

MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Summer 2020

Message from the President...

I am opening the 2020 Biennial Meeting of the general membership of MAWS through this newsletter, so keep reading! Had things gone according to plan, this meeting would have been held Sunday June 28th at the Visions in Fiber Conference in Helena. Look at it this way. You are all able to attend now. You will see an article from Annette Cade about tentative planning for a conference in Helena in 2022. Do you know that Annette has already chaired three Helena MAWS conferences that actually took place, one that was cancelled, and is still chugging forward on number five? Wow! I personally went belly up after just one!

Ruth Terry has sent word that planning for the Association of Northwest Weavers Guilds (ANWG) 2023 conference in Billings has been interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic.

Linda Shelhamer has provided us with information about the association's finances and grant availability.

Now for your part in this meeting. There are two items to vote on to complete the business for the year:

- The slate of MAWS Board Members (see below) for the term of two years, from the completion of the voting process to the biennial meeting in 2022.
- The 2022 Conference officers (see below.)

To vote, please click on hgoldmt@gmail.com and send a brief message, or call/ text Joan at 406-890-4024. Vote to accept or deny the slate of MAWS Board Members and vote to accept or deny the slate of 2022 Conference officers (for example, "accept both slates".) Voting deadline is August 30, 2020.

Slate of MAWS Board Members: **indicates new nominee*

- President: **Sharon Schroeder*
- Vice President: **Dawn Ahlert*
- Secretary: Jaime Stevens
- Treasurer: Linda Shelhamer
- Newsletter Chairperson: Tammy Jordan
- Website Coordinator: **Elizabeth Tritthart*
- Conference President: Annette Cade
- Past Conference President: Barbara French
- Past President: Joan Goldstein
- Members at Large: **Denise DC Ahlert*, (Helena), Gwen Haferkamp (Miles City), Molly McKinnon (Big Sky), Melody Murter (Billings), **Lisa Brown* (Bozeman) **Alanna Strong* (Alpine), **Marian Stratton* (Great Falls)

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President's Message Continued...

Slate of 2022 Conference officers:

- Conference President: Annette Cade
- Conference Vice President: Allison Grove
- Conference Secretary: Janet Benson
- Conference Treasurer: Mary Bradford

This has been an interesting time for being an interim president and I thank you with all my heart for your patience and support.

Joan Goldstein, Interim MAWS President

VOTE NOW! Remember, the deadline for voting is August 30, 2020!

Montana Guilds

Below is the contact information and standing schedule. Please contact specific guild as meeting times may have changed due to COVID.

Alpine Weavers & Spinners
Kalispell, MT
Sylvia Smith
spinner92892@hotmail.com

Spinners meet 1st Wednesday 10:30am-2pm
Weavers meet 2nd Wednesday 10:30am-pm
Guild meets 3rd Wednesday 10:30am-2pm

Big Sky Fiber Arts Guild
Stevensville, MT
Juanita Moore
jlmoore1721@aol.com
Meets last Saturday of the month

Billings Weavers & Spinners
Billings, MT
Ruth Terry
terrymt@me.com
3rd Wednesday evening

Bozeman Weavers Guild
Bozeman, MT
Pam Refling
pjhrefling@gmail.com
3rd Saturday

Central Montana Weavers Guild
Lewistown, MT
Susan Lohmuller
susanlohmuller@gmail.com

Great Falls Spinners & Weavers
Great Falls, MT
3rd Thursday, 6:30pm

Helena Weavers & Spinners Guild
Helena, MT
Allison Grove
grove.allison@gmail.com
3rd Saturday 1-3pm

Missoula Weavers Guild
Missoula, MT
Jennie Meinershagen
jwmeinershagen@gmail.com

Lincoln Fiber Circle
Lincoln, MT
Tammy Jordan
goldieknotsmt@gmail.com
2nd Saturday 11am-1pm
(Sept-May)

Prairie Handspinners Guild
Billings, MT
Heather Johnson
heatherbrookjohnson@gmail.com
1st Saturday, 1-4pm
(Sept.-May)

Yellowstone Valley Knitting Guild
Billings, MT
yvknittingguild@gmail.com
4th Tuesday, Rimrock Mall

