

PENELOPE'S NEWS



May Edition 2021

The newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Mandy Heggtveit.....Acting Chair
Moira White.....President
Beth Briggs.....Treasurer
Brenda Bekkers.....Corporate Secretary
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson..Studio Manager
Elizabeth Watt.....Workshop Coordinator

The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG) is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is *"to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning, and their related fibre arts."*

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President's Message

Last month I wrote that I was seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. Well, the tunnel deceived me, and I was mistaken, and this Covid-19 situation appears to be stuck - but even the longest tunnel ultimately has an end, and we just need to hang in a bit longer.

For strictly administrative reasons we moved the Guild's Annual General Meeting (AGM) from May to June. The AGM will be held, this year again, virtually via Zoom and I hope that many of you, including those, who live outside of town, will have the opportunity to participate.

An important part of the AGM every year is the election of positions that are being vacated by the incumbents. In this context I want to encourage especially those members who joined our Guild in the past few years or are new members to let their names stand for one of the open positions. There is no better way to meet other Guild members and to learn more about the Guild than to become actively involved in its day-to-day operations. Since we have a high number of volunteers the Guild's overall workload is generally well distributed and, with a few exceptions, requires no more than a small number of hours of your time every month. Other than common sense and enthusiasm there are no prerequisites, and you would be guided by your predecessor. Lastly, I want to add that since 2021-2022 probably will still see reduced Guild activities, this year offers a perfect opportunity to slide comfortably into a volunteer position.

I look forward to seeing you at our May meeting on May 3rd and in the meantime enjoy the sunshine and stay safe!

Mandy Heggtveit
Acting Chair

Meeting Info

This month's Zoom meeting:
Monday, May 3rd, 2021.

Program: Carol James, on
Sprang

The next Zoom meeting will
be Monday, June 7, 2021.

Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting every month. A reminder that submissions are due by the end of the Friday prior to release.

Unfortunately, due to the current physical distancing protocols in place due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the use of ZOOM for our virtual meetings we are unable to take photographs for the newsletter. If anyone wishes to include a photo of their show and tell from the general meeting or a ZOOM social, please send them to newsletter@ovwsg.com prior to the deadline.

The April Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/April-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

General Announcements

Upcoming Meeting Programs

May 2021

Carol James, on Sprang

<http://www.spranglady.com/sprang.html>

<https://www.facebook.com/Carol-James-fingerweaver-sprang-artist-245302248842412/>

June 2021

Annual General Meeting and draws for the next fibre poker challenge.

Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT – go to www.ovwsg.com - Tab Membership – Click Join – Follow the directions and fill in the forms. You may pay through a PayPal account or a Credit card. When the PayPal ‘sign-in’ box appears, the option to pay by credit card is at the very bottom of that box. Cheque/Snail mail: Cheques should be made out to “OVWSG”. Mail to:

OVWSG
Heartwood House
404 McArthur Ave.
Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8
ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to New Members

Tanika Eng

Carmen Vincent

Lisa Murray

Returning after an Absence:
Sheilah MacKinnon

Updates from the Coordinators

Library

April 2021 library day did not go quite as planned, but the librarians were able to, swiftly, come up with a plan B option. This allowed most of the requested books to circulate but from the west end of Ottawa for drop off and pick up.

We had originally been planning on May 8th as our May Library day. It was a weekend, Saturday, which doesn't have the best bussing or access to Heartwood house office but seems to be popular with members. Since we don't know if we will be coming out of Lockdown in time we will have to give an update as soon as we find out. We apologize for having to have such an undefined schedule at present.

We have had a few Guild Members offer to write book reviews of library books they have been enjoying. If you have a book, video, or article in one of the library magazines, you particularly enjoyed and think others might like too, would you consider tell us about it? we would need the name, author and call number (so others can find it too). A bit about the topic and why you enjoyed it would be helpful. A photo of the cover might be nice but is not necessary. Please send your book review to the Newsletter at newsletter@ovwsg.com.

What's on the Shelves?

