

PENELOPE'S NEWS



October Edition 2021

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

Carmen Deschenes.....Acting Chair
Mandy Heggveit.....Vice- Chair
Moir 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."*

President's Message

In this issue

President's Message.....	p.1
Message from the Editor.....	p.2
General Announcements.....	p.2
Membership.....	p.2
Guild Coordinator announcements.....	p.3
Program Update.....	p.3
Welcome to New Members.....	p.3
Library.....	p.4
Workshops.....	p.6
Heartwood House updates.....	p.6
Member Book Reviews.....	p.7
Marketplace.....	p.8
Special Offer – ROM.....	p.10
Upcoming Events.....	p.11
September meeting minutes.....	p.12

I'm feeling cautiously optimistic that we will soon be able to meet in person again for small gatherings at the guild. The executive has been discussing how to open our physical space to guild members again as lockdowns are lifted. Public health measures such as vaccine mandates and masking will remain for the foreseeable future, but the light is beginning to shine again. We will continue to meet virtually for our monthly member meetings into the new year, but we are planning to hold hybrid (in-person plus online) meetings sometime in the new year.

Our first in-person workshop began this month! We are using the upstairs Classroom for these first workshops as there is more space for participants to spread out. Several more spinning and weaving workshops are scheduled for this fall — check them out in the Workshop tab on our website.

The Studio has been cleared of all the excess looms and stuff that accumulated over the past 18 months. The guild was donated several looms over the summer, and the Studio became the repository for many "bits" while it was closed. It's taken a few weeks, but I'm happy to now report that all the excess pieces are gone, our two new looms are installed, and the space is once again ready for networking nights and the weekday weaving group!

And speaking of excess looms, the guild received two separate donations this summer for which the donors asked to have us give their looms to new weavers. I sent an email to all members several weeks ago offering these looms and immediately received a dozen or so responses from members wanting them. Connecting the donors with the new owners was one of the more pleasant duties I've had!

Meeting Info

This month's Zoom meeting:
Monday, November 1, 2021.

Program: Diane Taraz, Top to Toe: The Natural History of Clothing.

November Executive Meeting:
Monday November 15, 2021.

The next Zoom meeting: Monday,
December 6, 2021.

In the upstairs Classroom, the 100-inch loom is assembled and almost ready to begin its first project. We will put a call out for any members interested in participating or finding out more later this fall.

The sale of Natalie's yarns and weaving equipment at the beginning of the month was a huge success. Although the final tally is not yet in, the sale raised about \$7,500. This is in addition to an earlier \$7,500 from the sale of Natalie's looms. Her generous legacy is allowing us to set up a scholarship fund. We will let you know more about it when the policy and criteria for use are established. A huge thanks goes to everyone who volunteered to pack, store, move, set up, sell, and advertise the incredible treasure trove of goods available. Thanks also to all of you who came to shop.

Happy spinning, felting, weaving, etc.! It's such a pleasure being part of this group.

Moira White

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 day on the Friday prior to release. Submissions for the November newsletter are due on **November 26, 2021**.

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 October Newsletter can be accessed at:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/October-2021-Newsletter.pdf>

General Announcements

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

Updates from the Coordinators

Upcoming Meeting Programs

At our November meeting, we will be hosting Diane Taraz from Boston, Massachusetts, who will present “Top to Toe, the Natural History of Clothing”.



Diane is a singer-songwriter who loves exploring history through the songs of various eras, including the American Revolution and the Civil War. She performs at museums, historic houses, libraries, and folk events.

Her program on November 1st features *Top to Toe: The Natural History of Clothing* where she explores the hats, shoes, and everything in between that have played an intrinsic role in world cultures.

Through song, Diane shares stories about spinning, weaving, and sewing and how they reflect social issues and cultural movements. Her music offers a glimpse into the lives of former fibre-producers; Indeed, many of the struggles and concerns that shaded the fibre industry of yesteryear echo in our lives today.

For December, if we are still Zooming, we’re planning to have a BINGO and equipment auction as we did for last year’s meeting. Or if we’re lucky enough to meet in person by then, we’ll have our Rosepath and equipment auctions.

