



***August 1-4, 2024***

*Expanding and Exploring the Future World of our Fiber Traditions*

## **President's Message**

The MAWS 2024 Conference is shining on the horizon! The Billings members are putting the final touches on the event and it is going to be a fabulous time. There is a series of 5 taped interviews that *C7 – Billings Public Access Station* has recorded on the subject. Check out the links below:

### ***MAWS 2024 Conference - The History of Fiber Arts***

Title: MAWS 2024 conference - The History of Fiber Art

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/64f118acd3365b0008df705d?page=HOME>

### **MAWS 2024 Conference - Industrialization of Fibers**

Description: Our fiber arts ladies are back! This time we explore the industrialization of fibers and the impact it has had on our world. Join us as we prepare for the upcoming MAWS 2024 conference and explore the world of fiber arts!

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/651f177367f883bf545525cf?page=HOME>

### **MAWS 2024 Conference - Denise Kovnat**

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/6557dffefb7a2f6c59d5a9df?page=HOME>

### **MAWS 2024 Conference - Interview with Kate Larson**

Description: This episode brings special guest Kate Larson to your screens! Learn more about her work and some of the classes you can expect to see at the conference. Join us as we prepare for the upcoming MAWS 2024 conference and explore the world of fiber arts!

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/657cdd1cad176aafec7bfdac?page=HOME>

### **MAWS 2024 Conference - Some of the Fiber Gang**

Description: Meet some of the fiber gang in preparation for the MAWS 2024 conference! Learn what inspires Heather Johnson, Joy Erickson, Bridget Hanebury, and Cindi Kanvick and how they got started in the fiber arts! This episode was recorded January 2024.

<https://cloud.castus.tv/vod/comm7tv/video/65b7ed7576c5bb0008a95c28?page=HOME>

Thank you so much Billings guilds for putting in so much effort to make MAWS 2024 Conference an affair to remember!

*Dawn Ahlert*

“Inspiration exists, but it has to find you working.” –Pablo Picasso

**Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners**

<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/>

## **Our Fiber Planet MAWS 2024 Conference Billings Aug 1-4**

**Conference Registration Opens at 10 am on February 14!**

**Click this link to register online:**

<https://ourfiberplanet.rsvpify.com/>

Here are some documents about the conference. Click on the name to access the file you are interested in:

1. [Class description and Instructor Bios](#)
2. [Vendor Call](#) and Vendor Application ([Word](#) or [pdf](#))
3. [Towel and Skein Exchanges](#)
4. Open Show Entry Forms ([Word](#) or [pdf](#))
5. [Fashion Show Guidelines and Entry Forms](#)
6. [Keynote Speakers: Billy Maxwell and LaVonne Stucky](#)
7. [Sample Paper Registration Form](#)
8. [Revised Venue Information](#)
9. [Grid Style Conference Schedule](#)
10. [Events, Vendors, Shows and Entries](#)

### **Living Treasures**

We are also seeking more [Living Treasure Applications](#).

MAWS is seeking submissions of a **NEW LOGO** that is more contemporary and better reflects our mission. Given the depth of talent amongst our members we are confident someone will produce an updated logo and we will pay the designer of the selected logo \$50. You must be a MAWS member to enter. Our Bylaws state that MAWS' primary objective is to "foster cooperation and communication between individuals and groups engaged in handcrafted fiber arts, including but not limited to weaving, spinning, basket making, felting and associated fiber arts". The winning design will be unveiled at the 2024 conference in Billings. Members needing help with formatting can contact Lisa Brown (webmaster@montanaweavespin.org). Please submit your entries in vector format to Sharon Schroeder at jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com by March 31, 2024.

## Cabin Fever Class

Sign up now for our 2024 Cabin Fever Zoom classes:  
March 9 - A Question of Balance for Spinners, Michelle Boyd  
April 13 - Thrummed Knitting with Vanessa Bjerreskov

Registration for each class will end 3 days prior to the event.  
Each zoom workshop will be approximately 2 hours starting at 10 a.m.  
COST: \$10 for each class.

These classes are open to MAWS members only.

Register either by using the Attached Form and mailing to Linda Shelhamer or by going to the MAWS website [Cabin Fever | MAWS - Live](#) and paying with PayPal.

Not a member? [Join Us - Membership | MAWS - Live](#) or by mailing dues to MAWS in care of Linda Shelhamer.

Linda Shelhamer  
446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105  
406-259-9160  
lindas5252@yahoo.com



## The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

We recently completed taking seed packet requests from members for our Soil to Sample indigo dye day in September. More than 25 members signed up to receive seeds and grow them over the summer. We will meet on an appointed day in September to dye blue. This is a new program for the guild and we are excited by the enthusiasm and overwhelming interest.

In November, Rudy Zulkewicz and Joan Goldstein gave a program on finishing techniques. Members worked on both the Damascus edge (with discussion of both half Damascus and full) and also the Philippine edge. Both

of those are applicable across the board - not just for rugs. Joan led the braiding part of the program: 3, 4, and 6 strand braids. Members also learned to make a "big braid" for rugs that normally uses 9, 11, or 13 strands.