MAWS Board Members

President - Joan Goldstein
406-890-4024 hgoldmt@gmail.com

Treasurer - Linda Shelhamer
446 Tabriz Drive
Billings, MT 59105
406-259-9160 shara@bresnan.net

Secretary - Jaime Stevens
1736 Stony Meadow Lane
Billings, MT 59101
lazulioflenore@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor - Tammy Jordan
PO Box 426
Lincoln, MT 59639
406-633-0073 goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

Internet Coordinator - Sharon Schroeder
jimandsharon.schroeder@gmail.com

ANWG 2023 Steering Committee Chair - Ruth Terry
terrynm@me.com

2020 Conference Chair - Annette Cade
annette.cade@yahoo.com

Members-at-Large

Anita Krueger – Bozeman
42agkrueger@gmail.com

Alanna Strong
214-926-8722

Dawn Ahlert – Central Montana
dmahlert@gmail.com

Gwen Haferkamp – Eastern Montana
406-234-7603 gwenmrh@midrivers.com

Molly McKinnon – Missoula
mckinnonmolly5@gmail.com

Melody Murter – Billings
melmurter@gmail.com

Visions in Fiber Update from the Conference Chair

I have a new slate of 2022 Conference Officers:

**Conference President: Annette Cade
Conference Vice President: Allison Grove
Secretary: Janet Benson
Treasurer/Registrar: Mary Bradford**

Many thanks are due to the new Conference Officers for volunteering to move the 2020 Conference forward, as well as to the former Officers for all the time and effort they put into planning MAWS 2020 VISIONS IN FIBER. We all hope you are keeping safe and are able to enjoy this beautiful summer weather! Social distancing is no problem in the Great Montana Outdoors!!

Over the next several months the new Conference committee will be doing some opinion surveys and brainstorming about what direction to take with our planning. It is difficult to move ahead while "the sand is still shifting". We would certainly welcome any suggestions from MAWS members to help set a course for MAWS 2020, two! Or MAWS 2022 or whatever we call it! Let us hear from you!!

In the meantime, remember all this "home time" is great for creating the perfect garment for the Fashion show or perhaps an exquisite piece for the Open Show!!

Questions or comments: annette.cade@yahoo.com

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS
MINUTES
SINCE 4/4/20
DONE VIA EMAIL

BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

President Joan Goldstein contacted the board members via email on 5/23/20 regarding the necessity of amending the by-laws as follows:

1. To allow alternative ways of conducting meetings when unable to meet face-to-face
2. To allow alternative ways of holding an election of officers in the absence of a meeting of the general membership
3. To approve changes to the board structure, including adding a vice president, splitting some duties, adding another member-at-large and specifying new duties for some board members
4. Allowing all board members to voting members

On 5/24/20 Sharon Schroeder MOVED to approve the proposed changes as presented in Joan's attachment and distribute them to the MAWS members for voting. Dawn Ahlert SECONDED the motion. Tammy Jordan, Anita Krueger, Melody Murter, Alanna Strong, Gwen Haferkamp, Ruth Terry, Annette Cade, Linda Shelhamer and Barbara French voted AYE. Motion carried.

Tammy included voting information in the newsletter. In the same newsletter a slate of proposed officers was sent to the general membership. Members were instructed to vote by notifying Joan via email, phone or US mail. Members were also given the opportunity to nominate officers "from the floor." The membership voted AYE to amend the by-laws as stated above. Voting on the slate of proposed officers has been deferred until a later date.

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

On 7/8/20 Joan contacted the board members with a question from Annette about what to do about the scholarships which had been awarded now that the conference would not be taking place. Tammy proposed holding the scholarships over until we are able to hold a conference. If not all the recipients were able to attend the next conference those scholarships could be open to other attendees. Sharon MOVED to extend the six (6) 2020 MAWS conference scholarships to the next conference and inform those individuals they will be available for them. If any are not used, we may solicit applications to fulfill the five (5) usual scholarships upon hearing from the Scholarship Committee. Tammy SECONDED the motion. Voting in favor were Linda Shelhamer, Gwen Haferkamp, Dawn Ahlert, Molly McKinnon, Sharon Schroeder, Barbara French, Alanna Strong, Annette Cade and Jaime Stevens. Motion carried.

