

# MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

*Spring 2023*

## President's Message...

Happy spring everyone!

I hope you all have been able to get outside and enjoy this past week of incredibly nice weather. Even though I am still in the studio working to finish my tapestry by the submission deadline, I appreciate being able to open the windows in my studio for part of the day. Hopefully summer won't drag its feet like spring has!

The Cabin Fever Program committee reports the classes were a success this past winter and they have volunteered to continue the program next winter. MAWS will sponsor the four online "Zoom" classes for one each for the months of January, February, March, and April. Thank you to our committee; Linda Shelhamer, Sylvia Smith, Nancy Kaumeyer and Pam Reffling, for all their hard work and commitment to the program.

The MAWS 2024 Conference Planning Committee has more great news and details to report about the planning process. There have been many people from the Billings area working very hard on making this a great conference. Look for their message in this newsletter.

The Association of Northwest Weavers and Spinners (ANWG), which MAWS is a part of, is holding their biennial conference in Bend, Oregon next month; June 11 – 18, 2023. It's not too late to register if you'd like to go. Hopefully, I will see you there!

"Great things are done by a series of small things brought together." – Vincent Van Gogh

Dawn Ahlert

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## MAWS Board Members

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  
Billings, MT 59105  
406-259-9160  
[shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net)

Secretary – Susan Lohmuller  
[susanlohmuller@gmail.com](mailto:susanlohmuller@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor - Tammy Jordan  
PO Box 426  
Lincoln, MT 59639  
406-633-0073  
[goldieknotsmt@gmail.com](mailto:goldieknotsmt@gmail.com)

Internet Coordinator – Lisa Brown  
[lisa.brown@montana.edu](mailto:lisa.brown@montana.edu)

2024 Conference Chair - 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

Heather Johnson – Billings  
[heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com)

Mary Melander – Bozeman  
[mmmelander@earthlink.net](mailto:mmmelander@earthlink.net)

Gwen Haferkamp – Eastern Montana  
406-234-7603  
[gwenmrh@midrivers.com](mailto:gwenmrh@midrivers.com)

Marian Stratton – Great Falls  
[mstratton1@gmail.com](mailto:mstratton1@gmail.com)

Melanie Dayton – Helena  
[Mdayton4946@gmail.com](mailto:Mdayton4946@gmail.com)

Nancy Kaumeyer - Whitefish  
[Nancykaumeyer6@gmail.com](mailto:Nancykaumeyer6@gmail.com)

Julie Tome– Missoula  
[jtomemd@gmail.com](mailto:jtomemd@gmail.com)

## MAWS Cable Knit-a-Long Group!

Sylvia Smith and Linda Shelhamer carry on with the fun group of MAWS knitters who started up in February with our first project the Latrine Hat inspired by the Cabin Fever class. Now we have moved on to a new Knit-a-long based on cable projects. Some of us are knitting hats, some fingerless mitts, some headbands and some are still deciding. Our only limitation for the next few months is it must have a cable in it somewhere. Those of us who are spinners look for projects that can be knit in a broad range of yarns. We meet every 2 weeks on Sunday at 3 pm on Zoom for some lightweight fiber talk, and knitting. All MAWS members who want are welcome to join us at any time. We don't do deadlines or rules. Our next two meetings are May 7 and 21. Some of the projects we are knitting are [Ravelry: Viking's Recipe pattern by In2knition](#); [Ravelry: Irish Braid Cap pattern by Michele Rose Orne](#); [Ravelry: 234-55 Perfect Twist pattern by DROPS design](#) To join us email Linda at [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net) and she will get you on the list.



