



MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

April, 2015



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This newsletter will display correctly on ipads, computers, phones, laptops or in print. If you have any trouble, don't hesitate to send me an email. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this issue. I welcome submissions, corrections and feedback. Have a great spring everyone!
- Tracey Delaney, Newsletter Editor

Send in your stories and photos!

As always, it is your user-submitted content that helps make this newsletter great. Please email any photos or articles you have that relate to your guild, fiber, fiber animals or anything MAWS related to traceyhensen@gmail.com or be sure to tag me (Tracey Delaney) in your fibery Facebook posts!

**What's New at MAWS?
Check out the MAWS website for info and member-submitted photos!**

Visit www.mawsonline.org

Classified Ads

**FOR
SALE!**

For Sale: I have a Hearthside 40" Loom for sale for \$400.00 obo. It has an 8 dent reed, 6 heddle, 6 treadle, sectional warping beam with counter
Diana Blair
406-756-6772



Wanted: We are looking to build a relationship with a person or persons to hand spin our clean alpaca fiber and/ or roving into variegated yarn.

I would send you a set amount of raw fiber to be carded and spun or roving and you keep a portion of the amount in exchange for spinning the balance of the fleece into yarn and sending it back to us. Amounts can vary depending on how much you would like to spin / receive. Spinners can be local, throughout the state, or nation.

For raw fiber - unwashed, little VM, I am offering 50-50 split, we each pay for shipping each way.

I have some roving ready to go - I would offer 30% to you / 70% returned because it has been washed and carded and I have more money into it. We each pay for shipping each way.

If you or someone you know is interested in discussing this further, please feel free to contact me.

James and Sarah Budd - Alpacas of Montana, Inc.
8255 Cottonwood Road
Bozeman, MT 59718
(406) 579-4055
alpacasofmontana@hotmail.com

**Classified ads are free to MAWS members.
Send your ads to traceyhensen@gmail.com by
July 1st for inclusion in the next newsletter.**

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A New Book on Pick-up Weaving

By Heather Torgenrud

I'm excited to tell MAWS members about my recently-published book, *Norwegian Pick-up Bandweaving*, Schiffer Publishing, 2014.

For those who don't know me, I'm a member of the Missoula Weavers' Guild. I began teaching pick-up weaving at Joseph's Coat in Missoula in the mid-1970s and I'm passionate about the craft.

I hope that other weavers will enjoy the unique mix of history and how-to instructions in this book, and will find much to inspire them.

It's available from booksellers or can be ordered from the publisher at schifferbooks.com.

Description from book cover

The book's cover describes it in a nutshell:

"For the first time in English, a complete book about Norwegian pick-up bandweaving—from its fascinating history to beautiful bands you can make yourself, with more than 100 pattern charts from bands in museum collections. **Part 1** tells the story of how these bands were used in the rural communities of 18th and 19th century Norway, as stocking bands, swaddling bands, sending bands, and more. **Part 2** looks closely at twenty bands brought to America by Norwegian immigrants, and what they tell us about traditional patterns, colors, and materials. **Part 3** has clear and concise

instructions for weaving pick-up on simple, traditional band heddles, and these instructions can also be adapted to other kinds of looms. Meticulously researched, easy-to-read, and profusely illustrated, this book is destined to become a classic in the field. It will interest not only weavers but anyone who appreciates textile arts, folk costumes, and Norwegian culture."

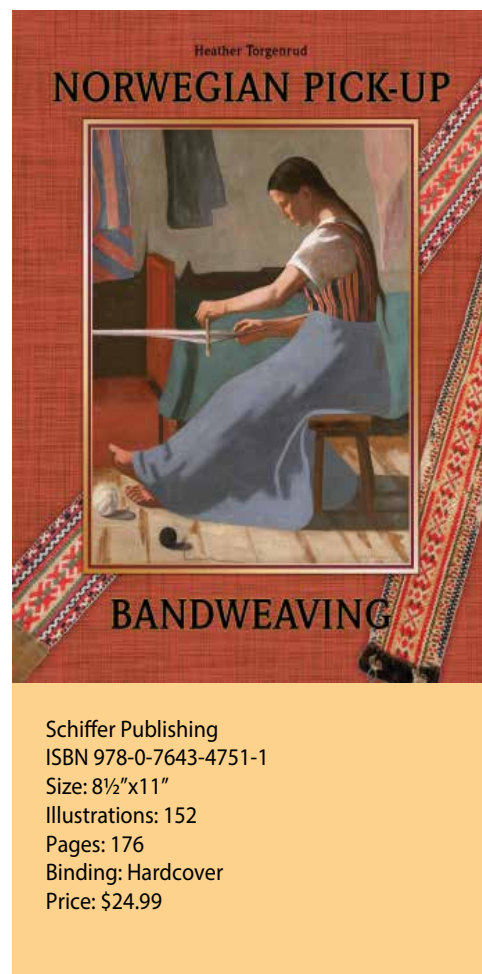
Norwegian Textile Letter

You can read more about the book in my article, *A New Book on Pick-up Bandweaving and Two Hallingdal-Style Bands*, published in the Norwegian Textile Letter, available online at norwegiantextileletter.com.

In the article, I not only talk about the book, I describe how pick-up bands were traditionally used, as hair ribbons and trim for wool skirts, in the Hallingdal valley in Buskerud, Norway. I wove two bands to illustrate the article, modeled after bands from Hallingdal in museum collections, and give warp drafts and pattern charts for those in the article.

Website

I've started a website as a companion to the book, where I'll post patterns, projects, and tips from time to time. It's in the early stages now, but you can read more at norwegianpickupbandweaving.com.



Visit www.mawsonline.org

Send in your stories and photos!

As always, it is your user-submitted content that helps makes this newsletter great. Please email any photos or articles you have that relate to your guild, fiber, fiber animals or anything MAWS related to traceyhensen@gmail.com or be sure to tag me (Tracey Delaney) in your fibery Facebook posts!