POLICY HANDBOOK

On 7/3/20 Joan presented a draft of changes to the policy handbook to the board members. There was some discussion of how to present guidelines for selecting Members at Large for the board. Since decisions on making changes to the policy handbook are decided by the board and not the members at large the decision about the revisions has been tabled until such time as the board can meet in person.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY JAIME STEVENS
SECRETARY

TREASURER'S REPORT

MAWS Account Balances – As of 3/24/2020

Account	Balance
Bank Accounts	
Morgan Stanley	20,286
S1 Savings	0
S90 Checking	0
TOTAL Bank Accounts	
Asset Accounts	
Loan to Conference	0
TOTAL Asset Accounts	0
OVERALL TOTAL	20,286

Category	07/15/2019 - 07/14/2020	07/15/2019 - 07/14/2020
INCOME		
Conference share	3,173	0
Donation	300	0
Dues	2,720	2,620
Misc. Income	30	10
SB Dividend	186	247
TOTAL INCOME	6,299	2,877
EXPENSES		
ANWG Dues	35	35
Board		
Lunch		0
Travel	121	0
TOTAL Board	121	0
Conference	0	200
Grants Conference	1,000	0
Grants Guild	250	0
Living Treasure gifts	50	0
Misc. Expenses	120	20
Newsletter Expense		
Newsletter Postage	63	45
Newsletter Printing	150	424
TOTAL Newsletter Expense	212	469
Scholarships	450	0
Stipend		
Newsletter Editor	525	700
Treasurer	250	250
TOTAL Stipend	775	950
Unrealized Gain Loss	-170	-91
Website		
Web stipend	0	200
Webhosting	0	193
TOTAL Website	480	393
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,394	1,976
OVERALL TOTAL	3,904	901

A Birth Announcement

We would like to announce the joyful arrival of our new baby: Montana Fibershed!

LaVonne Stucky, owner of The Wool Mill outside of Bozeman, has taken the initiative to create Montana Fibershed, an affiliate of Fibershed.org. Several other Montana fiber lovers have jumped on board to help with this fledgling organization dedicated to promoting local fiber economies. We would welcome and encourage the participation of MAWS members in the growth and evolution of Montana Fibershed.

Each regional affiliate of Fibershed.org chooses goals appropriate to their own areas. The team involved in Montana Fibershed has chosen two goals for the upcoming year. The first is the creation of a comprehensive database of all Montana fiber growers, mills, farm shops, retail shops, designers, and teachers. We are hopeful that this information gathering will lay the foundation for a grassroots economic development effort that connects the enormous potential of Montana's fiber supply chain. Ultimately, this database would be posted on our Montana Fibershed website (another work in progress!) for all to use, with the goal of benefitting connections between Montana fiber producers and fiber users.

Another goal is a "Farm to Fashion" show on July 23, 2021, at the [WARP \(Weave A Real Peace\)](#) conference next year in Bozeman. This will be our inaugural public event and we hope to create much interest and excitement over local Montana fibers. We invite your participation! We are currently working on the details of the show and would gladly welcome any MAWS volunteers. The basic idea is to showcase and promote Montana fiber. We are still discussing the parameters of the show and want to have all details outlined and in place by October, 2020. We encourage you all to begin thinking about creating a garment or fashion accessory from local fiber and participating in this exciting show!

It is our hope is that this nascent organization will benefit MAWS members and all fiber-related people throughout the state. We welcome your involvement. Please join our [Facebook group](#) to keep up with all the latest news, join the "contact" list on our website [Montana Fibershed](#), or email a team member listed below with your thoughts, questions or suggestions. Membership is free and open to all. Join us as we seek to nurture this new baby into a robust organization serving our great Montana fiber community.

