

Fibre at Fern 2025: Teacher Biographies & Class Descriptions

Friday, April 11 to Sunday, April 13, 2025

Organizer Bio

Andrea Fallone

Pine & Purl

Andrea is the maker and artist behind Pine & Purl and loves making fun, cheeky project bags and accessories for knitters and fibre lovers. You'll find Pine & Purl in the marketplace at Fibre at Fern, and you can visit their website at www.pineandpurl.ca

Andrea has a background in project management and event coordination and is also one of the founding members and coordinators of the Fibre Spirit Festival, the region's largest festival dedicated to yarn and fibre arts. She manages the social media profiles, vendor communication, and promotion for the festival.

Andrea has a passion for the fibre arts and is constantly learning and growing as an artist. She finds fibre retreats inspiring and loves the feelings of connection and community. In her spare time, Andrea loves baking, knitting, and designing and dyeing yarn for Pine & Purl, as well as spending time outdoors with her family, either bird watching, hiking, or camping.

Teachers & Classes

We have some amazing teachers and classes lined up for you this year. There are three class sessions throughout the weekend – Saturday AM (9:15am-11:45am), Saturday PM (1:30pm-4:00pm), and Sunday AM (9:15am-11:45am) – choose a class from each session!



Saturday Morning Session #1 9:15am - 11:45am	Saturday Afternoon Session #2 1:30pm - 4:00pm	Sunday Morning Session #3 9:15am - 11:45am
Dyeing with Dragons - Annika Peloski	Dyeing with Dragons - Annika Peloski	Crossing the Streams - Annika Peloski
There's Gnome Place Like Home - Marisa Veri	Granny Squares: In the Bag! - Marisa Veri	Whimsical Weaving - Marisa Veri
Roosimine, Roositud, or Inlay Knitting - Gabriela Dudas	Two-Coloured Slip Stitch Cables - Gabriela Dudas	Slip & Dip Stitches - Gabriela Dudas
Knit One Below - Nancy Lekx	The Stripes Go Marching Two by Two - Nancy Lekx	Three Shawl Shapes Worked on the Bias - Nancy Lekx
Scrappy Ray Shawl - Thamo Hurly	Turkish Spindle Spinning - Thamo Hurly	Afterthought Everything Socks - Thamo Hurly
Slide & Turn: Reversible Two- Coloured Knitting - Mary Pat McDonald	Wooly Trees - Sue Barker	My 2025 Favourite Things - Mary Pat McDonald
Thimble Bunnies - Sue Barker		Wool Birds - Sue Barker

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.

1 & 2 - Dyeing with Dragons (Saturday AM & Saturday PM): We all know hand-painted 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 - Crossing the Streams (Sunday AM): Did you know that both knitting and crochet can use the same yarn? We're talking about combining the best of both worlds to create a one-of-a-kind piece of fibre art that's equal parts stunning and functional. We'll start by diving into the unique textures and properties of both knitting and crochet, and explore how to blend them together like a match made in heaven. From Stretch to Sturdy, each technique has its own special place in the toolbox of a fibre artist. Learn about picking up for edging, the magic of magic rings, and where and why each technique is beneficial. You don't need to know how to do either skill as an expert, but knowing the basics of each craft is helpful. (Knit, purl, chain, single crochet and double crochet)

Marisa Veri

Pretty Little Yarns Ltd.

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.

1. There's Gnome Place Like Home (Saturday AM) - In this beginner-friendly workshop, you'll explore the art of needle felting, where you'll safely stab all of the wool to create a sweet little mushroom house and garden, complete with a tiny wee gnome friend. 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 fibres into anything you can imagine. To finish off, assemble your felted creations inside glass jar terrariums for

display. By the end of the class, you'll have the confidence to continue needle felting beyond the classroom.

Kits are \$30.00 +HST and includes: 3 felting needles, a terrarium jar, a felting foam block, some 100% core wool, and some 100% coloured felting wool.

2. Granny Squares – In the Bag! (Saturday PM) – Granny squares have been so popular the last couple of years, they are everywhere, and with this beginner-friendly crochet class, you'll finally have them in the bag! Marisa from Pretty Little Yarns Ltd. will guide you through making the Battenberg Bag by Salena Baca. You'll learn how to create the popular granny square motif from start to finish. Learn to make an adjustable magic ring to start, learn to chain, single and double crochet, and of course, learn to join your squares and create a stylish tote. With lots of colours to choose from in a lovely cotton-linen blend, you'll be able to create the perfect bag to carry you through the summer!

Kits are \$49.95 +hst and include 5 skeins (500g total) of Estelle Linocott yarn. Please select your yarn from Marisa on Friday after arrival so she can wind it into balls for you ahead of the class.

