

MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Fall 2021

President's Message...

The leaves, temperatures, and length of day have all changed. And yes, weavers, knitters, spinners, and fiber artists are seeing changes in their productivity. While summer offers long, warm evenings outside watching sunsets, or tomatoes turning from green to red, I always welcome that change of season when the garden is put to bed and I can focus on being creative again. My loom has now seen several projects finished, and the number of projects that run through my mind seem endless.

I love good grammar, and of course weavers speak their own language. Let's look at "sett". I was rather stunned when I looked at Webster's Dictionary for a definition of "sett" and found:

Phrases Related to *sett*:

(get) ready, (get) set, go
carved/etched/set/written in stone
chemistry set

That was certainly not what I expected. According to Webster, the term "sett" is nearby "set-stitched" and "settecentist". "Settecentist" is defined as an artist, poet, or student of the 18th century period in Italian literature and art. I gained some satisfaction in seeing the word artist.

So, I tried dictionary.com and found the following when I entered "sett":

Also called pitcher. A small, rectangular paving stone.

Also called stake. A handheld tool that is struck by a hammer to shape or deform a metal object.

Also set. The distinctively colored pattern of crisscrossed lines and stripes against a background in which a Scottish tartan is woven.

Ah! At least they acknowledged tartan, crisscrossed lines and "woven."

I am confident you all share the same definition of "sett" that I do. First, "Set" is the verb. "Sett" is the noun and determines the density of your project. The Handweaver's Pattern Directory more accurately says: "The sett is the number of ends and picks in a specified unit of measurement needed to create the required "feel," "handle" or "drape" of a fabric. Finally, someone who understands us!

So, get ready, get set, and go to the MAWS Conference June 21 – 26, 2022 in Helena at Carroll College. Complete information with an impressive list of instructors and workshops will be in the next newsletter, in advance of the February 14th opening of registration. I have a "feel"ing we're all going to increase our knowledge and creativity.

Until next time,
Sharon Schroeder

In Memory of Marcy Foran

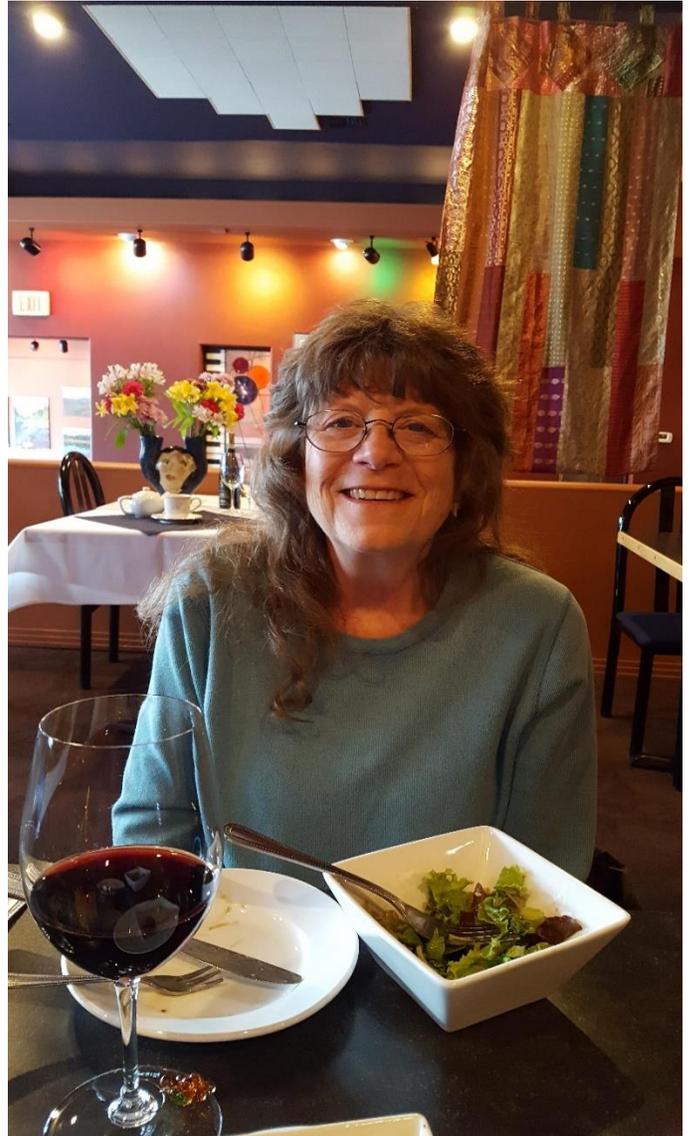
Marcy Foran, Lewistown spinner and weaver, dies.

Montana spinners and weavers mourn the loss of Marcy Foran, age 67. Marcy died in Lewistown in October after a long and courageous battle with cancer. Marcy started spinning in 2000. She particularly loved spinning wool from the family ranch. After Susan Lohmuller started teaching in Lewistown in March 2007, Marcy jumped into weaving with her typical contagious enthusiasm. The weaving group soon became quite accomplished including weaving the Double Weave Ribbons for a MAWS conference.

Marcy loved MAWS and was a regular at conferences. Many MAWS members remembered how much they looked forward to seeing her. Marcy was passionate about all fibers. She demonstrated and promoted fiber events in Lewistown including at the Winter Fair and the Lewistown Art Center. Emily Sue Hartman summed up Marcy so well. "I met her only once, and that was at the beginning of getting back into sheep and fiber arts, but she was unforgettable. She had the most genuine, and contagiously encouraging personality. She truly made me feel like I was on the right path, and I will never forget her, and thank her for that."