Big Sky
Fiber Arts Festival
June 12th, 13th, & 14th, 2015

**Ravalli County Fairgrounds
Hamilton, MT 59840**



Workshops

Felt Pillow
Spirit Dolls
Bobbin Lace
Color Theory
Perfect Plying
Shibori Dyeing
Large Felt Bag
Splendid Singles
Thrumbs to Yum!
Entrelac Seminar
Designer Buttons
Beginning Spinning
Pine Needle Basket
Embellishment Plus
Silk Beaded Bracelet
How to Warp a Loom
Spinning Down Under
Pick-up on Pattern Heddle
Spinning Cotton on a Charka
Beaded Yarn One More Way
Norwegian Parband Pick-up on Band Heddle

Admission: \$5 per day or \$10 for the whole festival!
And it includes admission to Montana Mule Days!

The Best Fiber Vendors in the West!

Great Fiber Workshops by the Top Regional Artists and Producers!

Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Locker Hooking, Felting, and more!

Judged Fleece Show and Sale!

Judged Sheep and Goat Shows!

ATTENTION!

Mark these dates: May 14-16, 2015

Flathead Lake Camp Work and Play Retreat

To help defray costs for all attendees to the MAWS 2016 Conference, Fibers on the Flathead, the Flathead Lake Camp has offered us an opportunity to save a substantial amount of money on the rental of the facility. MAWS members, their spouses and friends are invited to join us at the camp for up to three days, May 14-16, 2015. Ten to 12 people per day doing spring cleaning and other maintenance tasks would reduce the rent by \$1000. Volunteers are asked to sign up in advance and to provide a list of skills, such as carpentry, chain saw, painting and grounds work.

Volunteers are welcome to stay in the cabins at the camp at no charge, bringing their own bed linens and towels. Sleeping is bunkroom-style with single mattresses. All cabins have kitchens, so meals will be potluck. Some RV sites are also available with electrical hookups but not water or septic. The camp has a dock and beach front for kayaking or canoeing after work hours, as well as comfortable living areas for spinning, weaving, knitting or just socializing. Go to www.flatheadcamp.org to check it out.

Please consider joining us for a fun weekend that will benefit everyone by keeping costs low for the Conference. We need your help!

If you can join us for all or part of May 14-16, 2015, please contact Joan Goldstein at hjgolds@hotmail.com or 406-837-3599 by May 1 so she has time to organize the potluck meals. If you have specific items you want to bring, let her know. Also which nights you plan on staying at the camp (May 13, 14, 15, 16.)

We will be honoring the following rules of the camp:

NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS ARE ALLOWED AT THE CAMP

This includes medical marijuana.

NO PETS, EXCEPT FOR SERVICE ANIMALS, ARE ALLOWED ON THE CAMP GROUNDS.

NO SMOKING IN OR NEAR CAMP BUILDINGS

The designated smoking area is in the parking lot, in a personal vehicle.

Do not put cigarette butts on the ground.

FLUMC IS A WEAPONS-BULLYING-HARASSEMENT FREE ZONE.

CAMPERS CLEAN THE CABINS IN WHICH THEY STAY.



Save the dates June 24-26. 2016

Pre-conference June 22nd and 23rd, 2016

***at the Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp www.flatheadcamp.org
between Kalispell and Polson,
Montana on the west shore of Flathead Lake***

***Circular Sock Machine, Dyeing,
Wet-felting, Knitting, Basketmaking and more***

Planning for the conference is continuing as a team reviews proposals from Montana instructors and selects classes for the guest instructors Robyn Spady, Sarah Anderson and Robyn Spady. Joan Goldstein, hjgolds@hotmail.com or 406-837-3599, is still looking for volunteers for the work retreat May 14-16 this year (see article on page 5.)

It is time to start discussing guild booths. The logo above presents the conference colors of blue, green and yellow. The theme of Fibers on the Flathead embraces the lake, the wooded lakeshore, the Flathead River valley with the Mission and Swan Mountain Ranges as a backdrop, and the Flathead Indian Reservation just a few miles south of the camp. The booths will most likely be set up along the perimeter of the dining hall. Tables could be provided if requested ahead of time. Look for guild booth registration when registration opens on Jan 15, 2016, mawsonline.org/conference.

Scenes from the last SPIN-IN of the year at Sugarloaf Wool Mill



Before and after roving rug felted by Ed James at Sugarloaf Wool Carding Mill

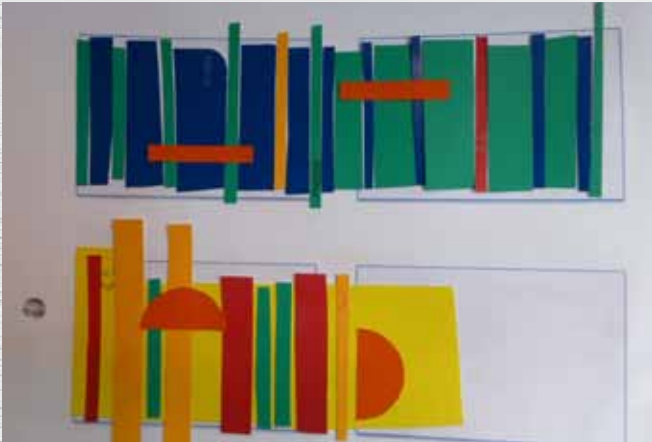


Last Spin-In of the Season at the mill. Thanks for the terrific meal and great conversation.

Photos by Edie Schilz



Robyn Spady's Taming of the Hue Workshop



Photos by Beverly Jane Polk: We ALL had a great time in Helena this past weekend with Robyn Spady's color workshop: "Taming the Hue"! Thanks to Robyn, the Helena Weaver's Guild and all in attendance!