3. Whimsical Weaving (Sunday AM) – Discover the joy of creating your own woven masterpiece in our Whimsical Weaving class. Unleash your creativity, one knot at a time. Starting with the basics of warping your mini-loom, Marisa, from Pretty Little Yarns Ltd., will then teach you how to work plain weave, twill weave, RYA knots, soumak knots, and sinna knots! By the end of the class, you'll be well on your way to having your very own little tapestry and all the tools needed to make more!

Kits are \$35.00 +HST and includes Mini-Loom, yarn and fibre.

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!

1. Roosimine, Roositud, or Inlay Knitting (Saturday AM) - Roositud knitting (pronounced royce-tood) is a colourwork technique that involves no real knitting with the contrast colour. Instead, all you are doing is essentially wrapping your secondary colour(s) around your work horizontally row-by-row to create a design. In this class, we will be knitting a small hat in the round with this technique.

2. Two-Coloured Slip Stitch Cables (Saturday PM) - Two-colored slipped stitch cables are a knitting pattern that uses two colours of yarn to create a cable pattern. The pattern involves slipping stitches onto a cable needle, working the stitches in the same colour, and then moving the cable needle to the back of the work. We will be using the Campiglio Headband pattern by Michela Francesconi, a free pattern on Ravelry.

3. Slip & Dip Stitches (Sunday AM) - Dip and Slip stitches are all the rage right now. They aren't difficult and they're a lot of fun to do! Let's have some fun while practicing these stitches and talk about where to use them.

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

1. Slide & Turn: Reversible Two-Coloured Knitting (Saturday AM) - We won't be waltzing! Instead of a dance step, 'slide and turn' is a simple technique that produces a reversible, squishy fabric in two colours, with each side being different. It's especially suitable for scarves, afghans, baby blankets, and even hat bands. It's also a great way to use single skeins to advantage, or break up variegated yarn colour pooling. We'll look at several variations of the basic method, and experiment with multi-coloured yarn if time permits.

2. My Favourite Things 2025 (Sunday AM) - Mary Pat's Favourite Things class is an ever-expanding collection of knitting insight - shortcuts, refinements, best practices, and neat little tips. There are many ways to tweak our favourite pursuit to make it easier and better-constructed, so the list is long. We'll practice as many as possible, and you'll take home the complete list. **A taste of the list:** Long-tail cast-on for ribbing, Cables without a cable needle, Counting rows between cable crosses, Knitting backwards, How to make that lace yarn thicker, No more unruly balls of yarn (the dollar store solution), and many more maneuvers and tidbits...

Nancy Lekx

Bio: Nancy Lekx taught high school History and English for thirty years, and now teaches knitting workshops for guilds and associations, for yarn shops, for fibre retreats like Fibre at Fern, and for private groups. Wide-ranging workshop topics include sequence knitting, shawl shaping and design, various striping techniques, and methods for casting on and binding off. The pivot to virtual learning during Covid lockdowns has allowed her to teach for venues all across North America from the comfort of her own craft room, and Nancy has enjoyed meeting knitters from around the world during her workshops.

1. Knit One Below (Saturday AM) - Knitting into the row below creates a fabric that is practically identical to brioche stitch, and is sometimes considered a "cheat" by brioche-knitting fans. But knitting into the row below is a legitimate knitting technique, and fisherman's rib is a classic stitch pattern that deserves respect! In this class, we learn the technique of working into the row below, and explore four stitch patterns using this simple maneuver: half fisherman's rib and the related bee stitch (which we will work in two colours for even more fun), fisherman's rib, and two-colour fisherman's rib. We'll discuss applications of these stitch patterns, and if time permits, learn how to make two-colour vertical stripes by knitting into the row below.

2. The Stripes Go Marching Two by Two (Saturday PM) – Two-row stripes worked in two colours are magical—easy to knit, with lots of colourwork bang for your buck! In this class, we will practice two simple techniques to add colour, texture, and pattern to your knitting. The first is the humble garter ridge, which is the basis for shadow (or illusion) knitting. The second is the simple slipped stitch, which can become richly patterned mosaic knitting. We'll examine the different charts that are used in instructions for knitting these kinds of stitch patterns, swatch some simple designs, and learn how to manage our yarns in order to prevent tangling.

3. Three Shawl Shapes Worked on the Bias (Sunday AM) - Knitting on the bias adds dynamic energy to a project, with slopes and angles providing visual interest to the simplest of stitch patterns. In this class, we will deconstruct three popular shawl shapes—the parallelogram (a more interesting version of the rectangular wrap), the asymmetrical triangle, and the boomerang (a hybrid of the first two shapes, and a popular choice for one-skein projects). We will work a basic swatch for each shape, then examine how to add stitch patterns to the templates in order to create beautiful shawls.

Thamo Hurly

Intuitive Fibre Artist

Bio: Thamo describes herself as an Intuitive Fibre Artist, letting her instincts rather than strict formulas guide her creations. Without relying on colour wheels or structured art tools, she crafts pieces that resonate with her soul, proving that the best work is often born from passion and intuition.

