and participating in art related shows.

Rita Petteys

#110-Color Fiber Dying Sampler

#211-Layered Colors on a Silk Scarf

Rita is the owner of Yarn Hollow, a hand-dyed fiber, yarn, and fabric company based in Grandville, Michigan. Yarn Hollow, operating since 2005, was born of a long love of fiber arts and color. Rita was a young knitter and crocheter who returned to knitting after college, starting with the mythic boyfriend sweater. Then came spinning, and dyeing followed.

Yarn Hollow focuses on color in all manners: pastel, bright, dark, muddy, neutral, saturated. Using a lot of careful measurements and the best quality fibers, yarns, and fabrics, the business strives to produce goods that vibrate with life, color, and reflect the enthusiasm Rita has for the fiber arts. Rita has also been teaching dyeing and other aspects of the fiber arts since 2007. She has taught a variety of classes focusing on dyeing and color mixing, and has taught at yarn shops, fiber retreats, and fiber festivals throughout the Midwest.

She has also taught at Oxbow, the Kalamazoo Institute of the Arts, and for the Michigan League of Handweavers annual conferences. You can find more about Yarn Hollow at yarnhollow.com

Lenore Snyder

#107-CSW on Triangle Loom—Make a Shawl

#207-CSW on the Rectangle Loom—Make a Scarf

#325-Twills on the Triangle Loom

#334-Weave Drafts Into a Continuous Strand

Lenore grew up in Jackson, Michigan, and has lived in several states and two foreign countries. But, Michigan has always been home, so she and her husband, George moved to Hillsdale in 2011. Lenore found her artistic expression when she was introduced to triangular weaving in 2004. Then, a workshop at Carol Leigh's Hillcreek Fiber Studio provided valuable information and techniques for her to continue creating innovative and unique fabrics. Since then, she has participated in several art and fiber shows in Illinois and Michigan. Currently, Lenore leads CSW study groups as a member of the Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo and Jackson Hand Weavers and Spinners Guild. Lenore's background in education enables her to communicate the "how's and " why's" of continuous strand weaving. Enabling others to discover the possibilities of continuous strand weaving fulfills Lenore's passion for weaving. Visit Lenore's website for more information and samples of her work: www.lenorej.com

Tanya Thomann

#327-Choose Your Own Adventure

#335-Working with Hand Painted Yarns

#421-Look Mom Two Hands

I'm a high school special educator who is skilled at breaking instructions into small, manageable pieces. This training makes me an excellent choice as a knitting instructor as I'm able to approach teaching from multiple perspectives and typically am able to find a way for all of my students to achieve successful results. I'm a "graduate" of Joan Sheridan's Knitting Boot Camp and Fair Isle classes and have worked my way through levels 1-2 of the TKGGA Master Knitter program. I've been published and have self-published over 20 knitting patterns to date. You can see a portion of my design work on Ravelry.

Amy Tyler

#100-Beginning Spinning at the Wheel

#220-Knitting Petoskey Stones

#230-Diversity of Wool

#300-Creating the Yarn You Want

Amy 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 articles published in Spin-Off and PLY Magazine. You can find out more about her work on her website and blog: <http://www.stonesockfibers.com> <http://stonesockblog.blogspot.com>

Emily Wohlscheid

#120-Fractal: Blend and Spin

#130-Tweed: Blend and Spin

#204-Social Media for Fiber Folk

Emily has loved fiber, jewelry, and sparkly things since she can remember. After receiving her BFA from Adrian College where she studied metalsmithing and textile techniques, she learned to spin as a way to get back in the classroom. She now creates hand crafted jewelry and hand dyed fiber goods for her business, Bricolage Studios, and teaches classes and workshops both locally and throughout the United States in spinning, fiber blending, and jewelry/metalsmithing. Emily works from a cooperative fiber studio in Kalamazoo, MI where she enjoys the camaraderie of her studio mates and the occasional pint from the attached brewery. You can find out more about Emily's work, class offerings, and show schedule at bricolagestudios.bigcartel.com

Patsy Zawistoski

#109-Spinning Cellulose Fibers

#210-Spinning Icelandic Wool

#304-Options for Spinning Painted Rovings

#401-CSI Yarns and Fiber – Up to the Challenge?

Patsy understands the art and the mechanics of spinning. She receives accolades for her teaching techniques as well as her extensive knowledge of all aspects of spinning and spinning wheels. She delights in seeing her students reach that “aha” moment in their spinning skill set. Patsy’s three videos continue to be favorites. Always creating, always refining her skills and knowledge, Patsy is sought after as teacher, workshop leader, and lecturer. Relaxed and thorough – you’ll enjoy working with Patsy in class.