**MAWS will have a booth at the ANWG conference in Bend, OR June 11-18. We would like to encourage fiber enthusiasts to visit MT and would like to have a trifold brochure available for people to pick up at our booth. If your business would like to be listed for \$20 please send your name, address, and website or phone # to Sharon Schroeder at [jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com](mailto:jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com). We will need a minimum of 15 participants to print 500 brochures. Deadline for listing is May 24.**

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

*August 1-4, 2024*

*Billings Hotel and Convention Center  
Inspirational Instructors, Shows and Vendors*



Billings Spinners and Weavers (with help from other guilds) plan an exciting conference for August 1-4, 2024 with post conference in-depth workshops planned the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

Start your weaving, felting, and spinning with our conference colors dark teal, light teal, magenta, salmon and silver/light grey. Vendors and shows are open to the public to show case our regions wonderful Fiber Art. Interested in being a vendor contact Susan Leaverton [seleaverton@nemont.net](mailto:seleaverton@nemont.net)

Aug 1 Thursday Registration and show setups  
Beginning spinning and weaving classes  
Evening Vendors open and Spin-In

Aug 2 Friday  
10 stimulating classes morning and afternoon.  
Vendors and Open, Instructor, Living Treasure, and Guild Shows open  
Evening Living Treasures presentation and Spin-in

Aug 3 Saturday  
10 informative classes morning and afternoon.  
Vendors and Open, Instructor, Living Treasure, and Guild Shows open  
Evening Keynote speakers Billy Maxwell and LaVonne Stucky

Aug 4 Sunday (Buffet brunch included)  
Vendors open morning  
10 am "Modeling the Future of Fiber" Fashion Show and MAWS member meeting  
Afternoon Class Kate Larson Spinning singles and Denise Kovnat Weaving Parallel Threading Begins

Aug 5-6 Monday and Tuesday  
Kate Larson Spinning Spectacular Knitting Yarns  
Denise Kovnat Weaving Parallel Threadings  
Jayne Lund Needle Felted Bunny

Classes Include: Basketmaking, Spindles Around the world, Needle Felting, Spinning Cabled Yarns, Fiber Preparation for Spinning, Weaving Hand Manipulated Weaves, Creating a Resin spindle, Rigid Heddle with knitting yarns, Cordage from Foraged Fibers, Artful Mending and much more.

# Our Fiber Planet Featured Instructors

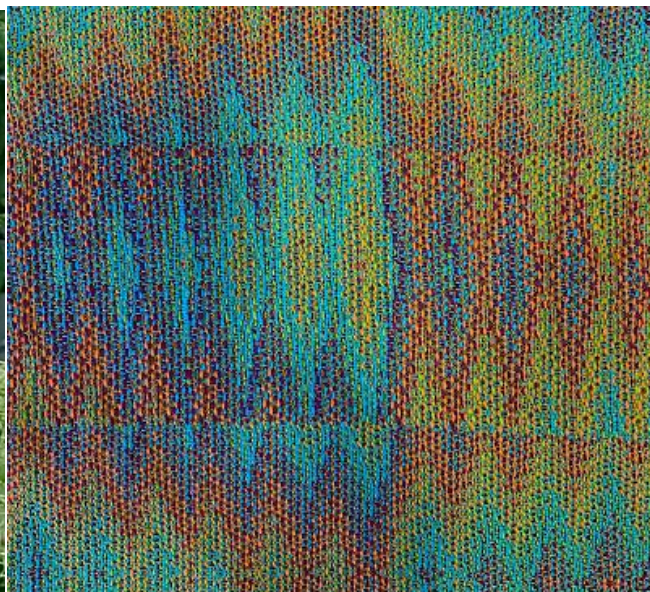
**Alena Larson Teaching Nuno Felting and Eco-Dyed Silk**



**Kate Larson, Spin Off Editor teaching Vibrant Blending, Spinning Gradient Yarns and More**



**New York based Denise Kovnat Parallel Weave Structures, and Paint 2 Beam 1**



**Lynnsey Slanina Rug Hooking with Yarn of all Sizes Including Handspun**



**Denise Jackson Knitting and History of Shetland Hap Including Traditional Yarn Characteristics**



**Cindy Dell Stranded Knitting with the Yellowstone Hat**



Questions and suggestions are welcome. Email Heather Johnson [heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com) or Linda Shelhamer at [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net)

# MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

## MAWS Board Meeting Minutes

April 22, 2023 1:00 pm

Montana City Elementary School and Zoom

**Attendees:** Dawn Ahlert, (Presiding), Sharon Schroeder (Past Pres), Jackie Boshka via “Zoom” (VP), Annette Cade (Past Conference Chair), Lisa Brown (Internet Coordinator), Heather Johnson, (Conference Chair) Mary Melander (Bozeman), Gwen Hafercamp (Eastern Montana), Marian Stratton (Great Falls), Melanie Dayton (Helena), Nancy Kaumeyer (Whitefish), Julie Tome (Missoula), Sylvia Smith (guest).

**1. Call to Order** Dawn Ahlert 12:54 pm

**Minutes** of October 29, 2022, Board of Directors meeting were approved as presented and published without additions or corrections ( Sharon S 1<sup>st</sup>, Lisa Brown 2<sup>nd</sup> -approved unanimously)

### Old Business

2. Since publication of the minutes there were two interim email votes approved by MAWS Board Members:

Approval to host an Exhibition Booth by MAWS at the ANWG Convention in June of 2023

Approval of Grant in the amount of \$1000 to the MAWS Conference Committee and Billings Guilds for the expenses in planning/hosting biennial MAWS meeting to be held in Billings Montana in August of 2024

**3. Treasures Report: Written Report from Linda Shelhamer distributed and appended here.**

#### **Highlights discussed:**

Cabin Fever Event in 2023 came in well under its \$1500 budget at \$436 net cost

\$3850 income to MAWS received from the Helena Guild after they hosted the 2022 MAWS conference.

Annette Cade motioned to accept as reported and Sharon Schroeder seconded the motion which was approved unanimously.

#### **4. Cabin Fever Project 2023**

First year held, approximately 99 participants on Zoom Platform with 5 separate Classes. 4 paid, 1 free. Report of some difficulty with registrations for the

free class. Linda suggested not having free classes for next year as they were poorly attended. Instructors for the classes received technical briefings from Lisa Brown.

Discussion about renewing the program for 2024, during the months of January-April. Limit to 4 workshops total with a plan to keep budget at \$1500 max for 2024.

A knit-along from the Latrine hat 2023 workshop has been ongoing. Suggestion that this be used to make articles and items for a “Silent Auction” to raise funds for future Cabin Fever events.

A Motion to continue the Cabin Fever online workshops in 2024 was made by Heather Johnson, and seconded by Annette Cade and motion was unanimously approved. The \$1500 Budget limit was added to the motion and approved by acclaim with no dissent.

The Committee Members for Cabin fever; Linda Shelhamer, Sylvia Smith, Nancy Kaumeyer, and Pam Reffling will continue to plan and host for 2024 with technical help from Lisa Brown. Suggested workshops included more spinning related workshops, cable knitting, and wet felting. Instructors suggested included Margaret Coe and Jane Fournier.

#### **5. MAWS 2024 Conference planning Report -Heather Brooks Johnson**

Theme: Our Fiber Planet to be held August 1-4, 2024 at the Billings Hotel and Conference Center.

Plan for 100 attendees with 10 workshop “parlor” rooms available on Friday and Saturday.

25 Vendors Space with exhibitors; space in vicinity, as well as stage, spin-ins and box lunches.

Preconference workshops on Thursday, and Post-Conference Workshops to be held on Sunday afternoon through Tuesday

Registrants will pay for their own hotel rooms reserved at the conference center. Cost per registrant for the conference will be \$240, plus a \$15 additional online registration fee. Only 1 brunch on Sunday morning will

be included in this registration fee. Other meal items plans will be planned in future.

The preliminary budget and it's break even and comparisons are included and appended to these minutes. The Conference schedule and teaching schedules are also appended to these minutes.