In December the weavers invited the rest of the Guild to join them for Holi-Dye Day at the home of Nancy Carpenter and Bruce Gist. We dyed with avocado pits and pomegranates. During the dye session participants worked on shifting the color with an iron mordant and washing soda. The holidays kept attendance low but enthusiasm was high. We also had the Guild's holiday potluck with show and tell.

Submitted by Nancy Kaumeyer



## Bozeman Weavers Guild

Bozeman Weavers Guild members gathered on December 16 at Susan Hellier's lovely home for our December meeting and holiday potluck. The food and beverages, Christmas decorations, and holiday spirit combined to make this a memorable gathering.

Our special guest was Linda Williams, the Executive Director of the Bozeman Art Museum. Most of the discussion was centered on BWG's art installation at BAM that is planned for the fall of 2024. Linda answered questions regarding what makes a successful art installation and how best to display our members' fiber artwork.

Our January meeting featured a live, online visit with Linda Myers, Executive Director of the Adopt-A-Native-Elder program, and C.J. Robb, Director of Business Development & Operations for the organization. Adopt-A-Native-Elder (A.N.E.) is a non-profit program that supports traditional Navajo elders who live in remote portions of the Dine' (Navajo) reservation. Linda and C.J. explained the history of their program, as well as the scope of their efforts to supply these elders with food, water, medical supplies, wood, personal hygiene items, etc. Of particular interest to us is A.N.E.'s efforts to supply yarn to the elderly weavers, enabling them to continue weaving their stunning rugs. These are then auctioned or sold; the weavers keep 100% of the sale price. A \$50 directed donation to A.N.E. purchases a bundle of yarn in traditional Navajo rug colors, sufficient for an elder to weave a small rug. A collection from our members was taken at the meeting; the monies will be pooled and donated to A.N.E. for the purchase of yarn bundles to be given to the elder weavers. Rugs are always available to purchase through A.N.E.'s website.

Anyone interested in learning more about the Adopt-A-Native-Elder (A.N.E.) program and/or would like to make a donation, can visit their website at [anelder.org](http://anelder.org).

The program for our February guild meeting will be "Paint with Woolen Watercolors" during which Barb Good will teach us how to needle felt to create a "painted" image. Because our guild is renewing its efforts to have members wear nametags to our meetings, those who wish may choose to make a felted nametag using the techniques Barb will be teaching us!

Submitted by Wendy Fedock, Newsletter Editor



## Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild

<https://helenaspinnerandsweavers.org/home/>

### ***HSWG 2023 Holiday Party Highlights***

Great friends, delicious food, and remarkable gifts made for a wonderful celebration. Trading was brisk for everything — hat-and-scarf sets, mittens, wood-burned kitchen tools, shawls, towels, aprons, hand-spun and hand-knitted scarves, a needle-felted necklace, and a bag of fluffy fleece!

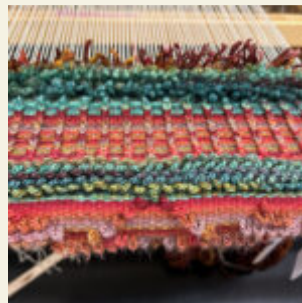
### ***Weft Pile Weaves***

In January, weavers were introduced to a variety of weft pile techniques by Instructor Dawn Ahlert. Knotted cut pile; looped pile, including pull-up loops and knotted loops; and combinations of textures and pile heights. Stay tuned: warp pile weaves will be another class.

### ***Beginning Weavers Study Group***

The HSWG is sponsoring a comprehensive study for beginning weavers this year. The objective of the program is to gain comfort with planning and design, reading drafts, warping the loom, weaving, and finishing projects. There will be 2 easy towel designs that are quick to warp and weave, giving experience working with different threads and patterns. At the January meeting, participants learned about winding a multi-color warp, warping the loom, following a color order, weaving with multiple colors, hemming, and finishing.

Submitted by Diane Hall, Webmaster



## **The Missoula Weavers Guild**

We had a two day retreat in January at the Missoula Public Library. There was a Round Robin with at least 15 looms with different warps on them. It was a lot of fun!

**The guild is having a Sponsored Workshop on April 13-14**

Deb Essen will present a 2-day class: Weaving with Supplemental Warps - Without a second back beam!

**Loose Ends Project**

Did you know there is a website that matches crafters with craft projects that were left unfinished when a loved one died (or for people who are sick and unable to finish)? The MWG members have so many skills and talents there may be some who wish to sign up. There are also flyers on the website to hang around town to let people know who have such projects which need finishing. <https://www.looseendsproject.org/>

**Inkle Weaving Study Group**

We held the inkle weaving study group again this month. We all bring different experiences and perspectives to the craft and are learning a lot. This month we discussed historical uses of woven bands, how we might use bands in our everyday lives, and some interesting ideas about merging other forms of weaving with tablet weaving on a single warp. We also discussed different types of inkle looms that are used for different styles of weaving. If you are interested in joining the inkle weaving study group, please email [kjfuller06@gmail.com](mailto:kjfuller06@gmail.com).