Photos by Jannine Turner: Just wanted to share a few pics from Robyn Spady's class, the "Taming of the Hue". I cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the class, meeting Robyn, and enjoying the company and conversations with other artists!!!



Photos courtesy of Susan Lohmuller: More FUN in Helena with MAWS color wisdom seekers and their guru, Robyn Spady. Robyn is posed here displaying the infamous, digital, mini-microscope, the envy of Montana weavers (evidenced by a shopping frenzy on Amazon that originated in Montana!)



Happy MAWS board members, Susan, Kathy and Bev.

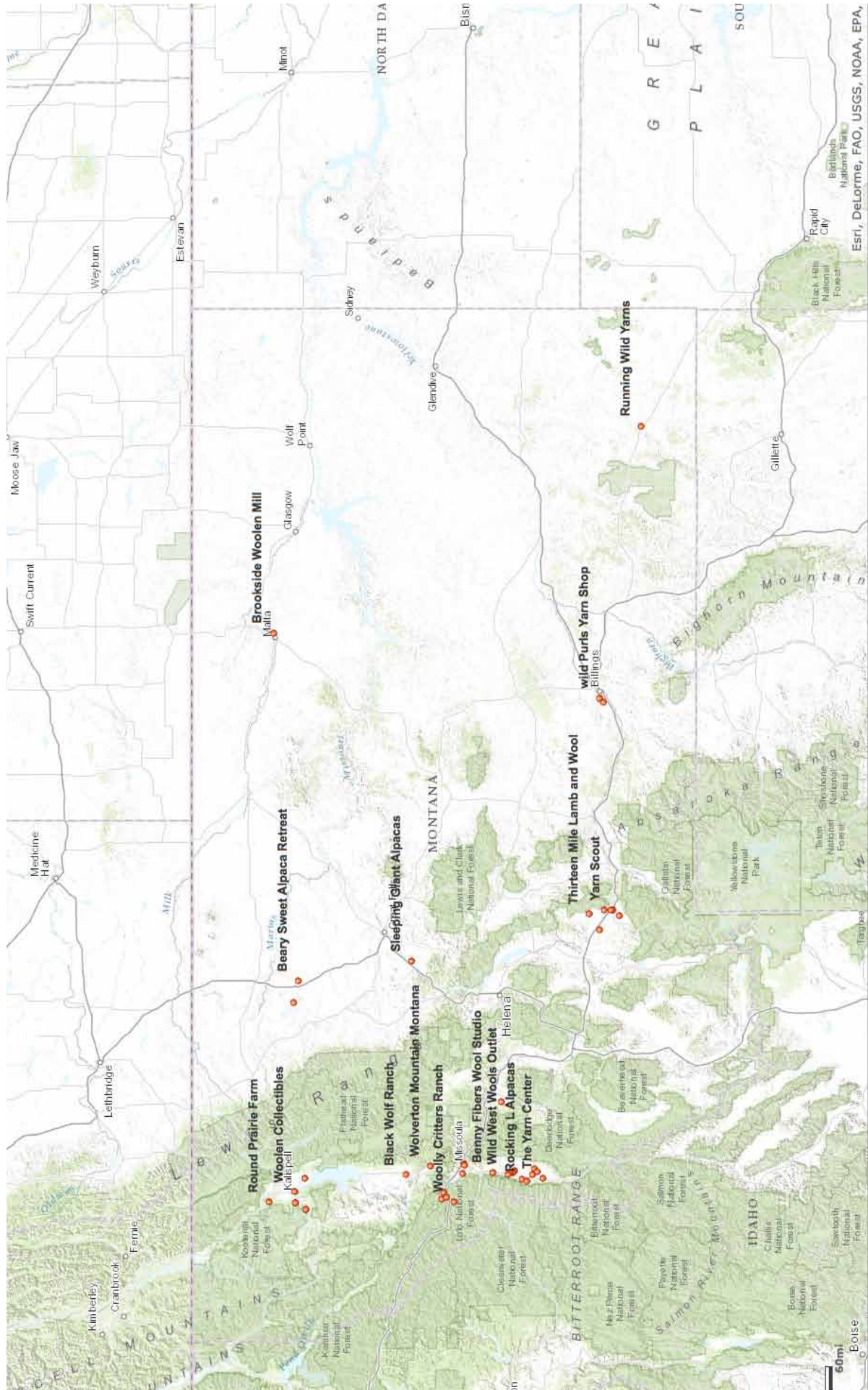
Judie with her big smile and happy colors...and missing the top of her head!



Robyn Spady and the digital microscope!



Updated Fiber Resources Map for Montana





Fiber in the Forest

May 15-17, 2015
Register Now!

Enjoy three days of weaving, dyeing, spinning, encaustic—and fun! Choose from a comprehensive workshop menu.

Fiber in the Forest is held at Camp Myrtlewood, a scenic rustic retreat located in the Coast Range off Highway 42, 40 miles west of I-5. Three-day workshops are taught by enthusiastic fiber teachers—with plenty of free time for hiking, talking, and enjoying the spring!

Price includes room and board. Meals from Thursday night through Sunday Lunch. Housing is in dorm cabins Thursday night through Saturday night. You may bring trailers or tent camp the price is the same.

Materials fees will be paid directly to instructors. Color Camp with Janis Thompson; The Painted Skein with Janel Laidman; Encaustic for Quilters and Weavers with Lorriane Glessner; and Beginning Weaving with Suzie Liles. Escape reality for three wonderful days exploring new techniques, making new friends, and rejuvenating your spirit and creativity. Enjoy wonderful food and no dishes to wash!

For more info and to register go to: http://www.eugenetextilecenter.com/home/etc/smartlist_136/fiber_in_the_forest.html

Upcoming Events

May 14-16, 2015 - Flathead Lake Camp Work and Play Retreat to help reduce cost of next MAWS Conference. Email hjgolds@hotmail.com for more information.

