

Jan - June 2018



Aker Fiber Farm, LLC — Studio

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Welcoming Message

I am over the top excited about 2018. As I love sharing everything I have learned over the years, this years classes and workshops focus on what I love to teach. I'm frequently asked for these classes so it's a win/win!

Classes are two hours long, designed for folks who live closer to us, and learn best in little snippets. We take that big project and divide it up so you can learn a skill, go home and work, then comeback for the next step.

Workshops are all day classes (we always include lunch) that cover topics in-depth. Bring a notebook, as we will spend hours giving you everything we have in our creative solutions tool boxes! These classes are great for our further away friends. Folks from California, Idaho, and Virginia have made weekend getaways with our workshops.

My favorite page in this book is Design Your Own class on page 18. Students compile their own desires and curiosities into a list. We then make a class specifically for you. Be it one on one or your own fiber party with wine, we help you to discover, develop, and hone fiber skills in a supportive, caring environment.

Fiber Fun Night is here for you to sit back and relax with like minded folks, every Tuesday night. Bring a project, bring a smile, bring a friend.

Movie Night / Day is our newest event! Each quarter we will be showing a movie, one for kids and one for adults. We will provide the movie, popcorn, and drinks. You bring a project and smiles!

Humbly Yours, —Patty

Table of Contents

Teacher Biographies	Page 4
Show Locations	Page 5
Classes by Category	Page 6
Classes by Date	Page 7
Create Your Own	Page 8
Fiber Fun Night	Page 9
Class Descriptions	Page 10
Home School Program	Page 12
Movie Night	Page 15

Studio Hours

Tuesday
5pm—7pm
(Fiber Fun Night)

We are a working studio with a busy lives. We are in and out all week and hours.

If you would like to visit, please contact us, and we'd be happy to have you hop by.

www.akerllc.com
info@akerllc.com

Teacher Biographies

Patty Williams is the co-owner and fiber resident of Aker Fiber Farm. Patty began working with fiber arts as a young girl with her aunt and mom. She learned how to crochet, wash fleeces, and card wool before she could tie her shoes. She began the business plan for Aker Fiber Farm, with her husband, after reaching a turning point in her life; and shortly afterward Aker was born.

Patty initially learned to spin, dye, and process wool and other fibers from Elizabeth Jackson at Saville Hill Farms in Lexington, VA. She has also studied with Cassie Dickson, Martha Owen, Judith MacKenzie, and many others over the years.

Today, Patty teaches classes and lectures at her studio, fiber festivals, guilds, and yarn stores up and down the east coast.

Tiana St. James is a native of Enfield and has been working with Aker Fiber Farm since we moved to town. She first learned to knit from her grandmothers and mother and supplemented her skills through books. Tiana loves to experiment with both knitting and crochet techniques, as well as many other crafty pursuits, ranging from sewing to beading and everything in between. She has been sharing her love of fiber arts through teaching students of all ages for many years. Today she is our Sprang expert, loves to dye, and is one with the fiber force.

Show Locations

Feb 2 & 3: NH Farm and Forest Expo. Radisson Hotel, 700 Elm St, Manchester, NH.

Booth #200 <https://www.nhfarmandforestexpo.org/>

May 5&6: Maryland Sheep and Wool. Howard County Fairgrounds, West Friendship, MD.

Booth #N26. <http://sheepandwool.org/>

May 12 & 13: New Hampshire Sheep and Wool. Deerfield

Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH. <https://nhswga.org/nh-sheep-wool-festival>

July 27: Enfield Old Home Days, at the Craft Fair, Enfield NH

September 29 & 30: Shenandoah Valley Fiber Festival, Clark County Ruritan

Fairgrounds, Berryville, VA. <https://www.shenandoahvalleyfiberfestival.com/>

October 6&7: Deerfield County Fair, Deerfield Fairgrounds, Deerfield, NH. In the sheep barn!

