

# MAWS Newsletter: Fall 2025



## President's Message

Is there anything better than Summer in Montana? We can all probably think of several things, but it IS great....

My inspirational quote in this letter is inspired by my reflection on turning 65 in a few days. Such milestones prompt one to reflect on their journey through life (so far!) and consider the future. Sometimes I wonder about my fiber art obsession and wonder if I should be spending my time in a more socially productive manner. Then I think of you all who share my passion for fiber and think that maybe I am where I am supposed to be, sharing our passion and helping make all of us feel less alienation and belonging in the world. So, I continue...

The Association of Northwest Weavers Guild (ANWG) Conference in Yakima, Washington, was a fun time, and what a great job the conference committee did amid a lot of major hurdles. It is always inspiring to see longtime friends and meet new ones in a mutually conducive environment. For those of you who did not attend the ANWG conference, I suggest you consider attending our MAWS conference in Missoula next summer. It will prove to be a pleasurable and refreshing time.

Until we meet again,

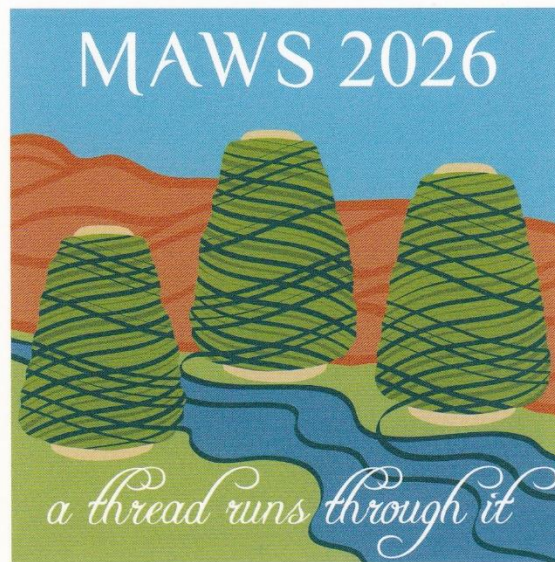
*Dawn Ahlert*

*"I would rather die of passion than of boredom."* – Vincent van Gogh

**Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners**

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

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS & SPINNERS  
CONFERENCE



Missoula, Montana on the University of MT Campus  
**JUNE 16 - 21, 2026**

PreConference & Conference Instructors Include:

**Tom Knisely**, teaching three Weaving classes

Keynote: "Notes from the Fell" with audience questions

**Cindy Knisely**, Weaving

**Annetta Kraayeveld**, Basketry

**Heavenly Bresser**, Spinning

**Suzi Ballenger**, Weaving

**Joanne Hall**, Swedish Art Weaves

Bateman Exhibition - Montana Museum of Art & Culture

Fashion Show - Vendor Hall

Monitor updates at: [missoulaweaversguild.org](http://missoulaweaversguild.org) & [bigskyfiberartsguild.org](http://bigskyfiberartsguild.org)

Hosted by: Missoula Weavers Guild & Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild

## 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!

## **Next MAWS Board Meeting**

November 1, Montana City School, 12 noon to 4 pm

## **Upcoming MAWS Newsletter Deadlines**

November 1 - deadline for submissions  
November 15 - issue released

February 1 - deadline for submissions  
February 14 - issue released

Send articles to Allison Grove, MAWS Newsletter editor

## **Upcoming Workshops**

### **Liz Moncrief: Warp Painting and Dyeing**

October 18, 2025  
9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**This workshop is full.**

Hosted by the Helena Spinners and Weavers Guild.

### **Robyn Spady: Lace Weaves and the Rainbow Connection**

October 17-19, 2025  
9:30 am - 4:30 pm

**There is still room in this class for 5-6 people.**

This workshop is hosted by the Billings Weavers Guild. Robyn will also give an evening program on October 18, 2025 that will be open to the public at no charge.

[Click here](#) for more information about the class and a registration form.

## The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

Summer in Northwest Montana is busy for everyone, but Guild members are still making progress with our “Start to Finish” project of collectively creating a finished object from raw wool.

The spinners, who meet on the first Wednesday of the month, have spun a good quantity of yarns from Fred’s and Rose’s Shetland fleeces. They’ve been enjoying spinning up close and personal with fiber producers at Fox Farm Homestead, Steitzhof Merinos, and Great Northern Llamas.

The Guild’s weavers, who meet the second Wednesday of the month, are now designing a table runner using the handspun yarns and preparing to warp one of the Guild’s table looms. Many members will work on this project. They created a small sample.

The Guild will do demos in the Expo building at the NW Montana Fair from 12-5 pm on August 14-16. Please stop by and visit with us if you’re in the area. We’re also going to have a DIY fiber processing day at our President’s home on August 24. This will be an opportunity for members to continue to learn about cleaning and processing fiber, and to try out different pieces of processing equipment.

The Guild’s private Facebook group is: <https://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://bigskyfiberartsguild.org/>

The Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild had a busy few months with educational opportunities, demonstrations and a summer retreat.

Several members helped out at Farm Days at the Ravalli County Fairgrounds. They set up a station to demonstrate sheep shearing and spinning, knitting and weaving with natural fiber for numerous groups of local fourth graders.

We also demonstrated at the Rocking L Alpaca Ranch during their Alpaca shearing day. Lots of folks came to see the shearing and watch our members spinning, weaving and knitting with alpaca.

We had our annual summer retreat at our member Susan's ranch and had a wonderful opportunity to learn about Targeted Grazing that she was having done on her property by Smoke Signal Ranch.

