

MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Winter 2023

President's Message

With winter well underway, I hope everyone is hunkered down creating. I am working on a large tapestry that I hope to submit to the juried show at the Association of Northwest Weavers (ANWG) conference this summer. It looks as if it's going to be a lot of fun and there are tons of interesting workshops and seminars offered. The conference is being held at the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend Oregon, June 11 – 18, 2023. Registration is currently open. Check out the conference website at <https://anwgconference2023.com>

MAWS will have a guild booth at the ANWG conference and will be displaying works from our Living Treasures. Also, we will have in the booth information about our MAWS conference in Billings 2024 to help get the word out to the community. The hope is to recruit more attendees.

The MAWS 2024 Conference Committee has a lot of information to share with everyone in this newsletter. They will unveil the logo and theme of the conference as well as the location and dates. The committee will also list some of the classes that will be available at the conference.

This newsletter will also include news about MAWS Cabin Fever online programs.

As always, MAWS request our members and guilds to submit your latest news and guild events to Lisa Brown, lisa.brown@montana.edu. Also, please send information to can include it in the MAWS quarterly newsletter to our Newsletter Editor, Tammy Jordan at goldieknotsmt@gmail.com.

Dawn Ahlert
aka "Weaving Nerd"

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."
C. S. Lewis

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The MAWS Cabin Fever virtual classes have begun! The first class was a perfect bite sized project that I have since found entirely addicting - making Dorset buttons. The class was taught by Pat Olski, whose impressive resume includes designing knitwear & writing on embroidery for many publications, and being the current editor for Piecework magazine. Outside of the fascinating history of these needle woven buttons, some of which she shared with us in her presentation during class, Olski was drawn to teaching them as “smaller projects outside of knitting or crochet to encourage people to play with string.”

These charming buttons are made with techniques that remind me of nalbinding on a smaller scale, and are entirely yarn or thread aside from the ring that they're built on. Made in Dorset England (as their namesake tells) originally, hand making these buttons once was a major industry across England and parts of Europe, even as recently as the Second World War. Their piecework construction was so important in the Dorset region that children were allowed to make them during school hours, as a way of encouraging attendance! Olski shared more tidbits of history with us between teaching the steps of button creation, and I was excited to hear that in addition to the self published books on these charming buttons, she'll be releasing another soon which will include more of a deep dive in their history.

Here is my own small collection of buttons made from handspun yarns. The cream button, done in cotton, was completed during class, and all the others made since then. I think I'll be looking for an excuse to put buttons on every project for quite some time!

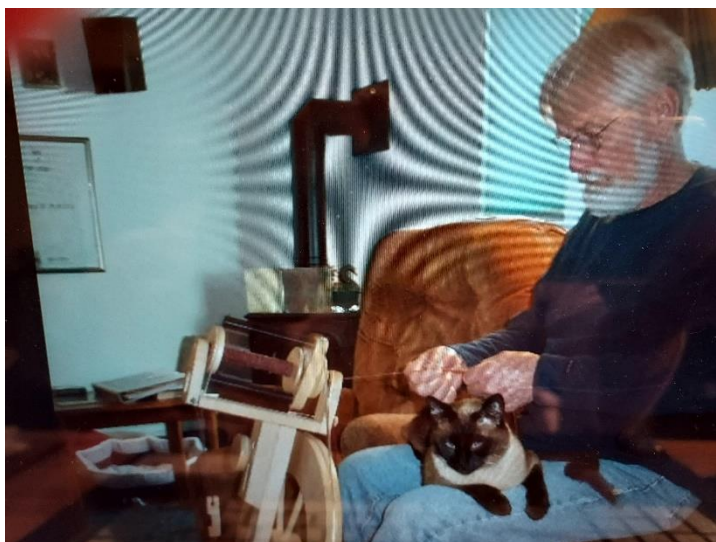
You can find more about Pat Olski, her buttons, & publications at her website:

[Http://www.yarnwhirled.com](http://www.yarnwhirled.com)

Written by Madeline Keller-King



In Memory of Wes Ries



Wes Ries, an avid spinner, learner and educator passed away Christmas morning 2022 at the age of 90. MAWS lost a very bright spot at every spinning and weaving event, he ever attended. As Peggy Winkler reported "He was funny, kind and made a long day demonstrating spinning at the Guild Spin in's fun."