MAWS members, Connie Simonich, Susan Lohmuller, and Laura Bennett spent lots of time with Marcy helping during her illness. Best friend, Connie, considered Marcy a sister and was with her when she died. Marcy's home is full of yarn, fiber, at least 3 looms (2 Leclercs and Schacht Baby Wolf) which her family plans to sell at a later time.

Marcy graduated from Winifred High School and attended Carroll College in Helena and Montana State University-Northern in Havre, receiving her teaching degree. After teaching elementary school, she returned to college to earn an LPN degree. She worked in the nursing field and then joined the Army Reserve and returned to school to earn a RN degree. She served in Desert Storm. Marcy returned to Washington for a few years, before retiring to Lewistown, where she resided the remainder of her life.



Marcy is survived by her brothers, nieces and nephews and many cousins. MAWS has received numerous memorial gifts from family and weaving and spinning friends. Marcy loved taking fiber workshops and the gifts to MAWS will be used in MAWS education programs including MAWS conference scholarships, workshops, and workshop grants. If you desire, you may make tax-deductible contributions in Marcy's honor to MAWS either through website and PayPal or by mailing to MAWS, c/o Linda Shelhamer, 446 Tabriz Drive, Billings, MT 59105.

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Cabin Fever Events

Hosted by MAWS and presented by Roy Clemes of Clemes & Clemes

The first in a series of upcoming virtual Zoom classes / presentations to encourage education and creativity.

The class will be held Saturday, February 26th from 10am-Noon via Zoom on Blending Board Use and Techniques. The cost will be free to paid members of MAWS.

Please RSVP to Linda Shelhamer via email at:

shara@bresnan.net

Have ideas for other virtual classes? Please contact Linda to let her know your interests for other



MAWS 2022 VISIONS IN FIBER

CARROLL COLLEGE, HELENA, MT

JUNE 23-26, 2022 with Pre-conference classes JUNE 21 - 23

Pre-conference classes are scheduled to start on Tuesday, June 21, 2022. The main conference will begin Thursday, June 23rd with registration in the afternoon. Conference classes begin Friday morning and run through Saturday afternoon. All of the shows and exhibits will also be open during this time with hours extended into the evenings. Needless to say there will be vendors, plying their wares (love the reference to plying!) and an evening tribute to the MAWS Living Treasures, Past and Present! The time to get rambunctious (“uncontrollably exuberant” per Webster) is at the OUTTA SIGHT GATHERING – SPIN IN – SHOP TILL YOU DROP – PARTY! We will gather as a group on Sunday morning to deal with the business of the organization (elections, etc.) and then move on to a fabulous Brunch and Fashion show --- starring YOU!

THE “TRADING” POST!! CALLING ALL MAWS MEMBERS!!

It’s time to weave and spin some “extra” projects for trading at the 2022 MAWS conference. For the EXCHANGE you may bring three items to trade.

HAND TOWELS OR KITCHEN TOWELS – any fiber, any pattern!

HAND SPUN SKEINS - Any fiber, 4 oz. for knitting weight yarn or 2 oz. lightweight yarn.

1. Please label your items as follows: Name, address, phone, email and include the fiber, the technique or pattern and the care instructions for the piece.
2. Deliver trade items to the Conference during registration. An area will be designated for “Trade Ins”

MAWS 2022 SHOWS AND EXHIBITS

ATTENTION!! WE WANT YOU! Are you a weaver/spinner/fiber artist of any kind? Have you been at your craft for years and years? Have you just learned a new craft? Your fellow fiber artists would love to see your “2022 Vision”! Please consider sharing your “Creative Visions” in the Open Show and your “Eye for Style” pieces in the Fashion Show.

The entry forms can be found online at: www.helenaweaversandspinnersguild.com along with the email contacts for both shows. We’d like to do some advance display planning so our set-up crew and judges don’t miss any of the fun conference events. Just imagine the inspiration we’ll experience if every fiber artist submits an entry! And, don’t forget that volunteers to help in any part of the conference are always welcome.

As part of every MAWS Conference, members can make a big impact by participating in the SHOWS! With several to pick from, there is a place for everyone to join in! We are excited to see what you will share with the members!

“OUR TRUE COLORS” GUILD BOOTHS

We invite every Guild to set up a “booth” to show off what you have been doing over the last four years. Always beautiful and so educational!! (And it doesn’t have to be on ZOOM!) Can’t wait to see what all the amazing members have been up to! Each Guild will be provided a space with one 8 foot table. The college prohibits attaching things to the walls, so guilds will need to take that into consideration when planning their exhibit. Contact Annette.cade@yahoo.com to reserve a space for your Guild!!

“CREATIVE VISIONS” OPEN SHOW

Enter one or more of the show’s seven categories! Items will be collected during registration on Thursday, juried, and then exhibited the next morning. First and second place ribbons will be given in each of the seven categories along with ribbons for Best of Show, Judge’s Choice, Chairperson’s Choice, and People’s Choice. HGA provides a ribbon and award for the piece that best meets their criteria, too. The more items on display, the more interesting the show! Clothing items and accessories are eligible for both shows. The Open Show also includes household items/home decor, tapestries/rugs/horse blankets, hand spun yarn and finished items of your hand spun, felted items, and your “Optical Illusions”, that is, any original fiber piece from baskets to yardage. If you have something to share we’ll find a category for it! Each artist may enter three pieces total. Top prize winners will be awarded a beautiful ribbon as well as \$20.00 in Vendor Bucks!

“EYE FOR STYLE” FASHION SHOW

Let’s put some **WOW** into this Fashion Show! On Sunday morning participants will make their way across the stage and through the group to show off their latest creations! With three categories you can create several pieces for this wonderful, stylish show! Ribbons will be presented to the Best of each category and one for People’s Choice! The Brunch – Fashion Show is open to the public and extra tickets will be available.

