



July 24-26, 2026

The Northeast Handspinners Association and the Connecticut committee for The Gathering look forward to welcoming you to the 2026 NHA Gathering at Westfield State University in Westfield, MA.

Westfield State University Campus

We'd love to have you join us and other like-minded fiber enthusiasts for a weekend of fun and learning. Housing is in the beautiful University Hall dormitory that includes space for us to gather and shop with our vendors. The cafeteria is very close by and gets very high marks for its meals, and classes will be held in the Ely state-of-art classroom building next to the dorm. Parking is ample, the campus is flat, the buildings are accessible – and air conditioned!

Mentors

This year we are offering you classes from regional and national mentors, including Sarah Boink, Diane Cadrain, Terri Drouin-Guerette, Gigi Matthews, Amy Tyler, Mary Ann Williams, Jane Woodhouse and Patsy Sue Zawistowski. Class offerings include a variety of Spinning classes, as well as Tapestry Weaving, 2-D Felting, Dyeing, Portfolio Making and Basket Weaving! Build your class mix from full day and half day classes. As is our tradition, classes will run Saturday morning and afternoon and Sunday morning.

Check-In

Join us in University Hall on Friday at 2:00 p.m. for registration, dorm check-in and shopping with our vendors. Our opening reception at 5:00 p.m. is followed by dinner at 6:00 p.m. and later with an informal Gathering in the dorm's Main Reception Room on the ground floor.

Sign Up for the Fiber Challenge!

Our Fiber Challenge tradition is a fun event and packages may be ordered during registration online on a first come first serve basis to the first 60 participants. You will receive four ounces of spinning fiber from six different sources and seven fiber types to be used in a creation of your choice. You may add any fibers you would like but we ask that every fiber in your package be incorporated into your challenge piece. Your projects may be knit, crocheted, woven, felted, etc. The Challenge cost is \$20 and is all inclusive of fiber and shipping. Packages will be shipped in batches close to when your registration and order is received. Creations will be on display in The Gallery during the Gathering for all to admire.

The Gathering!

Our Saturday evening program features the following:

- Saturday evening speaker – Rebecca Bayreuther-Donahue of the Dirty Blue Shirts. She will present “Knit So As To Turn Water: The History of New England’s Maritime Knitting.” Rebecca is a co-founder of Dirty Blue Shirts, a living history collective. She has a personal interest in historical hand-knitting, and spent 20 years at a major Connecticut maritime museum.
- Door Prizes
- Visiting with friends and spinning, knitting, crocheting, or any handcraft of your choice!

Housing

Dorm rooms are in suites and include a mix of singles and doubles (first come, first served – you may indicate suite and roommates and we will do our best to match you), with shared bathrooms and living area. Linens, including a set of twin sheets, pillow case, blanket, bath towel and washcloth, are a mandatory part of the package. Each dorm floor has a full kitchen, and separate lounge areas.

Meals

All meals are served in the cafeteria, which serves breakfast, lunch and dinner. The cafeteria has multiple, high quality meal selections to choose from, and there is a special meal station that eliminates nine of the most prevalent food allergies.

Pricing and Cancellation Policy

Pricing is all-inclusive of classes, room (including bed linens) and board as follows:

Weekend overnight participants \$495+\$20 processing fee, including all meals.

Weekend overnight non-participating guests \$270+\$11 processing fee, including all meals.

Weekend commuter participants \$280+\$12 processing fee, including 1 dinner, and two lunches.

All registrations and payments are online with the exception of the mentor material fees (payable in cash to mentor). Payments may be split in two, with the final payment due June 30, 2026. June 30 is also the last day to cancel your registration. Cancellation policy is as follows:

Cancel by May 19 – 100% refund

Cancel by June 16 – 90% refund

Cancel by June 30 – 85% refund

Cancel after June 30 – No refund

Please Note

This is the first year that NHA has been able to utilize a college campus during the summer months, allowing us to offer this weekend retreat at exceptionally low pricing. Pricing for this 2026 event is lower than the full cost of our 2022 Gathering (the last Gathering to be held). Some members of NHA are also members of the Northeast Weavers Seminars (NEWS - a biennial retreat) who participated in the 2024 seminars at Westfield State University. NEWS participants gave very high marks to the university for everything – accommodations, food, classrooms – and we hope that you will enjoy The Gathering 2026 as well!

