

TEACHER BIGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Kathy Alford: I have been spinning for about 10 years thanks to Karen Goodson! I love taking raw fiber and processing it to make beautiful yarns. The care of my equipment helps support this a lot. This is why I love to teach people the proper way to take care of all their equipment.

Beverly Allen: Beverley Allen's interest in fiber started when she learned how to knit when she was four years old while living in a small English town surrounded by sheep farms. Fiber interest really intensified after she moved to Washington and started a 'farmette' of alpacas, angora goats, angora rabbits, llamas and Shetland sheep. In addition to knitting, Beverley crochets, felts, and is presently learning how to weave. However her favorite fiber activity is spinning using a hand spindle. Beverley is a certified NwRSA fiber judge.

Rosanne Anderson: I have been locker hooking for many years after I attended a fiber show in Hamilton, Montana, and saw a beautiful wall hanging. My first piece showed me the reality of proper canvas preparation as it disintegrated during dry cleaning! I raise my own small flock of non-lambburger sheep, love to knot and spin, and am fortunate to have a willing husband who will build almost anything for my sheep and craft. Usually. (I almost had convinced I wanted to raise silkworms!!)

Diane Balbi: Needle Felting instructor Diane Balbi has a 30 year background in clothing design and construction. She also has interest in beading and quilting. Diane has really found her niche in needle felting. She has been needle felting since 2006 and is completely addicted. Let her enthusiasm hook you on this exciting new craft. You can also find her on the web at www.webeefelting.com.

Cheryl Bateman: My sister, Debra Howard, began spinning in the early 1970's. I would go with her to the Shepherd's Extravaganza when it was held at the Seattle Center. She would buy a fleece and then we would process it at home. Dyeing the wool was my favorite part. I did not begin spinning at this time as I had tried the drip spindle and hated it. I managed to spin enough wool "in the grease" to make a tam, which I still have. When Debbie moved away I was through with it all or so I thought!

Debbie came back to the area, moving to the Kitsap Peninsula, when her husband stationed at NAS Bangor. I managed to not get involved in her spinning until one fateful weekend when I went to an event at Irene Hutspeth's Baa Baa Black Sheep farm in Olala, WA. It was one of the most enlightening, fun weekend's I have ever had.

I have been spinning now since the early 1990's. I enjoy the creativity of the people I meet through spinning. Once I learn something I try to see how I can apply techniques and make something new. I will never be a perfect spinner as that is not my goal - my goal is to learn what others are willing to share, apply what I've

learned, and to pass on to others what I can.

Chris Conrad: Kakishibui came about as a serendipitous crossing of paths 3 years ago at a flea market in Kyoto, Japan. A booth displaying cloth of richly organic colors caught my eye. Between the proprietors meager English, my poor Japanese, pantomime and intuitive translation, I discovered that the source of this lovely color was kakishibu - the fermented juice of unripe persimmons. That day, I purchased a bottle.

It was several months after my return to the US that I was finally able to start playing with it. Pleased with the results and the dyer friendliness of the materials, I showed it around to my fiber friends. My announcement that it kakishibu was met with blank looks. No one had heard of this dye. Further research revealed that kakishibu is primarily known in America to handmade paper artists.

Surprised that the fiber community knew nothing of this totally natural dye that yielded such beautiful color, my husband and I decided to return to Japan so I could study kakishibu and introduce American fiber artists to this ancient dye. I lived in Kobe, Japan and spent a year and a half traveling, interviewing, studying and observing kakishibu artists, crafts people and producers. I had the great fortune of living in the same area and studying with Masamichi Terada, Japan's only kakishibu instructor, and owe him deep gratitude for his kindness and generosity. Kakishibui was born of the desire to make this unique dye available to a new world of fiber artists, so they can discover the culture, beauty and creative potential of kakishibu.

Jayne Deardorff: Jayne and her husband, Daryl, live on a farm south of Colville, WA. Where they raise cattle, Montadale sheep, Cashmere goats along with hay and grain. They have operated the "me 2 Custom Fiber processing mill" for the last few years on their farm. Jayne is working on her Master Handspinning Certificate from Olds College in Alberta, Canada. They have 4 grown children and 1 grandson with another baby on the way!

Laurie Duff-Robertson: A manic passion for the alpacas I now raise has rekindled fledgling fiber art interest from my college days back in Pennsylvania. The magic of seeing their fleeces processed from raw fiber to yarn to finished article validates the respect and wonder I have for these remarkable animals. It has been a round-about journey putting myself through college, teaching high school for a couple of years, spending 15 years in the Air Force, and living in Japan for 10 years but I have finally 'come home' to my alpacas.

The name of my alpaca farm, Mountain Silk Alpacas, is an acknowledgement of the deep respect I have for the Japanese fiber traditions.

www.alpakanation.com/mountainsilk.asp

Amelia Read Garripoli: Amelia Garripoli loves to inject humor in all that she does, including spinning. Special topics of interest to her include fiber preparation, spindles, and find new ways to explore spinning. There's always a new blend to try,

a tool to play with, and another topic to explore! Amelia runs the Bellwether, a specialty spindle and fiber shop online: blogs as “Ask The Bellwether” and is very proud of her newest book, Productive Spindling, released in July 2009. Amelia teaches workshops, private classes and at local yarn shops and retreats, and is always tickled to teach at Conference!

