



MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

MAWS Board Members

President - Joan Goldstein
406-837-3599 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 396
Lincoln, MT 59639
406-633-0073
goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

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

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

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

Members-at-Large

Anita Krueger – Bozeman
42agkrueger@gmail.com

Ann Keenan
pineneedlefarm@gmail.com

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

Summer, 2019

Message from President Joan Goldstein

A highlight of this summer of 2019 certainly was Daryl Lancaster's "Weave a Wardrobe" workshop in early June. Helena found magic by inviting a top-notch presenter who could speak to an unlimited number of people. Offering inexpensive accommodations that encouraged after-hours interchange added to the success. Sixty people attended, about half as many as attend our state conferences! So let's look ahead. Because MAWS is hosting the ANWG conference in Billings in 2023, there will be no conference in 2022. That gives a window of over two years (from July 2020 through Dec 2022) for guilds to use MAWS grants of \$250 to help fund workshops. Finding one that could involve 60 participants again is unlikely, but think about what your guilds would want and make plans early. Information on how to apply for grants is available at www.montanaspinweave.org under "Guilds and Grants".

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS:

October 15th for a combination Fall / Holiday Newsletter (please include any holiday party information)

Email articles and information to Tammy Jordan at goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

**Or snail mail: P.O. Box 396; Lincoln, MT 59639
Phone: 406-633-0073**

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MAWS 2020 Visions in Fiber

WEAVERS! SPINNERS! FIBER ARTISTS!

Montana Association of Weavers & Spinners Conference June 25-28, 2020

Post Conference workshops June 28-30
Carroll College, Helena, Montana

For information visit: HelenaWeaversAndSpinners.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). 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: 22" Leclerc Meco table loom. It has 4 shafts. It comes with a boat shuttle and a couple of bobbins, 2 reeds, 8 and 12 dent. It also includes a warping board, lease sticks and several warping sticks. I'm selling for \$450. I often drive to Bigfork, MT from Cody, WY so delivery may be an option if it is on my route. For inquiries, contact Marisa at fulkersons@bresnan.net.

Keep up with us via Facebook
and our website at:

<https://www.montanaweavespin.org>

and

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/60](https://www.facebook.com/groups/608100442583206/)

[8100442583206/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/608100442583206/)

ANWG CONFERENCE 2023 STEERING COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 5/28/19

Members present included Ruth Terry, Joy Erickson, Melody Murter, Linda Shelhamer, Jo Anne Setzer, Cathy Bell and Jaime Stevens. Emma Murter, Julie Norman and Tammy Jordan were present by phone.

CONFERENCE THEME, COLORS AND LOGO

The conference theme, as decided by vote of the members of the Billings Weavers and the Prairie Handspinners guilds, was "Montana Fiber Magic," submitted by Jaime Stevens. Color suggestions should be sent to Ruth in time for the next meeting in September. She will take pictures and send them out to the members. Colors will be decided prior to the logo being designed,

Ruth has a niece in Oklahoma who is a professor of graphic arts and could oversee her students to produce a logo design. This would need to wait until the fall semester. Emma asked if the logo design couldn't be produced locally and will check into it with the colleges. It could also be a competition with a prize for the winner. There was a discussion about whether the logo should be ready in time for the 2021 ANWG conference in Salem, OR and if there should be "save the date" flyers. The web site and Facebook page also need to be ready by then. All agreed that the logo should not contain anything pertaining to a magician, magic wand, top hat or anything cheesy like that. Joy suggested a teacher at the career center as well.

WEB SITES

Ruth has already registered the domain name of anwgconference2023.com.