Meet our Mentors

Sarah Boink



Sarah is a New York–based fiber artist and educator whose work centers on tapestry weaving with handspun and sustainable fibers. She is the founder of Sizz Handmade and brings a teaching approach that balances technical skill-building with material awareness and creative confidence. Her workshops are designed to meet experienced fiber artists where they are while encouraging exploration, experimentation, and deeper engagement with fiber.

Diane Cadrain



Diane turned full-time to art in 2015 after retiring from her job as a lawyer and freelance writer specializing in employment law topics. As a fiber artist, she came of age during the time when sewing was taught in public schools and was a part of mainstream culture. Today, her fiber artwork includes piecing and quilting, felting, hand embroidery, and knitting, but felting has been her main medium for several years. She is a former co-president of Connecticut Women Artists, an elected member of the Connecticut Academy of Fine Arts and an Artist Member of the West Hartford Art League (Connecticut).

Terri Drouin-Guerette



Terri began spinning in 2004 and quickly developed a passion for her hobby. From the beginning, she has demonstrated spinning and other fiber arts in a variety of different settings, (from living history events, schools, farm days, and fairs to local yarn shops, guilds [spinning and quilting], etc.) and is always happy to share her knowledge. As a result of her involvement, she was selected to be a SOAR (Interweave Press' Spin Off Autumn Retreat) Scholar in 2011. Terri has earned many awards in Skein and Garment Competitions, including, but not limited to, Massachusetts Sheep and Woolcraft Festival, The New York Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck, and the Eastern States Exposition. She has also earned Awards from the Northeast Handspinners' Association and the Handweavers' Guild of America. Terri has also been published in Wheel (Ashford), Spin-Off, and Ply Magazine and in Interweave's Spinning Daily Blog. Terri has recorded episodes for the Ply Online Spinning Guild and is also a co-host of the Guild's Third Thursday Spin-in.

Gigi Matthews



Gigi's keen interest in fibers and materials is a result of decades of world travel to over 30 countries. As a spinner, she has sold yarns in markets and on Etsy, teaches at guilds, regional conferences, the Tatter Textile Library, and the John C. Campbell Folk School, and has published articles in Ply Magazine and in Shuttle, Spindle & DyePot. Gigi is currently the president of the MidAtlantic Fiber Association and a member of the Handweavers Guild of America's board of directors, where her focus is on sustainability and inclusivity.

Amy Tyler



Amy has degrees in modern dance, kinesiology, and physiology. Her art and science backgrounds give her a keen understanding of learning and analyzing movement skills, composition, pattern recognition, and systematic exploration. She translates that understanding into practical approaches to spinning and knitting techniques. She has been teaching spinning and knitting at venues across the country for over 20 years and is well known for her animated and engaging teaching style. Amy has numerous articles published in Spin Off, and PLY Magazine; and she has also published in Interweave Knits, Handwoven, Little Looms, and Farm & Fiber Knits. You can find out more about her work on her website, www.stonesockfibers.com

Mary Ann Williams



I made my first basket late one afternoon in 1988, after a very challenging day as an elementary school teacher—and it was a disaster. Even so, I found the craft engaging and therapeutic, and that afternoon marked the beginning of a basketmaking journey that has now spanned more than thirty-five years. I have continued to grow my skills and deepen my love for basketmaking by taking workshops whenever and wherever I can. Along the way, meeting so many wonderful people have been an added and much-appreciated bonus. I am a member of the National Basketmakers Organization and the Northeast Basketmakers Guild. In addition to teaching at the NYS Sheep and Wool Festival, I have led basketmaking workshops privately, at Dutchess Community College and Dutchess County BOCES, for the Westchester Area Basketmakers Guild, for weaving and spinning guilds, and at local libraries. Sharing basketmaking through workshops allows me to bring together my two passions— weaving baskets and teaching others. I am a resident of the State of New York.

