

MAWS

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

Spring 2021

President's Message...

Fiber arts continue to challenge us every day, and we focus on improving our efforts to obtain the most perfect outcome. I strive to have better edges with each woven piece. But any time I have given a weaving to someone, they look at the color or the structure. They never comment on my edges. Even though the devil may be in the detail, recipients are simply in awe that you can take a hand full of fleece or thread and turn it into an item of beauty and function.

That being said, I am someone who values correct use of grammar and have long wondered which was the correct spelling of that infamous edge of fabric. In this golden age of technology I visited Wikipedia and found the following:

A **selvage** (US English) or **selvedge** (British English) is a "self-finished" edge of a piece of fabric which keeps it from unraveling and fraying. The term "self-finished" means that the edge does not require additional finishing work, such as hem or bias tape, to prevent fraying.

In woven fabric, selvages are the edges that run parallel to the warp (the longitudinal threads that run the entire length of the fabric), and are created by the weft thread looping back at the end of each row. In knitted fabrics, selvages are the unfinished yet structurally sound edges that were neither cast on nor bound off. Historically, the term selvage applied only to loom woven fabric, though now can be applied to flat-knitted fabric.

The terms *selvage* and *selvedge* are a corruption of "self-edge", and have been in use since the 16th century.

In between newsletters you can keep up on all things fiber by visiting the MAWS website: www.montanaweavespin.org, which is the official place to find MAWS information!!

Until next time!
Sharon Schroeder

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MAWS Establishes Fund for Memorial and Other Gifts for Education and Scholarships

MAWS has created a special fund to receive gifts limited to Education and Scholarships. As MAWS is a 501(c)(3), these gifts are tax deductible. MAWS uses the funds received for workshop grants to guilds, sponsoring workshops, conference scholarships and other education purposes. So far in 2021, the fund was used for sponsoring Lynda Teller Peet workshop.

We have been honored to receive donations in the last four years in memory of Joyce Fletcher, Dixie Feller, Margaret Eagle, Barb McMullen, Joyce Shepard, Pat Larson and Vernice Myers. Gifts were cash memorials as well as proceeds from sales of fiber arts materials and equipment. Each of these women had reached out to teach others weaving and spinning and these gifts continue this mission.

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->

In Memory of Dixie Feller



Prairie Handspinners Guild mourns the loss in December to Covid 19 of Dixie Feller of Laurel. Although Dixie just started spinning around 2016, she jumped in with enthusiasm that was infectious. She also became active in Sisters on the Lamb and often attended their weekend spinning getaways. Dixie had a wonderful sense of humor and radiated acceptance and competence.

Dixie introduced her grown son, Arthur, and others to spinning and knitting. As Cindy Scheidt said "Dixie was a giver. She would sit with any one with undying patience to instruct and show you the craft of knitting or spinning. I'm sure she taught other fiber related crafts but I had personal experience with spinning and saw her spend hours with another showing her knitting. It didn't matter what she was in the middle of as she would drop it all to help you. I am forever indebted to Dixie for her expertise, patience and selfless time she devoted to me in learning how to spin."

Dixie was an accomplished and innovative knitter before taking up spinning. Barb Garritson remarked "She was patient as she helped me learn knitting stitches. I have a note she wrote for me with directions. I will save it as a reminder of our wonderful friend." 69 year old Dixie continued to work until becoming ill with Covid and was very active volunteer at the Laurel Library.



In Memory of Joyce Fletcher

In March, Billings weavers lost Joyce Fletcher, a long-term guild stalwart. Joyce succumbed quickly and unexpectedly at age 81, a year after being diagnosed with leukemia. Joyce joined the Billings Weavers in 1979 after moving back from Virginia where she learned to weave. She was an avid 8-harness weaver who tried every weaving and fiber art technique out there. She was very accomplished in all she tried.

A lifelong learner Joyce traveled to Wyoming monthly to meet with the Western Weavers, a complex weaving study group. She also attended weaving and knitting workshops regularly.