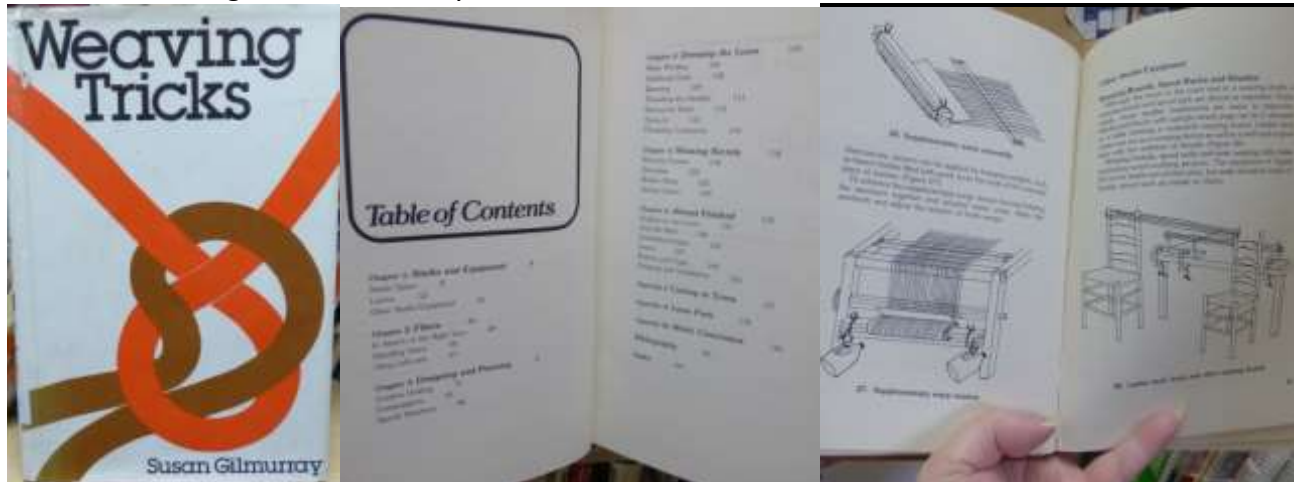
I have been highlighting different parts of the library on our Face book page over the last few years but want to introduce a couple exciting numbers here in the new letter. You can find the complete collection by subject at <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-SUBJECT-LIST-01-22-21-updated.pdf> I would like to point out the shelf locations of 736 and 738. Both are in the weaving section which you will find in the 700's in our collection. I am suggesting weavers take a peek at this section because sometimes browsing at all the possible ways to finish will inspire you with something new to begin.

I have selected a few of the book covers, and interior shots to intrigue you.



736. helpful Tips tricks hints

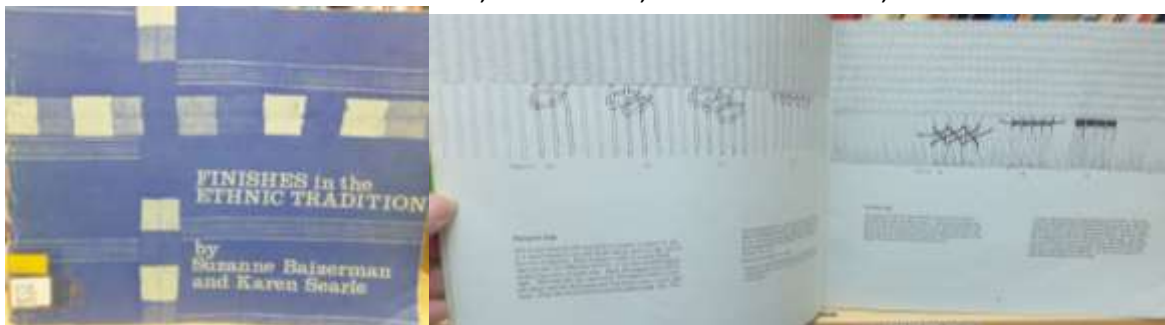
736.GIL Weaving Tricks, Gilmurray, Susan