If you have ideas for the conference or would like to volunteer, please contact the Helena Weavers’ and Spinners’ Guild through the website: <https://helenaweaversandspinners.org/>

Are you an instructor in the fiber arts industry? Would you like to be part of our Montana Association of Weavers & Spinner’s Teacher’s Database?

If so, please send your information to Tammy Jordan. Please include your name, contact information (address, phone number, email, and website if applicable).

You can send information via mail, or email to:

Tammy Jordan
PO Box 426
Lincoln, MT 59639
goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

VISIONS IN FIBER 2022 WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

DEB ESSEN

Weaving with Supplemental Warps without a Second Beam!

This class is an introduction to weaving supplemental warps for turned drafts without a second back beam! Supplemental warps are additional warps used to create pattern and/or texture running the length of the textile in your weaving. Tips, tricks and techniques will be shared to give you a firm foundation for supplemental warp weaves.

Color for the Fiber Artist

You bought some beautiful yarns to use together in a project. In the skeins or cones, the colors just sing to you. However, when you start knitting or weaving, the results are less than stellar. This class will explore color theory and definitions to start training our eyes (and brain) to learn what colors will play well together and why.



JANE FOURNIER

Spinning with a Purpose!

Even though, for us, spinning is a labor of love, we nevertheless want those hours of work to result in a finished product worthy of all that devotion. In this workshop, we'll address this expectation in two ways. First, we'll focus on equipping your toolbox with hands-on practice and discussion of the options you have at each step of creating a yarn - fiber selection, preparation, drafting methods, and plying. Next, we'll work on when and how to deploy those tools and techniques to complete projects that are as satisfying as they are beautiful. Using your own project ideas, we'll work through the planning, decisions, and calculations that will allow you to confidently translate your ideas into reality.



Spinning Cotton

Soft, silky, durable, and absorbent, cotton has been a textile staple for different cultures around the world for millennia. We will study some of the various types and breeds of cotton available for handspinning along with their physical properties and spinning characteristics. Learn preparation methods and efficient drafting techniques that will allow you to tackle cotton and any short-stapled fiber with ease. We'll also cover blending, yarn structure, and plying so that YOU can spin cotton yarns suitable for a variety of textile techniques.

JENNY GEORGE-

Beginning Knitting

Just as the name implies, a basic class to get you on the road to enjoyable and successful knitting.

Knitted – Felted Miter Bowl

These fun bowls are knitted all in one piece so there is no sewing required. They have multiple uses.... like holding that runaway ball of yarn you're trying to knit, or catching that static fiber off your fingertips while spinning. This class will teach you the basics of the bowls sides, cornering and edging, so you can go home and create your own larger bowl, basket, or purse.



Brioche Knitting



Explore the world of Brioche in the round for advanced knitters who want to master this exciting technique.

KAREN GRIFFING

Flax Processing and Spinning



The transformation of a stalk of flax or a clump of wool into a piece of cordage or yarn, and then into a useful item, has always fascinated me. As a child I made hammock-like nests of baling twine, and tried to twist grasses into rope. In the 1970's I learned to spin with a drop spindle, and the world of fiber arts opened up.

I have been growing and processing flax off and on since 1989, using homemade scutching, breaking, and hackling tools. There is a special feeling of accomplishment and connection with the past when fabric is made from the very beginning – a seed - and I would love to pass on what I have learned.

This class will cover the basics of flax as well as provide hands-on use of flax processing tools. We will learn what flax is (structure and properties), how to grow it and get fibers out (planting and harvesting, steps in processing), how to spin it (dry and wet, strick vs sliver vs rolag, in a towel or on a distaff), and how to wash the yarn. Spinners will be provided with flax top to spin in class.

JOANNE HALL

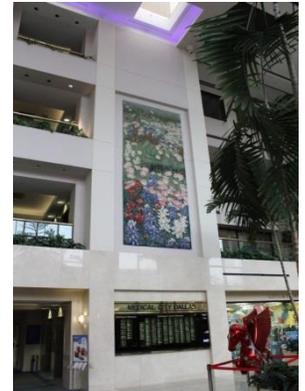


Tapestry Weaving

Tapestry weaving is a technique that lets you express your ideas and creativity with color, shapes, and lines. This workshop is designed to help you develop your skills in tapestry. Weave a sampler of techniques on a tapestry frame, made available to you for the class. All supplies are provided with many yarn colors to make your sampler colorful and fun to weave.

Introduction to Drawloom Weaving

Weaving on a drawloom is fun! And about to become easier than you thought! Five looms will be warped and ready for you to experience this interesting way to weave. They include both damask and opphamta, the two most popular weaves for drawloom weaving. Both set ups will give patterns and designs which are larger and more distinct than what an ordinary, threaded loom pattern can produce. Once you have woven on the looms in this class, you will have an understanding of the *unlimited pattern possibilities* at your fingertips!!



Rigid Heddle Weaving

The perfect class to learn the basics of rigid heddle weaving. Looms will be provided during the class and students will learn a variety of techniques. More information will be published on the Helena Weavers' and Spinners' Guild website later in November!

TAMMY JORDAN

Woolen Watercolors – Painting With Wool



Come create your very own masterpiece while learning to paint with wool. We'll start with needle-felting your design, building color and textures, and then we'll 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 mats, picture mat and frame, and you bring your love of color and a willingness to learn and create! No prior painting or needle-felting experience needed.

Montana Fiber Tasting

In this fun and informative three-hour class, come and enjoy a fiber tasting from locally sourced Montana wool. You'll learn breed and wool characteristics for each of five breeds (Targhee, Romney, Alpaca, Merino, and Suffolk), along with the best way to prep each fiber and what it's best suited for. We'll round out the class with test spinning each of the fibers



Spinning with a Turkish Spindle

Have you ever been intrigued by the Turkish spindle and wanted to know what the hype was all about? In this three-hour class, you'll learn the basics of spinning on a Turkish Spindle. We'll cover a little bit of spindle history, why the Turkish spindle is so appealing, spinning and winding methods, and how to ply from your "spindle created center-pull ball."