Jane Woodhouse



Jane Woodhouse has spent many years working as a production weaver and exploring natural dye processes through self-directed research. She studied clothing and textiles in college and later received her MFA from San Francisco State with a concentration in fibers. She currently lives in Peacham, Vermont where she is active in local textile production and the Vermont Fibershed. She is the co-director of the Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival and a frequent contributor to Ply and Spin-Off magazines. Her interests include spinning, knitting, ethnic textiles and surface design on handwoven fabrics.

Patsy Sue Zawistowski



Loving all the fibers, Patsy maintains a wide focus while teaching and spinning multiple-ply yarns for variety and exciting results. For more than forty years she has structured her workshops with yarn samples pages students can store for future reference. Patsy's goals include teaching students to understand how the mechanics of twist and grist affect yarn structure and encourage record keeping and sampling, skills she learned while earning her Certificate of Excellence and Master's from the Handweavers Guild of America in 1985/87.

Saturday Workshops – All Day – 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. with lunch and breaks

Finding Your Weft: Tapestry Weaving with Handspun Yarn – Sarah Boink

6 hours

Class – ID SB1

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



Enjoy a relaxed, immersive day exploring the fundamentals of tapestry weaving with time to learn, experiment, and play with color and texture. Participants will work on a reusable 13"x13" cardboard loom and learn how to warp the loom from start to finish using cotton warp thread, which is included in the materials fee. Choose from three design approaches: abstract, landscape, or close-up floral. You will explore how different fibers behave in tapestry. Each piece is unique and may be a finished small tapestry or a sample of a larger work that you can expand on in

the future. Handspun yarns are especially welcome. This is a wonderful opportunity to see your handspun fibers take on new life in woven form.

Materials Provided: Sturdy reusable 13"x13" cardboard loom, one wooden shuttle, one comb, one pick-up stick, warp yarn, and a stainless-steel tapestry needle.

Supplies to Bring: 5-8 oz worsted-weight tapestry yarns (one-ply, two-ply, or a mix). A variety of fibers and textures: wool, silk, alpaca, synthetic, and handspun yarns—are encouraged.

Students should bring their own scissors and extra shuttles if they have them, or share them and return them at the end of the class.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Intermediate

Spin the World - Gigi Matthews

6 Hours

Class ID – GM1

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$50



Take an armchair trip around the world by spinning with a smorgasbord of fibers from all over the globe! Instructor Gigi Matthews has been to 33 countries and we will spend the day visiting many of them, traveling across Europe, down through Turkey, Syria, and Jordan, across to the Far East, Australasia, and down through North America and the Caribbean. As we go, we'll learn about the textile traditions of these countries and create a yarn and fiber sampler for future reference.

Materials Provided: Fibers to spin from around the world

Supplies to Bring: Participants must bring their own spinning wheel/spindle/e-spinner in good working order and be able to spin a single.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Advanced Spinner

Don't Leave Home Without It Tote – Mary Ann Williams

6 Hours

Class ID – MW1

Class Size 12

Materials Fee \$50



This basket is the perfect companion for the fiber enthusiast on the go—ideal for shopping or for carrying your current project when you're out and about. Measuring approximately 12"L x 3"W x 10"H (not including the leather handles), it's both functional and easy to carry. In class, participants will learn how to lay out a filled base, weave the sides using a patterned combination of dyed and natural reed, and then rim and lash their basket.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive a written pattern, natural and dyed reed, seagrass, leather handles as well as use of the basketmaking tools needed to complete the basket.

Supplies to Bring: A hand towel.

Skill Level: All Levels.

Getting to the Root of the Madder & Other Red Dyes – Jane Woodhouse

6 Hours

Class ID – JW1

Class Size 16

Materials Fee \$30



Students work wool using four red dyes: cochineal, madder, lac and brazilwood in varying strengths to get a range of gorgeous red hues. In addition, there will be baths that take advantage of acid vs alkaline assistants to shift color a trait particularly pronounced in the red dyes.