In the mid 1980's Joyce taught weaving lessons in her home after work. Linda Shelhamer, one of her students, remembers how well organized and doable the classes. "Once a week for six weeks, we attended class and put on a new warp at home and completed a small project. I was shocked to see I could do overshot so soon." Joyce did all of this while she worked full-time at St. Vincent's as a dietician and was a single mom to her son Scott.

Joyce published an article in Shuttle Spindle and Dyepot about pique and taught guild programs each year as well teaching at other places in the community. She also avidly knitted from an early age and volunteered as a pattern tester. When Billings hosted MAWS, Joyce served most recently as juried show chair. A long-term friend, Mary Wood, poured through Joyce's fiber arts items finding good homes for her looms, fabric, handspun yarns, bobbin lace items and many other fiber crafts. Joyce's materials helped churches, a 4-H club, beginners, charity quilting groups, the Yellowstone Knitting Guild and MAWS Education and Scholarship Fund.

Joyce grew up in Billings attending Billings Senior High where her father, Barney Myers taught math. Joyce visited regularly with Barney, the oldest resident of Yellowstone County. He died in 2020 at age 109. Joyce is survived by her son and his family as well as her twin sister.

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

August 1, 2021

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

Email:

goldieknotsmt@gmail.com

Or snail mail:

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

MAWS 2022 VISIONS IN FIBER

Carroll College Helena, MT June 21-26, 2022

After having to cancel MAWS 2020 due to Covid-19, the conference committee spent some time grieving, but as spring appeared, we dusted off the shroud of disappointment and began anew to plan for (re)VISIONS IN FIBER 2022. We hope to have a stellar line up of instructors for both the conference and the pre conference, with lots of diversity. As we solidify plans, information will be published in the MAWS newsletter as well as on the Helena Guild and MAWS website. Pre-conference classes are scheduled to start on Tue. 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 Fashion show --- starring YOU!

THE "TRADING" POST!! CALLING ALL MAWS MEMBERS!!

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

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 two 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.

"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.

More information will be available in the fall newsletter, so keep your eyes peeled! And, as always, 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/>

Keep on spinning and weaving!

Greetings to all!

The Montana Fibershed is seeking help! If you have time and an ability to design posters or publicity materials for the upcoming Farm to Fashion Show, please contact Helen Harris at: hhtravelingthread@gmail.com. They are trying to create some signage and other materials for the event!

Weavers Gonna Weave – Yardage!

Plans for the Montana Fibershed Farm-to-Fashion Show continue to move forward and things are looking really good for a wonderful fall event. I know that many of you are planning, or already creating your fashion show entry. One big need that we have identified is for weavers who are willing to weave some yardage with Montana fiber for our non-weaving friends. We will be adding a link on the Fashion Show tab of our website (montanafibershed.org/fashionshow) to a list of such willing weavers. Some of you may already be collaborating with a friend on a fashion show entry. If you are not already part of a collaboration and would like to be, please contact us at montanafibershed@gmail.com and let us know of your desire to participate in this way! It will be exciting to see the collaborations and new friendships that are formed by working together on a Farm-to-Fashion Show garment.

All the best for a productive and fiber-filled summer!

Barb French

Farm-to-Fashion Show Coordinator

Hello friends!

I'm reaching out on behalf of Montana Fibershed to all the presidents of fiber guilds in our state. We would like to solicit the help of your willing guild members to weave yardage for designers and makers in Montana who don't quite know where to turn for made-in-Montana fabric for the Farm-to-Fashion show on October 23. We would like to put together a list of weavers willing to collaborate with makers on a fashion show garment. We would put a link to this list on our website in an effort to facilitate such collaborations.

I realize that some guilds won't be meeting formally over the summer, but if you have a newsletter, or any other way to communicate this message for Montana Fibershed, we would be very grateful! Anyone interested can check our website for further information (montanafibershed.org) and contact us through our email at montanafibershed@gmail.com

Thank you so much for your help! Have a wonderful summer and I hope to cross paths with many of you....

