

Welcome to New England



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – West Springfield, MA

October 15, 2018

THE FIBER FESTIVAL OF NEW ENGLAND NOVEMBER 3 & 4 AT EASTERN STATES EXPOSITION

Fiber enthusiasts are coming together for the ninth annual Fiber Festival of New England, Nov. 3 & 4 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 on or before Friday, Nov. 2, or bring them to the Mallary Complex Nov. 2, 9am to 8pm. Please include the date shorn, breed of animal and producer information.
- **Sheep Shearing** demos will also take place throughout the weekend.

Fiber Festival Workshops:

Oxford Punch Lamb Ornament, Kathy Donovan of Checkmate Farm – Nov. 3, 9:30-11am (SOLD OUT)
Create a quick little lamb ornament using Karakul sheep rug yarn and size 10 Regular Oxford Punch Needle. You will complete this 4" x 6" lamb in class.

Begin To Spin!, Marcia Weinert – Nov. 3, 9:30-11:30am (SOLD OUT)

Learn to make your own, unique handspun yarn on a spinning wheel! Play with several types of prepared wool while discussing wheel maintenance, drafting, treadling, plying and finishing techniques to make a balanced yarn.

Harmony Santa, Susan Rice of Bartlett Yarns – Nov. 3, 10am-1pm

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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 take it home.

Rigid Heddle Weaving, Jill Staubitz of Hartford Artisans Weaving Center – Nov. 3, 10am-1pm

Rigid Heddle looms are perfect for knitters or anyone with the desire to weave! Class will focus on a quick and easy way to warp your rigid heddle loom. Discuss which yarns work best on a rigid heddle and learn the difference between the 8, 10 and 12 dent heddles.

Modular Knitting, Uyvonne Bigham of A2Z Fibers LLC – Nov. 3, 11:30am - 1:30pm

Working on a small amount of stitches to make spectacular designs! This class will focus on making a module that can be worked into a beautiful shawl.

Simple Bookmark, Aimee Gilbert of Knitting with Aimee at Hemlock Knoll – Nov. 3, 12 - 1:30pm

Learn to cast on, to make the knit stitch, bind off and add fringe.

Plying Demystified!, with Marcia Weinert – Nov. 3, 1:30 - 4:30pm

Explore all the ways that plying can affect color, durability, texture, and ease of completion—whether you're spinning to knit, crochet or weave.

Pocket Gnome, Jennifer VanSant of Going Gnome – Nov. 3, 1:30 - 3pm

This workshop is a great way to learn how to needle felt. Or, for the experienced felter, get a chance to make this cute project.

Beginner Rug Hooking, Mariah Krauss of Green Mountain Hooked Rugs – Nov. 3, 2 - 4pm (SOLD OUT)

Through lecture, demonstration and hands-on work students will experience the art of rug hooking while on a small project to take home. This class is designed for students who have never tried rug hooking or have very little knowledge of proper technique.

Folk Art Rug Hooking, Janet Conner of J Conner Hooked Rugs – Nov. 3, 2 - 5pm

Learn the sequence and procedure of rug hooking, from start to finish. Every step will be demonstrated and there will be discussions on the history and tradition of primitive rug hooking. Learn about finding and preparing materials, and research sources of design inspiration.

Design and Dye A Sock Blank, Ellen Minard of Ellen's 1/2 Pint Farm – Nov. 4, 9:30 - 11am

This class will start with a brief overview of hand painting and taking a look at dyed blanks and how they will knit up into a pair of socks. Then it will move on to the fun! You will design your own color-way and paint a sock blank. These blanks are double strand, which means you will end up with yarn to knit a pair of exactly matching socks.

Beginning Naalbinding, Katherine Johnson – Nov. 4, 9:30am - 12:30pm

Naalbinding is a fabric-making technique that employs one needle and short-ish lengths of yarn. Its roots stretch deep into human prehistory, and there has been a modern resurgence recently. In this class you will learn Oslo stitch to create a wrist cuff.

Gingerbread Swag, Susan Rice of Bartlett Yarns – Nov. 4, 10am - 12pm

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

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Needle Felted Color Cascade, Pat Pawlowicz of A Fistful of Felt! – Nov. 4, 10am - 1pm

Blending wool is a great way to create custom colors. This class will teach you techniques needed to successfully blend wool, needle-felt beads and assemble a bracelet.

Learn to Knit with Beads, Jean Elizabeth of Glass of Bead Biz – Nov. 4, 11:30am - 3pm

Come and have fun with beads! Learn multiple methods for adding beads to your projects and talk about what beads are good for different types and sizes of fibers.

Intermediate Rug Hooking, Lindsay Krauss of Green Mountain Hooked Rugs – Nov. 4, 1 - 3pm

If you're familiar with the technique of rug hooking but want to expand your knowledge or haven't done it in many years, this class will help you build upon your current knowledge base. Through lecture, demonstration and hands-on work students will work on a classic pictorial design.

Knit Bird Bookmark, Aimee Gilbert of Knitting with Aimee at Hemlock Knoll – Nov. 4, 12:30 - 2:30pm

Learn to knit a cute bookmark for you and your friends. Skills used are knitting, increasing, decreasing, stuffing, sewing closed and adding eyes and braids.

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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