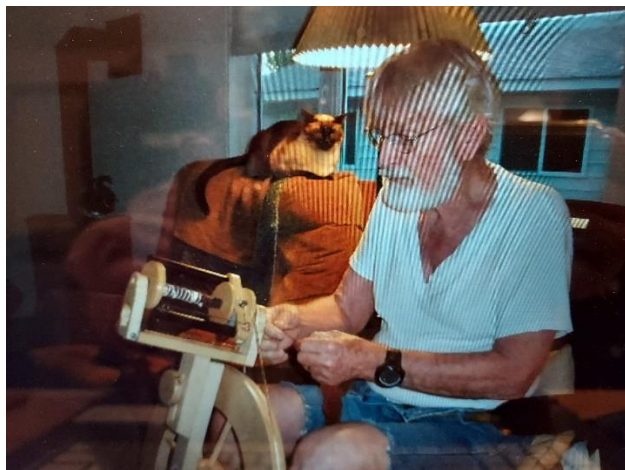
In 1999 Wes began spinning and his wife, Daryl, weaving. They attended MAWS, ANWG, and other conferences. Wes enrolled in the Master Spinner program through Olds College in Alberta. He completed several of the 6 levels of the program which is combination of attending classes during the summer program and independent study.

Wes grew up in the Dakotas, where hard work and resilience was baked into his character. He served his country honorably during the Korean War. Wes was a lifelong educator, working in Miami public schools as a science teacher and Principal. He was an avid traveler, wood carver, and wool spinner. Wes and Daryl traveled all over in their RV. Often a cat accompanied them as shown here "helping" Wes spin. Daryl and Wes loved to travel to Greece too and spent many happy winter months there.

Wes is survived by Daryl, his daughter, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

MAWS has received memorial gifts supporting MAWS education programs in Wes's honor. To make memorial gifts either mail checks made out to MAWS to 446 Tabriz Drive Billings, MT 59105 or go on our website at:

<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/in-memoriam-1>



Cabin Fever Zoom Classes

Register now for the remaining three Cabin Fever classes. Either fill out the form below and mail or register on-line at <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/cabin-fever>

2/25/2023 10 am **Barb French and others--Paper Weaving MAWS member Play Date.** Using Barb French's simple directions, create your piece of paper warp before class and then play along on zoom with other MAWS members. Also bring other paper weaving projects to show and tell on-line. Barb French, a long-time spinner and weaver and former yarn store owner, tried paper weaving for the first time in 2022 because her guild made her. Surprised with the instant success and fun for children and adults, she invites us to play with paper weaving. Fee \$0. Must register by 2/22/2023 by emailing lindas5252@yahoo.com Supply list: Variety of sturdy-ish paper such as construction paper, copy paper, light card stock, scrapbooking papers, calendars, magazine pictures, ruler, pencil, paper scissors, removable tape such as painter's tape. Optional glue stick, paper cutter. Quick start tip, cut a variety of papers in strips for "weft".

3/11/2023 10 am. **Norma Smayda Staley--Fan Reeds to Create Ondulé Textiles.** The Ondulé reed is a truly amazing and beautiful tool. This reed has groups of dents converging in alternate fan shapes. By weaving at different reed heights, the warp ends move to create vertical undulation. Trained in the Norwegian weaving tradition, Norma Smayda established the Saunderstown Weaving school in 1974. She is the co-author of Ondulé Textiles: Weaving Contours with a Fan Reed and Weaving Designs by Bertha Gray Hayes: Miniature Overshot Patterns. Fee \$10 Must register by 3/8/2023

4/1/2023 10 am. **Deb Essen--Introduction to Supplementary Warp Weaving.** What are supplemental warps and how do they work? A quick tour/introduction to the weave structures woven with supplemental warps. Deb Essen, from the Bitterroot Valley in Montana, is the author of "Easy Weaving with Supplemental Warps" and is a frequent contributor for Handwoven magazine. She also has recorded several DVDs on Supplemental Warps, Pile Weaves with Supplemental Warps, Unlocking Profile Drafts, and Pin Loom Projects. Weaving for over 25 years, Deb teaches at local, regional and national conferences, guilds and shops.