REF736.GRi Weaving Solutions, Griswold, Alice

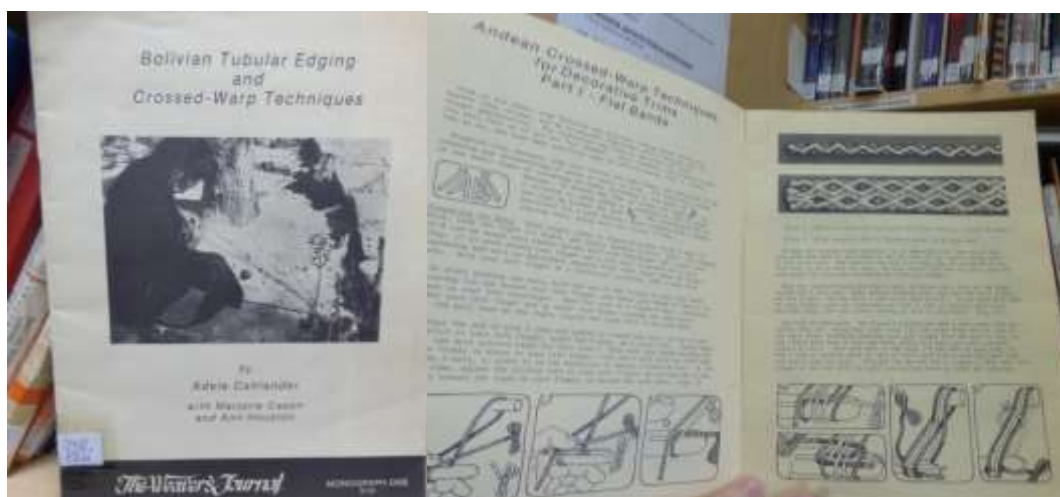
738. Finishing/ Fulling how to

738.BAI Finishes in the Ethnic tradition, Baizerman, Suzanne.& Searle, Karen



DVD738.BIX DVD-Creative Weaving Six Fringe Finishing Techniques for Weavers Bixler, Sara

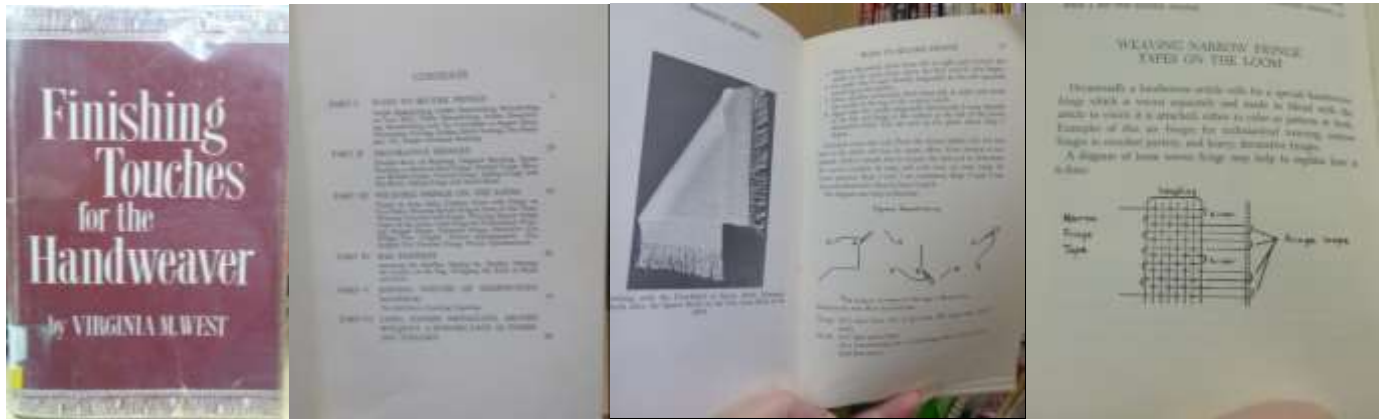
738.CAH Bolivian tubular edging and crossed warp technique -the Weavers Journal Monograph one, Cahlander, Adele