<https://www.deerfieldfair.com/>

Classes By Category

Knitting

- 2/28 Knitting 101 Basics p10
- 3/28 Knitting 102 Next Step p10
- 4/25 Knitting 103 On Your Own p10
- 5/9 Knitting Sock 101 p12
- 5/30 Knitting Sock 102 p12
- 6/13 Knitting Mittens 101 p12
- 6/27 Knitting Mittens 102 p12

Spinning

- 1/10 Spinning—Linen p12
- 1/31 Spinning Structures p12
- 2/14 Drop Spindle 101 p10
- 3/14 Drop Spindle 102 p10
- 4/11 Spinning Long and Short Fibers p12
- 5/23 Spinning Structures p12

Workshops By Category

Knitting/Felting / Weaving

- 3/31 Knitting, Purling, and More! p14
- 4/7 Knitting with Color Workshop p14
- 4/21 Wet and Needle Felting p13
- 4/28 Knitting a Project Bag p14
- 5/26 How to Knit a Cable Hat p14

Spinning / Fiber Preparation / Dye

- 1/20 Flax to Linen p13
- 1/27 Fleece to Yarn p13
- 2/17 How to Dye with Protein Fibers p13
- 2/24 Spinning on Wheel and
Drop Spindle p15
- 3/10 Spinning on a Drop Spindle p15
- 5/19 How to Dye Protein Fibers p13
- 6/9 Fleece to Yarn p13
- 6/30 Flax to Linen p13

Movie “Nights”

We provide popcorn, drinks, and the movie.
You bring a fiber project.

Kid Friendly (adults can come too)

- December 2, 2017 at 2pm: Muppet Christmas Carol
- March 3, 2018 at 2pm: Incredibles
- July 7 at 2pm: Muppet Treasure Island
- October 27 at 2pm: Monsters Inc.

Movie Night - Adults Only Please

- Dec 2, 2017 at 7pm: Muppet Christmas Carol
- March 3, 2018 at 7pm: Saving Grace
- July 7 at 7pm: A Princess Bride
- October 27 at 7pm: Young Frankenstein

Classes By Date

1/10 Spinning Linen p12
1/31 Spinning Structures p12
2/14 Drop Spindle 101 p10
2/28 Knitting 101 p10
3/14 Drop Spindle 102 p10
3/28 Knitting 102 p10
4/11 Spinning Long and Short Fibers p12
4/25 Knitting 103 p10
5/9 Sock 101 p12
5/23 Spinning Structures p12
5/30 Sock 102 p12
6/13 Mittens 101 p12
6/27 Mittens 102 p12

Workshops By Date

1/20 Flax to Linen Yarn p13
1/27 Fleece to Yarn p13
2/17 How to Dye Protein Fibers p13
2/24 Spinning on Wheel and Drop Spindle p15
3/10 Spinning on a Drop Spindle p 15
3/31 Knitting, Purling, and More! P`14
4/7 Knitting with Color p14
4/21 Felting p13
4/28 Knitting a Project Bag p14
5/19 How to Dye Protein Fibers p13
5/26 How to Knit a Cable Hat p14
6/9 Fleece to Yarn p13
6/30 Flax to Linen Yarn p13

Farm Consulting

We have recently been contacted by many folks who want to know about getting started with sheep and angora bunnies. We now teach about these animals at our farm or yours. Contact us to discuss your needs and how we can help.

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Fiber Fun Night

Every Tuesday night from 5pm—7pm (or when we get tired) is dedicated to having a great time with fiber. Unlike a knit night, participants are encouraged to bring ANY fiber project. Felters, weavers, spinners, knitters, crocheters, sprangers, hookers, flossers, and pattern lookers are all welcome. Some bring dinner, some bring wine, but all bring smiles (or leave with one). We relax, talk, laugh, and collaborate on projects of multiple types. You do not have to arrive at 5 to participate. Some arrive at 5 and leave early, others arrive later and stay later. Stop on in and enjoy the FUN!