After the lecture students are welcome to share supplementary warp projects. Fee \$10 must register by 3/28/2023.

Two classes have run so far in 2023. Piecework Editor, **Pat Olski**, teaching Dorset buttons and **Barbara Landry and Dr. Annamarie Hatcher** teaching the 18th Century Latrine Hat, an archaeological find. Sylvia Smith will lead MAWS members in a Knit Along of Latrine Hat starting February 19. Email Sylvia at spinner92892@hotmail.com

Committee members Nancy Kaumeyer, Pam Refling, Sylvia Smith, and Linda Shelhamer are looking for class ideas for the end of 2023 and for 2024 so contact them with any ideas.

Free _____ 2/25/2023 Paper Weaving MAWS member Play Date

\$10 _____ 3/11/2023 Fan Reeds by Norma Smayda Staley

\$10 _____ 4/1/2023 Supplementary Warp Weaving by Deb Essen

\$ _____ Total

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

E-MAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Please make full payment for classes and write your email very legibly so we can send you Zoom link Please mail payment made out to MAWS at 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105 or register online by PayPal at Cabin Fever | MAWS - Live (montanaweavespin.org)



Latrine Hat Virtual Knit-Along

Sylvia Smith is managing a virtual knit-along and hosting a latrine hat cast-on party via Zoom at 4 pm on Feb. 19. The pattern for the latrine hat can be found in the Fall 2018 issue of "Spin Off". This knit-along is inspired by the Feb. 11 Cabin Fever virtual presentation about the reconstruction of the 200-year-old knitted hat found in a latrine site. Sylvia has contacted Long Thread Media to obtain permission to distribute the pattern to knit-along participants. Contact Sylvia at spinner92892@hotmail.com for the Zoom link if you want to knit with her. Also contact Sylvia for the pattern if you don't have it. Linda Shelhamer hopes to have some latrine hats to display at the 2024 MAWS conference in Billings.

From Sylvia: Every time I state the name "latrine hat", I feel like I have to explain the history and reason for the name. Possible conversation topics for our knit-along might include your favorite latrine, the latrine with the best view, your least favorite latrine, the latrine with the most interesting graffiti, latrine-related wildlife encounters, the coldest temperature you've experienced while using a latrine, the most malodorous latrine, any knitting that you've done in a latrine, items that you've lost in a latrine...

If knitting a hat pattern of historical significance while listening to some "potty talk" sounds fun to you, here's the pattern specs so that you can get your supplies. The pattern is written in three sizes and was originally knitted in handspun Cotswold yarn.

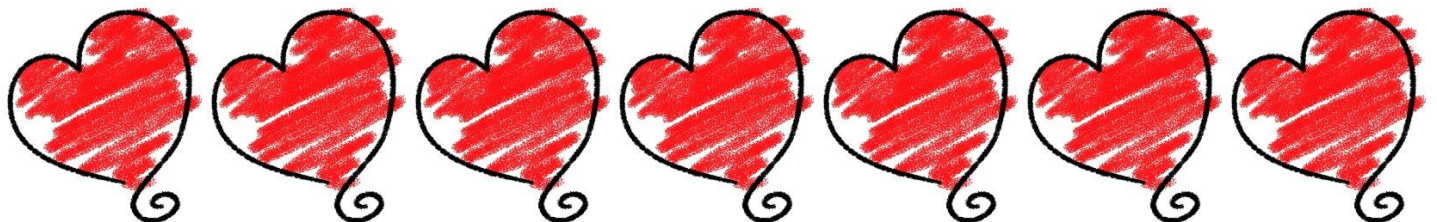
Yarn: 2-ply, 225 (265, 320) yd. 11 wpi; sportweight

Needles: U.S. size 2 (2.75 mm): 16" circular and set of double-pointed. Adjust needle size to obtain the correct gauge.

