



## Organizer Bios

### Andrea Fallone

With a background in Environmental Program Management and years of experience as a Communications Coordinator for small businesses, Andrea brings a unique and creative voice to Fibre at Fern. Andrea manages the social media profile, as well as teacher/attendee communications, and promotion.

Andrea is also the owner and maker of Pine & Purl, and loves making fun and cheeky accessories for knitters, crocheters, and fibre lovers. In her spare time, Andrea loves knitting, reading, baking, and spending time outdoors hiking and camping with her family.

### Elizabeth Fallone

Elizabeth was a previous organizer, teacher and founding member of YOSO. Elizabeth has taught for both Stitches East and West, designed for yarn companies and knitting magazines, and she has published patterns and books. Her knowledge of both the fibre industry and local community make Elizabeth a valuable asset to the Fibre at Fern team.

Elizabeth eats, sleeps, and breathes this medium – she always has multiple projects on the go and is constantly designing and creating. She is never without her knitting needles, whether at a campsite, a wedding, or traveling abroad.

Andrea and Elizabeth have lined up some excellent teachers for you this year who have some great classes scheduled:

### Gabriela Dudas

- Double Knitting
- Mosaic Knitting
- That Pesky Underarm

### Mary Pat McDonald

- No Pain, Big Gain
- Kick up your (Sock) Heels



## Julia Bryant

- Beginner Tunisian/Afghan Crochet
- Fancy Ribbings and Edgings

## Annika Peloski

- Mend Your Knits with Ease
- Dyeing with Dragons
- Rocking the Float

## Marisa Veri

- Stabbing Succs: Needle Felted Terrariums
- Getting to Gnome You
- Dyeing to Learn: Intro to Dyeing and Colour Theory

## Gabriela Dudas

### *Pineview Designs Knitting Club*

**Bio:** Gabriela learned to knit in Austria when she was in Grade Two, and she hasn't stopped knitting much in between now and then. Gabriela started Pineview Designs Knitting Club because of her love for knitting, and she wants everyone to be as happy knitting as she is. Knitting is the best therapy!

### **Classes:**

- 1. Double Knitting:** Double knitting allows you to create two layers of fabric at the same time, with only one pair of needles. The right sides of each layer face out, and the wrong sides face each other: stocking stitch on both sides! The finished fabric is entirely reversible, lending itself to colorwork, contrasting fibers, or simply a finished piece that is twice as warm! Use two contrasting colors, and you can create a piece of knitting with one color on each side and no "wrong side." Learn how to knit an easy double-knit pattern in a matter of minutes.
- 2. Mosaic Knitting:** Barbara G. Walker first coined the term "Mosaic Knitting" and invented over 100 mosaic patterns in the 70's. For beginners and experienced knitters alike, colorwork can seem daunting. Mosaic knitting, however, is a great way to get into the world of colorwork knitting without learning an entirely new and complicated technique. Mosaic knitting is a method of colorwork that involves two simple techniques — slipping stitches and changing colors between rows.
- 3. That Pesky Underarm:** The scenario: You are knitting a top-down sweater and the instructions tell you to cast on stitches for the underarm on the body and the sleeves. When you are finished knitting you need to close the hole at the underarm and end up with a bulky and ugly underarm... The fix: The instructions for "That Pesky Underarm". I use this method for all of my sweaters now, top-down or bottom-up.



## Mary Pat McDonald

**Bio:** Mary Pat's passion for life is infectious! Mary Pat is known for her pink hair, bright colours, and her knitting obsession. She's learned from industry rock stars, like Lucy Neatby, Patty Lyons, and Nora Gaughan, whose best practices she distills and puts her own spin on her classes. Mary Pat served four years as a Program Director for the Toronto Knitters Guild, and more than 20 years leading the ROCK Guild (Regal Order of Crocheters and Knitters). She has taught at local knitting retreats, like YarnOver SleepOver, Fibre at Fern, Eastern Ontario Needlers' Retreat, and the Kawartha Yarn & Fibre Festival. Mary Pat believes that knitting is the highest form of sanity-restoring, happiness-inducing therapy.

