

MAWS Newsletter: Spring 2025



President's Message

Happy New Year! I hope this newsletter finds you all well and productive. If you are looking for some creative motivation, please remember that the MAWS Cabin Fever Virtual Workshops has 2 more offerings to inspire you on March 8 and April 12, 2025. You can find more information in this newsletter as well as on our MAWS website: <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/cabin-fever>

Registration is now open for the Association of Northwest Weavers Guild (ANWG) Conference in Yakama, WA this summer. There are workshops and seminars not just on weaving topics, but also other fiber arts such as Spinning, Sewing, Garment Construction, Felting, Braiding, Color Theory, Basketry, as well as other related subjects. The ever-popular Fashion show, Juried Show and Open show are also wonderful showcases to join in or see what our peers are making. You can find out more at <https://anwgconference.org/>

The Missoula Weavers Guild and Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild are hosting the MAWS 2026 Conference, "A Thread Runs Through It" on the University of Montana Missoula Campus on June 17 - 21, 2026. They have secured nationally known weaver and instructor Tom Knisely to headline the event. Find for more information in this newsletter about what they have in store for us.

I have been enjoying being a snowbird this winter and meeting fellow fiber enthusiasts in Southern California. Our community is spread out, but we all hold so many interests and values in common. It's wonderful to feel so at home with new friends and I look forward to spending more time soon with my fiber friends in Montana.

Dawn Ahlert

"In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take." ~Lewis Carroll

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners
<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/>

MAWS Board Meeting and Updates

The next MAWS Board meeting will be April 26, 2025 in Montana City.

MAWS Booth at ANWG

MAWS will be having a booth at ANWG in Yakima in June and promoting the 2026 MAWS conference in Missoula with the theme "A Thread Runs Through It". Sharon Schroeder in Missoula will be collecting items at the April MAWS board meeting in Montana City to display. She would appreciate you getting items to your guild's MAWS representative to bring to the April meeting. We would especially like items that address either the theme or the conference colors.

MAWS Newsletter Deadlines:

May 1 - deadline for submissions

May 15 - issue released

August 1 - deadline for submissions

August 15 - issue released

Send articles to Allison Grove, MAWS Newsletter editor

Our MAWS LOGO is TIRED and Needs an UPDATE!

Do you have a more contemporary idea that reflects our mission?

You don't need to send us a finished product.

Sketch your idea on a napkin, graph paper, or whatever.

We aren't picky. Just give us a great idea!

Winner will earn \$50.

We know you have it in you!

Check out the logos below for some inspiration.

Keep in mind 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.

Please submit your ideas to Sharon Schroeder by April 1, 2025



 Seattle Weavers' Guild



Cabin Fever Classes

Registration for 2025 Cabin Fever Zoom classes is LIVE!

Mar 8 - Rosann Fleischauer: Crocheting Borders and Joining Squares. Check out her work at <https://firstbytedesigns.com/>

Apr 12 - Deborah Silver: Split Shed Weaving. You can learn more about her at <https://www.deborahsilverstudio.com/>

Registration for each class will end 3 days prior to the event.

Each Zoom workshop is approximately 2 hours and starts at 10 a.m.

COST: \$10 for each class.

These classes are open to MAWS members only.

You can register by using the attached forms ([PDF](#) and [Word](#)) and mailing them to MAWS c/o Linda Shelhamer or by going to the MAWS website and paying with PayPal.

<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/cabin-fever>

Not a member?

Join online at <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/join-us-membership>

or by mailing dues to MAWS in care of

Linda Shelhamer

446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105

406-259-9160

lindas5252@yahoo.com



Montana Association of Weavers & Spinners Conference

Save the Date

June 17 – 21, 2026

“A Thread Runs Through It”

In Missoula, MT on the University of MT Campus



Featuring Nationally Recognized Weaver & Instructor

Tom Knisely

Tom has made his career from his interest and love of textiles from around the world. He has been studying, collecting and teaching others about weaving and spinning for more than four decades, making him one of the most well-versed weaving instructors in North America. Tom is renowned among his students for his kindness, good humor and “seemingly infinite knowledge on the subject of weaving.”

Plus workshops in all types of Fiber Art

Hosted by Missoula Weavers Guild & Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild
For More Information: missoulaweaversguild.org or bigskyfiberartsguild.org

Seeking Workshop Proposals for the 2026 MAWS Conference

Click the [PDF](#) to read the MAWS 2026 Workshop Proposal and fill in the [Word](#) document to apply.

2026 MAWS Conference Colors

Click here to view a [PDF](#) with the conference colors matched to some of your favorite yarn companies.