Materials Provided: Fee covers yarn, dyes and dye assists, folder with notes and recipes

Supplies to Bring: An Apron (optional), rubber gloves, scissors, black Sharpie marker, masking tape

Skill Level: All Levels

Flax, Yesterday's Fiber for Today – Patsy Sue Zawistowski

6 Hours

Class ID – PZ1

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



Flax is the classic, historic fiber that spins into linen yarn. It will easily become another spinning joy after you learn new techniques to manage its characteristically long fibers. This class teaches you quick ways to dress distaffs with long, line flax; wet-spin line or roving; and scour finished yarns. Fibers are provided. Bring a spinning wheel or spindles, hand comb, and a "distaff." Distaffs can be easily improvised, antique, or manufactured styles attached to your waist, your chair, your wheel, or free-standing. I will email students some creative distaff instructions

as class time nears.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive a 19-page booklet, line, natural, and dyed flax roving, ribbons, paper for distaffs.

Supplies to Bring: Participants will bring a spinning wheel in good working order or a variety of spindles, lazy kate, extra bobbins, hand comb, apron, distaff, hand towel, scissors, about six sandwich baggies and 3X5 cards. Also bring oil, screwdriver, and other tools for your wheel, in case they are needed.

Skill Level: Students do not need experience with flax, but must be comfortable with their wheels and tools, and should be intermediate to advanced spinners.

Saturday Workshops – Half Day Morning 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with break

The Felted Landscape – Diane Cadrain

3 Hours

Class ID – DC1

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



In this class, participants will use the softest of materials, wool roving, and a special barbed needle, to create an original felted work of art on a backing of raw silk. They will work from an image of a landscape, brought from home (preferably 8x10) or provided by the teacher.

Materials Provided – Firm foam pad (which the student may keep), a piece of raw silk, a piece of commercial felt as a backing, felting barbs, and merino wool in many colors and forms, including curly locks, short fiber, combed top, and

embellishments such as nepps and Angelina fibers.

Supplies to Bring: Students should bring an image of a landscape they would like to use, preferably 8x10, or they may use an image provided by the teacher.

Skill Level: All Levels

Spindle Clinic – Terri Drouin-Guerette

3 Hours

Class ID – TDG1

Class Size 20

Materials Fee \$15



Most spinners, both new and experienced, have a spindle in their stash that gives them trouble. Or perhaps it is a particular fiber/spindle combination. Do you have a spindle that has been sitting idle because the two of you just don't seem to get along? Bring your spindles, the ones that you love and the ones that you hate, and whether you've lost the magic or never actually found it in the first place; our goal is to bring the Spindle Magic into your spinning!!

Included in the workshop will be discussions and demonstrations of various types of spindles, drafting and plying methods and spindle care. The Spindle Clinic is sure to have something for everyone!

Materials Provided: Fibers and Handouts

Supplies to Bring: Note taking supplies & spindle(s), preferably one(s) you'd like to learn more about.

Skill Level: All Levels

Spinning Silk Hankies – Amy Tyler

3 Hours

Class ID – AT1

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



Silk hankies are a "mawata" silk that consists of very thin layers of silk squares. We will learn strategies for preparing these hankies for spinning, and then we will spin them using various strategies including chain plying. We will cover strategies for making your hands smooth to minimize snagging of silk on your hands, and various uses of silk hankies and yarns spun from them.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive samples for examination, fibers for spinning, notebook with handouts, and sundry supplies.

Supplies to Bring: Participants should bring a spinning wheel in good working order, 3 bobbins, and a lazy kate

Skill Level: Intermediate Spinner

Saturday Half Day – Afternoon 2:00 pm. To 5:00 p.m. with break

The Felted Landscape – Diane Cadrain

3 Hours

Class ID – DC2

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



In this class, participants will use the softest of materials, wool roving, and a special barbed needle, to create an original felted work of art on a backing of raw silk. They will work from an image of a landscape, brought from home (preferably 8x10) or provided by the teacher.

Materials Provided: Firm foam pad (which the student may keep), a piece of raw silk, a piece of commercial felt as a backing, felting barbs, and merino wool in many colors and forms, including curly locks, short fiber, combed top, and embellishments such as nepps and Angelina fibers. This class is a repeat of the morning's class.

Supplies to Bring: Students should bring an image of a landscape they would like to use, preferably 8x10, or they may use an image provided by the teacher.