Your Montana Fibershed Team:

LaVonne Stucky
thewoolmill@gmail.com

Allison Grove
grove.allison@gmail.com

Dorinda Dutcher
dkdutcher@hotmail.com

Joan Thullbery
joan.thullbery@gmail.com

Barb French (Farm to Fashion show coordinator)
barbarafrench27@gmail.com

Fibering On - COVID Style

Reflections on the Copper K Fiber Festival As told by Betty Kujawa of Snowdrift Alpacas

So, 2020 has been a little odd so far, huh?! Working in Healthcare, I go to work every day wondering "what new process do we follow today?" Yesterday's rules don't apply today, and today's rules won't apply tomorrow. I know the rest of the country/world is doing the same within their own aspects of daily life. When my friend and fiber festival co-organizer, Kami Noyes of Ranching Tradition Fiber, set a deadline for either cancelling or moving forward with our 2020 Copper K Fiber Fest, I kept positive, but also held my breath.

You see, I had the one side of me that had to listen to the information that was presented every day at the hospital. I saw how the numbers were starting to increase in our area. As the days counted down, I knew the possibility of cancelling was greater than ever, if not by us, then possibly by the state. And if it did proceed, I dreaded the fact that I might have to cancel my participation in this year's event as I battled between my own personal, family, and professional point of views.

Luckily, (and I use that word gently) two days before the festival started the governor didn't revert back a phase and just made mask wearing mandatory. This made it possible for us to keep moving forward. We had come too far, had put in too much work to quit now.

You see, our festival is all outdoors in the country, so plenty of space, fresh air and sunlight. Kami and I had already spaced out vendors in all locations. We had plenty of hand sanitizers, wash stations and disinfectant on tables for people to spray. Our volunteers were always watching and cleaning. We had extra masks at the gate and in classroom tents. Walkways/aisles were 12 feet or more apart. Vendors were responsible for their own interactions inside their booths. We complied with all aspects of the county's health department and they approved our COVID plan and festival happening.

When the weekend of July 18th-19th came around, I still had people shaking their heads and telling me that I was wrong in my push to have the festival and that I was bringing COVID to their door. Everyone has a right to their opinion. I kept my mouth shut and listened to their concerns. The weight on my shoulders (personally put there) was becoming heavier. I needed this weekend as much as the next person. I needed an escape too.

I took a deep breath, a couple bottles of wine and I went into the weekend with a social experiment in mind. Could we actually still have some of our "old" life in this "new way of life," as they keep calling it? I know our festival was on a VERY small scale being in a rural area in Montana, but could we do it? Could people come together and put differences aside to enjoy a moment? To have an escape, no matter how small it might be? And then, the first people starting coming through the gate. The 2020 Copper K Fiber Festival was underway.

What were the results of my experiment you ask? Well, I am hopeful for our future. Watching people over the weekend, I'd say 95% of people had their masks on. The other 5% either took one of ours to put on, or gave distance and waited for their turn in a booth or around a vendor. In my booth, we went through two bottles of hand sanitizer. Other vendors that I talked to, said they too were really pleased that people were so accommodating to the "new rules" and were grateful that we continued on with the festival.

Overall, I am not alone when I say, these fiber peeps were the best! The grateful outpouring from customers, students, teachers, and vendors was heartwarming. As my friend Kami said, "People came to the festival a little nervous, not knowing what to expect, but after a few steps, the smiles started to show on their faces and you could see the stress melt away."

So there you go, my two cents. Hopefully it inspires you or at least gets you to think about a way in your own life to melt away the stress, just for a moment, and figure out a way to do what you love in this "new way of life". Hope springs eternally, right?

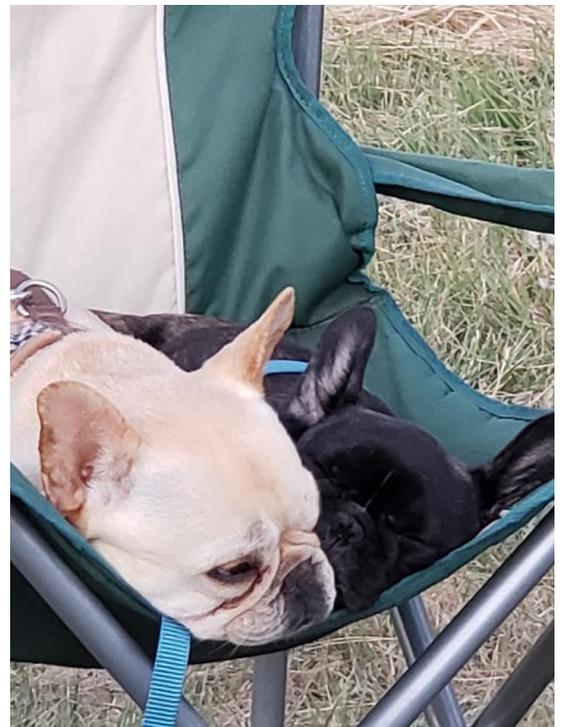
Some Photos from the Copper K Fiber Festival