Submitted by: Jennie Meinershagen, MWG Communications Director



## Classified Ads

Do you have a fiber-related item to sell? As a member of MAWS you are able to post your items for sale. (Non-members will be required to pay a fee of \$10 per classified ad along with one photo). Please send the information, along with any photos to Lisa Brown ([lisa.brown@montana.edu](mailto:lisa.brown@montana.edu)). Items will be posted for 60 days.

Also, please let Lisa know if your items sell so we can keep the website and newsletter content page current. We appreciate your cooperation!



**\$1000 Leclerc Nilus Loom** in Cody - 45" width, 4-shaft. Beautiful condition. Manual and 3 Reeds included. Vieune needs to make room for her new loom 307-899-5979 or vieuneski@gmail.com.



**Clemes & Clemes Spinning Wheel - Price Reduction:** Spins wonderful. If you're looking for a sturdy wheel, this is the one. Comes with three bobbins and directions. \$600. Please contact Tammy Jordan if interested. 406-633-0073 or goldieknotsmt@gmail.com.



### **Lone Pine Emporium Storefront**

Tuesday through Saturday 10am to 6pm  
805 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, Montana 59601  
406-475-5700

<https://lonepinewoolemporium.com/>

## **Upcoming Events**

- **MAWS Board Meeting:** April 27, 2024 at Noon in Montana City



- **Crazy Mountain Fiber Festival:** April 26-27 2024 (Watch Facebook for more information)
- **Grazing Hills Fiber Festival:** July 13-14, 2024. Latah County Fairgrounds; Moscow, ID [www.ghfiberfest.com](http://www.ghfiberfest.com). Still seeking vendors and instructors. Please visit the website to apply.
- **Copper K Fiber Festival:** July 20-21, 2024. Copper K Barn, Whitehall, MT <https://www.copperkfiberfestival.com>
- **Jennifer Moore Doubleweave Workshop in Spokane.** MARCH 21, 22, & 23, 2024. Deadline for registration is February 28 and space is limited. The link to register is: <https://checkout.square.site/merchant/DSGVCQMGX2VK9/checkout/F7HHRS4DPX2GT27JKHZBQKDO>

**Next Newsletter Deadline:**

May 1st - deadline for submissions

May 15th - issue released

Send articles to Allison Grove, MAWS Newsletter editor at [grove.allison@gmail.com](mailto:grove.allison@gmail.com)

**Montana Association of Weavers & Spinners (MAWS)  
is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.**

The annual membership fee is \$10 and is due by October 31st. The membership year is January through December. You can join through your local guild or as an as an individual if you do not belong to a member guild. Dues include your newsletter subscription. To join MAWS, please send dues to: Linda Shelhamer, 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105. She can be reached at 406-259-9160 or by emailing [lindas5252@yahoo.com](mailto:lindas5252@yahoo.com). You can also pay dues and submit donations via PayPal.

**MAWS accepts memorials and other donations for our educational programs.**

They can be mailed to Linda or made online using this link <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/donation>

**QUESTIONS?**

Linda Shelhamer

446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105

406-259-9160

[lindas5252@yahoo.com](mailto:lindas5252@yahoo.com)

**Meet Your Board**

**President**

Dawn Ahlert

[dmahlert@gmail.com](mailto:dmahlert@gmail.com)

**Past President**

Sharon Schroeder

[jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com](mailto:jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com)

**Vice President**

Jackie Boshka

[mjboshka@gmail.com](mailto:mjboshka@gmail.com)

**Treasurer**

Linda Shelhamer

446 Tabriz Drive

**2024 Conference Chair & Member at Large**

Heather Johnson

[heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com)

**Past Conference Chair Annette Cade**

[annette.cade@yahoo.com](mailto:annette.cade@yahoo.com)

**Members-at-Large**

Mary Melander – Bozeman

[mmmelande@earthlink.net](mailto:mmmelander@earthlink.net)

Gwen Haferkamp – Eastern Montana

406-234-7603

[gwenmrh@midrivers.com](mailto:gwenmrh@midrivers.com)

Billings, MT 59105  
406-259-9160  
lindas5252@yahoo.com

**Secretary**

Susan Lohmuller  
susanlohmuller@gmail.com

**Newsletter Editor**

Allison Grove  
grove.allison@gmail.com  
MAWSeditor@gmail.com

**Internet Coordinator**

Lisa Brown  
lisa.brown@montana.edu

Marian Stratton – Great Falls  
mnstratton1@gmail.com

Melanie Dayton – Helena  
mdayton4946@gmail.com  
Julie Tome– Missoula  
jtomemd@gmail.com

Nancy Kaumeyer - Whitefish  
nancykaumeyer6@gmail.com

**QUESTIONS?**

Linda Shelhamer  
lindas5252@yahoo.com