Needle Felted Sheep Ornaments



Do you love sheep and wish you could have some of your very own? Well, I can't promise a real sheep, but these Needle-Felted Sheep Ornaments are the next best thing! In this three-hour fun and interactive workshop, you will create your very own festive and decorative needle-felted sheep ornaments. Choose from white or brown local Montana wool from my own flock of sheep to make your ornaments. You will have time to complete one ornament in class and have the materials to complete an additional ornament at home, or in class if time permits.

LINDA KUBIK

Fiber – Yarn – Fabric

Quality fabric starts with quality fiber. This class focuses on natural fibers, exploring their complexity and diversity. This is an interactive hands-on class; everyone will receive a packet of various natural fibers and yarns. We will discuss spinning and how it affects the yarn and the fabric structures as well as examining many types of commercial yarns and how they relate to fabric structure and hand. Learn to recognize the perfect marriage of fiber, yarn and fabric. Fast paced class with lots of samples and handouts.

Edge and Seam Finishes

"Homemade is only good when it comes from the kitchen." Our goal is to create quality handmade items. We are going to practice seam and edge finishes unique to our handwoven fabric. Everyone will go home with their own set of reference samples and instructions to review and use. We will also cover needles, thread, interfacing and pockets as time allows.

The Quintessential Northwest Vest – Sewing with Handwoven Fabric

Everyone needs a vest or two to throw on by itself or as an extra layer. Construct the perfect lined vest with standing collar, front zipper and large hand warmer pockets. Vest is longer in back for added protection. Since all participants will be using the same pattern, suggestions for making each one unique will be given.



TRUDY MOFFETT

Beginner's Spinning



Discover the fun of spinning yarn on a wheel! Explore the age-old art that figures in fairy tales. You'll learn the fibers and tools, the purpose of combs and carders, and study the mechanics of the wheel. Skilled spinner Trudy Moffett will show you how to use a short backward draw, how to use a drafting zone, how to apply the correct tension and how to ply your singles. And she'll teach you the lingo, too!

Various spinning wheels and tools will be provided during the workshop or participants may bring their own.

LIZ MONCRIEF

CRACKLE WEAVE'S Magic and Mysteries

This class is comprised of fundamentals of the crackle structure, drafting using computer enhanced draw-downs and hands on weaving using a multitude of treadling combinations. Crackle is very gregarious and she likes to visit all the other major weave families, so you'll learn something of twills, summer & winter, overshot and lace in the



process. Each student will be given the same draft shared by all and we will weave a minimum of ten samples using different treadlings and tie-ups.

This is an excellent workshop to learn and understand components of weave structures such as tied weaves, two tie and double two tie, and to apply them to a basic crackle draft. This is meant to be a 4 shaft weaving class, however if students request, I can provide 8 shaft drafts. Drafts and instructions will be sent out to participants well ahead of time.

Painting for an Artisan Scarf

This is my longest-running and most popular one-day workshop because 'who doesn't love color!' Whether you're a subtle, natural-shades person or flamboyant and outrageous, we'll satisfy your need for creativity and expression.

This workshop is open to all fiber artists and we use Reactive Dyes, which are designed for easy application on all cellulose fibers: cotton, rayon (which includes Tencel and bamboo), all bast fibers (linen, banana, and ramie).



Participants need not be weavers, but we do focus on warp painting, though non-weavers may bring in cellulose-based yarns for other purposes. All warps or skeins must be wound and washed before the workshop and I will give instruction to all participants well before the class. It is suggested that each participant bring four to five warps or skeins as we will demonstrate and reproduce a minimum of five techniques to allow for a wide-range of fun results.

Introduction to the Marvelous World of Computerized Drafting

This program uses a major drafting program available for download onto your own system – Fiberworks PCW. This is designed to be an INTRO to computerized drafting to dazzle the new weavers and bring them onboard. Intermediate users will pick up new tricks, too.

I will send instructions out well ahead of time to download a demo version of this program, or participants can use their own if they have one. We begin with the very basics of loading and opening the program, and will work on threading, tie-up, treadling, using color, cutting/pasting, and using numerous short-cuts to make drafting a breeze.

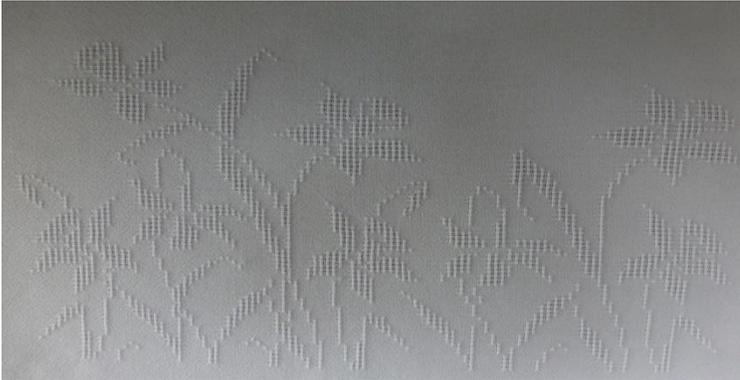
LAUREL ORTHMEYER

Dyeing on the Farm!

Spend a day playing with color!! Travel to Laurel Orthmeyer's farm, only 10 minutes from town, and hug the baby goats, pet the horses and dye some yarn/fiber. We will kick the day off with an ice dyeing project which uses fiber reactive dyes and discuss how they differ from acid dyes. Switching over to the acid dyes, we will cover kettle dyeing – both solid and variegated – dip dyeing, hand painting, solar dyeing, and crockpot dyeing.