May 15-17, 2015 - Fiber in the Forest

May 15-17, 2015 - Snake River Fiber Fest at Eastern Idaho Technical College. Email srfiberartists@yahoo.com.

May 28-31, 2015 - NwRSA Conference in Tacoma Washington.

May 30, 2015 - Rocking L Alpacas open house in Victor, MT. There will be demonstrations working with alpaca in needle felting, knitting, dying, carding and weaving. The shop will be open and there will be food. Shearing and skirting demonstrations be featured. Everyone invited! Call 642-3985 or 381-6861.

June 12 - 14, 2015 - Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival

June 27, 2015 - Natural Fibers - Simply fun workshop day. Learn about natural dying with Kelly Knispel at Sage Ridge Ranch in Clearmont, Wyoming. Email sageridge@rangeweb.net or call 307-758-4616.

August 11-16, 2015 - Western Montana Fair, Missoula

August 12-14, 2015 - Jackson Hole Knits even in Jackson Hole Wyoming. There are 4 national teachers teaching, including our own Linda Shelhamer. Visit <http://jacksonholeknits.com/>.

September 2-5, 2015 - Ravalli County Fair, Hamilton

October 16- 18 - Camp Marshall

June 23-26 - 2016 - MAWS 2016! - Fibers on the Flathead will be hosted by the Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild. The conference location is the newly renovated Flathead Lake United Methodist Camp at Rollins on the west shore of Flathead Lake. The website for the venue is <http://www.flatheadcamp.org/>.

June 26-July 2, 2017 - The Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild is joining with ANWG to host the 2017 ANWG Conference at the University of Victoria.



News from our Guilds

From the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild:

From the Desktop of the Roving Reporter Jannine Turner for the Helena Weavers and Spinner Guild:

Just a few pic's from the excellent class with had with Millie Dover on Shadow Weave.



Just a few of our weavers getting warps and looms ready at Roc Day for Millie's Shadow Weave class!!



Look at what we created and accomplished with our spinning guru Jane Fournier!





Again this is the Roving Reporter from the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild, These are just a few pic's from Roc Day 2015



These are just a few pics of our holiday party 2014!!

HOW TO MAKE FELTED DRYER BALLS

Contributed by Shelley Hunter



Dryer balls help to cut down on the time your clothes have to spend in the dryer. They help to separate the clothes and eliminate the static. If you do not want to buy them or you want a more natural option, it is simple to make your own. All you need is some wool yarn, or roving, and a pair of panty hose. The wool will mat together in the wash and the fibers will grab themselves, forming a dense, thick felt. The dryer balls are easy to make and will felt more with continuous use.

Things You'll need

- Wool roving (thick, wool fibers)
- Wool yarn
- Scraps of acrylic yarn
- Scissors
- Panty hose

Wool Roving Dryer Ball

Split the length of wool roving into a few thinner strands.

Wrap one strand of roving tightly around your fingers to begin making a ball.

Remove the wool from your fingers and start wrapping around the bundle to continue the ball. Continue wrapping the roving until the core of the ball is the desired size. Do not let go of the ball yet.

Wind the wool yarn around the roving ball to secure the ball. Pull the end of yarn under a few strands of yarn and tie off the end tightly.

Wool Yarn Dryer Ball

Wrap the wool yarn around your fingers about 10 times to create the center of the ball.

Remove the loop from your fingers and continue wrapping the yarn to make a very tight yarn ball.

Wrap the yarn until the core of the ball is big as you desire. Thread the end of the yarn into the eye of the tapestry needle, push under multiple strands and tie off to secure the yarn. Clip the yarn to finish.

Felting the Wool

Insert either the wool roving or wool yarn ball into the

panty hose. Cut off the pantyhose about 2 inches beyond the ball. Twist the end of the pantyhose tightly and tie it with a piece of acrylic yarn to secure the pantyhose. You must use acrylic or some other synthetic yarn because this is not supposed to felt.

Place the ball into the washer and dryer. The hotter the water and the hotter the dryer temperature, the faster the wool will felt. If you wash the yarn ball with a regular load of laundry, it will also felt but the process may take longer.

Remove the pantyhose and wrap additional roving or yarn to the core of the ball until it becomes the size you desire. It's helpful to make them slightly bigger than you desire because they shrink slightly when felted.

Place the ball back in the pantyhose using the same process and wash and dry it again. Remove the pantyhose.

Add more wool if you want to make the ball larger. If the ball is large enough, it is ready to use.

Making dryer balls are an ideal way to use up wool yarn scraps.

Use 100% wool or the fibers will not felt.

From the Bozeman Weavers Guild:

Submitted by Barb French

The Bozeman Weavers Guild greeted the New Year at our January meeting hosted in high style by long-time member, Karin Utzinger, in her home. Karin gave a program featuring slides from her recent travels in Belgium and France, and shared her passion for the gorgeous art of Belgian lace as well as her knowledge of Flemish tapestries. Many thanks to Karin for a wonderful program! Afterwards, Karin served soup and scones and many members settled in for an old-fashioned sewing bee, working on a cross stitch tablecloth that Karin had requested help finishing. A good time was had by all, and we'll plan more such bees in the future. Meanwhile, if anyone would like to continue the cross-stitch project, please give Karin a call!



Send your guild news or newsletters to traceyhensen@gmail.com for inclusion in the next newsletter!



Show and share from the March meeting. First photo: Anita's log cabin runner, second photo: a mixed-warp throw by Karin, third photo: Tam shows her eight-harness twill gamps



AMAZING!

From the Missoula Weavers Guild: Submitted by Heather Torgенrud

Karla Long was at her mentor-ly best, demonstrating spinning and helping Posey Nickens' friend Thresa learn to spin. Karla also brought a selection from her extensive collection of drop spindles. I think spinners wear the neatest socks and insisted Karla hold up her feet so I could take a picture.



