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THE FIBER FESTIVAL OF NEW ENGLAND NOVEMBER 2 & 3 AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

Fiber enthusiasts are coming together for the tenth annual Fiber Festival of New England, Nov. 2 & 3 in the Mallary Complex at Eastern States Exposition. Hours are Sat., 9am - 5pm and Sun., 9am - 3pm. The event, co-produced by the Exposition and the New England Sheep and Wool Growers Association, promotes the use of wool and other natural fibers and related products to the general public.

More than 150 New England exhibitors will be showcasing their products including clothing, quilts, blankets, rugs, looms, spinning wheels and more. Workshops on felting, spinning, punch needle, Tunisian crochet, rug hooking and more will be held both days.

In addition to being an ideal holiday shopping opportunity, with handmade items from over 200 vendor booths, The Fiber Festival is a great educational experience for visitors to learn how animals contribute to the fiber industry through live displays of llamas, alpacas, sheep, and rabbits.

Activities include:

- A **Fleece Sale** will be ongoing throughout the Festival and is open to all. Be the first in line to purchase a fleece. Those interested in contributing fleeces should send them to arrive at/or before 8pm Friday, Nov. 1, or bring them to the Mallary Complex Nov. 1, 9am to 9pm. Please include the date shorn, breed of animal and producer information.
- **Sheep Shearing** demos will also take place throughout the weekend.

Fiber Festival Workshops:

Please visit www.Fiberfestival.org for workshop fees & requirements

Wool Christmas Wreath, Susan Rice of Bartlett Yarns– Nov. 2, 9:15-11:15am

Creative wool fabric wreath using a wooden hoop. Decorated with a bow and ornament (will vary). One small wreath will be made in class with provided supplies to make a larger one at home.

Floribunda! Needle Felted Roses, Marcia Weinert – Nov. 2, 9:15-11:15am

Learn everything from a bud to a fully opened rose, and leaves, too! You choose what color you want to make your rose from our large variety of flowery hues. Discover how to use shapers, make rows of petals and how to

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assemble your rose. Bonus: I'll bring essential oils if you would like to add a scent. Use your rose to make jewelry, embellish a hat, barrette or purse... beautiful! You take home a set of three shapers, your rose and written and illustrated instructions.

Begin To Spin!, Marcia Weinert – Nov. 2, 9:30am - 11:30am (SOLD OUT)

Learn to make your own, unique handspun yarn on a spinning wheel! We'll play with several types of prepared wool while we discuss wheel maintenance, drafting, treading, plying, and finishing techniques to make a balanced yarn. As time permits, we'll touch on various types of fiber preparation and non-wool fibers. No previous experience required.

Rigid Heddle Weaving, Sally Mullen of Hartford Artisans Weaving Center – Nov. 2, 9:30am - 11:30am (SOLD OUT)

Join instructor Sally Mullen for a rigid heddle class for beginners! You will learn each step in the rigid heddle weaving process, and you'll build confidence to set up the loom and weave on your own. This class is open to brand-new weavers and anyone who is interested in refreshing or solidifying their rigid heddle weaving skills.

Bell Ornament, Kathy Donovan of Checkmate Farm – Nov. 2, 12 - 3pm

In this make it and take it workshop, you will learn the basics of Oxford punch needle rug hooking. We will be creating a colorful bell ornament. Fun for beginners as well as those that may already be familiar with punch needle rug hooking. Everyone will leave with a finished Bell ornament and the knowledge and skills needed to start a larger project. Frames and punch needles will be available for use during the class and may be purchased.

Framed 2D Needle Felted Landscape, Pat Pawlowicz of A Fistful of Felt – Nov. 2, 12 - 2pm

Choose one of our wooden picture frames in your choice of color and size and I'll show you how to needle felt a lovely landscape out of wool. Even if you have never picked up a felting needle before, you will love these quick and easy techniques and be able to continue to make more at home. Choose colors from our extensive palette of wool batting and your choice of vintage tweed wool or plain wool background to work on. You'll take home a finished and framed landscape that you will have proudly created yourself.

Harmony Santa, Susan Rice of Bartlett Farms – Nov. 2, 12:30 - 2:30pm

Create an adorable needle-felted Santa using the cookie cutter method by Bartlett Yarns. This charming ornament is personalized by the maker and can be cherished for years. Make one in class and make one at home.