2026 MAWS Conference Open Show Categories

Click here to view a [PDF](#) with the class categories and start planning your Open Show creations with the conference colors!

Summer and Winter Workshop by Annette Schipf

Join the Billings Weavers Guild May 1-2, 2025 for
SUMMER AND WINTER: THE SUPERHERO BLOCK WEAVE



If you have been weaving any length of time at all, you have probably woven Summer and Winter. Next to twill and tabby Annette believes it is one of the most versatile & widely used of all the weave structures. One can weave delicate figured baby items or sturdy weft faced rugs. It can be used for clothing or household textiles; towels, pillows, runners.....it is a superhero weave!

Even if you have woven this structure do you really know it? In this class we will weave samples that will show the different ways to weave “traditional” Summer & Winter. Then using the same threading we will weave some “untraditional” Summer & Winter. Designing different projects by using the structure in different ways will be covered – from weft-faced Taquete, to turned Summer & Winter, to weaving objects like sheep or hearts.

If you are a beginning weaver you will be amazed at the scope of this weave structure and its possibilities. If you are a more experienced weaver you will have a reference to use so you can design your own projects the way YOU want them.

Students can use a 4 shaft or 8 shaft loom for the class and will weave all their samples on their own loom. Either 4 harness or 8 harness drafts will be provided by Annette. There will be a sample notebook with handouts and page protectors for your finished samples so you can refer to it whenever you choose to use this superhero weave structure.

Beginners through experienced weavers will become their own superhero weavers with Summer & Winter! Click here to print the [PDF flyer](#) which has examples of what can be woven with this structure.

The workshop will be open to all MAWS members. Contact Billings Weavers Guild c/o Linda Shelhamer, lindas5252@yahoo.com or 406-259-9160. Sign-up price for the two-day workshop is still being finalized, but we expect to charge \$110 which includes both days. Sign-ups begin February 15.

Joanne Hall: New inductee into the Montana Circle of American Masters in Folk & Traditional Arts!



Joanne Hall will be inducted into the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) this spring. A ceremony will be held at the Capitol on Friday, May 16 honoring her and three other artists for 2025. It's exciting to see another fiber artist join this elite group! Other MCAM fiber artists include:

- Laurie Gano - Tapestry weaving www.lauriegano.com
- Randy Glick - Spinning, weaving, knitting
- Eva Boyd - Salish-style basket weaving
- Jessie Clemans - Finger weaving
- Deb Essen - Weaving <http://www.djehandwovens.com/>
- Maude Knudsen - Weaving
- Sarah Pilgrim - Weaving
- Bev Polk - Weaving <http://www.bevpolkhandweaver.com/>
- Marilyn Stevens - Basket weaving <http://www.montanablueheron.com/>

Read more about Joanne in the Winter 2025 Issue of "State of the Arts"
Learn more about the program and other MCAM artists
at <https://art.mt.gov/mcam>



Navajo Weaving & Culture with Pearl Sunrise

The Taos Art School is offering a unique learning experience this summer in Navajo Weaving and Culture. This is an inclusive experience. Beginners as well as more advanced weavers are welcome. You will learn to Weave, participate in Ceremonies, and hear Navaho stories from our Dine Leader: Pearl Sunrise, who learned from her Mothers growing up on the Navajo Nation. In addition, because weaving is a decidedly physical activity, we offer support such as Swimming, Nature walks, Yoga, and Massage. The Spiritual side of this beautiful craft is blossomed out with Ceremonies, Drumming, Storytelling, and, finally, a trip to the 2,000 yr old Taos Pueblo to witness the once-a-year Maiden Corn Dance. Class will be held in an Historic Lodge, exclusively reserved for our lodging and meals. This offers unlimited Peaceful time: relaxing by the pool, or, lingering in conversation after dinner.

Join us and be part of a unique weaving community for the week of July 19-26, 2025.

\$3000-5,000 all inclusive. Call for details and to chat.

Ursula Beck, Founder/Director, Taos Art School
(575) 758-0350 or ursulaartschool@gmail.com



The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild ended 2024 with our annual holiday potluck gathering that included show & tell. Last year's Guild theme was "Inspire-Make-Do" and the items displayed in the show & tell demonstrated all facets of the theme.