Skill Level: All Levels

Fractal Spinning for Your Odds and Ends – Terri Drouin-Guerette

3 Hours

Class ID – TDG2

Class Size 20

Materials Fee - \$20



Fractals are never ending patterns found in nature, mathematics, and art. They repeat themselves at different scales or sizes. Fractal yarns are usually created from dyed combed top. However, what if you have separate sources of fiber (i.e, samples from workshops, leftover fiber from other projects, etc.)? In this workshop, we will explore how to create a fractal yarn from a variety of fiber sources.

Instructor will have a few pieces of equipment (i.e., niddy noddies, nostepinnes)

for participants to use during the workshop.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive handouts and fiber.

Supplies to Bring: Note taking supplies. Hand cards, a spinning wheel in good working order with a minimum of four bobbins.

Skill Level: All Levels

Plying Balanced Yarns – Amy Tyler

3 Hours

Class ID – AT2

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$15



Consistent and even plying is as important to a high-quality, hand-spun yarn as is the spinning of singles. Matching the twist in plying to the twist in the spun singles is the key. In this workshop, we will cover issues related to controlling tension on the singles while plying and the amount of twist in both spinning and plying. We will practice techniques for plying from one source (Andean plying, chain plying), and from two or more sources.

Materials Provided: Materials fee covers samples for examination, fibers for spinning, notebook with handouts, and sundry supplies

Supplies to Bring: Participants should bring a spinning wheel in good working order, 2 bobbins partially filled with Z-spun singles

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Intermediate

Sunday Workshops – Half Day 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. with break

From Yarn to Image: Designing with Handspun Yarn in Tapestry - Sarah Boink

3 Hours

Class ID – SB2

Class Size \$15

Materials Fee \$30 (no materials fee for students continuing from the Saturday class)



This half-day workshop offers a welcoming introduction to tapestry weaving with an emphasis on creativity and exploration. Participants begin on a pre-warped 13"x13" cardboard loom, allowing us to jump straight into weaving, color play, and texture without spending time on setup. Working from three design inspirations, abstract, landscape, or close-up floral, you'll learn essential tapestry techniques while experimenting with a wide range of fibers. Handspun yarns are warmly encouraged and add beautiful character, texture, and story to each finished piece. This class is a good choice if you want to focus on weaving and design without spending time on loom setup.

Materials Provided: Sturdy pre-warped and reusable 13"x13" cardboard loom, one wooden shuttle, one comb, one pick-up stick, warp yarn, and a stainless-steel tapestry needle.

Supplies to Bring: 5-8 oz worsted-weight tapestry yarns (one-ply, two-ply, or a mix). Handspun yarns and a variety of fibers and textures are welcome.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Intermediate

The Felted Landscape – Diane Cadrain

3 Hours

Class ID – DC3

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



In this class, participants will use the softest of materials, wool roving, and a special barbed needle, to create an original felted work of art on a backing of raw silk. They will work from an image of a landscape, brought from home (preferably 8x10) or provided by the teacher.

Materials Provided: Firm foam pad (which the student may keep), a piece of raw silk, a piece of commercial felt as a backing, felting barbs, and merino wool in many colors and forms, including curly locks, short fiber, combed top, and embellishments such as nepps and Angelina fibers. This class is repeated from Saturday morning and afternoon.

Supplies to Bring: Students should bring an image of a landscape they would like to use, preferably 8x10, or they may use an image provided by the teacher.

Skill Level: All Levels

Blending Board Techniques – Terri Drouin-Guerette

3 Hours

Class ID – TDG3

Class Size 20

Materials Fee \$25



Are you intrigued by the possibilities that a blending board opens up but don't know where to start? Would you like to see what you can accomplish before committing to buying your own? Or maybe you have played around with your blending board and would like to explore some new options. In this workshop, we will start with the basics of applying and removing fiber and the care and cleaning of your blending board. We will then move on to some of the more interesting things we can do with blending boards, such as making matching

batts, striping, garneting, etc.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive fiber, additional blending board supplies, and handouts. Instructor will have a limited number of blending boards available for participants to borrow during the workshop. The instructor's boards must be reserved in advance, at least one week prior to workshop.