### Classes:

- 1. No Pain, Big Gain:** This class looks at keeping your #1 tool, your body, in top shape while working down your stash. You can promote ease and comfort by correcting pampering joints and muscles. We'll examine good knitting/crochet posture, changing old bad habits, essential exercises, and a few useful gadgets.
- 2. Kick up your (Sock) Heels:** Perhaps you want a better fitting hand-knit sock so your heels won't slide around. Or you might be looking for a new challenge. The Fleegle Heel and Cat Bordhi's Sweet Tomato Heel are alternative techniques to the standard turned heel and yield different results. You'll learn the basics of both heel-shaping methods and if time permits, an overview of a third method.

## Julia Bryant

**Bio:** Julia has been a part-time textile artist for as long as she can remember. The crafts she uses include crochet, knitting, and counted cross-stitch. Julia became fascinated with Afghan/Tunisian Crochet about 30 years ago and has been developing and perfecting her skills using the colour inlay technique ever since. Her work is often embellished with beads, bobbles, and embroidery, and she creates all her own designs.

In 2008, Julia co-led a craft tour to Morocco, which included teaching Tunisian crochet and filet crochet, and provided exposure to local artisans. This was her sixth visit to Morocco. In 2008 and 2011, Julia was awarded a first and third prize for two of her wall hangings, and in 2013, she received first prize for a story quilt bedspread. In 2015, Julia received an honourable mention for her coat Lollapalooze in design contests held by the Crochet Guild of America. Julia has had several exhibitions in Toronto, and has organized and taught at weekend craft seminars, the Creative Needlework Festival, two Crochet Guild of America/Knitters' Guild of America conference in the US, and various Knitters' Guilds across Canada.

She has a passion for colour and loves to teach! Visit Julia's website at [www.fibrefantastics.com](http://www.fibrefantastics.com) to view her work.

### Classes:

- 1. Beginner Tunisian/Afghan Crochet:** Students will learn the basic stitch, how to inlay colours, add beads and bobbles.
- 2. Fancy Ribbings and Edgings:** Give your garments that extra pizzazz with fancy knitted edgings and embellishments.



## Annika Peloski

### *Dragon Strings*

**Bio:** Annika's dye studio is called Dragon Strings and she has been putting dye to string since 2015. She's a passionate creator with a background in design and colour theory. She was looking to get out of the corporate world and kind of fell into dyeing after taking a class. Annika saw she could use her background to create yarns that break the mold of "boring" by dyeing one-of-a-kind, funky, inspired yarns that are super awesome to work with and have colours that will knock your socks off! (Even if they are handmade).

Annika does just about everything that has to do with string, from fluff onwards. (She has not gotten any sheep or alpacas and/or learned to shear them...yet). Annika has dabbled in knitting, crocheting, spinning, weaving, macrame, knot work, and let's not forget the dream catchers and friendship bracelets of misspent youth. Annika is mostly a knitter, with favourites being whatever has caught her eye at the moment, but she does produce a staggering number of both hats and socks every year.