BEV POLK

Bronson Lace Pick Up for Designing Weavers!



This is a 4-harness Bronson Lace threading in which you can pick-up and weave designs and “pictures” of lace on a plain weave background such as words, birds, flowers, vines, trees, etc. These can be done for window curtains, runners, pillowcase borders, etc., and make wonderful and special wedding gifts or additions to your own home. The designs are worked out on graph paper ahead of time. You only need basic weaving knowledge and be able to bring a loom threaded and ready to go. I will email participants well in advance for further instructions and items needed.

ANNETTE SCHIPF

Dyeing Kathryn’s Cupcakes -- With Annette’s Topping!

In this fun dye class we will explore dyeing with information on several dye types including fiber reactive dyes. During class we will dye a “cake” of yarn into a variegated, one-of-a-kind skein using a dyeing technique developed by Kathryn Weber of *Blazing Shuttles*.



How Do I??? Learning to Understand a Draft

This class is for beginners and intermediate weavers who want to understand how to read, interpret and create a weaving pattern or “draft”. Using this information you will be able to detect errors in patterns as well as design your own unique drafts. Come and be ready to increase your proficiency and confidence!

Color and Weave Effects



Be prepared to fall down the rabbit hole of Color and Weave Effects! They can be done on as few as two harnesses but yield amazing results. And it’s not just for plain weave! We will try Color and Weave Effects on twill, lace and shadow weave. Instructions for loom set up will be sent out by the instructor prior to the conference.

BONNIE TARSES

THREE WORKSHOPS IN ONE: COLOR HOROSCOPE WEAVING, WOVEN WORDS, ALMOST IKAT (ASK ABOUT NEW ADVANCED CHALLENGES IF YOU HAVE ALREADY WOVEN A COLOR HOROSCOPE)

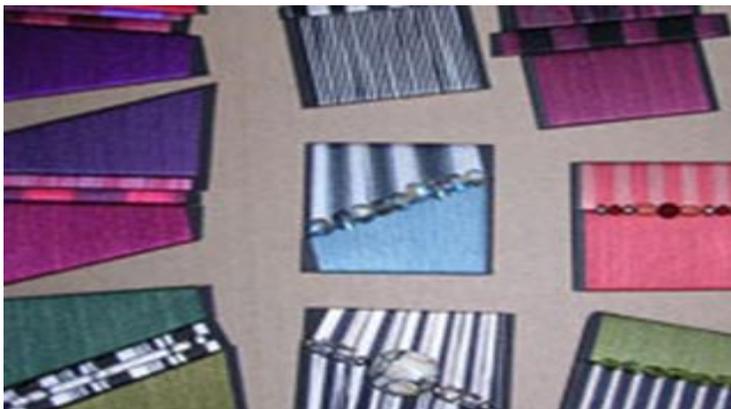


Come join in the discovery of 3 unique methods of color blending developed by Bonnie over the past 4 decades as demonstrated in a spectacular array of examples. **Students will use Color Horoscope Weaving as their primary focus, which means they will arrive at the workshop with their loom warped and ready to weave with a personal Color Horoscope.** Be advised that this workshop begins at home at least one month (hopefully 2) before the actual workshop with one on one email or zoom instruction for setting up an individual unique warp. During the workshop, students get a taste of *Woven Words* and *Almost Ikat* providing inspiration and ideas that will last for years

Spontaneous Weaving from the Heart

A hands-on day of exploring free weaving with a gifted instructor inspired by the Saori philosophy. This is a time for individuals to break free of weaving boundaries and rules, and have a jolly good time! Participants will bring a warped loom (per instructor's directions) and LOTS of small weft bits, "anything really...the wackier the better"! **"I believe it is practically impossible to weave something ugly since weaving by its very nature is beautiful!" Bonnie Tarses**

Wrapped Ikat-dyed Silk Jewelry



Many have seen and coveted Bonnie's Silk Ikat-dyed jewelry...Now you have an opportunity to learn how to make it! You will have fun with color while learning how to make perfect wrappings and "flexing" your creative muscle! Students will be using custom dyed, space-dyed and ikat dyed fine silk yarn to complete several brooches. Attention to detail, good manual dexterity, and perfectionism are all good attributes to have for this class!

Montana Fibershed Update

Hello friends,

Having weathered the disappointment of postponing our Farm-to-Fashion event, we are glad to share some good news! Montana Fibershed has had some new leaders step up. We are delighted to welcome Amanda Shine, Julie Tome, Carol Treadwell-Steitz, and Heather Johnson to our new Board of Directors, joining LaVonne Stucky, Kami Noyes, Helen Harris and Barb French. This board plans to lead us forward as we form a 501(c)3 non-profit organization pursuing our goals of supporting a local Montana textile economy and connecting fiber producers with fiber users and makers. If you haven't had the chance to explore our website, please take a moment to do so and learn more about your Montana Fibershed.

Have you been wondering how you can be involved? Please fill out a brief questionnaire [link here](#) to be added to our contacts. You will receive future missives and learn of volunteer opportunities.

Another way to be involved is to create a garment for the Farm-to-Fashion show! We are looking at a new event date in the later Fall of 2022, so our new deadline will be sometime in March. You may have wanted to participate, but ran out of time. Having a Montana wool project on your loom or needles over our long winter may be just the ticket!

Please reach out with any questions you may have. You can reach any board member through montanafibershed@gmail.com, or text or call me directly at 406-570-3142.

From all of us, happy winter and happy fibering!