MSUB SITE VISIT

Ruth, Linda and Jaime conducted a site visit on this date. The new chancellor has decided to make the college available for conferences sooner than one year in advance. The visit went very well. The site looked good for our purposes and the cost would be more reasonable. Dorm rooms are available for \$28 currently and all the facilities for meals, fashion show, keynote address, vendor booths, guild booths and classrooms are within one fairly small area, with most being in one building. There was a discussion as to whether or not to have a banquet. Ruth suggested holding a "meet and greet" with heavy hors d'oeuvres instead of a banquet. The possibility of an outdoor barbecue was discussed, but that would require renting a tent in case of bad or very hot weather. The college will be sending room sizes, numbers and pricing by the end of the week. Jaime described the dorm rooms and bathrooms as being adequate although the beds would have to be lowered for easier access. There is a common room and a small kitchen, but no refrigerators. One could be provided if there was a need to keep medications refrigerated. Everything is accessible. The plan is to book by the end of the year. Plenty of parking is just behind the Student Union Building and it will be free.

DATES

There was a discussion of possible dates. The dorm rooms are not air conditioned so earlier is better to avoid hot weather. Possible dates included June 9, 10 and 11th with registration on the 8th, or the following week with dates of June 15, 17 and 18. Father's Day is June 18 so there is a possible conflict there. Other possible conflicts were discussed, such as Summer Fair, the Estes Park Wool Market, the Strawberry Festival, the Black Sheep Festival and the Renaissance Fair. Other fiber events may draw on some of the same teachers. The consensus was to have the conference on June 9, 10 and 11 with post conference classes on June 12, 13 and 14.

OUT-OF-POCKET EXPENSES

Ruth reminded anyone incurring out-of-pocket expenses prior to receiving seed money from ANWG to save their receipts. Any large expenses could possibly be temporarily covered by MAWS.

FASHION SHOW

Joy mentioned she had spoken with Elizabeth Williamson of HGA about using a producer to design the fashion show. Members who had attended Convergence remarked on how great and successful it was. They used professional models of all ethnicities and body sizes. The models walked across the stage accompanied by music. Information about the garment and the designer was projected on a screen at the back of the stage. Afterwards the garments were displayed on mannequins and hangers for close-up viewing, along with a written description of the garment

and the designer. There was a discussion of the need for a written program, with some members for it as a great souvenir and others against due to the cost, paper use and possible creation of trash.

CONTRACTS

Linda asked when the seed money from ANWG would be available. This would be after MAWS signs a contract with ANWG to produce the conference. There was a discussion of the timing of this. MSUB will also need a signed contract, but Ruth didn't think a deposit would be required.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting can wait until just prior to the fall meetings of Prairie Handspinners and Billings Weavers guilds. The members settled on 9/4/19 as the next meeting date. Then reports can be given to the two guilds. The group will have decided on the conference colors by then.

SMALL EXPRESSIONS EXHIBIT

Linda reported that the Yellowstone Art Museum is planning to have fiber art exhibits during the conference. One will be HGA's Small Expressions show, but another one is needed to complement it. Museum staff will work on this.

TEACHER RECRUITMENT

There was a discussion of various ways to locate and recruit teachers. A request for proposal will be sent out to prospective teachers and each should be contacted personally. Three of four big names are needed, but the remainder can be regional or local to save on costs. Teachers will stay in single dorm rooms. If that isn't satisfactory for them they can stay at a hotel at their own expense. Volunteers will be needed to pick up teachers at the airport if they fly in. Jo Anne reported that the teachers at the Flathead MAWS conference all received a small gift.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Jaime Stevens, Secretary

Montana Association of Weavers & Spinners (MAWS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Membership runs from November 1st to December 31st. Annual dues are \$10 and 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.

MAWS 2020 UPDATE

Montana is a big state, as diverse as the craftspeople that live here. MAWS provides the "glue" that helps far flung weavers, spinners and fiber enthusiasts stick to their craft. At the biennial conference, members can learn new techniques from nationally known instructors, mingle with friends (old and new!), refresh their inspiration, recharge their batteries and perhaps even have an "Ah Ha" moment!

