

northern FIBERS RETREAT

Feb 17-21, 2011

*knit, weave,
nålbind, sew,
felt, bead, dye,
spin, craft*



at North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN
www.NorthHouse.org | 218-387-9762 | 888-387-9762

northern fibers retreat

This new, five-day event will celebrate all manner of fiber arts with inspiring new class offerings from long-time North House Instructors and cozy community gatherings. North House is excited to work with the Northwoods Fiber Guild hosting this event—after all, what could be better than focusing on fibers right in the heart of winter?

retreat coursework

Participate in a hands-on, positive learning environment and register for an event course. It's North House Folk School at its best, education with a purposeful outcome to enrich lives and build community. Registration required, tuition and materials fees vary. Visit www.northhouse.org for information.

Bead Embroidery: The Pin Series with Jo Wood | 2/17

Discover the magic of “painting with beads” through your choice of seven different signature lapel pin beaded pin projects. Artist Jo Wood will lead you through your choice of one or two bead embroidered projects, time permitting. For the beginning beader this course offers an opportunity to learn basic stitches. For the experienced and returning beader it's a unique, rewarding project to expand your creative palette of painting with beads.

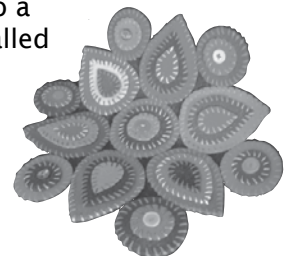


Spinning Fibers on a Wheel with Allen Holzhueter | 2/17-19

In this three-day introductory spinning class, you will be introduced to fibers suitable for spinning, fiber preparation, spinning with a drop-sindle, and spinning prepared fiber on a spinning wheel. Participants are encouraged to bring their own working spinning wheel (both “Saxony” and “upright castle wheel” are acceptable.) The instructor will have three wheels available for students to share and develop their skills.

Penny Rugs: Woolen Mosaics with Karen Smaby | 2/17-18

Penny rugs use felted wool scraps to create a textile feast for the eye. Multicolored scraps are arranged to create table runners, placemats and more. Shapes of descending sizes are layered onto a wool background piece and stitched into place. Called “penny” rugs because the original template was a copper penny, these pieces have offered a frugal way to indulge in creative expression since the early 1800s. In this class, you'll design and finish one project, with the possibility of pursuing a larger piece or starting a second project.



Help Yourself to Knitting with Kate Hartman | 2/17-18

This class is an enjoyable, two-day beginning knitting class which focuses not only on basic stitches and skills, but also on recognizing and correcting common mistakes which often frustrate the beginner. Topics include basic knitting skills, yarn basics and pattern reading. You will be provided with a beginning book, one pair of size 8 (Am) knitting needles, practice yarn and several easy project patterns to help you get started in this enjoyable craft and pastime. Children and adults may choose to participate together on this learning experience taking advantage of a special intergenerational rate.

Making Moosehide & Canvas Mukluks with Jo Wood | 2/18-20

Remember the last time your feet were too cold to enjoy wonderful wintry weather? Discover the traditional footwear of the north: mukluks. In this course you'll be guided through the process of pattern-making and handcraft your own pair of moosehide mukluks with knee high or shorter uppers. You'll learn to make a mukluk pattern on your own foot, then use it to cut out the leather and canvas pieces. The leather will then be hand-stitched and use of a sewing machine will help with the canvas seams and buttonholes. Sewing fear? Not to worry. Folks who have never sewed on a button have danced out of this class in their own new mukluks!



Felted Hats with Patty Doherty | 2/18-19

Felting is a magical transformation that takes place when heat, moisture and agitation are applied to wool. The result is a matted, non-woven seamless product of both comfort and style. This class begins with a historical overview and discussion of suitable fleeces, preparation of wool and various methods of felting. Using washed and carded wool, you'll prepare batts, and then with the use of a washboard, hot soapy water and a lot of elbow grease, you'll start to bring shape and form to the brimmed hat of your choice.



Handcraft a Wool Braided Rug with Traudi Bestler | 2/18-20

The three-strand-braided wool rug is reminiscent of an era when rag rugs were considered an affordable way to reuse worn clothing and blankets to create a rug for the home. In this class, you will learn the craft of braiding rugs by making your own oval rug (about 2'x3'). You are welcome to bring old blanket-weight wool to incorporate into your own rug. However, the instructor will bring enough colors of wool, braiding tools, and other supplies for 'heirloom' rugs.