Barb French

Farm-to-Fashion Show coordinator for MontanaFibershed.org

Country Bookshelf in Bozeman creates Montana Fibershed window display



Montana Suffolk wool sock yarn from Lone Pine Emporium



MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

Minutes of the Meeting of 01/23/2021

Held via Zoom on the Internet

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Schroeder at 10:00 am via Zoom. Members present included Linda Shelhamer, Annette Cade, Alanna Strong, Tammy Jordan, Heather Johnson, Dawn Ahlert, Elizabeth (Liz) Tritthart, Joan Goldstein, Jackie Boshka, and Marion Stratton. Melody Murter, DC Ahlert and Gwen Haferkamp did not participate.

MINUTES:

The minutes from the April 23, 2021, were not available for review. They will be forwarded via email for approval at the next Board meeting.

MAWS CONFERENCE UPDATE:

The tentative schedule for 2022 MAWS conference was presented by Annette to the Board. It is not ready to release to the public. All instructors have signed contracts and are guaranteed. It is similar to the 2020 conference except that the post-conference classes are changed to pre-conference classes. The theme for the 2022 conference is "Visions in Fiber."

The final price has not been set yet. Annette noted that Carroll College has increased their prices 3%.

Registration will open on Valentine's Day.

Lodging reservations need to be submitted to Carroll College by May 15. Rooms in the same dorm used for the Daryl Lancaster program have private sleeping rooms with a shared living area. Attendees can also stay in the shared dorm, 2 to a room with the bath down the hall, for half the price. There is no elevator in this dorm, so Annette requested rooms on the first floor. It will be a longer walk for attendees in the shared rooms. Dorm packages and food packages can be purchased separately. All meals will be in the cafeteria.

People from the Helena area can stay at home and still purchase a food package.

Conference registration includes workshops, brunch, the fashion show, and evening events.

Linda asked about the goodie bags as each guild has sent donations for them in the past. Annette responded that the planning committee is asking for all Guilds to donate items for the goodie bags. The goal is to have 125 bags. It is not an option for Guilds to donate money in lieu of the goodie bag items.

Each guild will have the opportunity to have an 8' table for a guild booth display, though nothing can be hung on the walls. It would be helpful to confirm the officers of each Guild, as it has been difficult in the past to know who to contact.

In the past we have had a Board of Directors meeting during the conference, usually a breakfast or lunch. The membership meeting during the conference is Sunday at 10 am. Dawn requested that we do need to meet, even if it is 15-20 minutes.

There was a question about including the Montana Fibershed in Fashion Show. Barb declined, stating they are looking for a date in April for their event.

Linda reminded us that the new Board of Directors will need to stay after the election.

Annette informed the Board that there were 6 scholarship recipients in 2020. The scholarships were \$150 each. Linda suggested increasing the number since we still have money in the memorial fund. We have a number of new young spinners in the Prairie Handspinners Guild that we would love to come to the conference. The total amount possible for the scholarships is \$1200.

Marcy Foran from Lewistown passed away in October and there may be additional memorial donations.

Sylvia reminded the Board that the scholarship application needs to be updated. The application is on the MAWS website. Dawn, Lisa, and Jackie volunteered to be on the Scholarship Committee. Tammy suggested we ask Gwen if she would like to be on this committee, as she has been previously. Dawn also wondered what the criteria is for rewarding the scholarships.

Linda shared that the criteria are:

- the ability for the recipients to share the information with their guilds
- financial need although no details are required.

Tammy said she received a MAWS scholarship by meeting the criteria for need and ability to share previously. Sharon summarized that the new Scholarship Committee will contact the past recipients regarding the scholarships. Annette suggested we contact the recipients when the registration begins. Linda will compile a list and send to the committee.

Linda requested we announce the 2022 conference and scholarships in the next (Fall) newsletter as it comes out November 15th. The conference schedule will be released in the spring newsletter, out February 14 and typically fills it up. Marian reminded us that many working members need to request vacation as early as possible.

A motion was made by Tammy that the number of scholarships be increased from 6 to 9, Heather seconded the motion. Approved unanimously by a hand vote.

Annette asked for all input on how to make the conference run smoothly. She gave Kudos to Lisa Brown for the new registration program, stating it is so much easier.

Annette noted that the website is due to be updated after November 1. The 2022 conference schedule needs to be added as soon as possible.

LIVING TREASURES:

Four awards have already been approved, though the recipient in Missoula has not been contacted yet.

Sharon was wondering how these recipients are rewarded...a gift with a limit of \$100? Linda will confirm this.

This expenditure comes out of MAWS funds, not the conference funds.

Annette suggested that the conference planning committee consider asking the Living Treasure recipients to write up an article on why they love spinning, weaving, etc., and present it in person (or have someone present it for them if they wish.)

Annette wondered if we are going to have more than 4 since we skipped the last conference in 2020. Sharon reminded us that the Board had voted on the Living Treasures 2 years ago and we need to honor those selected then.

Alanna reminded us that the names are a secret until the conference, although the recipients are notified earlier so they can bring a family member and dress up more.

Sharon asked who is on this committee. Linda and Marian volunteered to be on the Living Treasures committee. Sharon suggested Melody, who has been active on this committee in the past, may want to be on the committee. Linda reminded us that the chair is in charge of the gift, informing the recipients, coordinating the event with the Waltz down Memory Lane and the time frame. Marian suggested that it include a picture of the current Living Treasures, and one with all the Living Treasures in attendance.

All Living Treasures will be honored Friday night at the conference.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Linda reported that for the last 12 months, we broke even. Dues received were \$2100, less than the \$2600 in the year prior. No dues have been received so far this year. The Morgan Stanley checking/CD accounts are about \$20,000. PayPal

has been very successful. Last year \$800 was donated to the Memorial fund, due in part to Joyce Fletcher's family's donation to MAWS for the sale of her equipment/fiber.