Notions: row marker; tapestry needle

Gauge: 25 sts and 32 rnds = 4" in ST st

Finished Size: 19³/₄ (21, 231)" circumferenc and 9¹/₄ (9³/₄, 10³/₄)" tall.





Save the Date! August 1-4 2024

MAWS 2024 Billings, MT

Join us at the Billings Hotel & Convention Center for over 30 classes: open, guild, Living Treasure and fashion shows. We have lots of room for vendors too and will have our vendors and shows open to the public.

We plan a variety of spinning, weaving, felting, dyeing, knitting and other classes and have firmed up several teachers including **Kate Larson**, the editor of Spinoff Magazine and the author of The Practical Spinner's Guide: Wool and several spinning videos. Kate also raises Border Leicester sheep. Kate will teach both conference and post conference classes including, Vibrant Blending and Spinning for Color Effects, Gradient Yarns—A Spinner's Study In Shifting Shades, Spinning a Sound Singles, and Spinning Spectacular Knitting Yarns.

We also have **Denise Kovnat** coming both for conference classes and a post conference class in parallel threadings. Denise is a fantastic colorful weaver from Rochester, NY. Weaving interests: include extended parallel threadings, fine yarns, hand-painted warps, Deflected Double Weave and collapse techniques. She often teaches at regional conferences, but this will be her first trip to Montana.. MAWS members who attended Convergence in 2022 expressed amazement at her fantastic woven items in the shows. She just published Weaving Outside the Box: 12 projects for creating Dimensional Cloth . Check out Denise's website at www.denisekovnat.com and denisekovnat on Instagram and Random Acts of Color on Facebook.

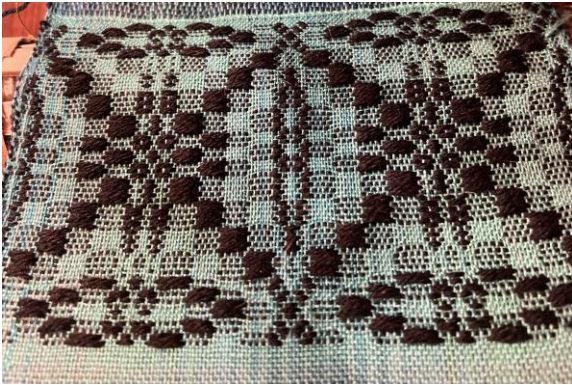
Some of the other classes planned include ecodyeing, needle felting, nunofelting, basketmaking, rigid heddle weaving, hand manipulated weaves, spindles around the world. Committee members are working on handmade goody bags which serves as either a bag or backpack. Each bag will have a handwoven insert of fabric pieces of at least 7" x 16" donated by MAWS members. Again this conference, MAWS will provide scholarships to encourage members to attend the conference with no specifics as to need.

Start your weaving, felting, and spinning with our conference colors dark teal, light teal, magenta, salmon and silver/light grey. Questions and suggestions are welcome and more there are teacher spots still open. Email Heather Johnson heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com or Linda Shelhamer at shara@bresnan.net.

Alpine Weavers & Spinners Guild Happenings

The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild's theme for the year is "Peace Work". We interpret this to mean indulging in the fiber arts that give us peace, but also exploring ways to make peace with those facets of fiber arts that we find challenging.

We have two weaving study groups right now. Both are fairly loosely structured to encourage the participants technique exploration. Our overshot study group consists of 10 members with varying experience weaving overshot. Participants are sharing table looms with different drafts and experimenting with color and yarn. We have set up a group chat for participants to chat, ask questions and share pictures.



Our other group, the rigid heddle study group, has 10 members. The first project for some was the Hero Cowl, available on the Weft Blown website. There is interest in exploring pickup technique soon. We created a Google Photos album for our group to share pictures of projects, as some live in remote locations or work day jobs.