Whether it's a pattern that can be followed amid the laughter of comedy shows, or a project that lights up her imagination, Thamo's approach to the fibre arts is as refreshing as it is inspirational.

1. Scrappy Ray Shawl (Saturday AM) - The Scrappy Ray is a great palette for leftovers from other projects, mini skeins, or a precious skein of handspun! This is a top-down triangle shawl with opposing colours on the top edge and a solid spine that helps to tie all of the scrappy stripes together. In this class, we'll start by discussing how to arrange your scraps or minis so that you can maximize your yarn usage, and create an eye-pleasing colour story. Then, we'll go through the techniques in the pattern, including: How to work the 2-part cast on, keeping track of a 2-colour edge, Working the double garter pattern, maintaining a single-colour spine, and strategies for keeping track of where you are. This class would be great for adventurous beginners and beyond. While the techniques aren't complex, they may be combined in a way that you haven't seen before, depending on your shawl knitting experience.

Optional Kit - \$50.00+hst includes: 90-100g of Fingering weight scrapes and mini skeins (you will need to supply your own 100g skein of solid or semi-solid coloured Fingering weight yarn.

2. Turkish Spindle Spinning (Saturday PM) - Spindle spinning in its various forms has been around for thousands of years. Turkish Spindles are among my favourite because they are easily portable and versatile. In this workshop, we'll start with Turkish Spindle anatomy, how to create a leader, and how to spin singles. We'll also discuss plying and finishing our yarns so they're ready to be knit, crocheted, or woven. **Bring:** A Turkish Spindle and some fibre that's ready to spin (a braid or rolags are great to start with, Merino, or BFL are great breeds). A handout will be supplied

Optional Kit - \$50.00+hst Includes: a 3D printed Turkish Spindle and 30g+ fibre to spin with.

3. Afterthought Everything Socks (Sunday AM) - Sock weight tubes cranked on a Circular Sock Machine are all the rage. Being able to turn a long tube into a pair of socks is more simple than you might think! Also, hand knitting a big long tube can be a great vacation project. When you're back home, with all your tools and a little focused time, you can turn your vacay tube into a pair of socks in no time! In this class we'll learn how to take a sock tube and add heels, toes and cuffs. We'll work together on measuring and cutting in our afterthought heels, and cover how to add on our toes and cuffs without losing a stitch. We'll also send you with some resources and instructions for my favourite bind-off for a bottom-up cuff.

Bring: A sock tube (either machine or hand knit), 20 grams of mini skeins, or leftover yarn in the same weight (should be wound in a ball and ready to knit)

Optional Kit - \$45 +HST Includes: a machine knit sock tube and 1-2 mini skeins wound and ready to knit with.

Sue Barker

Bio: Sue has been working with threads, yarn, wool fabric since 1970. She retired from Georgian College in 2013 and from that time she has hit the road running. First, she studied weaving with Jette Vandermeiden and it did not take long before she was selling her handwoven tea towels. Today she offers classes in her home on a small scale. Her classes include rug hooking, weaving on a floor loom, weaving Inkle and tablet bands, woolly trees, wool appliqué to name a few. If there is something to do with fibre Sue is all over it! She just celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary with her high school sweetheart. They have a son and daughter and 6 amazing granddaughters. Join Sue for some fun and laughter while creating either a bird, thimble bunny or woolly tree.

1. Thimble Bunnies (Saturday AM) - This 2" tall knitted bunny sits in a thimble and holds a precious carrot. Yes, you make the carrot too! This class will be sure to provide you with all the skills to go home and create a family of bunnies. You will create one bunny in this class.

Kit - \$5.00 +hst Includes: thimble, yarn, thread, needle, stuffing, beads, orange fabric, wool strips for the greenery of your carrot.

Non-Knitters Kit - \$10.00+hst Includes: thimble, the body, ears and arms already knitted, you simply assemble and add eyes, nose and arms

2. Woolly Trees (Saturday PM) - Yes, this tree is made from 100% wool fabric! You'll cut fringe, twist on wire, add your dowel, and place in a wooden base, or a thread spool. These trees can be displayed year-round, simply add hearts for Valentine's Day, little bunnies for Easter, etc. These trees are 8" tall, and we'll discuss how to make larger trees as well. Please note that you'll have time to make one tree in this class.

Kit - \$10.00 +HST Includes: Wood base or thread spool base, dowel, 100% green wool fabric, wire, glue, floral tape, rusty bell, and handwoven ribbon.

3. Wool Birds (Sunday AM) - How much fun to have these darling birds in your home! Made from 100% Wool fabric and embroidered with Valdani hand-dyed thread. You'll receive two birds that have been partially sewn, and you simply stuff and sew closed, embroider the wings with simple stitches, and add the wings, tail, beads, and beak. Size is 3" tall x 3.5" long.

Kit - \$15.00 +HST includes: Two partially sewn birds, wings, stuffing, beads, beaks, tails, Valdani thread, needle, sewing thread. Thimble Bunnies