

About our great instructors...

Tina Stelhorn – Winding Creek Alpacas & Llamas, home of The Knitting Llama.

My husband and I started our fiber farm in 1999 with three alpacas. Over the years we added other fiber animals to our farm, llamas, Shetland sheep and Angora rabbits. We have enjoyed all the critters over the years and have created lots of great products for sale using the fiber grown on our farm to support the farm throughout the years.

Although the number of critters on our farm has decreased, I still enjoy many fiber art activities. I still use our fiber to support our farm, vend at fiber shows and teach classes on our farm, at shows and other locations.

My first fiber art was knitting, taught to me by my mother. Since 1999, I have expanded to many other fiber arts, spending lots of time spinning, weaving, felting, beading, kumihimo braiding and dyeing yarn and fleeces.

I am a member of various guilds in NW Ohio (Black Swamp Spinning Guild, Toledo Area Weavers, Holey Toledo Knitters Guild and Defiance knitters). I also enjoy a bit of charity knitting. Along with friends, I knit for The Pink Slipper Project and the Knitted Knockers organization, which provides free breast prosthetics to those in need. Our farm is a collection and distribution point for Knitted Knockers. We support 6 clinics in the US and ship worldwide.

Vicky Donley

Vicky began her fiber journey in 2011 with two Suri alpacas. She is now up to 42 alpacas, 1 llama, 2 sheep and even a few chickens and ducks. She learned to spin in 2013. Now Vicky owns and operates a full-service fiber mill. She has a huge love of animals and fiber arts. The addition of the alpaca show at her county fair is one of her proudest achievements.

Deb Yeagle

Deb Yeagle is a great fiber artist with a life time of experience. She is the owner of Lofty Pine Alpacas, and is working on developing her line of Argentine llamas. She is a retired school teacher and a full-time Grandma. She is also an ALSA and ILR fiber judge. She is a great potter, as well as, a skilled artist. We are very happy to have her teach classes and Chair this great event!

Cyndi Ernst



Cyndi is a well-known fiber artist and ALSA Judge. She exhibits and sells her painting, unique pottery and wearable art at local Michigan galleries and art shows. Her work reflects her love for nature and her lovely alpacas who quietly reside on her farm. Her felted and woven fiber projects have successfully competed in competitions throughout the country. She is the Vice-Chairperson of the Michigan Fiberfest Executive Board, long time member of the ALSA Fleece Committee, member of the Michigan Llama Association and coach of a number of Michigan 4H Camelid programs. After retirement from a long career teaching K-College Art, she enjoys being inspired by traveling throughout the United States and Canada showing and judging alpacas, llamas, fleece and finished projects created from their fiber.

Anthony Stachowski

Dr. Stachowski was active with livestock as early as 9 years old in 4H and was one of the youngest Arabian horse judges in the U.S. He has extensive experience breeding camelids for over 35 years, which has given him practical insight into their management, medical treatment, and marketing. He currently owns Stachowski Alpacas in Mantua, Ohio, which has over 300 Huacaya alpacas. He imported the first Peruvian genetics to the U.S. He has imported seven times and has been involved in going over thousands of alpacas to pick these genetics to bring back to the U.S. He was the veterinarian responsible for the health and breeding through the quarantine period for these imports.

Kelly D Brandt

Kelly started on her wool craft odyssey in 1975 with four heritage Horned Dorset Sheep that came to her five acre homestead in Lake Odessa to "just keep the pasture down." As an accomplished seamstress, she used her wool harvest in wool-filled comforters, but soon taught herself to locker hook, spin, and felt. She first got involved in FiberFest in Hastings in the early 1980s and has been teaching since 1985 in Michigan, Ohio, and Wisconsin. She is a published author and has won artistic awards for her work using wool and llama fiber from her family flocks. Through her fiber based cottage business, Team Effort Artisans, Kelly has shown and sold fine wool crafts at shows, galleries, and festivals. In 2019, she will offer private classes at her new studio/barn outside Lake Odessa, Michigan. Prospective students are invited to contact her with questions about the content of her classes at kellybrandt@yahoo.com or at 616-374-7176.

Amy Lowery

Great Lakes Fibers & Lake Erie Alpacas

Amy runs a dye and felt studio where she loves dreaming up new color-ways, innovative felt projects, and produces two commercial products for the dance industry. She has owned alpacas and llamas for more than 16 years and has traveled the US learning about goat, sheep, buffalo, rabbit, cotton, hemp, and any other natural fiber or plant material that can be incorporated into a valuable, natural, final product.