This conference is being planned to appeal to a wide array of interests and abilities. We hope you will find ideas that will enrich your life and enhance your art/craft. Learning IS fun! And being together with friends IS fun! And having a "sleep over" IS fun! Here's hoping you will have a weekend filled with awe and inspiration, whimsy and ...you guessed it...FUN!

The Conference will take place at Carroll College in Helena. We are planning some special exhibits and "fieldtrips" to add to the excitement of the event! Combined with the Open Show, Fashion Show, Instructors Show and the Guild Booths there will be many opportunities for "Ooooo-ing and Ahhhh-ing!"

Your participation is the key to wonderful shows! We are looking forward to having awe inspiring entries in all the shows! Entry forms and criteria will be in the Fall newsletter and online.

As our contracts come in, we will put information on the HelenaWeaversAndSpinners.org website. So far we have a GREAT line up of nationally and locally known instructors! Stay tuned!!

Daryl Lancaster Workshop Recap

Written by Jannine C. Vogley-Turner
Roving Reporter of the Helena Weavers & Spinners Guild
MAWS 2020 Conference Co-Chair, ANWG Rep, HGA Rep

The Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild hosted Daryl Lancaster, Weave A Wardrobe, on 6/1-2/2019. We had invited guilds and members from around the State to attend.

The setting, Carroll College, in beautiful Helena, Montana was a packed house for attendance and dorm rooms were available for our out of town guests.

The group of weavers and spinners, were inspired by her “down to earth approach” to designing and creating cloth for sewing magnificent pieces of wearable art.

Students started off learning color attributes, with a refresher on primaries, color wheels, color tools and resources. They were given ideas on exercises to determine what they liked with their color ideas, and were told that anything can be used to assist in their inspirations for color. Daryl relayed to them that if they try out a color palette, sample it, and don't like it, there's no harm done, they could simply redo it.

The workshop then moved on to “Know Your Body.” Ideas were given about looking at fashion magazines, following fashion blogs, surf the web for patterns, and not to be afraid to try something on.

Sampling was also encouraged along with the advice of winding on ten yards for warp, although some of Daryl's work were complete using scarf-sized woven materials.

Fabric preparation was also discussed including how to handle fabric and what agents to use and to see how the fabrics work with friction, detergents and how it will hold up to wear. Explanations were also given of how to cut, press, and what other materials to use to stabilize for sewing.

The workshop then moved on to patterns and how important it is for accurate measurements, how and where to measure and how patterns differ from ready to wear. Students learned that alterations may be required as what may fit one person will not fit another. They were advised to make a test garment out of muslin and to use materials that may mimic their handwoven as a test garment, as well as how to adjust for the bust and changing the cup size.

Fascinating issues were brought to light regarding the straight of the grain of the material, how to find it, and how to adjust it by pressing, sewing, adding stabilization, ease stitching, hems, and hand sewing.

Seaming using the Hong Kong, French, flat-fell, felled or welt seam were discussed, and whether to use the serger or not - and why. Instruction was also given on piping and cording, top stitching, couching, facings, closures, zippers, and buttonholes. It was fascinating for students to see what can be done and used for closures.

Needless to say, after two days of instructions, students left with more information and lots of inspiration. The Helena guild members are still “buzzing” regarding Daryl's ability to teach, her kindness and quality and asked her to return to the “Treasure State,” specifically to Helena for future seminars. They also extend a special “thank you” to Dawn Ahlert for hosting Daryl, and to Annette Cade and her “posse” for being able to put together the meals for the guests for the seminar.



Guild Happenings

Last Year at the Lewis and Clark Stampede and Fair Trudy Moffett entered her wool blanket and won the Superintendent's Choice Award. See the attached photo of Trudy holding her blanket and the award. Recently, Ruth Nichols interviewed Trudy and wrote the following article for the *Tri-State Livestock News*. Click on the link below to read the article.

<https://www.tsln.com/news/demo-at-last-chance-stampede-and-fair-exhibits-how-wool-is-transformed-into-items-wolf-creek-woman-does-wool-work/>



Making the news...