Mittens: The Perfect Complement

with Kate Hartman and Allen Holzhuetter | 2/19

Learn to knit a pair of mittens and enjoy a life-long skill set for knitting warm mittens for yourself or to give as gifts for those fingerlings you care about. You'll learn to read knitting patterns for mittens, practice circular knitting techniques on double pointed needles, thumb techniques, closing the tip of the mitten and how to shape mittens for a good fit.

Nature's Insulator: Sew Your Own Wool Blanket Shirt

with Carol Colburn | 2/19

Learn the history of wool, why it works, and how to maximize its performance as clothing with outdoorwear designed by Kevin Kinney, owner of Empire Canvas Wear of Duluth. In this class you will learn the basics of patternmaking and construction, as we lay the foundation for a lifelong skill. We'll start with thick woolen fabric. We'll walk through the sequence for measuring and cutting flat textile to fit the human form. Next we will cut panels for a warm tunic that's the cornerstone of a great winter wardrobe. Embellish your creation with antler or stone buttons and leather trim. You'll leave this course with a sound knowledge of garment crafting, and a cozy shirt for the winter.



Fibers for Kids! | 2/19 | 9-11 am | \$15 per child/adult pair | ages 7+

Get ready for a tasty sampler of fiber fun. Join six skilled artists from the Northwoods Fibers Guild for five projects designed specifically for kids (and a helpful adult!). Students will weave mug rugs or bookmarks on different styles of looms, build dream gatherers using local found materials, and explore the craft of decorative braiding, kumihimo. Everyone will leave with at least three completed projects, and discover the beauty of the fibers we wear and use everyday. Participants need to be at least 7 years of age and be accompanied by an adult.

Knitting Socks: The Essential Craft with Kate Hartman | 2/20

You can build your own boat and timber frame your own home, so why not knit your own socks? After all, "you can't go barefoot," as your mom used to say. In this day-long introduction to knitting socks, you'll be on your way to making your own socks for the rest of your life. You will learn the skills to make socks including reading knitting patterns, circular knitting on double point needles, shaping the heel and shaping and closing the toe. You start on a model sock and are encouraged to bring a sock pattern you would like to make in the future. The instructor will guide you through these sometimes daunting instructions.

Create Your Own Designs in Fiber with Marie Westerman | 2/20

If you want to create your own personal or pictorial designs for your work in fiber, but haven't been sure how to get started, this workshop is for you. Whether you like Fair Isle knitting, tapestry weaving, appliqué, counted cross stitch or other embroidery, or bead weaving, we will discuss ways to generate unique patterns you can use. Using a simple scanner/copier, we will explore ways to create line drawings and graphs, ways to size images and transfer them, and ways to plan individual projects. Whether or not you can draw, you can make your own patterns, designs, monograms and more. Bring an idea or inspiration, and individual help will be provided.

Selbuvotter Mittens: The Classic Norwegian Mitten with Allen Holzhueter | 2/20-21

If you have always wanted to knit a Norwegian ski sweater, but have been daunted by the size of the project, Selbuvotter mittens are for you. Discover the rich patterns associated with Scandinavian textiles by learning to knit the black and white, intricately patterned Selbuvotter mittens using the stranded knitting technique. In this class, the student will be introduced to the tradition, choose a pattern and begin knitting a pair of these very beautiful Norwegian mittens. The mittens are knitted in the round, using small size double pointed needles. These mittens make a great project for knitters of all skill levels. Students need to be able to cast on, bind off, knit and purl easily, and know how to increase and decrease stitches. The instructor will provide needles and yarn (if needed).



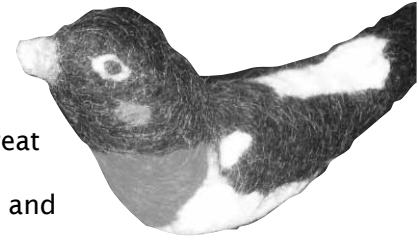
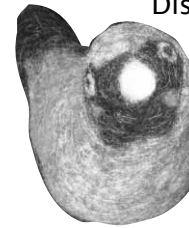
Nalbinding Hats with Larry Schmitt | 2/20-22

Learn the ancient craft of nålbinding by creating a syltemjölkskopp (milk strainer cap) from southern Sweden. These берет-like caps were found in Denmark and southern Sweden in the 18th and 19th centuries and the original caps were based on the shape and contour of the nålbound milk strainers of the day. The caps were originally worked in nålbinding and later in knitting. This course covers the basics of Scandinavian-style nålbinding and explores the connections between nålbinding and knitting. You will learn how to make your needle and how to construct the syltemjölkskopp and other traditional styles. Several hat patterns in nålbinding will be shared, along with, in some cases, correlating patterns for knitted versions.