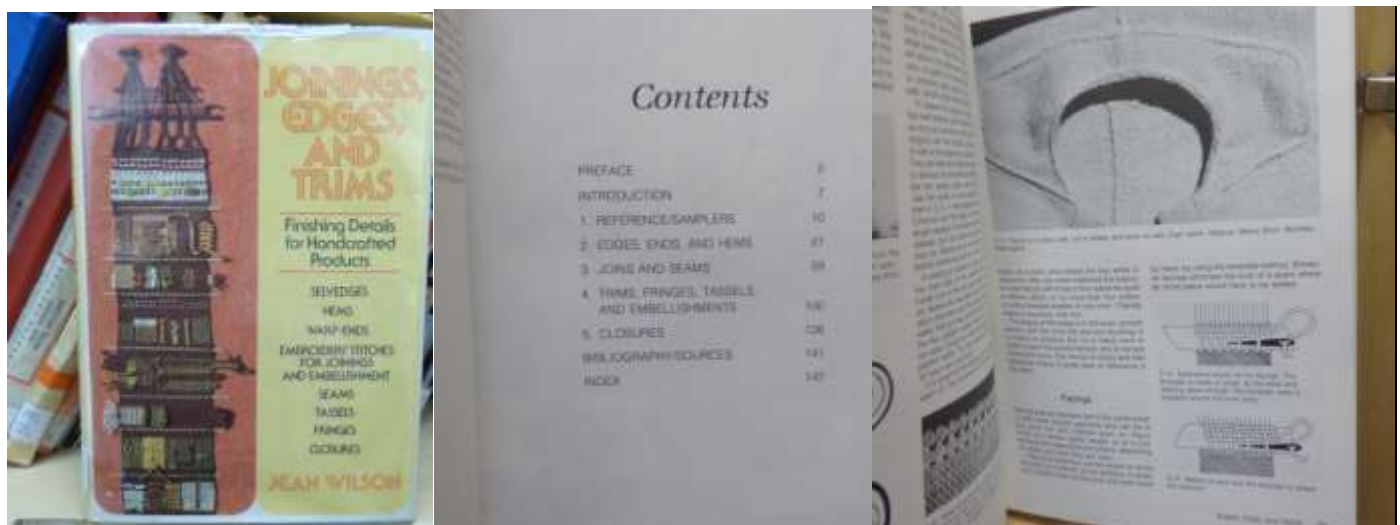
DVD738.FRY DVD-Wet-Finishing for Weavers, creating finished cloth Fry, Laura

REF738.FRY Magic in the Water wet finishing handwoven Fry Laura

- 738.GOR The final steps traditional methods and contemporary application for finishing cloth by hand, Gordon, Beverly
- DVD738.KEN DVD-From Wool to Waulking: Spinning wool and creating cloth with Norman Kennedy, Norman Kennedy
- 738.McE Compendium of Finishing Techniques –Missing McEneely, Naomi
- 738.WES Finishing Touches for the handweaver (a study of finishing details for handwoven articles), West, Virginia



- 738.WIL Joinings, Edges and Trims, Willson, Jean



- REF738.YOU The Finishing of Handwoven Woollen Fabrics, Younie, Christine

Member Book Reviews

Basket Tales of the Grandmothers

by William A. Turnbaugh and Sarah Peabody Turnbaugh (1999)

789.73TUR

This is a lovely book containing more than 280 historic photographs that celebrate the traditional beauty and lore of American basketry. It includes over 250 selections of creation myths, ghost stories, fables, and recountings related to basketry, told by authentic Native voices. The volume is a very readable and interesting historical source. It does not include instructional material.

Keep me Warm one Night – Early Handweaving in Eastern Canada

by Harold B. Burnham and Dorothy K. Burnham (1972)

797.1BUR

This is one impressive volume, weighing in at over 4.5 lbs! Here is part of the jacket flap text: “.. 'Keep Me Warm One Night' is the culmination of twenty-five years of study, during which this subject has been the major research project of the Textile Department of the Royal Ontario Museum. The authors have carried on fieldwork throughout eastern Canada. They have also extended their research to Great Britain and Europe to trace the origins of the traditional techniques that were carried to North America. Besides the text the book contains more than 500 photographs and drawings which record the material still in existence along with the history of individual pieces. The opening chapter gives a general historical survey of early Canadian settlement patterns, with particular reference to where and by whom weaving came to be established as a craft, and to the materials available for weaving. The second chapter deals with the tools and equipment used in various parts of Eastern Canada. Subsequent chapters concern kinds of weave; costume, worn up to 1900; carpets, blankets and linens; and a large variety of coverlets...”