All the best,
Barb French

For Montana Fibershed Farm to Fashion Show

MONTANA ASSOCIATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS
MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 4/23/2021
HELD BY ZOOM on the INTERNET

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Sharon Schroeder at 10:00 pm via Zoom. Members responding included Linda Shelhamer, Annette Cade, Melody Murter, Anita Krueger, Dawn Ahlert, Alanna Strong, Tammy Jordan, Heather Johnson, Nancy Caumeyer, Sylvia Smith, DC Ahlert, Elizabeth (Liz) Tritthart, Lisa Brown and Marion Stratton. Joan Goldstein, Gwen Haferkamp, and Molly McKinnon were absent.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1/23/2021 were sent to members for review via email earlier this week. No corrections were offered. Annette moved to approve. Tammy seconded. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Linda reported dues received year to date were \$2200, compared to last year's \$2800. A PayPal account was opened with Liz's help and now MAWS can receive payments on the website. The cost is approximately \$120 per year. PayPal fees will go down about 1% when the non-profit status is completed. After the PayPal option was posted on the Facebook page, there were five responses in two days.

Donations of \$690 were received for Memorial gifts for Joan's Mom, Margaret Eagle, Joyce Fletcher, and Dixie Feller. This is much more than usual. Linda will set up an account as a liability for education, scholarships, and workshop grants.

Linda noted that the Weaving, Spinning, Fiber Arts Guild of Idaho Falls and the Yellowstone Weavers and Spinners Guild of Cody are now unofficially associated with MAWS. They would like to be able to advertise events. They do attend our conferences. One of MAWS Living Treasure's, Vernice Meyers is from Yellowstone Weavers and Spinners Guild. The Idaho Falls guild is part of the Intermountain Weavers Conference held in July in Durango, CO. Annette noted that MAWS is a group of people instead of a group of guilds. She also mentioned that MAWS should list guilds and events on our website.

The Creative Fiber Guild in Sheridan, WY, a member of HGA is hosting the "HGA's Small Expressions" Weaving exhibit at the Brinton Museum. MAWS has 3 members

from that guild and Linda will invite them to include events on the website. Sharon questions whether there needs to be a motion to share these events on Facebook and the website. Melody motioned to include all events for this summer from Sheridan, Idaho Falls, and Cody on Facebook and the website. Tammy seconded the motion.

Annette motioned, and Marian seconded to accept the Treasurer's report as it stands. Sharon shared appreciation for Linda's effort in clearly explaining the accounting particulars. Motioned carried.

Linda felt that the Education fund needs to be clarified in the policy handbook. Sharon volunteered Molly McKinnon to work with Linda. Linda will make the category as broad as possible as it is hard to predict how future money will need to be spent.

GRANT REQUESTS:

Sharon informed the Board that Missoula was not ready to move forward with their grant.

Alpine Weavers Guild's, Nancy Kaumeyer and Sylvia Smith presented a grant request for \$200 to present a virtual presentation by Lynda Peet on Two Grey Hills style weaving. Lynda comes from a history of 5 generations of weaving, has been featured on PBS Craft in America, and will be featured at SOAR this year. She and her sister Barbara wrote Spider Woman's Children, the first book about Navajo weavers by Navajo weavers. Nancy shared that they have a lot of new members of the Alpine guild that are interested in Navajo and tapestry weaving. There also has been a lot of interest in their Facebook page. They would like to use the grant for Lynda to present at a Zoom meeting on May 19th for a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 99 participants. The link would be sent out to those registering. No fee will be charged but a donation to MT Fibershed will be encouraged.

Sylvia, president of Alpine Weavers Guild, said this is a great opportunity for the cost, as there will be no travel expenses. Also, weavers from Cody, Sheridan, and Idaho Falls can participate at minimal expense.

Nancy will put together information for Tammy to put in the newsletter, and for Liz to put on the website. Nancy will work with Tammy to keep a list of participants and send out the links.

Liz noted that if there several free and paid applications for Facebook events, that can also be linked to the website. She reminded them to include “for educational purposes only,” and not to have any products or items for sale.