Create Your Own Class or Workshop

Our teachers have a wide range of skills and we teach ages 3 and up! . If you did not see what you would like to learn, the date has past, or you would like to combine several short classes into a workshop, CONTACT US! If we know how to do it we will teach it! Private lessons can be for one person or several folks. How many friends we can have, depends on what you want to learn along with cost. But we try to keep the cost down as we love sharing our knowledge. This is a great way for out of area Home School Students to spend a day with us. We also encourage “mommy and me” classes.

- Sprang
- Crochet
- Free Form Crochet
- Rug Hooking
- Rug Braiding
- Cable Sweaters
- Double Knitting
- Fixing Spinning
- Spinning Wheel Maintenance
- Carding
- Blending Colors
- Blending Different Fibers
- Spinning Lace
- Entrelac
- Lace Knitting
- BIG Knitting (arm or no needles)
- Natural Dyeing
- Dyeing Plant Fibers
- Plus everything in this book!

Home School Program

Students receive hands on experience on how to knit, crochet, spin, card, wash wool, felt, and dye. While completing this instruction students learn about different cultures and roles of people in textiles, history of textiles, biology of sheep and other fiber animals, different plant fibers, algebra (to adjust patterns), chemistry (while dyeing and washing), and measurements.

This program runs once a week from September 12 – April 30. Classes are once a week for one hour and most material is included. All educational material is adjusted for ages 5 – adult and costs each student \$7 per week which includes all in classroom materials. Each class is limited to 6 children.

Class Descriptions by Alphabetical Order

Drop Spindle 101-SPINNING A SINGLE 1 two hour session

Description: Come learn how to spin without the cost of a spinning wheel. Class covers how to select a drop spindle, different types of spindles, how to spin a single, and how to select beginner materials.

Prerequisites: None

Materials: All materials are provided.

Cost: \$30.00 **Dates Offered:** 2/14 5-7pm

Drop Spindle 102- Plying and Setting your yarn 1 two hour session

Description: Once you have a single strand, it is time to make it stronger. Putting multiple singles together is called plying. Come learn how to ply, choose how many strands to ply, how to minimize spinning mistakes through plying, how to select intermediate to advanced materials (some of which will be provided), and how to set your final yarn product.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to spin a single on a drop spindle of any style.

Materials: A drop spindle and 3 balls of singles ready to ply

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 3/14 5 - 7pm

Knitting 101—Knitting Basics 1 two hour session

Description: Come learn the basics of knitting. Students will learn how to begin (cast on), knit, and finish (bind off). These three things will allow you to make hundreds of projects.

Prerequisites: None

Materials: All materials are provided.

Cost: \$30.00 **Dates Offered:** 2/28 5pm—7pm

Knitting 102—The Next Step 1 two hour session

Description: Want to be able to complete thousands of projects? Students will learn how to purl, increase and decrease.

Prerequisites: Students need to know how to cast on, knit, and bind off.

Materials: Knitting needles and yarn.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 3/28 5pm—7pm

Knitting 103-On Your Own 1 two hour session

Description: Ready to begin knitting on your own? Knitting 103 is designed to get you doing just that. We will discuss how to choose yarns, read patterns, choose patterns, what basic materials are good to have on hand, and where to find patterns.

Prerequisites: None as we are not knitting. However, this class may be overwhelming if you haven't knit your first stitch..

Materials: Notebook and writing utensil.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 4/25 5pm—7pm

Knitting—Mittens 101 GETTING STARTED 1 two hour session

Description: Mittens are a wonderful and practical New England gift. Our getting started mitten class does just that. We explain a simple in the round pattern, discuss the parts of a mitten, and ensure you have a good understanding to continue your mitten on your own.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to knit, purl, cast on, bind off, increase, decrease, and read simple patterns.

Materials: Please bring to class approximately 110 - 200 yards of yarn and appropriate needles. Larger mittens for mens size hands may need more yarn.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 6/13 5pm—7pm

Knitting—MITTENS 102 – GUSSET AND FINISH 1 two hour session

Description: Mittens 102 tackles the dreaded mitten gusset. We will discuss several ways of handling the gusset and walk you through one type. We will then discuss how best to close around the fingers and walk through one type.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to knit, purl, cast on, bind off, increase, decrease, and read simple patterns.