Workshops

Workshops and Study Groups

We have made a good start with the initial 3 study groups and are now ready to expand our offerings. Now we need more ideas and leaders! Please share your ideas and your willingness to lead a group with me at workshops@wattfamily.ca. Leaders should have a good grasp of the topic to be studied but need not be experts.

Elizabeth Watt

Workshops Registrar, OVWSG

Heartwood House news

Please take note of the following changes in response to the stay-at-home conditions:

The HH Reception Desk schedule is:

1. Effective tomorrow April 8th and until Friday May 7th - the Heartwood House reception desk will be open from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
2. *Member groups* are asked to adhere to stay-at-home conditions and pick up materials as needed.

Please remember to continue to follow these COVID-19 safety measures:

- Email Elizabeth Watt schedule@ovwsg.com before attending the studio or classroom at Heartwood House. Elizabeth will administer the COVID health questionnaire and supply HH with the list of visitors.
- Everyone must continue to wear a mask in the hallways and all common areas at all times.
- Visitors without appointments will be asked to wait in the front foyer until we can reach the member group to confirm the appointment. If we cannot reach you the visitor will be asked to leave.

If you visit Heartwood House through the front entrance, use the intercom to alert staff that you have arrived. Press the black arrow then 100 and wait for reception to pick up, state your name and your purpose, and proceed when the door is unlocked.

Product Reviews

Electric Eel Wheel 6.0

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/dreamingrobots/electric-eel-wheel-60/description>

<https://www.dreamingrobots.com/>



Last year during the early covid Glenn was browsing Kickstarter, likely looking for no-fun-train-board-games which he enjoys. This time he found an electric spinning wheel looking for funding. I had a tiny portable electric wheel from the same developer which worked great, but I found the tiny bobbin frustratingly tiny! Glenn was sure a bigger bobbin and an upgraded wheel would be a perfect x-mass/birthday present.

Electric Eel Wheel (EEW) 6.0 was described as a production eSpinner that offers large bobbins, quiet operation and could both spin and ply. It was developed by Maurice Ribble (his company is called Dreaming Robots).

The Kickstarter campaign was active May 21, 2020 - Jun 20, 2020 (30 days) and **1,791 backers** pledged \$445,892 to get the project going by pre-ordering EEW 6.0's. Maurice was very good at keeping everyone up to date with development, testing, and manufacturing. He asked for input for the instruction booklets and made instruction Videos too. (He has made 114 update videos so far on you tube.) If you missed the Kickstarter but would like one, he is selling them on his website. <https://www.dreamingrobots.com/>

Earlier this month a mysterious box arrived at our postal box, it was a very sturdy box and seemed to be quite full of something.... Could it be? YES!!!

I think there are 3 of us in the guild that have received this wonderful new wheel, Angela T, Terry N., and myself. Did anyone else find such an amazing box sitting in your mailbox? I posted a video of the first spinning on my new wheel in our Facebook group if you are curious. If you are looking for a reasonably priced, light weight, electric wheel with a big bobbin and orifice you may want to check this out. I hope we will be able to resume socials sometime this summer, I am suspect all three of us will be bringing our new wheels. (there is a battery you can get so you don't need a long extension cord!!) - Jan



Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions. Contact Brenda at marketplace@ovwsg.com

Kinnaird Farm – www.KinnairdFarm.ca

- **Product photos can be viewed on website**
- Ready to spin roving in various natural colours, wool and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece – will be available mid-May; contact to reserve yours
- Sheepskin Rugs
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- **Now accepting 2021 lamb orders and again we expect to sell out early**

Contact Kelly MacGregor for details: KinnairdFarm@gmail.com



Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information – For inquiries: 819-405-2007

cgagne40@gmail.com

Christine Gagné



For Sale: Leclerc 36" 4 Harness Counterbalance Loom for Sale. Good Condition. Reed and some accessories included \$150.00. Bench not included

Contact: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson lauriehc@magma.ca



Books and Fibres for sale:

All books are in 'very good' condition.