### **Classes:**

- 1. Mend Your Knits with Ease:** Do you have any clothes with holes or damage that you want to fix? Come to our Mending Class and learn how to mend, repair and fix holes, snags and damage in knitted pieces! Swiss darning, visible mending, traditional darning and 1000's of others. So many different ways to fix things! Don't let your knits languish in the bottom of the laundry because of a small snafu, show them some love so they will spring back to live and give you years more service. Bring your damaged goods, some spare yarn, as well as at least one 5"x5" swatch to practice on. We will go over the most common types of damage that you will find and how to fix them both invisibly and visibly.
- 2. Dyeing With Dragons:** We all know handpainted yarn is a dream to work with, now you can have all the fun of creating it yourself! Starting with only the basic colours we'll learn how to combine them to make all the colours of the rainbow and then squirt them all over yarn! Choose from fingering, DK or worsted weight skeins to design your masterpiece onto. All the dye, pans, squirters, instruction and shenanigans are included in the class free of charge. There are a few different weights of yarn available for \$30 a skein. (and yes, you can totally dye more than one, even in different bases if you want!) Also there are a few things you may want to bring: messy clothes (or apron), shoes you don't mind getting dye on, any pictures that inspire you, your imagination and, most importantly, your sense of adventure!
- 3. Rocking the Float:** Learn to control long floats in your stranded knitting without losing the flexibility of the knit fabric. Ladder-Back Jacquard (LBJ) is a technique used in machine knitting, but clever people have figured out how to work it into hand knitting. It's a way of dealing with long floats of the non-working color (the carried color) across the back of your work that avoids trapping the floats with the working yarn, but still keeps the carried color loose but secure. We will go over adding the extra lines on the chart and the stitches in your work and then once we are done we'll make them all disappear again leaving you with nothing but a super stretchy fabric with no long annoying floats!

## Marisa Veri

*Pretty Little Yarns Inc.*

**Bio:** Marisa is the knitter, crocheter, spinner, felter, designer and owner behind Pretty Little Yarns Ltd., Dye Pretty Yarn + Fibre and Felt Pretty. With a background in Interior Design, Marisa has translated her love of problem solving and colour into her passion for the fibre arts. She has always been drawn to colour, craft, and the handmade. After learning to knit at age 7, it took a few years before the bug really bit her, but in time crochet, hand spinning, wheel spinning, needle felting, and dyeing have all become critical parts of Marisa's creative expression.

### Classes:

- 1. Stabbing Succs:** Needle Felted Terrariums - Are you tired of forgetting to water your house plants, only to have them up and die on you? Do life's frustrations leave you feeling a bit stabby? Allow me to introduce, Needle Felted Terrariums! In this class, we will safely stab all of the wool to create felted wool terrariums of succulents and cacti that never die. Guided by Marisa of Pretty Little Yarns Ltd, you'll learn to felt 3D shapes, when to use core wool, and how to layer colours to transform fluffy wool fibers into miniature plants. The magic truly unfolds as you assemble your felted creations inside glass jar terrariums, creating a serene world of sweet succulents and colourful cacti. Whether you're a seasoned crafter, a complete beginner, or somewhere in between, this class is designed for anyone who wants to explore needle felting. By the end of the class, you'll be well on your way in your creation and have the confidence to continue needle felting beyond the classroom. We can't wait to welcome you and witness the beauty you'll create!
- 2. Getting to Gnome You:** Many people think making friends as an adult is hard, but the best thing about being a crafter is how easy making friends really is! Sign up for this class and you'll be all set to make your very own little gnome friend. Join Marisa as she shows you the basic and not so basic techniques involved in knitting one of the popular Imagined Landscape Gnome patterns. We will be covering knitting in the round, Emily Ocker's cast on for knitting flat circles, I-cord, changing colours, and seaming. Gnome yarn kits will be available at my vendor table and students are welcome to use their stash yarn. Students will need to purchase the pattern online ahead of the class, which will be sent to them via email.
- 3. Dyeing to Learn:** Intro to Dyeing and Colour Theory - Love knitting with hand-dyed yarns and "dye"-ing to figure out the secrets behind it? Experience all the magic of creating your very own colourways in this introductory dyeing class. In this class we will cover dyeing safety, colour mixing, yarn preparation, dyeing variegated and solid colours, and wet speckling. There will be three bases to choose from at a cost of \$28 per skein: Tiara Sock (fingering weight 80-20 SW Merino Nylon), Diadem Sport (100% SW Merino), and Coronet Worsted (100% SW Merino). You are welcome to dye more than one skein and/or multiple bases. All other materials and instruction are included at no charge.