Felting: From Sculpture to Scarves with Elise Kylo | 2/20-21

Discover the expressive and enjoyable craft of wet felting, as we warm up by sculpting a charming array of colorful creatures. Using recycled wool, students will make a rough animal form, then apply dyed wool roving over the form and through the mysterious process of agitation with hot water and soap, a felted creature will emerge. Building upon these elemental skills, students will progress to nuno felting which combines silk and wool to create a durable, warm and elegant fabric. The goal - using this technique to create a warm, whimsical scarf. Nuno felting is especially exciting because it is a bit like painting with wool on a silk canvas. Students are invited to bring silk, organza, nylon or chiffon scarves they would like to embellish with wool fibers. If you have never tried felting before, this will be a great introduction. If you have experience, you will thoroughly enjoy the creative process and stretch your skills.



community gatherings

Join fellow fibers artists to celebrate the joy of craft & community with lunchtime and evening activities.

friday, feb 18

Lunch & Learn | Noon | Catered by local restaurant | \$12/person "Doubleweave Technique" with Marie Westerman Hero

Marie Westerman is a weaver/fiber artist who creates pictorial works using her own adaptation of the traditional Scandinavian doubleweave technique. This technique involves interweaving two separate warp layers on a floor loom to achieve a reversible woven image. She will discuss her design approach from drawing to pattern to loom to completion, using slides and examples to explain the process. *Reservations required.*

Open Studio | 7-9 pm

Bring your latest project, to campus for an evening of camaraderie and learning. Work in a cozy, communal setting and share ideas, stories and laughter with fellow fiber folk. North House instructors Larry Schmitt and Elise Kylo will set-up interactive demonstrations that will give you a taste of wet felting, Scandinavian textile traditions and more. Come and craft, or just be curious.

saturday, feb 19

Lunch & Learn | Noon | Catered by Chez Jude | \$12/person

"Textiles and Travels" with Judie Johnson

Grand Marais resident Judie Johnson has recently returned from travels in Bhutan, Cambodia and Nepal. Along the way, she has acquired a remarkable collection of textiles. Judie will share slides, stories and fabrics from her years of travel over a delicious lunch catered by Chez Jude.

Reservations required.

Show & Share | 7:30-9 pm | Hosted by Northwoods Fibers Guild

Spark your creativity! Everyone is invited to bring any fiber project they are working on to share with the group. All participants will be invited to speak for a minute or two about their work and process in an informal, fun gathering. Desserts, coffee and tea will fuel the conversation!

sunday, feb 20

Lunch & Learn | Noon | Catered by local restaurant | \$12/person

"Northern Knitting Traditions" with Allen Holzhuetter & Kate Hartman

Always admired the complex patterns of Norwegian sweaters and mittens, but been hesitant to decipher your way through a pattern? Allen & Kate will offer tips, guidance and demos on how to undertake larger projects, inspired by the diverse and distinctive knitting traditions of northern Europe. *Reservations required.*

northwoods fiber guild

North House is pleased to partner with the members of our area's Northwoods Fiber Guild to host the Northern Fibers Retreat. The Northwoods Fiber Guild has over 55 members and meets bi-monthly to celebrate the many forms fibers can take.

Each December, the Guild hosts a not-to-be-missed Holiday Open House and Sale with hundreds of handmade items.

During the Retreat, the Guild will host the Saturday night Show-and-Share, as well as the Fibers for Kids program, which will be taught by Kay Rosenthal, Mary MacDonald, Cheryl Larsen, Penny Ortmann, Maxene Linehan, and Karen Cedarmoon.



what is north house?

North House Folk School is a small educational non-profit on the shore of Lake Superior in Grand Marais, Minnesota. We foster a non-competitive learning environment devoted to teaching traditional northern craft. We offer over 350 courses year round in everything from timber framing to woodworking to boatbuilding to fibers. Learn more at www.NorthHouse.org, and join us for our first ever Northern Fibers Retreat. We hope to see you there!



North House Folk School
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