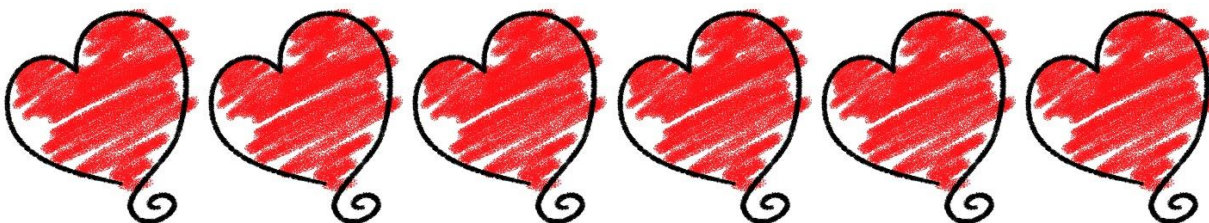


Alpine Weavers & Spinners Guild Happenings (continued)

During a recent meeting, members played with paper weaving with beautiful results.



The Guild is working out the final details for hosting Tammy Jordan and her “Woolen Watercolors” class on October 28. We’ve also contacted a local quilter who is adept with eco-printing techniques. We look forward to exploring facets of the fiber arts that are new to some members, while others may learn new approaches to something familiar.



Montana Fibershed – Calling for Bloggers!

The Montana Fibershed is now calling for guest Blog writers.

Do you enjoy the art of telling stories?
Do you love Fiber and Montana?

We need writers. If you are interested, please include a topic you would be interested in writing about and contact Kami at: montanafibershed@gmail.com

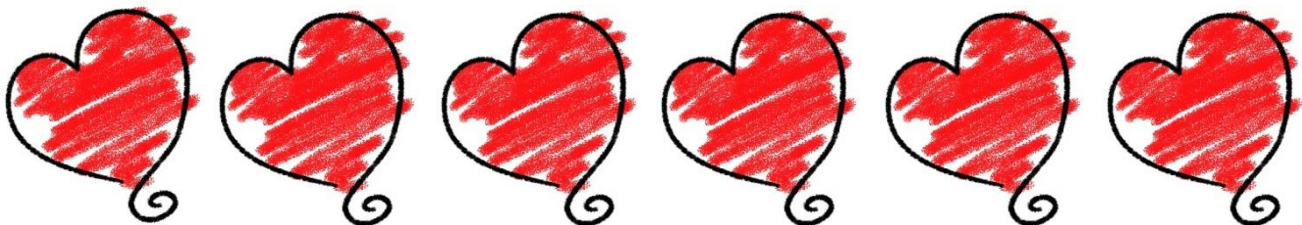
Billings Weavers Guild

Melody Murter of the Billings Weaver's Guild submitted the following photo of Krokbragd. She said she used stash-busting wools, both hand spun and purchased. The result – a finished project that is so thick and warm.



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 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.

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



Bozeman Guild Happenings

The Bozeman Guild is trying something new to them. They have started doing a study group after their Saturday meetings. The first study group met in January and spent the afternoon talking about fiber. Tina Gilchrist and Mary Melander had samples of many of the fibers that we use in weaving and the group discussed the properties of the different fibers and some of the ways they are used. Then they passed out drop spindles to everyone and showed them how to spin a yarn. The February study is going to be the paper weaving presented by Barb French in the Cabin Fever project. Susan Hellier, Anita Krueger, and Pam Refling are teaching a beginning weaving class February 4 and 5. They have 5 new weavers in the class.