Emily Sue Hartman of Ms. Hartman's Farmhouse captures a photo of the Copper K Barn late Friday evening.



Opening Day



A couple of visitors catching some beauty rest.

Classes at Copper K



Indigo Dyeing with Billy Maxwell



Silk Painting with Christy Lynn Greene



Beginning Spinning with Tammy Jordan



Tatting with Anne Giuliano

Some of the Copper K Vendors



THANK YOU to everyone who joined us and helped make our 2020 Festival a great weekend....With so many crazy things going on in the world this year. This past weekend was truly heartwarming. The 4th annual Copper K Fiber Festival was faced with HUGE challenges throughout but watching and seeing people stand by us offering to help, thanking us was wonderful! (Via Kami Noyes of Ranching Tradition Fiber & Co-Organizer of the Copper K Fiber Festival)



That's a Wrap - Photo at the end of the Copper K Fiber Festival

**NEXT NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE**

October 15, 2020

Please send photos, news, and
guild information to Tammy

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.

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

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). Please send the information, along with any photos to Sharon Schroeder. Items will be posted for 60 days.

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

FOR SALE: Harrisville Design 36" floor loom, Model T, 4 harness. Moving end of September & would love to find new home for this loom. I have had it for many years & would say it is very lightly used, was basically a beautiful ornament in the studio. Also have bench, 4 SS reeds, 36" raddle, wooden bobbin winder, 5 stick shuttles, 2 boat shuttles & floor loom crank. Sell loom, bench & accessories for \$900. Cash only. Buyer pick-up in Bozeman, MT or possibly can make other arrangements. Contact Debb at: 406-539-3048 or debbjsmith@gmail.com (Posted 8/3/2020)

FOR SALE: Maple Montana table loom, with stand, 12 harness, 25" weaving width. The loom is 29" wide overall and 31" deep. The castle folds down for travel. It comes with approximately 900 flat steel heddles, and a 12 dent SS reed, and a stick shuttle. It is quite heavy, hence the stand. I've had it for over 10 years and never used all the harnesses, and don't intend to now, so I need to destash this lovely loom. It is nice to weave on. I'd like \$500 for the loom. New it was just around \$1000. I'm in Lander, Wyoming, and can't ship this, but would be willing to meet partway. I would like cash. Please contact Laura at: llbrewer230@gmail.com (Posted 6/24/2020)

FOR SALE: Handcrafts Studio Loom \$1800. Located in Bonners Ferry, ID: 46" weaving width, 8 shafts, 14 treadles, sectional back beam, 8 and 12 dent reeds, texsolv heddles (still have the metal ones), adjustable bench with storage at each end, storage on top of castle, solid oak - excellent condition, footprint: 50" x 60". Photos available. Contact Angela at redfalconranch@gmail.com. Posted 12/23/2019.

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

Upcoming Events

March Crazy Mountain Fiber Festival: Cancelled for 2020. Watch for dates in 2021

Copper K Fiber Festival

July 17-18, 2021. Whitehall, MT. To learn more about the festival and to sign up for classes, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1405060639801056/> or their website at: <https://www.ranchingtraditionfiber.com/copper-k-fiber-fest>

Eureka Fiber Fest

August 7-8, 2021. 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/>

Prairie Handspinners Fiber Festival – Note 2020 Festival has been Cancelled Below are Dates for 2021

September 24-25, 2021. Billings, MT. To learn more about the festival and to sign up for classes, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/phsfiberfest/> or their website at: <http://prairiehandspinnersfiberfest.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/guilds-grants>