Sharon Gunter: Sharon Gunter made her first handmade basket in the fall of 1978. It has been a passion that has woven in and out of raising four children (with pets) and being an elementary art instructor. She sells basketry and other handmade creations locally at the Farmers Market at Sandpoint, and has been teaching difference styles of basketry over 30 years. She says she will never forget the young boy in a after-school class who looked at her with amazement and said “out of all these straight things, you can make this!” while holding out his basket in his hands. He couldn’t have said it better and she feels the same way. .

Margaret Gisselberg: Margaret Gisselberg grew up on a ranch in Okanogan County. She had 4-H lambs and rabbits. She attended EWU and received a degree in Marketing and Fashion Merchandising. For six years, Margaret taught Sewing, Marketing and Business for Missoula County High School and Tech. Center. Jim (her husband) and Margaret moved back to St. John, WA to raise their two girls. Sheep were added to the farm with 4-H and FFA projects. The girls didn’t take the sheep to collage -- So WHAT TO DO WITH THE WOOL? Margaret leaned to spin then added colored angora goats and angora bunnies.. She teaches for stores, schools, sells yarn, etc. at spin ins. Some of her time is spend helping with Jim’s Sewing Repair business.

Ruth Haworth: I have been interested in crafts since I was 10 years old. I love learning new things and feel that a handmade gift is much more special than a purchased one. I have been a member NwRSA since it was formed!

Sherry Mays: I just love to “make stuff”. My grandparents raised me with a make it from scratch attitude that has influenced everything I do. Whether I’m gardening, cooking, or working with fiber or painting on a gourd, creativity is a part of my everyday life. And being Coeur d’Alene Indian keeps me grounded and gives direction for my art.

Because I want to do everything, my projects range from baskets and gourd art to quilting and sculpted one of a kind Santa’s that have been in galleries across the U.S.. I believe that good thoughts I put into making my pieces are sent along wherever they go. And seeing people light up when they finish an art project is the best part of teaching the many workshops I offer.

My husband, Jesse, and I operate a farm stand May thru September here we sell antiques and artwork alongside vegetable grown on our farm near Oldtown, Idaho, and in December we hold our annual Twisted Twigs Farm “Christmas in the Country sale”.

Judith McKenzie McCuin: Judith is returning yet again to share her vast knowledge with us. She is a nationally known teacher, master weaver, spinner and fiber artist. Judith teaches as only she can - with a depth of knowledge honed by years of practice, patience, creative informality, personal and historical perspective, great humor, and hand-on experience that demystifies any process. She is a regularly featured author in *Spin-Off Magazine*.

Rita Miller: I have been a NwRSA member since it started. I am a teacher and love crafts.

Terry Niles: Terry retired from Central Washington University 5 years ago, where she managed an administrative computing department. Now she teaches knitting, crochet and beginning spinning at the Dancing Ewe Yarns & Teas in Ellensburg, WA. She learned to knit and crochet as a child and started spinning and weaving 15 years ago.

Janis Thompson: A whirlwind of creative energy. Janis owns Dyelots Fiber Art Studio in Eugene, Oregon. She Teaches all over the NW and is the demonstrations chairperson for the BSG. Always striving to share ideas with other and inspire through doing! Color, Color, Color - she says that Art saved her life and we are glad it did. Take a class from Janis and really get your moneys worth!!

Gayle Vallance: Master Spinner Cert. from Olds College, 1991; Certificate of Excellence in Spinning (Technical Level) from the Handweavers' Guild of America, 1996; Basic Level of the Master Weaver Program from the Canadian Weavers' Guild, 1992; Instructor, Master Spinner Program, Olds College, Alberta, 2001 through 2010; Instructor, Northwest Regional Spinners' Assoc. Conference, 2004, 2008; Instructor, Hand Weavers, Spinners, and Dyers Assoc. of Alberta Conferences, 2002, 2003, 2008; Instructor, Assoc. of Northwest Weavers' Guilds Conference, 2007; Published: Spin-Off, Summer 2002, Fall 2003, Summer 2005.

Gayle Vallance's interest in sheep was sparked by a 3-year stay in Scotland. Her enthusiasm for spinning began when, back in Canada, she purchased a small flock of Corriedales. Her interest never lagged as she pursued a Master Spinner Certificate at Olds College in Alberta, and a Certificate of Excellence (spinning) through the Handweavers' Guild of America. She now teaches at Olds College and at workshops around the U.S. and Canada. Her interest lies in experimenting with color and texture to create unique knitted and woven projects that make the best use of fibers and spinning techniques.

Riet Westphal: Originally from the Netherlands, Riet has lived in the United States for 50 years. After coming to Washington state in 1980, she purchased her first sheep, a Rambouillet. Shortly after, she purchased a spinning wheel and the rest is

history. Riet organized the Pend Oreille Valley Spinners group that meets weekly in Newport, and she also is active in a spinning group in Cusick. Rite has been an Artist in the Schools, and often demonstrates at Schools and the Pend Oreille County Historical Museum, spinning directly from her white English cross angora rabbit. Riet has traveled to many fiber events and has taken a number of classes from Judith MacKenzie McCuin. A lifetime knitter, Riet's handspun scarves, hats, socks and mittens are unique. Riet raises sheep and llamas at her farm in Cusick, WA.