Due to a firefighter exercise on February 18, the Guild will meet February 25th at the Sourdough Fire Station.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

May 1, 2023

(Any information submitted after the deadline will be held for the following newsletter)

Please send photos, news, and guild information to

Tammy Jordan

Email: goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

Or snail mail:

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

Helena Guild Happenings

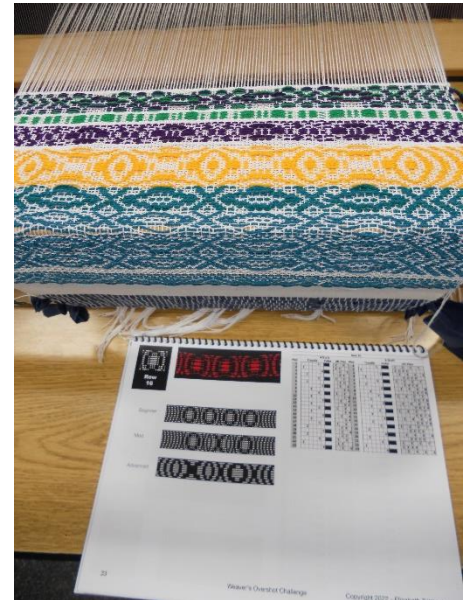
On January 21st and 22nd the Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild participated in a workshop given by Elizabeth Tritthart. One of her workshop topics is the **Mournin' Max Overshot Challenge** - In celebration of 100 years of distance learning in weaving, the overshot challenge has been based on a lesson from Mary Meigs Atwater's Shuttle Craft Guild Lessons in which she requests her students to weave a sampler in Overshot for her to review. To facilitate this challenge, Elizabeth has developed a card game that will make the process of designing and weaving the project fun for all weavers. No two projects will turn out the same if the participants follow the instructions.



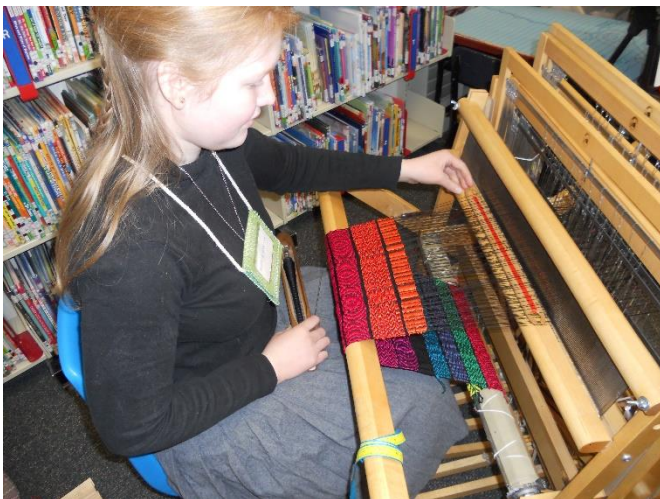
Elizabeth discussing technique and game with Lauren McGrane and Cynthia Overturf.



Sampler with Elizabeth's book as reference.



Overshot samples with class notebook illustrations.



Hadassah Moffett weaving 8-shaft adaptations of the samples.



Beagley family discussing Elizabeth's Overshot samples.

Helena Guild Happenings (continued)



The Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild is proud to announce that Guild member Dawn Ahlert is a 2022 recipient of the Certificate of Excellence (COE) in Handweaving, Level 2, from the The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc.

Dawn began experimenting with fiber arts at a young age, and her passion for learning has driven her to explore many aspects of the medium. Years spent working as a hairstylist also contribute to her deep understanding of texture and color. She earned a Master of Fine Arts in painting from Montana State University in 2000. In 2018, Dawn received the HGA's award that honors outstanding exhibited works of fiber art. She was also awarded the HGA's Certificate of Excellence for Level 1: Technical Skills in Handweaving in 2020, and Level 2: Master Weaver in 2022.

Dawn would like to continue to share what she has learned by teaching and conducting workshops in weaving and spinning. She is a member of the Helena Spinners' and Weavers' Guild and the current president of the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners. Visit her website at:

www.DawnAhlert.com

Guild News, Happenings, and Information

To see what happening or to get in contact with a guild near you, please visit our website for contact information and specific guild happenings at:

<https://www.montanaweavespin.org/our-member-guilds>



75 YEARS

Established 1948

Exhibition

February 18, 2023

11:00-3:00

Missoula Public Library

Cooper Rooms



**Textiles handwoven by MWG members.
Hand spun and hand dyed fibers.**

Learn how textiles are made.