Photos: Heather Torgенrud

Leslie Taylor brought this interesting piece for Show & Tell. It was a gift from Patty Connolly, who wove it on the inkle loom. After weaving the piece for the pincushion at the bottom, Patty started weaving with two separate wefts, so the piece was divided into two strips to go around the neck. She finished it by braiding the ends and then attached a pair of small scissors on a retractable cord. Neat idea!



Photos: Heather Torgенrud

Joan Contraman wove a little tapestry bag on one of the looms she sells in kit form. Several other people had gotten these looms from Joan in the past and also brought them to work on around the table.



Photos: Heather Torgенrud



Shelley Peters brought a stitchery project on Saturday, and she had all her tools and supplies neatly packed in a canvas tool box with pockets—the kind you can buy at the hardware store. It looked like a great system.



Linda Johnson brought a huge bag of inkle pick-up and card-woven bands for Show & Tell. Ever ready for a new challenge, she worked on setting up her inkle loom according to Anne Dixon's instructions for weaving a krokbragd variation on the inkle loom.

Colors of the Camino—the Journey

The Camino de Santiago is a network of ancient pilgrimage routes that lead to the tomb of St. James in Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain. Today, the ancient routes are walked by many people for reasons ranging from spiritual to fitness.

Beginning in early September, 2013, Vanetta Burton and her husband walked one of these routes, the Route of Napoleon, a distance of 500 miles, to arrive in Santiago de Compostela 42 days later.

At the February meeting Vanetta shared with us a fascinating slide show of their journey. Early on she took a picture of a bright red flower that she spotted and it gave her the idea for Colors of the Camino—a plan to photograph the colors she saw along the way and later use them to inspire her weaving. Here are two of the photos she took.

See next page for what she wove when she got home.



Photos: Vanetta Burton

From the Missoula Weavers Guild:
Submitted by Heather Torgunrud

Colors of the Camino—the Rugs



Photo: Jan Curry

When she got home from her trek along the Camino de Santiago (see previous page), Vanetta's goal was to weave a good rug—one that would be thick and sturdy, lay flat on the floor and last a long time. She started by dyeing some of the yarn she'd previously hand-spun with wool that she'd gotten from Joan Contraman and Sondra Gibson, and she used Clothilde Barrett's book, *Boundweave*, to choose a weave structure. She also bought a used countermarche loom from Jan Curry, and she got Tom Knisely's video, *Weave a Good Rug*.

When she took the two rugs she wove to Barbara Hand's house, to learn how to block them, Barbara declared that they were so well-woven that they didn't need blocking. For those who don't know, Barbara handweaves huge wool rugs professionally and has for many years, so this was a high compliment indeed.

Thanks to Vanetta for a great presentation that was informative, enjoyable, and inspiring!



Photo: Heather Torgunrud

I had fun telling the Guild about Norwegian pick-up bandweaving—what it is and how it was traditionally used—and also about my book—how I came to write it and why it was so important to use Vesterheim's collection to help tell the story.—H.T.



Montana Winter Fair 2015

Photos by Tracey Delaney

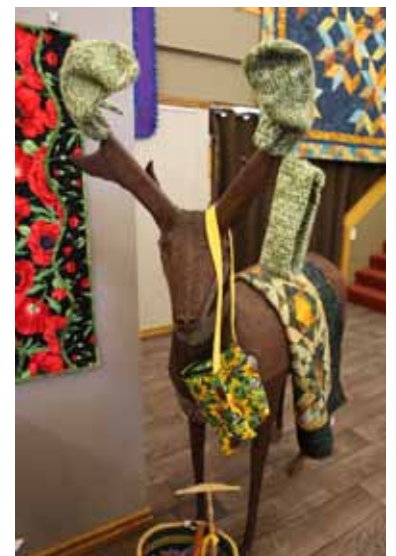


Marcy Foran of Lewistown teaches a young weaver.

Winter Fair entries included skeins of yarn, weavings, knitted items, quilts, tating and toys.



Becky McKenna of Lewistown practices her spinning during the Winter Fair.



A Dose of Humor

Health scare at Harold Knitting Circle as members found to have been sharing needles

by Wallsternagnus
From eveningharold.com

Future meetings of the Harold knitting circle have been cancelled following an outbreak of Hepatitis B among the group.

Several women, including chair Gladys Carruthers and treasurer Pearl Winterton are said to be in a serious condition at Dunstable Royal Infirmary.

All have been put into strict isolation, prescribed a course of strong antibiotics, and told to sit down with a nice cup of tea and a copy of *Woman's Own*.

Local GP Dr Evans believes that the practice of sharing needles was commonplace, and that is almost certainly how the disease has managed to spread. Either that or it's the rent boy they all chip in for at the AGM.

Doris Elder who joined the group briefly in December said she'd warned them that their habit of passing unsterilised needles around risked contaminating more than Mohair with Angora.

"Not long after I got there Gladys offered me a try of her 12" aluminium no 8's." said Mrs Elder. "I was so

shocked, I dropped a dozen stitches"

"Then there was Mr Tipping, the only man in the group. When I saw him taking Pearl through the back loop without any precautions I knew it was time to get out."

Dr Evans is now working with PC Flegg on a schools programme to warn children about the dangers of engaging in unprotected needlecraft. Alongside which they will be holding drop in sessions at the health centre and handing out free packets of thimbles.



Another Dose of Humor



WOMAN NO LONGER SURE WHAT SHE'S KNITTING

By Laura Buchholz
From reductress.com

After over five years of toil, 32-year-old Kaitlyn Pearce is no longer sure what the unidentifiable wool garment is that she is knitting.

"I have to finish it," said Pearce as she continued knitting. "I don't even know what it is anymore, but I told myself I'd finish so I'm going to finish. Plus I have this whole skein of yarn left."