Annette wondered about 3-5% discount from Carroll College since we are a 501 3C organization. Sharon and Sylvia clarified with Linda that it is a MAWS conference and is brought to you by the Helena Guild.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Annette and seconded by Marian. The motion was carried unanimously.

CLEMES AND CLEMES BLENDING CLASS:

Linda attended a ZOOM class on how to use a blending board, by Clemes and Clemes, and was quite impressed. She suggested MAWS sponsor a class. A 90-minute class is \$75, and she thought a 2-hour class was \$200-300. If we charged \$5-10 each, and 20 people (the maximum number) took the class, it would gross \$100-200. We could advertise on the website and on Facebook and do the registration through MAWS.

Linda thought this might a good way for MAWS to experiment offering classes virtually. She thought offering it on a Saturday morning would have a better attendance than if it were offered on a weekday.

Joan brought up the timing of the event conflicts with MAWS, as bylaws state there can only be offerings during the non-conference years. Scheduling the class next fall after the conference was suggested, but that is when Clemes and Clemes are busy with vending at many fiber conferences. Linda questioned whether we should modify the Policy Handbook to allow virtual classes in the conference year if the topics do not conflict with the biannual conference. She stated that if we learned anything in the last 2 years, you cannot get people to teach because of unexpected things like Covid. Sharon stated we can review the Policy Handbook looking forward.

Sharon suggested that Prairie Handspinners Guild sponsor the event, including all the expenses.

Tammy offered that they could partner with another guild.

Linda and Dawn reminded us that last year MAWS' leadership was interested in more virtual offerings. Annette suggested we add a "Cabin Fever Series" in Jan., Feb., and Mar. of 2023, on the second Saturdays of the month.

Linda noted that there could be 3 Cabin Fever events in 2022, with one spinning and one weaving (She will work with Annette to be sure the subject doesn't conflict with any conference offerings.) Barb suggested that the Cabin Fever events will build enthusiasm and excitement, as did the Daryl Lancaster presentation for the upcoming conference.

A motion was made by Dawn and seconded by Tammy to consider more virtual offerings. Alanna and Joan offered to review the Policy Handbook. The motion was carried.

Marian suggested we generate projects for conferences and state fairs.

Sharon left the meeting to attend her son's wedding and we all thank her for facilitating this meeting from Minneapolis.

ANWG UPDATE:

Dawn reported that there are 5 \$600 grants to be used during the 2022-2023. The deadline for applications is November 1, 2021. The ANWG conference will be held in 2023 in Bend, Oregon.

The HGA conference is July 15-22 in Knoxville, TN. Hotel vacancies sold out in a few hours. They are trying to line up more hotel accommodations.

TEACHER DATABASE:

Does it need updating? Yes. Linda has resigned from handling the database. It involves contacting the various instructors (from Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming) about what they teach and their contact information and recording it as Excel spreadsheet. There are no criteria for the instructors to be added to the list, includes members and non-members of MAWS. Tammy volunteered to take

this project over and will work with Liz to get it added to the website. It is posted on the website.

Tammy requests MAWS members send instructor information for the database to her.

Linda suggested we put something in the newsletter asking MAWS members to send in information about interested instructors. Sylvia requested to be added to the instructor list.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Dawn reminded that we need to follow up with the current Board members to see if they desire to stay on the Board. If not, the committee needs to find replacements. In the past Linda has tried to find Board volunteers from different parts of Montana, not necessarily from specific guilds. Some meetings can now be both in person and on Zoom so all can participate and not have to travel long hours to attend. Some meetings will have to be in person. Heather and Alanna were nominated for the committee.

A motion was made by Tammy to have in person meetings when we can and to offer Zoom also. Alanna seconded the motion, and it was approved with a hand vote. Dawn offered to double check the Policy Handbook to be sure this is ok.

WEBSITE UPDATE:

Liz is concerned about the website not having enough content or pictures. Classified ads are free on Facebook and many ads are placed there. Somehow, we need to tie them together better. Guilds need to encourage the members to put ads in the MAWS newsletter. Tammy offered to put "How to..." instructions in the newsletter.

There has been little submitted for Show and Tell, recently. Annette suggested that each Guild have an assigned reporter. Alanna said information flows better if there is an assigned person. The information just has to be sent to Tammy. According to Liz, the framework for the website is lovely, and she would just like to fill it up.

Liz and Tammy both would like upcoming events to be forwarded to them so they can encourage attendance. Each Guild should have a coordinator to be responsible for this.

Liz suggested that we add some "Tips & Tricks" about how to use our website to increase the interest in education. Tammy asks that all Guilds submit suggestions.

Liz asked if we wanted to help HGA with their "Tea Chats" on Tuesdays. Jackie mentioned sponsoring a Montana artist for it, since artists are sponsored by local Guilds. Liz will follow up.

Dawn mentioned that in general people are relying on the Newsletter more than the website. How do we encourage people to check out the website?

- Linda asked if we could authorize Liz to sponsor one HGA "Teatime" on the website, after we verify the cost. Members could sign up by email.
- Cabin Fever series via Zoom in January and February. This will not conflict with the upcoming conference. One volunteer from the committee is needed to help find the second one. Alanna suggested Nancy Kaumeyer from her guild.
- Linda requested Board members email her with any other ideas.

Concern for Zoom limitations was voiced and Tammy reaffirmed the MAWS Boards use of her Professional Zoom license which allows up to 100 participants without time limit.

Liz shared that the Museum held a Zoom session and people participated like they were in a Webinar. 120 people subscribed and paid a fee. Normally only 20-30 people participate. They were presenting papers, so it involved a little talk, lesson plan and some slides.