The end of the year also saw a complete turnover in our Guild's leadership, with all of the current board members stepping down. The Guild is in good hands with our new board of President Shannon Longfield, Vice President/Program Chair Nancy Carpenter, Treasurer Marta Clark and Secretary Alanna Strong. During their short tenure, they've already offered fresh perspectives. The outgoing board members met unofficially with the incoming board, along with newsletter Editor-in-Chief Rudy Zulkeiwicz, to share ideas and insights, as well as really good coffee and company. Pictured below (L to R are): Nancy Kaumeyer (yellow coat), Rudy Zulkeiwicz, Alanna Strong, Marta Clark, Joan Goldstein, Shannon Longfield, Nancy Carpenter, Sylvia Smith.



This year's Guild theme is "Start-to-Finish", and we hope to literally explore this theme. We purchased two Shetland fleeces from member Mary Warner and will work with this wool throughout the year. In January, we started at the beginning by learning to skirt the fleeces and scour the wool. These photos of "Fred's" fleece demonstrate what a difference some soap and hot water can make. Fred is one of those guys who cleans up nicely!

In February, we will learn how to use various tools to process this fleece into ready-to-spin fiber. Stay tuned to follow Fred's transformation from dirty wool to a finished object.

The Guild's private Facebook group is: www.facebook.com/groups/AWSGuild/. Answer the three membership questions to join the group and see what the Guild and group members are doing.

Submitted by Sylvia Smith



Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild

<https://bigskyfiberartsquild.org/>

Meetings are usually held on the 2nd Saturday of the month. Check out our website to learn about upcoming meetings and activities. We are co-hosts of the MAWS 2026 Conference in Missoula.

Billings Weavers Guild

Billings Weavers Guild meets the second Saturday of the month at 1 pm on the second Saturday of the month at 2950 King Avenue West, Billings. Meetings are always open to beginners and visitors.

At our November 9 meeting on Ruth Terry discussed calculating warp yardage and all the other details. She shared several project planning sheets and sources including: lunaticfringeyarns.com. Use the sitemap and scroll to “Plan Your Warp” and “Plan Your Project” to access PDF’s for those worksheets. There is also a reed substitution chart available. Lunatic Fringe offers an online workshop for winding a warp with a raddle cross titled “You Gotta be Warped to Weave” which Ruth highly recommended. Other resources she recommended include schacthspindle.com where you can search for the “Warp and Weft Calculator”. This calculator allows you to enter values and calculates the yarn requirements. The woolery.com also has a Warp & Weft Calculation form you can print. At weavingwithjanetdawson.com you can search for the “Weaving Project Calculator” downloadable form. mbrassard.com also has a “Warp and Weft Calculations” printable form.

The Guild had a successful sales booth at the Yellowstone Art Museum’s Winter Fair December 5. Members woven items sold well and we continue to introduce weaving to the public. At our December Christmas brunch, we had a very fun Christmas exchange game with lots of action designed by Camille Palmer.

In January Ruth Terry and Nancy Anderson tackled warping - front to back and back to front. There were lots of tips and practical advice for both methods. One idea was to use knitting markers on the edge of bouts when there is a particular pattern that continues from one bout to the next. Using markers that are the

same color make it easy to match up the bouts as you put them on the loom. Another idea is to use loopers (used for making potholders) as choke ties when winding your warps. Handles tied on to the same leg of your warp cross and/or threading cross also make handling the warps easier when putting them on the loom. Painters tape (blue tape) is a handy way to hold the warp rod on the loom.

The guild plans two workshops open to all MAWS members. First, May 1-2 2025 guild workshop with Annette Schipf on Summer and Winter. Also Robyn Spady will be coming to Billings this fall October 17-19 2025. The subject of her class has not yet been chosen. Those interested are encouraged to check her website to look at the topics she covers and let guild members know.

Submitted by Linda Shelhamer



Bozeman Weavers Guild

November

The BWG Beginner Weavers' class was taught November 9 & 10. Three of our members taught six aspiring weavers everything from winding a warp to cutting the finished sample from the loom. The students' determined efforts plus the instructors' patient guidance resulted in the induction of six new members to the world of weaving.

Through the efforts of our guild's Sales Committee, we once again had a booth at the Gallatin Valley Farmer's Sale Holiday Edition at the county fairgrounds. Our annual participation in this holiday event further connects us to the community.

December

We gathered for our December meeting/Holiday potluck at Susan's home. The good food, fun gift exchange, and shared holiday spirit marked the end of our 2024 activities as we look forward to 2025.

January

Our guild member, Warren, provided an informative and fun program on the inkle loom. He started with a history of weaving, and then explained how an inkle loom works. We followed along as Warren threaded the loom, installed the heddles, adjusted the tension and started weaving. He had three looms for demonstrating the various techniques.