We're now busy getting ready for the Western Montana Fair and Ravalli County Fair, finishing up our entries and we'll be demonstrating every day during the Ravalli County Fair in the Natural Fiber Department.

Submitted by Margie Lubinski



Want to learn more about Targeted Grazing? Check out these 2 books published by the American Sheep Industry Association:

Targeted Grazing 101 Guidebook (2025)



Targeted Grazing Handbook (2006)  
FREE

Click [HERE](#) to download or purchase.

## Bozeman Weavers Guild

### May Guild Meeting and Celebration Potluck

Our last meeting for the 2024-2025 weaving year was Saturday, May 17. As is our tradition, we celebrated with a potluck luncheon which Laura Heck graciously hosted at her home. Following a brief business meeting and delicious lunch, Laura led everyone in a fun round of weaving trivia. Once again our May gathering served as a conclusion to another successful year of guild activities and started us thinking of all the possibilities for the 2025-2026 weaving year to come.

### Outreach: Whittier School Art Fest

On Friday, May 30 fourteen members of our guild volunteered to assist K-5 students at various craft stations for their school's annual Art Fest. Some of the activities during this day-long event included pom pom-making, paper weaving, rigid heddle weaving, inkle weaving, God's eyes, and swift/ball winding. Students were curious and eager to learn these crafts. The school's staff are always appreciative of our guild's yearly involvement in this event, with special thanks for our member, Laura Heck, who once again worked hard to organize and implement our guild's involvement.

Submitted by Wendy Fedock, editor of BWG's newsletter - The Backbeam



## Prairie Handspinners Guild

After the summer off from official meetings, Prairie Handspinners Guild is gearing up for another year of community fellowship and education. Members of the guild demonstrated spinning, and other fiber activities at several events over the summer, including the Montana Renaissance Fair in Red Lodge and Springfest in Billings. Part of the goal of the guild has always been to share the love of fiber arts with the public. This provides education, and often sparks interest in others which has expanded our guild membership. Cindy Dell, Cheryl Gehring, Jessica Potter as well as one of our newest members Gabby Firestone, all demonstrated at Springfest, engaging children and enjoying a lovely day at the Moss Mansion. Montana Renaissance Fair demonstrators were Bridgett Hanebury, Regina Idstrom, guild co-chairs Karen Korenko and Danielle Loomer. Montana Renaissance fair has thousands of visitors each year. Two full days were spent sharing fiber arts with a multitude of people.

Prairie Handspinners Guild has several events coming this fall, including monthly meetings, a guild trip, and a demonstration at Running of the Sheep in Reedpoint on August 31st. We are participating in World Wide Spin in Public day on September 20th. We will be at the Billings Public Library for the event again this year.

Submitted by Karen Korenko



## What's New in the Fiber World?

The Copper K Fiber Festival is transitioning to a new venue. The Greycliff Fiber Festival will be held July 18 & 19, 2026 at the Greycliff Mill in you guessed it, Greycliff, MT. For more information join "[Greycliff Fiber Fest](#)" on Facebook or check out the website: [GreycliffFiberFest.com](http://GreycliffFiberFest.com). Applications for vendors and teachers are already online.



### Preserving our Heritage Through Craft

Experience a weekend at the Greycliff Village.

- Classes
- Vendors
- Great Food
- Connect with Fiber Friends

For more information:  
Website: [GreycliffFiberFest.com](http://GreycliffFiberFest.com)  
Join Greycliff Fiber Fest on Facebook  
Email: [greycliffiberfest@gmail.com](mailto:greycliffiberfest@gmail.com)

Formerly known as the Copper K Fiber Festival

MAWS members demonstrated at the [Montana Folk Festival](#) in Butte. Last summer Maude Knudsen, a Montana Circle of American Masters honoree, demonstrated weaving in the Folklife area. This summer, Allison Grove and Kammy Johnson took two looms and a spinning wheel to demonstrate weaving and spinning. At least 90 kids and adults took a turn at weaving on the looms.



[Lamb Jamb hosted by the MT Woolgrowers](#) was held in East Helena, July 8. In addition to the culinary lamb specialties several MAWS members were vendors:

- Kami Noyes, [Ranching Tradition Fiber](#)
- Trudy and Hadassah Moffett along with Maralyn Lytle for [Lone Pine Wool Emporium](#)
- MeMe Palmquist, [Wild Hair Fibers](#)
- Jon and Molly Moore, [Hoof & Paw Farm](#)
- Kammy Johnson, [Shepherd's Gulch Yarn & Fiber](#)
- Allison Grove, [Allison Grove Fiber Art](#)



There's a new online weaving business in Montana incorporating local and regional wool, processing mills, and weaving. Check out [bellwetherhandwoven.com](http://bellwetherhandwoven.com)

## 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. 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. She can be reached at [lindas5252@yahoo.com](mailto: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  
[lindas5252@yahoo.com](mailto:lindas5252@yahoo.com)

**MAWS Board (2024-2026)**

**President**

Dawn Ahlert

**Vice President**

Nancy Kaumeyer

**Treasurer**

Linda Shelhamer

**Secretary**

Susan Lohmuller

**Newsletter Editor**

Allison Grove

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

**Internet Coordinator**

Lisa Brown

**2026 Conference Chair**

Sharon Schroeder

**Past Conference Chair & Member-at Large**

Heather Johnson - Billings

**Members-at-Large**

Sylvia Smith - Alpine

Teema Loeffelholz – Bozeman

Gwen Haferkamp – Eastern Montana

Marian Stratton – Great Falls

Melanie Dayton – Helena

Jackie Boshka – Western Montana