"I'd successfully finished dozens of scarves, a bunch of hats, three pairs of mittens – I'd even made a pair of socks," Pearce explained, her fingers moving quickly and almost automatically, churning out row after confused row of knitted fabric, careening all over her person. "I lost the original pattern about a year in, and ever since, it's been a game of chicken between me and this scarf-hat with sleeves."

Ms. Pearce related that when she started this project, whatever it was, she was perhaps feeling overly confident that she could determine what exactly she was knitting. Then life got busy, and she had only been able to

work on the mystery project in short spurts over the course of 14 years. "I'm sick of looking at this bag of yarn in my closet, and knowing there's something in there that I haven't finished," said Pearce. "It's go time now, and there's no turning back."

Pearce said she believed that the project had started as another sweater, or maybe some sort of long coat, as she held up the tangle of knitted panels dotted with stitch markers and holding various potential new sleeves, hoods, or god-knows-what. The project blended several different patterns distributed throughout, including stockinette stitch fading into unexplained cable knit portions that then abruptly stopped to make way for uninterrupted flats of seed stitching.

"There's a hood in here somewhere," said Ms. Pearce, turning the unnamed project over in her hands to reveal what appeared to be three different sleeves and at least two openings that could qualify as the head hole. "At one point I think a pocket turned into a mitten,"

she admitted. "I don't know what I was thinking. But pockets keep your hands warm, and so do mittens. Same function, different form, that's all. I'm trying to keep an open mind at this point."

When asked why she didn't just unravel the project until she got to a point where she could identify the original intent of the piece, Pearce balked. "I just don't know what I'm doing anymore."

"Life is messy, and it definitely isn't fair," said Pearce. "But you just gotta keep going. We're all making it up as we go along. Especially me."

At time of publication, Ms. Pearce's knitted mystery project was nearly five feet long, and contained the beginnings of what looked to be a leg portion.

"I thought I was out of yarn, but then I opened another drawer and I found five more balls," said Pearce. "I don't know where I'm going with this, and I definitely don't know when I'm going to finish. But I do know that whatever it is and whenever it's done, it's going to be an amazing gift for my niece, Janie."

Found on Facebook

These photos were collected from Facebook. To submit your own creation or fiber news for MAWS newsletter publication please email it to traceyhensen@gmail.com.

Shared by Mokihana White: Oh, Wild Blue Flax, how I adore thee.



Just finished plying Wild Blue Flax. I got 270 yards of DK weight. Absolutely love this colorway and the yellow peeking through. Just like the flowers!

Shared by Steve McEwen: One of four Muckle Heads (Accelerator Heads) I finished recently. with a 42" wheel, this head has a 340:1 ratio...sweet! Made with nylon bearings hidden in wooden cases for smoother operation. Made of Hard Maple, Quilted maple with pieces of Paduk.



Shared by Linda Shelhamer: A new shawl design. It is a Faroe Isle shaped shawl with a little cable and lace in Lambent Vixen.





Shared by Debbie Olson: I finally finished my Lolo Shawl and am really happy with it! I used all of both skeins to make it as long as possible. If I make another, I think I'll choose two colors with higher contrast as the pattern is so interesting. Thank you, Rickie!



Shared by Steve McEwen: THE VISM WHEEL. I received this wheel from Sheila, a guild member, who said it came from her family. It is of Swedish design. I had no idea how special this wheel was until we got to know each other. The craftsmanship was outstanding, not in a fancy way but in structure. It had a number of issues that were a pleasure to remedy. There will be more information on it's restoration on my website. I have donated this wheel to my guild, Big Sky Fiber Artist, to fund their fiber education program. This wheel will be up for lottery at the Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival, Sunday, 2 pm June 14th. You must be present to win! Tickets are \$2 each, 6 for \$10 at the festival!



Shared by Renee Rico: Finished this lovely merino-yak-silk blend in Hellroaring Creek colorway:

TIPS AND TRICKS - Shared by Nancy Blossom: My favorite tip is for long tail casters. Do you ever have a pattern that has you cast many many stitches? How do you estimate how much tail to start with? My tip is to wind your yarn into a center pull ball. Take the end from the center and the end from the outside and tie the two together. Slip the knot over your needle and do the long tail cast on. I like to have the "tail" over my thumb, so that is the one that I cut when I am finished. You never run out of yarn and have to start over.

Master Weaver Program at Olds College

The Handweavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta in conjunction with Olds College, Alberta have put together a course of study to help weavers move from being 'recipe' weavers to weavers who have the knowledge and skills to use colour and weave structures with confidence. One of the Master Weaver students, Toby Smith has recently written about the program for the January/February 2015 issue of *Handwoven*. As well, Toby has written a shorter piece that you may want to consider for your newsletter or website. I hope you can help us get the word out about this excellent program.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call (403-249-7006) or email klasj@telus.net

Thanks,

Judith Klassen

Master Weaver Representative to the HWSDA

Thinking about doing the Olds Master Weaver Program?

As I am a student in the Olds College Master Weaver Program, others who are thinking of doing it ask me what it is like. I can only speak for myself. I have been a life-long learner, by nature and by profession. If you are thinking of doing Olds, you are probably of a similar frame of mind. I'm not going to make an argument for why you might want to do it. I've already done that in the Jan/Feb issue of *Handwoven*. Here are some things to think about.

1. Sampling.

You do have to be a weaver who is not averse to sampling. I know a number of people who never want to weave anything that does not have a direct, immediate use. I challenge this simple definition of useful. "Useful" is not a thing in itself. Nothing is just useful; it is always useful for a purpose and its definition at any given moment is tied to that purpose. For example, a slewing hook is a very useful tool for getting warp ends through the reed. But it is not useful for baking cakes, doing open-heart surgery, chopping wood, or probably anything else. Samples are like that. They are very useful for checking sett, testing colours, calculating shrinkage, trying different wefts, etc. In the classroom at Olds we do samples to make sure we know what the instructor is explaining and that we understand what her expectations are for our homework assignments. We sample to learn how sett affects density and integrity of cloth. We sample *to learn to sample*. So sampling is always useful because it teaches us something, it answers our questions, it raises questions we had not expected. I learn the usefulness of sampling at Olds and I never see a sample as a waste of time. Sampling is useful. This takes us directly to number 2.