Supplies to Bring: Note taking supplies and a Blending Board (if you have one or can borrow one).

Skill Level: All Levels

Yoga and Spinning: An Awareness Class – Gigi Matthews

3 Hours

Class ID – GM2

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$30



The ancient craft of hand spinning is the foundation of the fiber arts. Spin your way down the millennia by learning to use a spindle to make yarn. Discover the history of spinning and the types of fibers used traditionally around the world. We will work with wool from rare breed sheep and plant fibers such as flax and hemp. Throughout the morning, while getting the knack of spindle spinning, we will learn chair yoga poses that are suited to all body types and abilities; if you

can breathe, you will be able to do this extremely gentle and breath-based style of yoga that helps to improve and maintain good posture. Spinning is a meditative craft, well suited to yoga and its philosophy of mindfulness. No equipment needed; wear comfortable clothing.

Materials Provided: The materials fee for Spinning & Yoga includes a spindle, flax, and 3 different types of wool. (Participants do not need to bring any tools or fiber; everything is included in the materials fee). Participants keep the spindle.

Supplies to Bring: no supplies needed

Skill Level: All Levels

Spinning Marl Yarns – Amy Tyler

3 Hours

Class ID – AT3

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$20



Marl yarns are often defined as plied yarns in which the plies are different colors. We'll cover techniques for making those yarns, as well as making marl yarns in which the plies are from different fiber sources. In the process, we'll also cover strategies for controlling thickness and twist of singles and for plying to create 2 and 3-ply balanced yarns.

Materials Provided: Materials fee covers samples for examination, fibers for spinning, notebook with handouts, and sundry supplies.

Supplies to Bring: Participants should bring a spinning wheel in good working order, 4 bobbins, and a Lazy Kate.

Skill Level: Advanced Beginner to Intermediate Spinner

Odds and Ends Keeper Basket – Mary Ann Williams

3 Hours

Class ID – MW 2

Class Size 12

Materials Fee \$22



Need a small basket to help keep your workspace organized and neat? This one is just right. Measuring approximately 5.5"W x 3"D x 6"H (not including the leather handle), it's an ideal size for holding frequently used craft tools, everyday desktop supplies, keys, and other small essentials. Participants will learn how to lay out a filled base, weave up the sides using two different sizes and types of reed, and finish the basket by rimming and lashing.

Materials Provided: Participants will receive a written pattern, natural reed, seagrass, leather handle as well as use of the basketmaking tools needed to complete the basket.

Supplies to Bring: A hand towel.

Skill Level: All Levels.

Portfolios – Jane Woodhouse

3 Hours

Class ID – JW2

Class Size 12

Materials Fee \$20



This class is for the those who want to organize and display their samples of yarn or handwoven, knitted or felted cloth. Come and explore some book based structures to keep your work documented and in order. A bag of dyed yarn samples is only useful if you have it cataloged and labeled. Use these structures to add interest and creativity to your work and keep yourself engaged in that work. This class will look at some very simple structures and spend the major part of the class putting together a pocketed structure that can store dyed yarn samples or cloth samples for easy

reference

Materials Provided: Participants will receive papers, rivets, thread, needles to create a portfolio.

Supplies to Bring: Participants should bring Scissors, pictures, rubber stamps and pads, interesting pieces of cloth or heavy papers. Small portable sewing machine (optional).

Skill Level: All Levels

Spinning Hemp and Ramie – Patsy Sue Zawistowski

3 Hour Class

Class ID – PZ2

Class Size 15

Materials Fee \$12



Hemp and ramie are important historic cellulose bast fibers. They frequently move in and out of fashion. Now that they are back, it's time to fully appreciate and understand the differences between these two fibers. We will spin and ply them separately and together.

Materials Provided: 15-page booklet, natural, and dyed roving.

Supplies to Bring: Participants will bring a spinning wheel in good working order or a variety of spindles, lazy kate, extra bobbins, hand cards, hand towel, scissors, and about a six sandwich baggies and 3X5 cards. Also bring oil, screwdriver, and other tools for your wheel, in case they are needed.

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced Spinners