Going forward, after the Cabin Fever series and the MAWS conference, Linda would like to see broader topics covered. Liz hopes that this increases educational opportunities and unifies the Guilds. Liz hinted she has lots of ideas for the website to build our community of fiber artists

MONTANA FIBERSHED:

Linda and Liz wondered about a presentation for the MAWS April newsletter to highlight Montana Fibershed. Folks have lots of questions like "What are the criteria for the event?" To answer that question, Barb shared that they are flexible this year. It would be good to paint a picture of where we are in Montana currently and what limited resources we have. Montana fiber is not easy to get... The Fibershed just formed a new Board of Directors, which Heather has joined. The Board would like to have a presentation done, maybe by February.

Liz said she would love to put the article on the website. She has obtained 100% CVM fingering wool that was processed in Cardwell. She is using it to do a sample project. It takes one year to get fiber with specific criteria processed at the Cardwell mill. In this case, yarn used for warp needs to have more twist. The cost is a concern also at \$35 per shank. Weavers are always concerned about the cost of their supplies. (One other options is what Susan Jomar is doing...she has a new wheel and is adding twist to yarn to make it useable for warp.)

Linda suggested a display area for projects during the Fibershed Fashion Show. Barb says they have a category for accessories.

Sylvia suggested a free virtual event (45 min) inviting LaVonne to introduce Montana Fibershed to our members. Also encourage them to donate to Montana Fibershed.

Linda suggested that if someone wanted to donate some yarn, she would donate a pattern for a shawl or 2 hats. Someone could teach it on Zoom.

NEWSLETTER UPDATE:

Final draft is due Friday, November 5th.

NEXT MEETING:

April 23, 2022 at 1pm at Carroll College. There will be a virtual component for those unable to attend.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Johnson,
Secretary

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

January 25, 2021

**(Next Newsletter to go out February 10th with
information for MAWS 2022 Conference
Registration)**

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

Email: goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

Treasurer's Reports

MAWS Account Balances as of 10/25/2021

Bank Accounts	
Morgan Stanley	\$20,536.00
PayPal	\$106
S1 Savings	\$0
S90 Checking	\$0
Asset Accounts	
Loan to Conference	\$0
Liability Accounts	
Deferred Revenue (Memorial Gifts)	-\$499
Overall total:	\$20,143.00

Income/Expense Comparison by Category

	Year Ended 10/25/2020	Year Ended 10/25/2021
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donation	\$15	\$3
Dues	\$2980	\$1820
Memorial Gifts	\$0	\$200
Misc. Income	\$20	\$20
SB Dividend	\$259	\$85
TOTAL INCOME	\$3274	\$2128
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
ANWG DUES	\$35	\$35
Gifts Given	\$0	\$100
Grants Guild	\$0	\$200
Misc. Expenses	\$65	\$20
Newsletter Expense: Postage	\$35	\$29
Newsletter Expense: Printing	\$388	\$294
Stipend: Newsletter Editor	\$700	\$700
Stipend: Treasurer	\$0	\$250
Unrealized Gain / Loss	\$7	\$73
Stipend: Web	\$500	\$200
Website / Web Hosting	\$386	\$304
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2115	\$2113
OVERALL	\$1158	\$15

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>



Billings Guild Happenings

*The Prairie Handspinners Guild
Show & Tell*



Billings Guild Happenings



The Prairie Handspinners Guild was invited to participate in the Yellowstone Art Museum's First Friday Event in November. Below are some photographs of member's booth displays...



Helena Weaver & Spinners Millie's Basket Making Class

Thirteen HWSG ladies met for a twined double-walled basket class on Saturday, October 16, 2021. In 1981 Milly Dover's weaving class was given the challenge to observe a small basket at the Denver Art Museum and then create one using available materials. They saw a small basket that was mostly whole except for a 2" x 3" piece missing from the very top. The docent let the group look at it up close and then told them that it was carbon-dated to be 4000 to 4200 years old and had been found in the servants' area of a tomb. It was woven from papyrus cord (the spokes and outside wall) and linen cord that was the twining (similar to 8/6 linen). The original Denver group decided that they could substitute Danish Twine for the papyrus cord. The linen was easy to copy. The docent told us that this basket technique was commonly used in Egypt at that time and is still used today for pieces as large as a small one-person boat to small ones used to hold pins, needles, and personal items. She also mentioned that this basket technique was probably used to weave the basket that sent baby Moses down the Nile.

Helena weavers built a jig to aid with constructing the 16 spoke base and learned that this jig can then be used when weaving any round reed basket. This is not a simple weaving technique but the basket is extremely durable and those that Milly showed, although 40 years old, showed no signs of wear.



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.

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

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 Elizabeth Tritthart. Items will be posted for 60 days. Also, please let Liz 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

Upcoming Events

Cabin Fever Series

Saturday 2/26/2021

Virtual class via Zoom: Blending Board taught by Roy Clemes. To sign up, please RSVP to Linda Shelhamer at: shara@bresnan.net

MAWS Board Meeting

April 23, 2022 at 1pm at Carroll College. There will be a virtual component for those unable to attend.

Visions in Fiber – MAWS 2022 Conference

June 21-26, 2022. Carroll College, Helena, MT

More information coming soon! Please visit the website at: <https://helenaweaversandspinnners.org/>

Copper K Fiber Festival

July 16-17, 2022. 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 6-7, 2022. 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/>

Montana Fibershed Day at the Emerson

Fall 2022 (Dates TBD)

An all-day event sponsored by Montana Fibershed at the Emerson Center for the Arts and Culture in downtown Bozeman, including a MT Fibershed Marketplace, from 9am in the Ballroom; Panel Discussion with Q&A, 2:30pm in the Auditorium; and the Farm-to-Fashion Show, 4:00pm in the Auditorium. For more information, please visit our website: montanafibershed.org