2. Thinking about weaving.

We have to *think* about weaving at Olds. And this is where the learning comes from. This is what makes it fun for me. But I like to think about things; I can get a big thrill out of a little learning. We don't just sample, measure, wash, re-measure and move on. We learn to analyse a series, analyse colour relationships, examine design principles, etc. Basically, we learn how to think as a weaver, 'think' being the operative term here. You can weave for forty years and not know much about weaving itself. You can probably make a mean tea towel and gorgeous scarf. I'm sure your edges are memorable. But do you have the theoretical background to understand an article outside your regular structures, or analyse a piece of weaving you would like to reproduce? For example, I have just done my overshot homework. Previously I have done a number of overshot pieces and I had no problem following a draft and weaving it. But after the classroom teaching at Olds and the need to understand it at a theoretical level, I now find overshot way more interesting and I am very interested to explore more advanced overshot such as double-weave over-

shot and tied overshot. Now I have the theoretical knowledge to be able to read that information and understand what writers are saying to me.

3. Paperwork

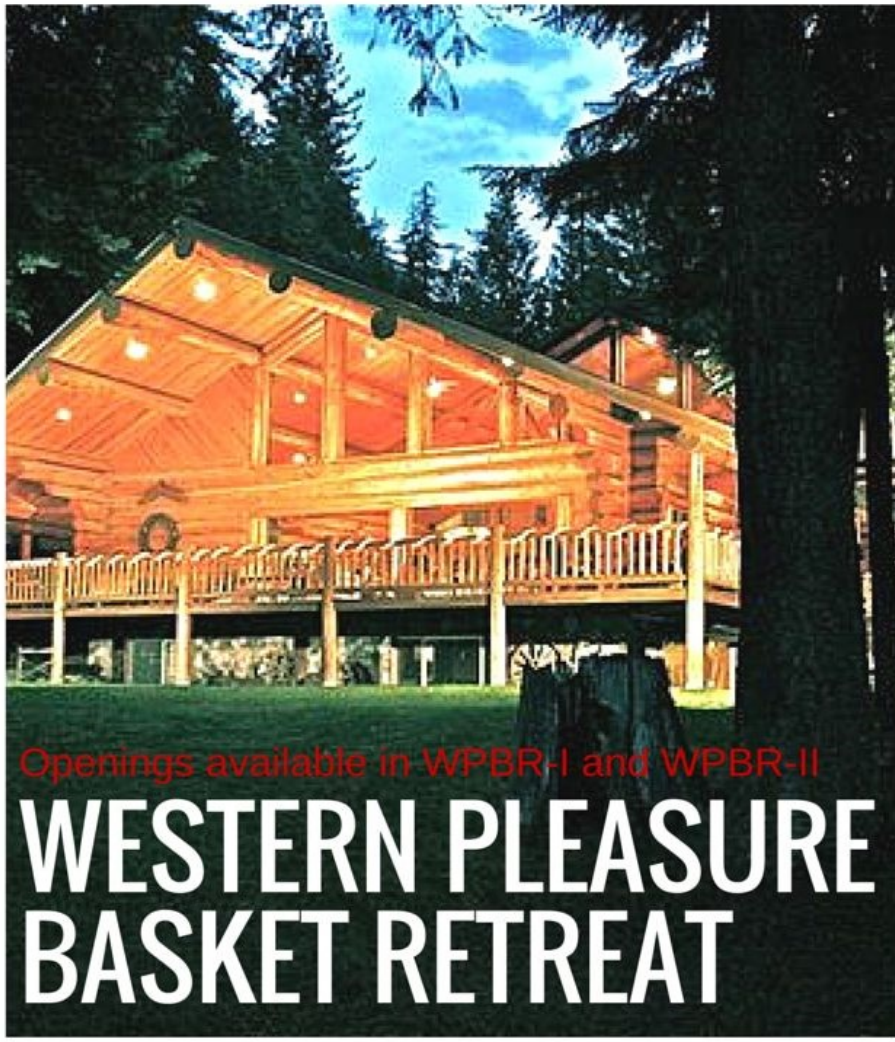
We do paperwork for all our homework assignments. In class we learn how to do the planning, the calculations and the drawdowns. I feel this is one of the most valuable parts of the programme. Completing the Record Sheets makes us slow right down and think about what we are doing. This mental activity is a great gift to the mind. When one does the paperwork, it is possible to explain to others how to reproduce a piece. It is possible to understand, ourselves, what we have done. Yes, it is possible to race on to the next project and never write up anything. Indeed, if you just follow the recipes in *Handwoven*, you will never have to think again. Because a structured programme like Olds requires paperwork of me, I must reflect upon what I have done, and this makes me a more thoughtful weaver. I feel it in my head; I'm getting smarter.

4. Completing the homework assignments.

I know that some people are concerned once they go back home after the intensive week that they will lose motivation to complete the homework assignments. This is where structure reinforces best intentions. The binder we receive each year is a teaching instrument; we have gone through it page by page in class, we have done the samples. We are set up for success, not failure. If new questions come up when doing the assignments, I have found my instructors to reply with a meaningful answer within a very short time. I feel I am connected to my instructor and to my classmates: I have met with them, laughed with them, heard their stories. We are all in this together, and everyone wants everyone else to finish. Our Level One class set up a closed Facebook page so that we could encourage each other. We are in different provinces and states, yet we share a common goal. This sisterhood sustains us. It is so terrific to meet weavers from all over the continent: it expands our weaving community. It would be good for a few people in an area to do the programme together, like a study group, meeting regularly, even if they are at different levels. This would help everyone to complete each assignment and each level.