Below is the photo that was in the June 12th issue of the *Boulder Monitor* newspaper's article on Clancy Day featuring Kathryn Poelman of the Helena Weavers & Spinners Guild as she demonstrates spinning yarn.



Congratulations to Cheryl Gehrig of the Prairie Handspinner Guild on her Best in Show Corriedale ram fleece!



Congratulations to Rita Borkowsky for her award at the ANWG Conference in the Wearables – accessory, e.g. toque mitts category!

Her award was sponsored by the Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild!

More Guild Happenings - Helena

The Helena Spinners & Weaver's Guild participated in the Sheep to Shawl competition at the Lewis & Clark County Fair. The fiber used was Icelandic roving provided by Millie Dover and dyed by Laurel Orthmeyer. The warp is white cotton with two purple stripes. Rowena Harrington, Laurel Orthmeyer, Desiree Moffett, Trudy Moffett and Eileen Duffy were their spinners and Carol Dees was their weaver. Although they didn't quite finish the weaving at the fair, further spinning and weaving will take place over the next week. Anyone who was interested in winning the shawl entered the raffle, which was free of charge and the winner's name will be drawn at the completion of the weaving.



Below is a photo of the finished shawl from the Helena Weavers & Spinners sheep-to-shawl project from the Lewis & Clark County Fair.



More Guild Happenings - Billings



Spinning demonstrations at the Moss Mansion Spring Fest. Pictured are guild members Melina Hawkins & Patricia Munch

At the Fair!

Congratulations to all who entered items in the fair... here are a few photos!



Zoe Jones & her first place mittens!



Morgan Leeson's Best-in-Show shawl!



Danielle Loomer's first place shawl!



Kathryn Petersen's first place handspun!

Guild members helping one another get items entered online for the fair this year.



Janet Reynolds' first place mittens!



Dixie Feller's first place shawl!

Adventures from the “Sisters on the Lamb”

To find out about the next meet-up and join in the adventures, please visit the Facebook page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/474409856374893/>

Tabitha Calvert's Meadow Muffins Sheep Camp July 2019 ... and a good time was had by all... camping and fiber overload.. oh... and so much food! I think Diane Sitter's Dutch oven peach cobbler took the prize but Debbie K. Bauman's Wednesday breakfast of angel food cake and berries was right at the top too! Oh, and Diane's root beer floats really hit the spot! And, we've broken the snow curse but sure glad that thunder storm went right around us!



Mini Sister's meet up in Butte, MT

(Julie Norman, LaVonne Stucky, & Christy Snyder)



Sister's Gathering at the Copper K Fiber Festival

Back Row: Julie Norman, Carol Seitz, Jessica Potter, LaVonne Stucky, Zoe Jones, Heather Johnson, Peggy Lynn, Christy Snyder. **Front Row:** Copper K organizers Betty Kujawa & Kami Noyes



My Fiber Inspiration Weekend at the Copper K Fiber Fest By Coral Noyes. Photos by Kami Noyes.

This year's theme for the Copper K was "Fiber Arts Getting Back To Its Roots", and it was definitely a weekend journey of fun and fiber in a beautiful setting south of Whitehall at the historic Copper K barn. The festival was started three years ago by Kami Noyes and Betty Kujawa, and has been growing ever since. We all send a huge thank you to Kami and Betty for giving us this wonderful event for fiber inspiration, and to the Great Falls Guild for sharing their expertise for a variety of techniques in the Activity Tent where you could stop by to try kumihimo, felting in a bag, simple tapestry, and watch demonstrations of spinning and flax processing. On Sunday, Betty provided Barn Quilt history and you could paint a historic barn quilt square.