Jillian Moreno, *Yarn.i.tec.ture* - \$20

Håkonadóttir/Johnston/Juuhl, *The Warp-Weighted Loom* - \$75.00

Sue Blacker, *Pure Wool: a knitter's guide to using single-breed yarns* - \$20.00

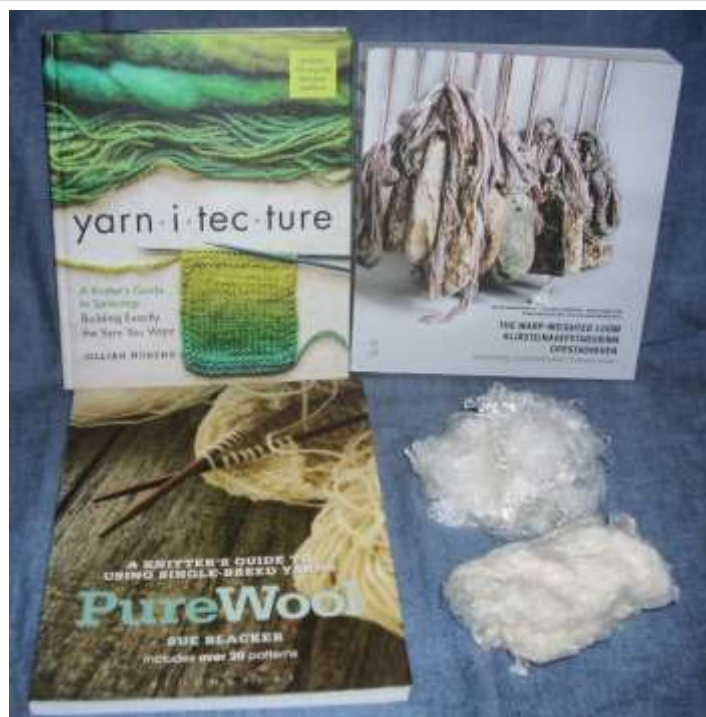
Fibres are clean and have been stored carefully.

Silk throwster's waste (above in photo), de-gummed, bleached (bright white): \$20/100g (minimum order 50g/\$10.00). Total amount available: 900g

Silk noil (below in photo), unbleached (off-white), cottony, contains bits of crushed silk pupa; \$12.00/100g (minimum order 50g/\$6.00). Total amount available: 900g

Contact: marin.gouin@hotmail.com

Paypal only, all sales final. Curbside pickup in Sandy Hill area of Ottawa.



Natalie's Legacy – Future Sale

As you know, our OVWSG Chair and good friend to many, Natalie Shumovsky, died of pancreatic cancer on February 28, 2021. Before her passing, Natalie generously arranged to donate most of her looms and all her yarn and related equipment to the Guild.

The looms have been sold as per Natalie's direction. We are storing her yarn and some equipment and books in three members' houses in the city. In one house alone (see pictures), these bins take up a space that is 20 x 3 x 4 feet! Our plan is to hold a one-day sale at Heartwood House when it is safe to gather again — which we hope is in the fall.

In the meantime, here are some pictures of some of the stash to whet your appetite! We will give everyone plenty of notice when we can finally arrange for the sale.

All proceeds are going toward a bursary fund in Natalie's memory.

Moira White



ONTARIO HANDWEAVERS AND SPINNERS CONFERENCE 2021: October 21-24

FIBRES? NATURALLY!



Featuring

Robyn Spady

Robyn is the founder and editor of Heddlecraft® magazine along with being a weaver, teacher and fibre enthusiast. Robyn offers a wide variety of workshops, programs, and seminars. She is committed to turning the weaving world on to double-faced fabrics, four-shaft weaves, uncommon and advanced weave structures, and passementerie techniques. Join Robyn on the opening day of the conference with her workshops and keynote address, "Lessons I've Learned from my Loom".

JURIED SHOW



Entries will reflect Natural Fibres, using all natural fibres and embracing their luxurious warmth, feel and drape, resisting the lure to synthetics. The Juried Show is open to all members of the OHS, including those residing outside Ontario, the OHS Board of Directors, and its Committees.