Sharon questioned if Lynda might think we are “wholesaling” her?

Someone suggested the MAWS use this new way to advertise the next event on Facebook and accept website donations.

Linda suggested using scholarship funds for this event.

Sharon asked Melody to be sure to let Billings Weavers Guild know about this educational opportunity. She also reminded the Board members that according to the Bylaws, when an event is advertised on the website, all MAWS members need to have the opportunity to sign up at the same time.

Annette made the motion to accept the grant application for \$200 for the Alpine Weavers Guild to present the Lynda Peet workshop. Melody seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Sharon stated that going forward with other grants for educational opportunities can be addressed via email. Approval can also be done by email.

Tammy informed the members that she received a grant from Montana Arts Council for a computer and software to give virtual presentations. She will be receiving the funds in the next 90 days. After that, she would be happy to help with other presentations. Liz offered to partner with Tammy to help her learn the technical stuff.

Melody offered to contact Clemes and Clemes for a virtual fiber prep class for MAWS. She thought the cost would be about \$300. She is current waiting for further information from Ruth Terry.

Liz questioned if MAWS could team up with the Yellowstone Art Museum (YAM) to learn how to provide filming for virtual events. Tammy also expressed interest. Linda thought they might be working through Billings School District.

Marion expressed concern about the cost of Board members traveling to learn about filming virtual events. Both Liz and Tammy stated that they are building businesses and are not expecting MAWS to reimburse them for travel expenses.

Linda asked if MAWS would need to fund this training?

Heather asked if whoever receives the grant could present a workshop to MAWS members.

Linda suggested we look at the Bylaws for details on presenting after receiving a grant.

ANWG Update:

Deborah Staehle, President resigned due to illness. In the June 12 meeting they will voting for President, Treasurer, and past present Vice President. Dawn Ahlert is the President nominee.

ANWG would like a Show and Share at the annual membership meeting and is asking for the ANWG rep from each guild to submit an image and information for one piece via email to Dawn so she can create a power Point presentation to be shown at the meeting.

ANWG is offering five challenge grants of \$600 each. Deadline for applying is November 1, 2021. These grants will be scheduled for use January 2022 through June 2023. Melody related that there is more information in the ANWG newsletter. Last year there were 20-30 applications.

Sharon shared that the Missoula Weavers Guild bought rigid heddle looms for an alternative school and taught kids to weave with a previous ANWG grant.

WEBSITE UPDATE:

Liz reported that there has been a lot more activity on Facebook as compared to the website. Sometimes the only way to glean information is to tap it off Facebook. Some suggestions she has were:

- Better cooperation between the Facebook and website coordinators
- Show & Tell pictures, movies, splice videos, voice overs, and slides are needed for the website. There have been no submissions on the website.
- It is so easy to post ads on Facebook. Minimal ads have been placed on the website.

Sharon also noticed it when she was in charge of the website.

Tammy offered to forward things to Liz. Linda encouraged Liz to post anything that works. She will be reaching out to them.

DC said she could submit to Facebook twice per month and members need to know that their posting may be added to the website.

If you post on Facebook, your post might go anywhere.

Annette reminded members that the website is the official communication of MAWS. The information needs to be factual and accurate.

Linda states she has been the gatekeeper for our Facebook page. She says she receives postings from around the world, but if it is not related to Montana, she doesn't post it. Linda, Liz and Tammy are our official Facebook moderators.

Dawn suggested that we add the MAWS website address to the Facebook page.

Tammy offered to create a post for Facebook. Liz will be able to add it to the website if Tammy tags her in the comment.

Liz reported there have been no Show and Tell submissions, so she has decided to spotlight each guild. She asked that submissions be emailed to elizhistoricweaving.com with the subject "MAWS Show and Tell." She will also use Splice software to add voice and music to the slides.

Melody will send photos of the Two Grey Hills weavings to highlight the upcoming May 19th workshop. Liz reminded her to include where the weaving came from and comments to go with the photos.