Hands-on! Guild members will help you weave on a real weaving loom and spin wool with a spindle or spinning wheel.

Slide show of the studios and looms of MWG members.

You can learn to weave and spin!

Birthday cake will be served!

The object of the Guild shall be to study handweaving, spinning, basketry and other fiber arts and to encourage the highest workmanship and standards.

Membership is open to anyone interested in handweaving and other fiber arts.

The 7th Annual Copper K Fiber Festival is this July 15 & 16, 2023.



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 30 vendors
selling a mixture of products

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

Copper K Barn
786 Point of Rocks Rd
Whitehall, Montana

www.copperkfiberfestival.com
for more details

Workshops are now open!

We are excited to be welcoming some new and some returning teacher who are offering a variety of educational and fun workshops. Choose from ten different class offerings in spinning, felting, dyeing, and more.



Copper K Fiber Festival
Meet the Teachers.
www.copperkfiberfestival.com



Copper K Fiber Festival
July 15 & 16, 2023

Workshop registration is open!

www.copperkfiberfestival.com

Vendor spaces are currently filled, but applications are still being accepted to be on the waitlist.

Visit the Copper K Festival website to learn more at: <https://www.copperkfiberfestival.com/>

Updates from the Montana Fibershed

The first in-person meeting of the Montana Fibershed Board of Directors was held on January 14 in Anaconda as a day-long session of sharing ideas and brainstorming the future of fiber in the state.

The MFS started as a steering committee of a few like-minded folks in 2019. We persisted through 2020 and 2021 via email and Zoom meetings, so this face-to-face meeting was a long-time coming and really got us energized. We went over our many accomplishments as well as our immediate and long-term goals. Three new board members were added this year after a call out to our Business and Supporting members, with a total of 10 on the board.

Our membership drive is in full force and would love for you to join us in any capacity. We've got some fun things coming your way, including a "Knit Montana" project bag. This is a year-long event in which participants will be challenged to use fiber from as many different farms as possible across the state. Project bags with the Knit Montana logo and a printed passport for recording each type of fiber used will be available for purchase this spring. All current business members will be listed on a passport insert in each bag to help participants more easily source their fiber and it's not limited to knitting. If you'd like to see your business listed, now is a great time to join the Fibershed. These will be available at yarn stores and fiber festivals all over the state.

In the meantime, you can follow us on Instagram or Facebook and keep up with our many current happenings and our continued educational outreach. We have a new twist on a very old thing coming up, mending! This isn't your grandma's mending, but that is encouraged too.

The Montana Fibershed is affiliated with the national Fibershed. We encompass the entire state and show no fiber bias. Our belief is that there is no bad wool, just wool with different purposes.

Montana Fibershed is a grassroots, non-profit organization that supports Montana-based natural fiber and dye systems. We seek to connect producers to end users of fiber, to encourage new and strengthen existing textile manufacturing systems in Montana, and to do so in regenerative and sustainable ways that support the health of our people, our soils, and the landscapes and economies that sustain us.

<https://www.montanafibershed.org/> or montanafibershed@gmail.com



Southwest Montana Fiber Arts Guild Happenings

The Southwest Montana Fiber Arts guild had a fun and fabulous time during our Needle Felting class in January put on by the wonderful artist (and guild member) BJ Radell. Photos below of projects and fun.



**Check out our newly revamped website!
You can submit show and tell, complete your membership (now with the ability to pay
using PayPal) and lots of new content!**

www.montanaweavespin.org

Classifieds

LeClerc Nilus Loom for Sale: \$500. Please contact Jaclyn at 406-587-8373.



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. 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

Upcoming Events

Cabin Fever Series

2/25/23 - Paper Weaving; 3/11/23 – Fan Reeds to Create Ondule' Textiles; 4/1/23 – Introduction to Supplementary Warp. Please visit the website at: <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/cabin-fever> to register

MAWS Board Meeting

April 22, 2023 at the Montana City School Meeting Room. There will be a virtual component for those unable to attend.

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 or Linda Shelhamer shara@bresnan.net