

The Great Lakes Lighthouse Keepers Association presents our

Felted Wool Bowl Workshop on St. Helena Island

Wednesday July 25 through Sunday July 29, 2018

The 2018 summer wool felting workshop, taught by Mary Brownell at St Helena Island Light Station, will be resist felted wool bowls. Mary completed her Communications and Art Education degree at the University of Wisconsin Green Bay where she concentrated on Fibers for the art studies portion. She worked for 22 years as a Graphic Artist, both on the drawing board and eventually the Mac computer. She continued weaving and making one of a kind garments with her hand woven cloth. After taking numerous classes in weaving, spinning, dyeing and felting, she fell in love with working with wool. She has received awards for her woven garments and weavings from the Midwest Weavers Fashion Show and Members Exhibit as well as a Purchase Award for a wall hanging at the Northeast Wisconsin Art Exhibit

Mary weaves or knits every day but she really loves to create wool felted items. She finds it very relaxing to create a wall piece, a scarf, bowl or flower with wool fibers. The



Some examples of the types of bowls you will learn to craft during the workshop

process can be completed in a few hours and the results are beautiful. The materials are minimal and the work area very easy to set up. She has spent a great deal of time exploring wet felting in workshops and on her own and is eager to share what she has learned.

Using a wet felting technique with a resist template in the center class participants will learn how to make a nine inch bowl out of merino wool roving. These resist templates can also be used to make felted hats. Participants will choose two to three colors of provided wool and then will lay out the fibers on a flat surface; wet them with soapy water and add embellishment with additional colors of wool or silk roving. Then pat, rub and roll the fibers in a towel to create a firm bowl for decoration or to use to store treasures.

Four of the five days will be set aside to play with wool not only making at least two bowls, but learning to make a number of beautiful felted flowers from floral pictures students will bring with them or from the flowers found on the island. Participants will also have time to explore this uninhabited island, hike, kayak, eat s'mores at the camp fire, and star gaze.



The St. Helena Island Light Station will serve as your home during the 5 day workshop

On Wednesday July 25, 2018, participants will board the Ugly Ann, a retired Maine lobster boat near the Mackinaw City Marina in Mackinaw City at 10:00 AM for the ride to St. Helena Island, located seven miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. The lighthouse has 4 bedrooms. The two small bedrooms each have a double bed. The two large bedrooms have one double bed and two twin beds each. Two additional twin mattresses are available for "camping on the floor".

The GLLKA will provide pillows and blankets and the participants will bring their own pillowcase, sheets or sleeping bag. A packing list will be provided for each participant so they will know what to bring for the stay. In addition to the personal items, each participant will need to bring two old towels, one bath size and one small bath or hand towel, pictures of their favorite flowers to try felting, and some ideas for the 2-3 colors for the bowls. Last of all physical energy to stand and rub and roll wool to full their project that will take about 1- 2 hours. They may be able to do some of that sitting.

After a full 5 days and a very large lunch, at 2:00 PM on Sunday July 29th, they will board the Ugly Anne for the return trip to Mackinaw City, arriving at the dock at around 3:00 PM.



Mary Brownell will serve as your instructor for this enjoyable and relaxing 5 day workshop

The price for this unique 5 day - 4 night workshop & lighthouse experience is \$325, and includes transporta-

tion, sleeping accommodations in the lighthouse, 3 meals a day, snacks, beverages and the necessary wool felting materials and instruction. Non-members will also need to purchase a membership in order to participate.

Participation in the workshop is limited to eight participants who must be physically able to transfer from the Ugly Anne into an inflatable zodiac boat for a ride to shore. Participants should plan an extra day on the island in case windy or stormy weather makes it impossible head out to the island or return on the scheduled dates.

For more information and a registration form, please contact the GLLKA office at 231-436-5580 or e-mail GLLKA at: info@gllka.com.



The daily schedule includes plenty of time to relax or explore the beauty of the island