Tammy will continue highlighting guilds Show and Tell in the newsletter.

MAWS 2022 CONFERENCE UPDATE:

Annette reported that the 2022 MAWS conference will be held in Helena at Carroll College.. Social distancing and masks requirements and use are still in limbo, but things are gradually opening up. Currently (April 2021) there is a limit of 125 people per permit.

She shared the logo for the next MAWS conference, 20202 with the second zero crossed out.

There have been some changes in the committee chairs for the June 21-26 conference. Our faithful Annette remained the conference chair. Pre-conference workshops that will be June 21-23 and the conference itself will be June 23-26.

Hopefully, the plans will include a gallery of Mary Meigs Atwater weavings on the stairway. The Helena guild plans to ask MAWS members to weave pieces from the Mary Meigs Atwater's Recipe Book for the gallery.

The planning committee has not contacted all of the previous instructors at this time, though they plan to contact the rest of them this week. Contracts will be finalized by the end of July.

Costs for students will be affected by increased expenses. Most of the predicted expenses have changed including Carroll College's fees that may increase by 5%. The plan is to use the same RSVP registration system. (Thank you, Lisa!)

The planning committee is looking for vendors. Unfortunately, Black Sheep Gathering is the same weekend.

The website has not been updated yet.

Dawn reminded members the ANWG meeting is usually before or after the MAWS conference.

Sharon recognized Annette for all the work over the past four years. She also asked the planning committee to let the guilds know what help is needed for the conference, i.e., the bag swag, and to inform Annette what swag they have for the conference bags.

Sharon reflected that she is looking forward to the pre-conference workshops, so that she can go into the conference energized.

The 2024 MAWS conference will be located in Billings.

LEWISTOWN/LETHBRIDGE EXCHANGE IDEAS:

Sharon reported that Mary Callahan Baumstark of the Art Center of Lewistown(ACL) was introduced to MAWS by Susan Lohmuller and Marcy Foran.

She has an aunt in Alberta, Canada that wants to collaborate together with MAWS in 2022. She suggested we host them in Montana and then they could host us in Alberta.

Tammy reminded us that the Art Center of Lewistown hosts the Winterfest.

Annette shared that lots of weavers come to the MAWS conference from Alberta and British Columbia.

Tammy also reminded us that the border is still closed and may closed for the next 16-18 months.

Linda says the ACL has a temporary display at MAWS. She thought we might be able to put something on our website.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sharon noted that MAWS needs to recruit younger members.

NEWSLETTER REPORT:

Newsletter deadline is May 15th. It will be released June 1.

Linda will send an email with the link to the 2 Fiber Fest events.

- May Day (1st) Fun Day at the Wool Mill in Belgrade.
- May 15th – Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest at Shepherders Park in Big Timber
- June 5-6 -- Prairie Handspinners Guild presents a Tammy Jordan workshop

NEXT MEETING DATE:

October 30 at 10am. It will be a Zoom meeting.

Prior to adjourning, Melody showed the Two Grey Hills rugs she owns. Sharon noted that if these rugs are showcased on the website, it will get lots of traction for the class.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted by
Heather Johnson
Secretary

A note from JoAnne Setzer...

There was a question from weavers in our guild if the HGA towel exchange requires individual memberships to be able to participate in the exchange... Yes, individual memberships are required. Guild memberships are not enough.

Treasurer's Reports

MAWS Account Balances as of 4/22/2021

Bank Accounts	
Morgan Stanley	\$21,116.00
PayPal	\$59
Liability Accounts	
Deferred Revenue (Memorial Gifts)	-\$690
Overall total:	\$20,485.00