Open to all textile media including basketry, beading, braiding, felting, lace, paper making, spinning and weaving. Knitting and/or crocheting must be of at least 60% handspun yarn. Full details are posted on the OHS Conference website. More info: reinouw@outlook.com.

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <https://pheedloop.com/ohsconference2021/site/>

JOIN US FOR THE VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

Other topics include

- Introduction to Sprang
- Intermediate Spindle Spinning
- Bark Basketry
- Complex Looms & Multi Shaft Weaving
- Needle Felting
- Lace Weaving
- Photographing Textiles
- Simple Bark Basketry

Conference Features

- Juried Show
- Virtual tours
- Evening Meet N'Greets
- Vendor Market
- Webinars
- Pre-conference OHS Weaving Certification: Unit 11

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Opened on May 1st, and will directly be done through the conference website.

Registration deadline is September 20th.

Check out the conference website periodically, for ongoing updates.

Commission requests – Weavers

I live in Ottawa but my hometown in Nova Scotia recently had a tartan registered with the Scottish Tartan Register. I am hoping you can help me to find a weaver who does commission blankets who can make a tartan blanket in the same colours. Picture below for reference.

I understand this will be pricey and that handmade objects cost money. I would probably ask for an estimate up front to make sure I want to spend what is fair to the weaver to get the blanket made. I am a knitter and a sewing hobbyist and know the amount of work that goes into handmade items.

The tartan is the Judique Spirit Tartan.

Contact: zhindra@gmail.com



Commission requests - Spinners

Interested in a commission?

About one year ago, Natalie Shumovsky accepted a commission from me to weave a small throw or blanket. Sadly, she was unable to even begin the work. The yarn involved was wool that had belonged to my late mother, which she used to repair moth-eaten oriental rugs that she had at home in England. I decided to keep the remaining yarn and make some artworks with it, which I did. But there was quite a lot left so I thought a woven small blanket or throw might be in order that spoke to my mother's intentions for it by perhaps hinting at the Persian patterns she loved. If anyone is interested in creating such a piece, please contact me, Laura Brandon, at laura@laurabrandon.ca. Thank you.

**

I have collected a few bags of cuttings over the past several years from our Great White Pyrenees. The hair/fur from these dogs is inherently self-cleaning, water shedding, and very soft (not like course dog hair at all).

So, over the years I have collected enough to hand over to an experienced and dedicated person to work and convert the raw, cut material into a yarn suitable for knitting.

Please feel free to ask me at [Alexander Davidson](#) for any questions, if at all interested. Located in Manotick.

April Meeting Minutes

April 2021 Meeting

Monday April 5, 2021 via Zoom

- Welcome and introduction of executive given by Acting Chair Mandy Heggtveit
- Welcome to new member Carmen Vincent.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House is open to up to 4 people in the classroom and studio with COVID protocols maintained (masks, physical distancing). Anyone wishing to access the studio needs to contact Elizabeth Watt.
- Update from Workshops coordinator; 2 study groups began in late February 2021 are continuing. The first group has finished. Feedback has been good. A second felting study group lead by Ann McElroy will be starting in late April. Tickets are on sale now. Please submit ideas for further workshops to workshops@ovwsg.com.
- Next library day scheduled for April 11 is on hold pending restriction updates from Heartwood House. If anyone wants to take out a library book, contact the library email address with the name of the book and its number no later than the morning of Friday April 9.
- Next Executive meeting is April 15, 2021. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.

PROGRAM

Mary Underwood, Spinner, Weaver, historian and owner of Front Porch Textiles in Ann Arbor, Michigan, speaking on the Oscar Bériau project.

DOOR PRIZES

- Joan Harrison – pattern from Australia – generously donated by **Kelly Kassnova**, international weaver, and creative Rigid Heddle teacher from Australia.

SHOW AND TELL

- Ann McElroy: Felting Tool
- Terry Nelson: 384m skein of Merino/Cashmere/Nylon in pinks & oranges
- Jan Scott: Felted Sheep Hooves (Glenn thinks they are booties - shhh, don't tell!)
- Carmen Vincent: Face Masks, plus scraps from the masks to be used for making Rag Rugs.

NEXT MEETING - Monday May 3, 2021 at 7:30 via ZOOM