Materials: Please bring to class at least one mitten ready to begin the gusset and appropriate needles.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 6/27 5pm—7pm

Knitting Sock 101—Getting top-down socks started 1 two hour session

Description: Socks can be a bit daunting. We can help you get started! In this class we will be focusing on a basic cuff down sock. After learning some basic concepts of sock construction, we will help you get started on that sock and prepared to take it home and keep going!

Prerequisites: Students must be able to knit, purl, cast on, bind off, increase, decrease, and read simple patterns.

Materials: At least 200 yards of worsted or lighter weight yarn (no bulky) and needles to go with it. Please note: Women's L, Men's sizes, or knee-high socks require more yarn.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 5/9 5pm—7pm

Knitting Sock 102- Turn that heel 1 two hour session

Description: Once your cuff and leg are done, it is time to turn the heel! This class will help you learn to make a basic heel, using a heel flap and gusset. We will help you transform your knit tube into an item that is obviously for feet. This class builds on Socks 101, but can be taken independently.

Prerequisites: Students must be able to knit, purl, cast on, bind off, increase, decrease, and read simple patterns.

Materials: At least one sock cuff ready for the heel, with appropriate yarn and needles.

Cost: \$20.00 **Dates Offered:** 5/30 5pm—7pm

Spinning Linen

1 two hour session

Description: Linen is a great spin for folks who are looking for a new material to study. Students will learn about the property of linen and how it differs from wool. They will spin linen several different ways, dress a distaff, and be given written instructions for setting the yarn.

Prerequisites: Students must know how to spin wool on a drop spindle or wool.

Materials: All materials are provided.

Cost: \$40.00 **Dates Offered:** 1/10 , 8/8 5pm—7pm

Spinning Long and Short Fibers

1 two hour session

Description: Spinning fibers with long or short staple lengths each have their own unique challenges. This class will help spinners to overcome these challenges, discuss plying, and setting the yarn.

Prerequisites: Students should know how to spin.

Materials: All materials are provided.

Cost: \$30.00 **Dates Offered:** 4/11, 12/5 5pm—7pm

Spinning Structures

1 two hour session

Description: This class will explore the four main types of spinning (worsted, semi-worsted, semi-woolen, and woolen). We will spin using each technique, discuss the differences between them, and when it is most appropriate to use them.

Prerequisite: This is an intermediate to advanced spinning class. Students should be familiar with spinning and plying basics.

Materials: Spinning wheel, notebook, and writing utensil. All other materials provided (roving, comb top, and different fiber types).

Cost: \$30.00 **Dates Offered:** 1/31 5/23 5pm—7pm

Workshop Descriptions by Alphabetical Order**Felting Workshop**

1 six hour session

Description: Have you ever wanted to create sheets of felt, paint with wool, or create wool sculptures? Felting is the answer. We will explore many of the facets of felting including wet felting and needle felting as we work with different colors and fibers.

Prerequisites: None **Materials:** All materials are provided.

Cost: \$80.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 4/21 9am -3 pm

Flax to Linen Workshop

1 eight hour session

Description: Want to explore the full process of how linen yarn is made? This class will take students from a seed (flax plant) to yarn. We will learn how to process all the steps in making linen yarn. Discuss the equipment traditionally used, what can be used, and how to acquire equipment. We will also dye, knit, or weave linen depending on time.

Prerequisites: Students should have an idea of how to spin on a spinning wheel or drop spindle. All other spinning materials and equipment will be provided. **Materials:** Students will need to bring a spinning wheel or drop spindle. If you intend to purchase a wheel, please contact the studio first.

Cost: \$100.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 1/20, 6/30, 9/8 9am-5pm

Fleece to Yarn Workshop

1 eight hour session

Description: Want to explore the full process of how wool yarn is made? This class will take students from a raw wool fleece to yarn. We will learn how to spin worsted style, ply, wash wool, card, comb, the difference between roving and combed top, how to select materials, and evaluate a fleece.