For all of us fiber fanatics, it was a weekend of learning, sharing, and connecting with old and new friends.....and of course, shopping, because you can never have too much fiber! 30 vendors from Montana, Idaho, Utah, Colorado, Iowa, Minnesota, and Virginia shared their fiber and related wares in a tempting sea of colors and textures. Vendor website links are listed under Copper K on Kami's ranchingtraditionfiber.com. Betty's is www.snowdriftalpacas.com

I took Patti Barker's "Textural Adventure Sample Series", learning 8 felting embellishment techniques. Patti creates beautiful nuno felt garments and shared them and other samples with us. She is a wealth of felting information and techniques, as well as very helpful tips, like using table risers for more table height to take the strain off backs, a garden sprayer, instead of the small trigger sprayers, to prevent hand cramping while wetting the fiber, and using nonslip rub backing, instead of bubble wrap, to felt in half the time. The smaller mesh size works best.

We all went home with sample flip books for techniques of "Simulated Sheepskin" by felting locks onto a wool base, "Mosaic or Stained Glass" using colorful silk pieces and outlining each with black wool, "Pre-Felt Shapes" onto a silk base, "Grids" of dyed wool felted onto silk, "Inclusion and Entrapment" which created textures with wool shapes, and trapped beads and small embellishments on the surface, and lastly, we created beautiful silk "Roses and Ruffles" for accents on garments, and a variety of suggestions on ways to use them. The last sample took concentration and dexterity, esp. for the first rose, but was well worth it in the end when we saw our roses pop up after they were felted. Patti also taught "Stained Glass Shawl" on Sun. You can see more about her and her creations at pattibarker.com.

I enjoyed walking around to see what other classes were creating. Mary Egbert from FL (camajfiberarts.com) taught "Drum Carding Ombres and Gradients", and "Woolen and Worsted Preps." Peggy Doney from CO (the100thsheep.com) taught " 'I Hate Dyeing' Color Theory for Dyeing". Tammy Jordan from Lincoln (goldieknotsmt.com) taught "Know Your Breed for Picking the Right Fiber for Your Project" and "Knitting 101. Julie Norman from Molt, MT (juliesongnorman.com) taught "Intro to the Spinning Wheel" and "Knitting With Handspun".

Save The Date for next year's: July 18-19, 2020. The class postings go up in October/ November so I always look forward to making my selections!

Around the Fiber Festival World – Photos from Grazing Hills & Fiber Fest Eureka



Grazing Hills



Grazing Hills



FiberFest Eureka



Dues policy for MAWS

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

Upcoming Events

2019

NW Kootenai Valley Fiber Festival

September 13-15, 2019. To learn more and to sign up for classes, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/NW-Kootenai-Valley-Fiber-Club-362021201051462/> or contact Shauneey Fisher Erby at: 406-293-9874 (home) or 406-552-9082 (cell – can call or text)

Prairie Handspinners Fiber Festival

September 27-28, 2019. 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/>

Montana Roadside Beanie Knit-A-Long

May 18th – September 28th. Throughout the state of Montana. Follow along on Facebook to see all the locations for the kick-off! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/mtfiberfestkal/>

MAWS Board Meeting

October 26th. 1pm, Montana City School in Helena, MT. Open to all members to attend. Please plan to be there at noon and bring a lunch to join in a lunchtime social hour before the meeting.

2020

Crazy Mountain Fiber Festival

May 2020. Big Timber, MT. More information to come. To learn more about the festival please visit their website at: <http://www.bigtimber.com/crazymountainfiberfest>

MAWS Conference

June 25-28, 2020; Post Conference Workshop June 28-30, 2020
Carroll College, Helena, MT. Sponsored by the Helena Weavers & Spinners Guild. For more information, please visit their website at: <https://helenaweaversandspinners.org/>

Copper K Fiber Festival

July 18-19, 2020. 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

July 31 – August 2, 2020. 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/>

Order of rotations for MAWS Conferences

Helena 2020

Billings 2023

Missoula 2024

Great Falls 2026

Alpine 2028

Bozeman 2030