

CREATE A BRAIDED RUG

Dates & Times: Saturday, July 29 / Saturday, August 5 / Sunday, August 6

Each day 10:00 am -2:00 pm

Location: Old Stone House Museum & Historic Village, Brownington, VT

Register now as the class is limited to 8 students

Welcome to the art of rug braiding In this 12-hour workshop, students will learn to create a small oval braided rug. We will use recycled and new wool fabric to create a 2' x 3' oval rug in warm colors of your choice. Over 2 weekends, with 3 class sessions, you will learn a new skill while creating a colorful braided rug to brighten a special spot in your home. All learning levels welcome. This workshop is appropriate for teens and adult learners.

Your wool rug will become a family heirloom. In class, we will look at a variety of other items that are created with braiding techniques. The skill of braiding presents opportunities to recycle worn-out textiles that you may already own. In class, we will look at a variety of other items that are created with braiding techniques. You'll be truly inspired by the many ways braiding skills can help use/reduce what we toss into landfills.

Here's what we will cover in this workshop:

CLASS #1:

- A review of photos to highlight various shapes, patterns & color combinations
- Consideration of colors & weights to help you decide what you'd like for your rug
- Consideration of reusing & upcycling former garments, blankets, etc. for rug-making
- Essential tools for braiding * (see below for information about buying an essential tool bag)
- Tear strips, begin a rug start, braid, and lace the center

CLASS #2:

- A focus on lacing while continuing to braid. Lace balanced, rounded corners that sit flat on the floor. We will also change colors, hiding the seams to create a durable rug.

CLASS #3:

- Rugs will end in a taper at 2' wide, or you may choose to continue braiding to grow a larger rug. Lessons include an option for ending your rug with a finished, butted border row.

Detailed information for Make A Braided Rug:

- **Attendance:** Students MUST attend the first class. If you cannot make all 3 sessions, accommodations can be made to help you complete your rug.
- **Essential Tools:** Beginner students need a bag of essential tools. This bag includes a clamp, lacer, cotton splicing thread, pins, needles, butting pins, notebook, pen, a hard copy of written step-by-step instructions for what we cover in class. This bag costs \$17, and is purchased at the first class from the instructor. Payable by cash or check.
- **Wool:** Students will need about 4 yards of wool fabric to complete a 2' x 3' oval rug
 - ❖ You are welcome to bring any wool fabric that you already have. You are also welcome to bring any wool garments or blankets that you might wish to deconstruct. Please wash & dry these before you come to class.
 - ❖ Some recycled, washed wool is available for students free of charge, mostly in darker colors
 - ❖ A variety of new wool will be available, for sale at \$8.00 per half-yard (Payable to instructor, cash or check).
- **Questions???:** I am very happy to answer your questions. Please email to maryragno33@gmail.com

***** PLEASE COME IF YOU CAN*** August 13 is Old Stone House Day**, an annual celebration day for the Museum, and an important annual fundraiser. We have a Fiber Arts demonstration site at the event, and you are all invited to bring your rug for continued work, or just to show it off. We are proud to let others see our braided rug successes. This is also another chance to work on your rug with guidance. Our booth also welcomes other community members who might wish to demonstrate their fiber crafts. Invite a friend with a fiber arts skill that they might wish to demonstrate.

INSTRUCTOR:

Mary Ragno is a rug braider with more than 20 years' experience. She makes braided rugs, teaches the craft, and restores vintage braided rugs in her Danville, VT studio. Mary has offered summer workshops for 9 years at the Old Stone House, is a volunteer at the Old Stone House in season, and coordinates the Fiber Arts demonstration site at Old Stone House Day in August. She maintains an Etsy shop called Woolenbrae from which she sells rugs, accepts custom rug orders, and accepts vintage rugs for restorations.











an oval rug with a pattern of concentric bands of red, blue, and white yarn, laid out on a wooden floor.