Conference planners have asked for volunteers from the various Montana guilds to help with conference items and some of the guild representatives stepped forward to volunteer.

Guild Exhibit Booths : Helena Spinners and Weavers Guild

Living Treasures Exhibit Booth: Missoula Weavers Guild  
Open Show: Volunteers needed

Name Tags:

Exchanges Towels and Spun Yarns: Bozeman Weavers Guild

Social Media:

Door Prizes: Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

Raffles:

Spin-ins Hosts: Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild, Missoula Weavers Guild, Alpine Weaves and Spinners Guild  
Fashion Show: Joy Erickson chair. More volunteers needed

Goodie Bags : 150 items from each Guild needed by June 2024 to Robin Armstrong

Any willing volunteers for any of the conference needs should report to or contact Heather Brooks Johnson

#### **6. Website and Tech Report**-Lisa Brown

Website now searchable. The Website is currently undergoing renovation and reorganization. Let Lisa know if anything on the website is incorrect, doesn't look right or is in needs to be changed. It was agreed by the board that Lisa could build separate Guild pages within the website as a part of the reorganizations.

#### **7. Living Treasures Video Project**: -Lisa Brown

Still in the planning stages. Lists of Living treasures and some interview questions were handed out. The plan is for a fellow guild mate to interview the treasure, while Lisa films and edits the interviews. A travel budget for this project has been approved previously.

**8. MAWS Teacher Database**: updated and will be distributed with the newsletter and is appended to these minutes.

**9. MAWS booth at ANWG conference** - June 2023 in Bend, Oregon, *Fiber Connection*.

**Committee for Display**: Jackie Boshka, chair, Sharon Schroeder and Melanie Dayton. Ideas include: map with connections to Guilds, examples of natural fibers available in Montana, Yarns, handspun yarn with Montana fibers, and a poster on an easel and rack cards/brochures to advertise our 2024 MAWS conference in Billings.

**10. Travel Stipend for ANWG attendance**. Dawn Ahlert requested that Board consider paying a stipend to her as MAWS president to represent MAWS at the ANWG conference. This payment would help to defray cost of travel and housing. There was extensive discussion about the total costs of travel for representation of MAWS at ANWG, and the precedent of setting this type of a stipend, which perhaps had not been done nor discussed before. Melanie Dayton moved to approve \$250 as travel stipend to Dawn Ahlert for the ANWG conference, the motion was seconded by Heather Brooks-Johnson and the motion was unanimously approved. Discussion after the vote was that a policy or travel stipend recommendation for ANWG representation should be discussed in advance at a future meeting of the Board of MAWS.

**11. Living Treasures** - Sharon Schroeder is chairing the committee. Marian, Lisa, and Linda also will serve on the Living Treasure Committee. The committee will review and update the Living Treasures Application Process. The MAWS August newsletter will contain the new process and the call for applications. The Living Treasures Committee will review the applications and select the Living Treasures for the 2024 MAWS Conference.

**12. MAWS Teachers**- Reminder that teachers for the MAWS 2024 Conference may not teach the same workshop content to MAWS affiliated guilds within a year of the conference. The MAWS workshop teachers have a contractual agreement that would prohibit them from doing so.

#### **13. MAWS newsletter deadline dates:**

**May 1, 2023**

**August 1, 2023** – MAWS vendor applications, Open Show categories, and Living Treasure applications will be included.

**November 1, 2023** – hoping to have MAWS Conference registration included.

**Next Meeting:** October 14, 2023, 12:00, Montana City Elementary School

**The Spring 2023 MAWS Board Meeting** was adjourned by acclaim at 2: 55 pm

Submitted by Julie Tome 4/22/23

## Treasurer's Reports

### MAWS Account Balances as of 4/18/23

#### Bank Accounts

Morgan Stanley	\$23,460
PayPal Account	\$1056
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$24,516</b>