Folk Art Rug Hooking, Janet Conner of J. Conner Hooked Rugs – Nov. 2, 1:00 - 4:00pm

Like all old fashioned crafts, rug hooking is low-tech, simple and lots of fun! You can easily incorporate rovings, hand spun and commercial yarns, felting techniques and embellishments, once you have mastered the basics. Learn the sequence and procedure of rug hooking, from start to finish. Every step will be demonstrated. We will discuss the history and tradition of primitive rug hooking, learn about finding and preparing materials, and research sources for design inspiration.

Pocket Gnome, Jennifer VanSant of Going Gnome – Nov. 2, 3:00 - 5:00pm

Learn to needle felt a three dimensional figure- this adorable pocket gnome. Then bring him home to protect you and your family.

Weaving with Beads: The Stretchy Bracelet, Pat Pawlowicz of A Fistful of Felt – Nov. 2, 3:00 - 5:00pm

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Love wearing beads but hate finishing it off? Never touched a bead loom before? No worries! You will take home a beautifully made wooden loom in Velcro storage case to continue making bracelets in various sizes and widths after learning the quick and easy techniques to stringing beads, weaving and finishing your stretchy bracelet.

Learn to Knit With Beads, Jean Glass of Bead Biz – Nov. 2, 3:00 - 5:00pm

We will show you multiple methods for adding beads to your projects and talk about what beads are good for different types and sizes of fibers. You will start to make a beaded cuff bracelet. This is an easy project that lets you focus on the beads instead of complicated directions. If you know, you can make this beautiful, sparkly, soft bracelet. Come and have fun with beads!

Short Rows Neck Warmer, Andrea Colyer of Greenwood Hill Farm – Nov. 3, 9:15 - 11:15am

This workshop will teach the method of knitting short rows and making a project using this method called "neck ruffle."

Needle Felted Story Ball, Pat Pawlowicz of A Fistful of Felt – Nov. 3, 9:15 - 11:15am

2D felting on a 3D form! Each ball tells a story as you turn it around... what will your story be? A beach scene to remind you of a glorious vacation, snowy mountains to bring in a hint of winter, or a barn with trees and a creek? You decide what it will look like, or choose from our patterns for ideas. Learn many needle felting techniques like layering and blending while you design your very own story ball. Hang as an ornament or pomander, nestle in a basket or drawer.

Gingerbread Swag, Susan Rice of Bartlett Yarns – Nov. 3, 9:30 - 11:30am

Create a needle felted gingerbread swag using a cookie cutter and Bartlett Yarns round roving joined with ribbon bows for a cute and unique holiday decoration.

Rigid Heddle Beginners, Jill Staubitz of Hartford Artisans Weaving Center – Nov. 3, 9:30 - 11:30am

You will learn each step in the rigid heddle weaving process and you'll build confidence to set up the loom and weave on your own. This class is open to brand-new weavers and anyone who is interested in refreshing or solidifying their rigid heddle weaving skills.

Miniature Punch Needle, Janet Conner of J. Conner Hooked Rugs – Nov. 3, 12 - 3:00pm

This method creates tiny, doll house sized hooked rugs by punching from the reverse side. Easy portable and fun project.

Needle Felt A Baby Penguin, Jennifer VanSant of Going Gnome – Nov. 3, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Participants will learn tips and tricks to turn wool batting into a three dimensional figure, in this case a baby penguin.

Knitting with Beads: Infinity Scarf, Jean Glass of Bead Biz – Nov. 3, 1:00 - 3:00pm

Learn to knit with beads by making a beautiful beaded infinity scarf. You will pre-string the beads then continue with a seed stitch pattern. You will complete at least one third of your cowl during the allocated class time.

Begin To Spin, Marcia Weinert – Nov. 3, 1:00 - 3:00pm

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Learn to make your own, unique handspun yarn on a spinning wheel! We'll play with several types of prepared wool while we discuss wheel maintenance, drafting, treading, plying, and finishing techniques to make a balanced yarn. As time permits, we'll touch on various types of fiber preparation and non-wool fibers. No previous experience required.

Enjoy a fun-filled weekend with family and friends at The Fiber Festival of New England. Admission is \$7 for adults and free for children 12 and under. For more information and tickets, or to sign up for a workshop, please visit FiberFestival.org.

Editors: please visit <https://bit.ly/2PB38Be> for Fiber Festival of New England photos.

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