Income/Expense Comparison by Category

	Year Ended 4/22/2020	Year Ended 4/22/2021
<u>INCOME</u>		
Donation	\$0	\$15
Dues	\$2830	\$2220
Misc. Income	\$20	\$20
SB Dividend	\$259	\$226
TOTAL INCOME	\$3109	\$2481
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
ANWG DUES	\$35	\$35
Conference	\$200	\$0
<u>Misc. Expenses</u>		
Newsletter Expense: Postage	\$58	\$20
Newsletter Expense: Printing	\$472	\$116
Stipend: Newsletter Editor	\$875	\$252
Stipend: Treasurer	\$250	\$250
Unrealized Gain / Loss	-\$110	\$139
Stipend: Web	\$200	\$500
Website / Web Hosting	\$193	\$497
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2193	\$2248
OVERALL	\$916	\$234

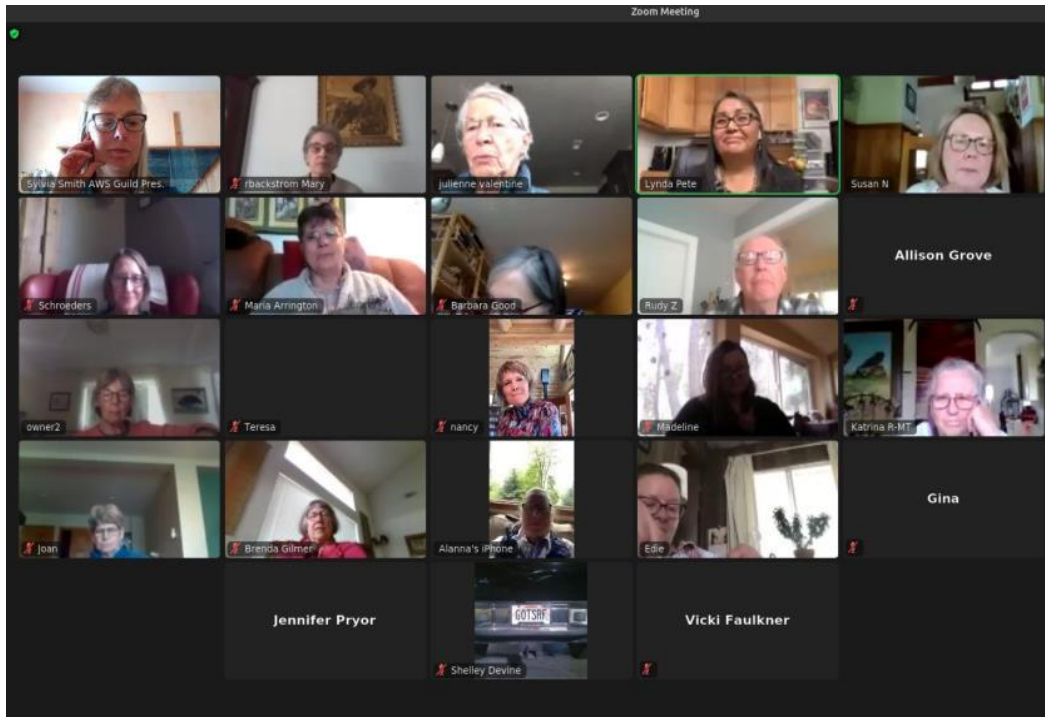


Diana Lasa-Bair of Going to the Sun Fiber Mill sent along a couple of photos of what's she's been working on. The first is a needle-felted pink lily using wool. The second is a felted woolen bowl which is from some yarn she handspun and contains dried teasel inserted through the handles.

Alpine Spinners & Weavers Host Virtual Workshop with Lynda Teller Pete

The Alpine Spinners & Weavers Guild did an excellent job coordinating this informative presentation Wednesday. Those who attended were treated to a very special and intimate talk by Lynda.

Nancy has submitted a follow up report to MAWS telling about the program and expressing appreciation to MAWS for the grant. Please see the following attachment.



The Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild hosted a virtual seminar on May 19, 2021, given by world-renowned Navajo weaver Lynda Teller Pete. The Guild is most grateful for the technology that enabled us to “bring” Lynda Teller Pete to Montana, as well as for the generous grant from MAWS that gave us the opportunity to share this presentation with fiber artists throughout the state. In lieu of a registration fee for this event, AWSG suggested that participants give a donation to the Montana Fibershed.