Overall total: \$20,657

### Income/Expense Comparison by Category

	Year Ended 9/1/21 4/18/22	Year Ended 9/1/22 4/18/23
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Conference Share	\$0	\$3850
Donation	\$1	\$90
Dues	\$2570	\$3140
Memorial Gifts	\$764	\$65
Misc. Income	\$10	\$0
SB Dividend	\$3	\$424
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$3357</b>	<b>\$7569</b>
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
ANWG DUES	\$35	\$35
Grants Conference	\$0	\$1000
Living Treasures Gifts	\$0	\$48
MAWS Education Programs	\$75	\$390
Misc. Expenses	\$20	\$20
Newsletter Expense: Postage	\$20	\$32
Newsletter Expense: Printing	\$126	\$106
Total Newsletter Expenses	\$146	\$138
Paypal Fees	\$35	\$56
Scholarships	\$1575	-\$350
Stipend: Newsletter Editor	\$525	\$525
Stipend: Treasurer	\$0	\$250
Unrealized Gain / Loss	\$17	-\$10
Stipend: Web	\$200	\$300
Website / Web Hosting	\$392	\$396
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$3020</b>	<b>\$2798</b>
<b>OVERALL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$337</b>	<b>\$4771</b>



## *Alpine Weavers & Spinners Guild Happenings*

Members of Alpine Weavers and Spinners are looking forward to making a double-walled basket with Joan Goldstein at its May meeting.

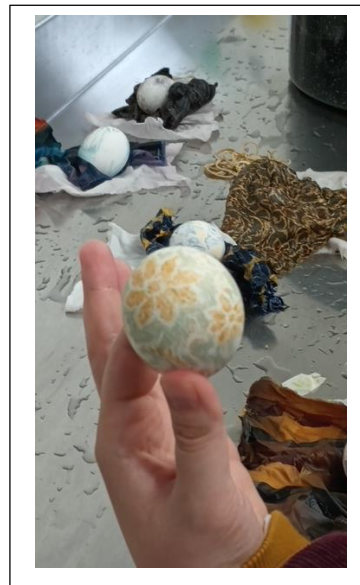
Recently, the Guild gathered and brought mystery fibers to test and see if they could identify them. We used a flow chart to eliminate choices when the fibers were burned in a flame.

At another meeting, Judie Overbeek gave a fun, hands on presentation on color blending using a color wheel and colored roving.

To celebrate spring, Sylvia Smith led members in dyeing eggs with silk neckties.

The Guild hopes to have a day in June to dye yarn with natural dyes.

### **Eggs dyed with silk neckties**



Alpine Weavers and Spinners is offering a class in felting on Saturday, October 28, 2023 to create a woolen watercolor to all MAWS members, thanks to a grant from MAWS. The class, led by Tammy Jordan, will be held at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Kalispell. The afternoon session will begin at 1 p.m. If there is enough interest, a morning session will be added.

#### Here is a description of the class:

Come create your very own masterpiece while learning to paint with wool. We'll start with needle-felting your design, building colors and textures, and then finish it off with a steam-wet-felt before matting and framing your work. I'll provide everything you need including colored fiber, felting needles, foam mat, picture mat, and frame (all of which the student will get to take with them at the end of class. Students just need to come with their love of color and a willingness to learn & create! No prior felting experience is required. Suitable for children ages 8 and older with parental supervision.

Cost will be no more than \$75 per person and will include all materials for the class. Each student will go home with a completed framed piece of artwork.

Registration begins July 1<sup>st</sup>. Contact Nancy Kaumeyer at [nancykaumeyer6@gmail.com](mailto:nancykaumeyer6@gmail.com) to register.