I know that different people find different aspects a challenge. These are four points I can think of right now that could deter someone from committing to a programme of study such as the Olds College Master Weaver Program. You have to decide for yourself what is right for you. I hope you will consider joining us. For more information go to the Master Weaver link at <http://www.hwsda.org/> or log onto the Olds College Fibre Week website <http://www.oldscollege.ca/fibreweek>

Submitted by Toby Smith



Openings available in WPBR-I and WPBR-II

WESTERN PLEASURE BASKET RETREAT



this issue



Openings available April 30-May 3 & May 7-10

Plan to join us for the 2nd Annual Western Pleasure Basket Retreat, in Sandpoint, ID at Idaho's famous Western Pleasure Guest Ranch.

Come join us for four days and three nights of weaving away the hours at a working ranch nestled in the mountains of north Idaho.

It's a pick-ur-passion retreat where you tell us what you'd like to learn to weave. Whether it's an independent study to create an idea that you have or to learn one of Jill's classic antler designs it's always a lot of serious fun.

Throw in some horse back riding, a horse drawn wagon ride, and a full body massage at the end of the day and you'll get an idea of what our western hospitality is like at the Western Pleasure Basket Retreat.

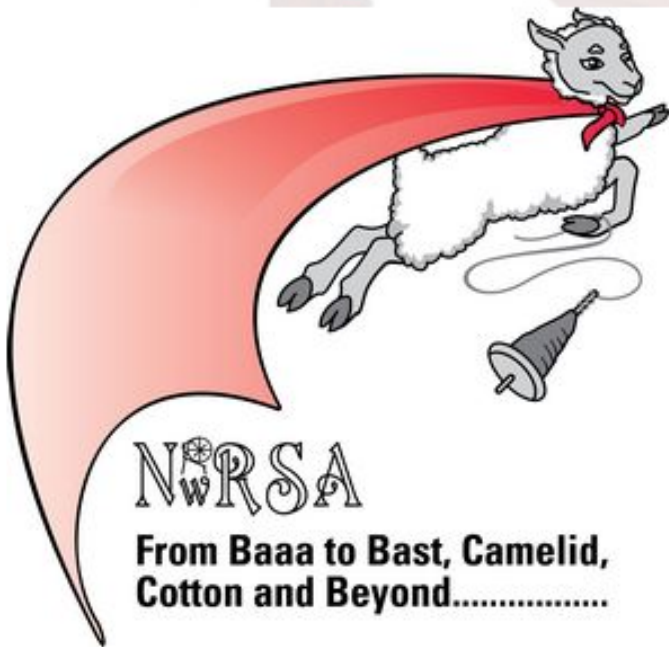
Come join us for a "round-up" of intense weaving along with some serious relaxation, away from it all at Idaho's famed Western Pleasure Guest Ranch.

For more Information:

We currently have one space available in WPBR-I (April 30-May 3) and three spaces available in WPBR-II (May 7-10)

Check out the selection of class offerings on line at: <https://squareup.com/market/western-pleasure-basket-retreat>

2015 NwRSA Conference: From Baa to Bast, Camelid, Cotton and Beyond....



Start 4 PM
Thursday,
May 28

End 2 PM
Sunday,
May 31



Keynote Speaker
[Joan Ruane](#)

Big Sky Fiber Arts Festival
June 12th, 13th, & 14^h, 2015

Ravalli County Fairgrounds, Hamilton, MT 59840



Admission: \$5 per day or \$10 for the whole festival
And it includes admission to Montana Mule Days!

Workshops

Felt Pillow	Norwegian Parband Pick-up on Band Heddle
Bobbin Lace	Norwegian Pick-up on Pattern Heddle
Color Theory	Spirit Dolls Beaded Yarn One More Way
Perfect Plying	Designer Buttons Spinning Cotton on a Charka
Shibori Dyeing	Splendid Singles Pick-up on Pattern Heddle
Large Felt Bag	Embellishment Plus Spinning Down Under
Thrumbs to Yum!	Beginning Spinning How to Warp a Loom
Entrelac Seminar	Pine Needle Basket Silk Beaded Bracelet

The Best Fiber Vendors in the West!
Spinning, Weaving, Knitting, Locker Hooking, Felting, and more!
Judged Fleece Show and Sale!
Judged Sheep and Goat Shows!

Dues policy for MAWS

Guilds are encouraged to have the date their dues are due be October 1st so that MAWS dues could then be sent to Linda by November 1st. Thank you for your consideration.



MAWS Online

Please check out the site at www.mawsonline.org. Your feedback is critical and much appreciated. Send your ideas on ways to improve the site. Some of the links you find are still under construction but as time allows and information is provided – they will all be updated.

Websites are a wonderful thing and a great way for MAWS members to stay

connected but they do need constant attention. New photos, upcoming events, change of officers or duties updated contact information needs to stay current. Don't forget to submit your guild's newsletter if you have one. If your guild has a contact person – please send that information along to Kathy at ohern_1@mawsonline.org.

Order of Rotation for MAWS Conferences:

Bozeman
Helena
Billings
Missoula
Great Falls
Alpine - 2016

Note: You can place quarter page paid ads for \$15 an issue.

Our newsletter reaches over 300 fiber artists. Contact Tracey Delaney: traceyhensen@gmail.com.

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership runs from November 1st through December 31st. Annual dues are \$8 and include a newsletter subscription. To join MAWS, 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 be mailed to Linda.

Next Newsletter deadline is July 1, 2015.

Email articles to Tracey Delaney at traceyhensen@gmail.com

Or snail mail: 1016 W. Montana, Lewistown, MT 59457

Phone: 406-366-3738