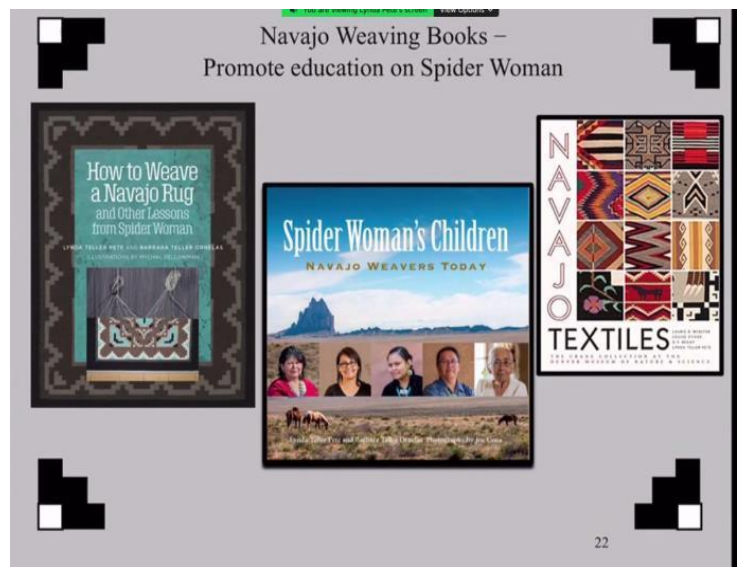
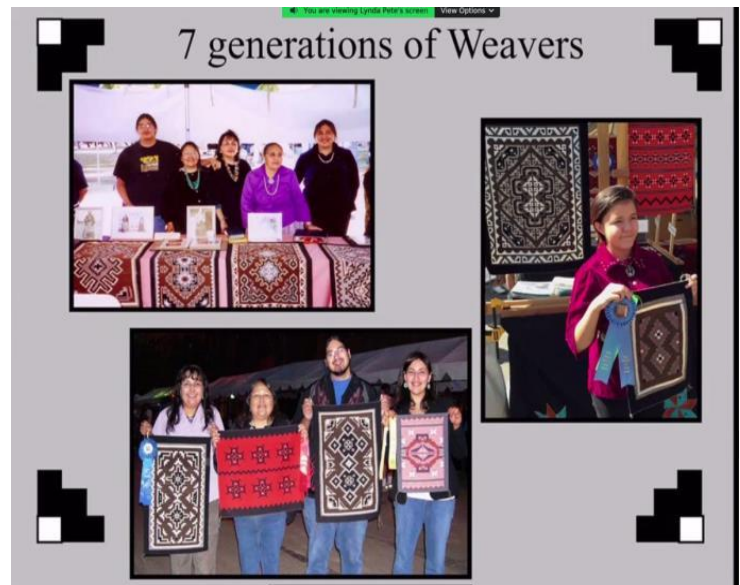
Lynda Teller Pete shared in her presentation that she represents the fifth generation in her family to learn and pass on their cultural and weaving knowledge. Her family is renowned for weaving the Two Grey Hills pattern, which is woven using only naturally colored wool. Lynda teaches young family members about this family heritage and shared that one of their 7th generation weavers is currently serving in the Navy. She also teaches non-Navajo weavers techniques used to weave on Navajo looms.

Lynda shared a great deal of her personal cultural history in the 90-minute presentation. She was just elected to the board of the Textile Society of America and serves on the committee for equity and inclusion. She feels passionately about correcting the accounting of the history of her people. An example she shared is that the “serape era” recorded in standard accounts of Navajo history was actually a period of enslavement of the Navajos by both the Spaniards and U.S. Army. Lynda also pointed out that historians typically trace Navajo weaving back to the arrival of the churro sheep with the Conquistadors. The Navajo nation has preserved weavings created by their ancestors out of plant fibers that date back to the 1400’s.