# Helena Spinners & Weavers Guild Happenings

Here are some photos from the Flax Workshop in April



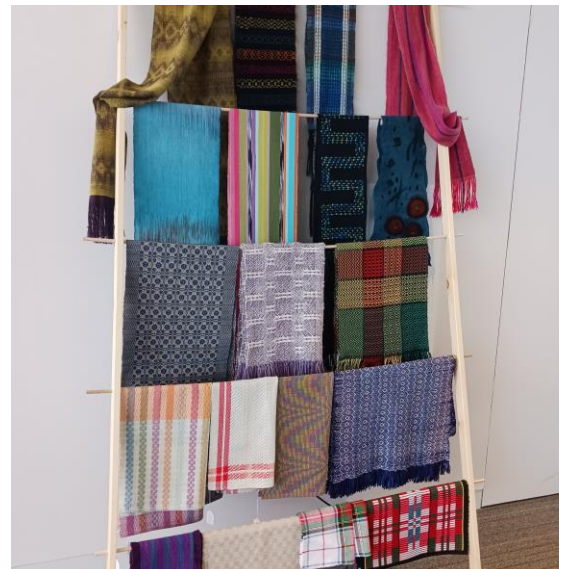
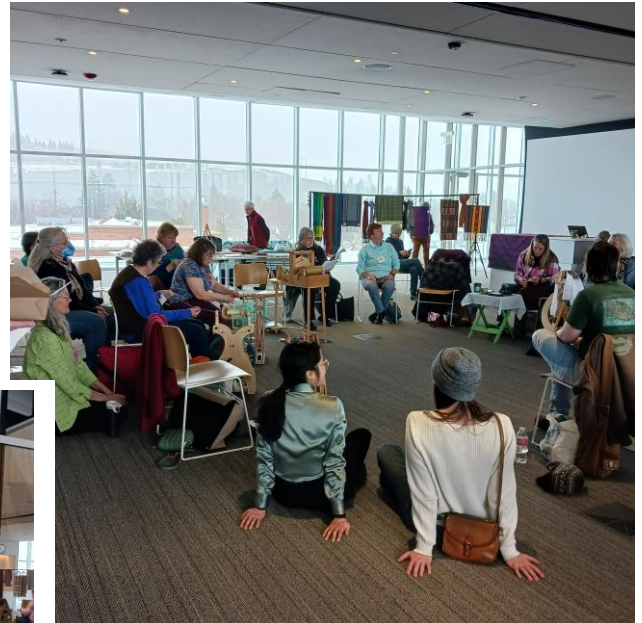
# *Helena Spinners & Weavers Guild Happenings*

*Here are some photos from the Rigid Heddle Class in February*



## *Missoula Weavers Guild Happenings 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration*

We celebrated our 75th Anniversary with an Exhibition & Reception in February at the new Missoula Public Library. We shared our fiber passions with many people. Activities included: hands-on loom weaving exploration, kids card weaving, a large spinning circle and demo, a virtual member loom and studio tour slideshow, guild history, music and, yes, we ate cake too!



**Mountain Colors: (<http://www.mountaincolors.com>) will be relocating from Corvallis to Great Falls soon. The founders are retiring after 25 years of creating hand-painted yarns. The Missoula Weavers Guild has had the good fortune of an annual dye day in their Corvallis dye studio for many years. We are happy Mountain Colors will remain in Montana!**



## **The ANWG Conference, Fiber Connections less than 1 month away!**

Although the window for the conference package has closed, you can now register for individual seminars, workshops, and evening events on an a la carte basis. Some classes are full, but there are still plenty of terrific workshops and seminars from which to choose, including five virtual seminars.

Also, if you can't travel, there is an option to sign up for five Zoom-only seminars. In addition to classes, there will be a Marketplace with terrific vendors, Shopping Extravaganza and reception, a keynote speaker, banquet, fashion show with reception, demonstrations, a reception and exhibit of the works of Margaret Johansen, an Oregon Tapestry Artist, and much more.

For conference details, go to <https://anwgconference2023.com>.

If you haven't yet looked at the conference website: <https://anwgconference2023.com>, please do so and see if there is an event, activity or class that you would like to participate in. Many workshops and 3-hour seminars still have seats available!