Submitted by Wendy Fedock, Newsletter Editor



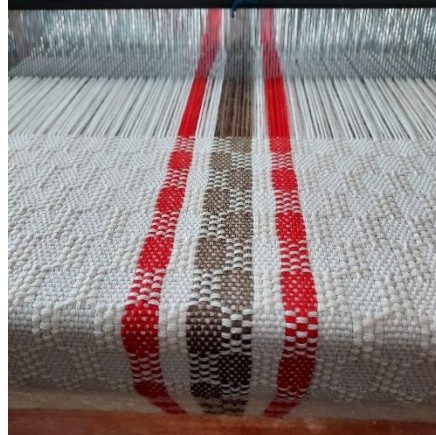
Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild

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

In January, the HSWG held workshops on "Spinning Wool to Felt" by Jane Fournier and "Advanced Weaving - Baby Blankets" by Joanne Hall. Upcoming

workshops in February include: Drum Carding and Combing which will be taught by Trudy Moffett and “Tapestry Selfie” by Joanne Hall. In Mary, John Mularkey will be coming to teach a 2-day workshop on Tablet Weaving.

We have a lot of new weavers who are catching on quickly. Here are some photos of horse blankets by MeMe, a table runner by Shanlee, and M&Os pillow fabric on loom by Dawn and baby blanket by Kathy.



Missoula Weavers Guild

<https://missoulaweaversguild.org/>

Besides planning the MAWS 2026 Conference, the MWG hosted a 2-day retreat at the Missoula Public Library on January 18 and 19. Members brought warped looms for a round-robin wherein everyone could weave a few inches of each weave structure. There were also workshops on bag building, a card weaving project for youngsters, a very busy spinner's circle and a Nuno felting demonstration. Some members wore garments which they created. The event was advertised with posters and through word of mouth. Members of the Kalispell and Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild also came.

Library goers, young and old, were encourage to join us and explore the delights of our craft. The turnout was excellent!

The next meeting will be on February 15 and will be held at the Missoula Public Library. Beginning with Show and Tell, the meeting will be “A Birthday Surprise” as it celebrates the 77th year of the Missoula Weavers Guild!

Submitted by Jennie Meinershagen, MWG Communications



Prairie Handspinners Guild

Recently the PHS guild added a Zoom option for meetings. During the MAWS conference in Billings we learned there were several spinners in Eastern Montana counties without an organized guild. We are hoping adding Zoom will help reach those in outlying areas as well as give local members another option if they are unable to attend in person for various reasons. We will also be using Zoom for other events like SpinTogether. We also enjoyed an in-person Holiday party last December.

Submitted by Karen Korenko



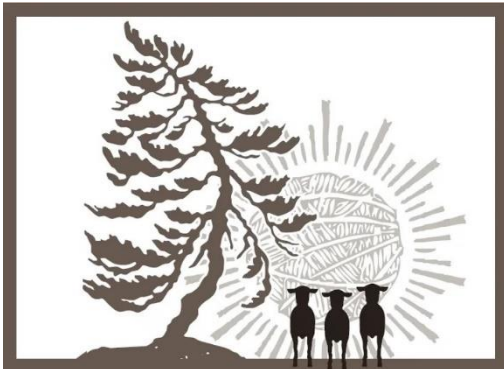
Yellowstone Valley Yarn Arts Happenings Guild

The guild meets at Wise Wonders Museum at 3024 2nd Avenue North in Downtown Billings on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 6 pm. Our next meeting on February 25th will feature Shetland knitting. March 25th we'll start spinning with hand spindles and wheels.

Classified Ads



Kromski Sonata spinning wheel, walnut finish, double treadle. Comes with carrying bag and plying head with bobbins. It is used, but very lightly. This belonged to a recently departed friend of mine, who only used the wheel a little. I brought it home and spun some fiber, and it works great. New these are around \$1000 and I am asking \$500. I'm in Lander, Wyoming, but would be willing to travel to Cody. Contact Laura Brewer at llbrewer230@gmail.com



Lone Pine Wool Emporium
We have raw fleeces, roving, yarn, handmade gifts, and offer classes.
Come see us at:
805 N Last Chance Gulch, Helena, MT
10 am to 6 pm Tues-Sat
<https://lonepinewoolemporium.com/>

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). 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!

**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 MAWS c/o Linda Shelhamer, 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105. She can be reached at 406-259-9160 or by emailing lindas5252@yahoo.com. You can also pay dues via PayPal at <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/join-us-membership>

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

Meet Your Board (2024-2026)

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Nancy Kaumeyer

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