Lynda and her sister, Barbara Teller Ornelas, collaborated to write three books. Lynda stated that Spider Woman's Children is the first book about the Navajo people that was written by Navajos. Her family does not consign their weavings to any galleries but sells at two major southwestern art festivals every year. They sell their weaving directly to people in order to have the opportunity to share knowledge of their culture. Lynda and Barbara maintain a website and links to purchase the books are available there: <https://www.navajorugweavers.com/index.html>. The books are also available on Amazon.

A positive outcome of this pandemic is technological innovations by gifted fiber artists. While a virtual presentation is not the same as an in-person experience, it is an economical alternative that does not require either the participants or presenter to travel. Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild encourages other Guilds to explore such presentations as a means to collaborate with fiber artists in distant locations and to bring together fiber people in remote parts of our state.

(Images in this article are courtesy of Lynda Teller Pete and are used here with her permission.)



Prairie Handspinners Guild Happenings

These photos are from Robin Armstrong's kindergarten class. She taught them to spin, dyed the yarn with Kool Aid, then they went outside and found branched twigs. The last step was to "weave" their yarn onto the twigs.



Patricia Mutch's Guild Project



Alena Larson's Nuno-Felted Scarf



Prairie Handspinners Show & Tell Continued...



Prairie Handspinners Youth Projects from "Show & Tell" are Clara's Mitts and Isabel's Knitted Hat in progress.

New spinner and guild member, Allison's first handspun yarns!



*May Day
at
Wool Mill*



News from the Missoula Guild

FALL 2020 - PLANNING TO RETURN TO IN-PERSON MEETINGS: The guild does not meet in June & July. There will be an initial Planning Meeting August 20th, the Plaid Llama sale will be September 11, October is the Deborah Silver Workshop, and Programs for the following months are lining up (November Dye Day, December Party, January Retreat and so forth)

A couple of scarves Martha Newell wove this winter from chenille.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: PLAID LLAMA SALE!

Bonnie Tarses is chairing the sale this year, and even though she no longer lives at 115 University Ave (the home of our former very successful sales), the owner has generously offered the use of the front lawn for the 2021 sale. It will be Saturday, September 11 from 9-3. Bonnie can start receiving donations now, so call her to set up a delivery time. Large items (like looms and spinning wheels) will have to be delivered at the time of the sale, but there is room at Bonnie's to store yarn, fabric and books. Because we have all had a year to go through and organize our studios, this could be the sale of a century!

Billings Weavers Guild Projects



Left: This is an 8 shaft twill blanket out of Stricker book. Woven in Maine Line from Zephyr by Melody Murter.

Below: The Eighth Deadly Sin by Jaime Stevens



Above: Cabin Fever had an obvious origin when we were all stuck at home during the shutdown. I tied on red dogwood twigs to embellish it and tried to make some of them look like cattle brands. Jaime Stevens

Billings Weavers Guild Projects Continued...



Left: Grand Prismatic Spring is another obvious inspiration. I used rya knots of kid mohair to represent the steam which rises from the pool and reflects the colors of the water.

Right: Starry Night was just a color study at first, but then I thought it looked like the night sky and I got the idea to attach vintage buttons from my collection to represent the stars.

Both by Jaime Stevens



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 an items to sell, please send the information, along with any photos to Elizabeth Titthart. Items will be posted for 60 days. Also, please let Elizabeth 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

Grazing Hills Fiber Arts Festival

July 10-11, 2021. Viola, ID. We have over 40 Fiber Vendors, 14 workshop classes, live music, delicious food trucks, and more! PLUS... we have added a Viola Community Festival to the same weekend, giving you more shopping opportunities, a Quilt Show, and a glimpse at our talented little community that we live in. For more information and to register for classes, please visit the website at: <https://ghfiberfest.com/> or their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/ghfiberfest>.

Copper K Fiber Festival

July 17-18, 2021. 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 7-8, 2021. Eureka, MT. To learn more about the festival and to sign up for classes, please visit their Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/fiberfesteureka/> or their website at: <http://www.eurekafiberfest.org/>

Prairie Handspinners Fiber Festival

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