Sincerely,  
Kathryn Messer  
Publicity Chair



## Copper K Fiber Festival “Fiber Arts...getting back to its roots”

July 15-16, 2023

Sat 9-5 Sun 9-3

Festival entry is Free to the public  
Great Shopping opportunity with Over 35 vendors  
selling a mixture of products.

Fiber Art classes available for a fee, sign up NOW  
on website.

Copper K Barn  
786 Point of Rocks Rd  
Whitehall, Montana

[www.copperkfiberfestival.com](http://www.copperkfiberfestival.com)  
for more details

### **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

**August 1, 2023**

Please send photos, news, and guild information to Tammy  
Jordan

Email: [goldieknotsmt@gmail.com](mailto:goldieknotsmt@gmail.com)

Or snail mail:

P.O. Box 426; Lincoln, MT 59639 Phone: 406-633-0073

## *Classifieds*

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). You have items to sell, 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!

**Please note: Ads are free for members. Outside entities can place 1/4 page paid ads for \$15 per issue. Our newsletter reaches over 300 fiber artists. Contact Tammy Jordan: [goldieknotsmt@gmail.com](mailto:goldieknotsmt@gmail.com)**

Loom for Sale Gently used 2006 Standard Glimakra vertical counter-march with 10 shafts, 10 treddles. 47" weaving width. Includes 2 reeds: 10 & 12 dent, original manual and additional heddles. Located in Wilsall (between Livingston and White Sulphur Springs). Will fit into a van-type vehicle and can be disassembled. \$3000 OBO. Contact Sarah Pilgrim with questions and interest. [s\\_pilgrim@icloud.com](mailto:s_pilgrim@icloud.com)



**THE BIG SKY FIBER ARTS  
GUILD ANNOUNCES THEIR  
NEW PRESIDENT – KARI  
CALTAGIRONE! TO  
CONTACT HER, PLEASE  
EMAIL**

**[USFS\\_KARI@YAHOO.COM](mailto:USFS_KARI@YAHOO.COM)**

## **ATTENTION MONTANA GUILDS & GROUPS**

**We are in the planning stage of MAWS 2024 going to be held in Billings Montana in August 2024.**

**This is your advanced notice in order for us all to have enough time to plan.**

**We are planning for 150 to 200 participants. We would love to include a small treasure in each swag bag from all the guilds.**

**Feel free to be creative and have fun. Some ideas in the past have been stitch markers, water bottle stickers, dizzes, key chains, small soaps, measuring tools, anything related to your guild art.**

**I will need the treasures to me by the end of June 2024**

**If you have any questions please contact me at:**

**[Robinarmstrong@hotmail.com](mailto:Robinarmstrong@hotmail.com)**

**Or text me at (303) 319-8814**

# Upcoming Events

## **ANWG Conference**

June 11-18, 2023. Bend OR. For more information, please visit the website at:

<https://anwgconference2023.com/>

## **Copper K Fiber Festival**

July 15-16, 2023. Whitehall, MT. Class registration is now open and the festival has a brand new website! To learn more about the festival, check out scheduled vendors, and to sign up for classes, please visit their NEW website at:

<https://www.copperkfiberfestival.com/> or their Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405060639801056/>

## **Eureka Fiber Fest**

August 5-6, 2023. Eureka, MT. To learn more about the festival and to sign up for classes, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/fiberfesteureka/> or their website at: <http://www.eurekafiberfest.org/>

## **Our Fiber Planet – MAWS 2024 Conference**

August 1-4, 2024. Billings Hotel & Convention Center, Billings, MT

More information coming soon! Questions and suggestions are welcome. Heather Johnson

[heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com) or Linda Shelhamer [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net)

## **MAWS Board Meeting**

October 14, 2023 at the Montana City School Meeting Room. There will be a virtual component for those unable to attend.



**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 [shara@bresnan.net](mailto:shara@bresnan.net). You can also pay dues and make sdonations via the website and PayPal at:**

**<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/join-us-membership>**

**Donations to help offset expenses are gladly accepted and can also be mailed to Linda.**