Prerequisites: Students should have an idea of how to spin and ply either on a spinning wheel or drop spindle. All other spinning materials and equipment will be provided.

Materials: Students will need to bring a spinning wheel or drop spindle. If you intend to purchase a wheel, please contact the studio first.

Cost: \$100.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 1/27, 6/9, 10/13 9am – 5pm

How To Dye Protein Fibers Workshop

1 eight hour session

Description: Needing to add more color into your life? Our dye class will teach you how to dye and overdye protein fibers (wool, alpaca, angora, llama and such) using kool aid and weak acid dyes. We will discuss how to make a dye stock, how much dye to use, how to set the dye, and how to fix mistakes. **Prerequisites:** Notebook, writing utensil, and please wear clothes you do not mind getting messy.

Materials: All materials are provided. You may bring a skein of yarn made from 100% wool that you do not like and would like to change.

Cost: \$100.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 2/17, 5/19 9 am-5pm

Knitting, Purling, and More!

1 eight hour session

Description: Do you want to knit, or used to knit a long time ago? This workshop is for you. We will fit as many knitting skills in as we can in 8 hours. This class covers all the basics you need to complete thousands of projects on your own.

Prerequisites: None. This is a beginner workshop, but folks who only know how to knit will not walk away without learning something.

Materials: None.

Cost: \$100.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 3/31, 10/20 9am-5pm

Knitting—Using Color WORKING WITH COLOR WITHOUT DYE

Description: Color is all around yet many of us are intimidated by it. In this workshop we will discuss how to put colors together for knit, crochet, and felt. We will talk about choosing colors and how to change that hideous skein without dye!

Prerequisites: None. This class will discuss needle work tips but you do not have to know how to do them.

Materials: Students should bring skeins, patterns, and garments that they are not sure how to incorporate with other colors. All other material will be provided.

Cost: \$100.00; lunch included **Dates Offered:** 4/27 9am-5pm

Knitting Cable Hat

1 eight hour session

Description: Add some texture to your knitting! While making a hat you will learn how to read a cable pattern, understand how and why cables work, and learn to make several types of cables.

Prerequisites: Students should have a grasp of basic knitting skills prior to taking this class.

Materials: 400 yards of any light colored yarn, needles for that yarn, and a double pointed or cable needle.

Cost: \$80.00, lunch included **Dates Offered:** 5/26 9am-5pm

Knitting a Project Bag

1 eight hour session

Description: Learn how to make a practical gift for yourself or a friend. Students will be provided a pattern and taught skills a little above their knitting level while learning to make a bag to hold projects in while traveling. Students may choose from a basic bag, one with ridges, cables, or colorwork. Students receive pattern, yarn, and needles to take home in this workshop.

Prerequisites: Students should have a grasp of basic knitting skills prior to taking this class.

Materials: All materials provided..

Cost: \$100.00, lunch included **Dates Offered:** 4/28 9am-5pm

Spinning on Drop Spindle

1 eight hour session

Description: This workshop is for beginning spinners. Students learn on a top whorl drop spindle (provided by Aker). Students will explore different fibers appropriate for beginner spinners, how to select materials, how to spin a single, why and how to ply, and how to set yarn.

Prerequisite: None

Materials: All materials provided (roving, comb top, and different fiber types).

Cost: \$100.00 includes lunch **Dates Offered:** 3/10 at 9am-5pm

Spinning on Wheel and Drop Spindle Workshop

1 eight hour session

Description: This workshop is for beginning spinners. Students may learn on a spinning wheel (provided by the student) or a drop spindle (provided by Aker). Students will explore different fibers appropriate for beginner spinners, how to select materials, how to spin a single, why and how to ply, and how to set yarn.

Prerequisite: None

Materials: Spinning wheel (if you have one), notebook, and writing utensil. All other materials provided (roving, comb top, and different fiber types).

Cost: \$100.00 includes lunch **Dates Offered:** 2/24 at 9am-5pm



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