As for 2022, there are plans in the works, but we’re waiting to see how COVID protocols evolve this fall before confirming details. Here’s hoping we can soon meet in person once again.

Your program team,
Josée Cochrane
Joan Harrison
Liane Thiry-Smith

Welcome to New Members

Marlena Forler
Alex Vyse
Amély Friolet-O’Neil
Cynthia Yuschyshyn
Lisa Gaudette

Library

Our next Library Day will be **November 7, 2021.**

Due to extenuating circumstances, all book requests must be received by the librarians (library@ovwsg.com) before **October 27, 2021.**

Early Drop off options if you can't make November 7th :

- 1 Email schedule@ovwsg.com to arrange a drop off day at **Hartwood House's front desk.**
- 2 West end Drop off at **2370 Iris St.** (as I write this the Woodruff end of Iris is closed at the transitway).
3. Far south in **North Gower, 2452 Carsonby Rd. West.** Email first shepherdessann@gmail.com
4. Let the Librarians know at library@ovwsg.com that you will have **another guild member drop off** your books.

Selecting Books:

Members in good standing may request 4 library items for the circulating part of the library. I find browsing the topics/subject list the most helpful when I am looking for something. However, we also have lists by Title, Author, More than 4 harness looms and of course a full list of all the issues of the different magazines we have in the Magazine list (just the title will occur in the subject list so check the magazine list for all the issues). You will find the Library Lists here under "Library Catalogue" <https://www.ovwsg.com/library/> If you would like to see the breakdown of topics we cover in our collection please browse this PDF. It will give you a list of the main topics and show you some of the sub-topics that may interest you. <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/2019-OVWSG-Library-Topics.pdf>

Requesting Books:

After browsing the numerous lists of the library collection please organize your request:

Call number, Title, then Author.

Email your Requested to library@ovwsg.com (this will go to both Jan and Ann).

We will email you back and let you know you have been added to the list of books to pull for this library day. If we have had multiple requests for the same book, or your request is due back the same day you want it, or it is missing from the shelf without permission (we do search to see if it was miss-shelved). We will let you know and may be able to offer an alternative until we can get you your requested items.

Remember to let us know if you need to have an alternate pickup option (see below *Optional pickup locations*) or if you need someone else to pick up your books with theirs.

If Multiple members requesting the same book:

Since we have been seeing quite a bit of popularity for the same books, we have started a waiting list for some items. Because of this, it has been useful to have an alternate 5th option when you list your requests in case you have selected one of these very requested titles. We can also sometimes suggest an alternative if one of your books has not yet been returned or has been selected by someone else already (we will add you to the waiting list to get it on another library day).

The Reference section:

Remember REF books are non-circulating and stay in the studio. Before covid they could be viewed in the studio; by appointment or at socials (when space allowed) and before the Monday meetings. Once we have permission from Hartwood house we will set up appointments to come in and use the reference section. We will keep you updated as we get more info. Hartwood house has been more cautious than the provincial guidelines so it may take a bit longer to get to see the reference books. (I am sure they are very lonely and would like to be viewed!)



1. Bring a sheet of paper with your NAME printed clearly in BIG letters.
2. Go to 404 McArthur Ave. It is across from the Dairy Queen. There is parking on McArthur Ave, in the little plaza at the east end of the building and behind the building.
3. Tap on the studio window. (It is the first set of windows after the foyer by the Unitarian door, at the west end of the building.) Hold up your sign so we can read it and match your name to your bag of books.
4. Once we have your books in hand, we will meet you at the Unitarian Door just west of the studio window.

Optional pickup locations after November 7th please indicate when you request your books if you need one of the other locations.

1. **Before November 7** Let the Librarians know at library@ovwsg.com that you want to pick up your books at **Heartwood House's front desk**. We will email back when your books are ready for pick up. Then you can Email schedule@ovwsg.com to arrange a Pickup day at the **Heartwood House front desk**. (When you arrive, tell the front desk workers your name and that you have Guild library books to pick up)
2. Email library@ovwsg.com **West end** pick up at **2370 Iris St.** (As I write this, the Woodruff end of Iris is closed at the transitway). Or **South of Ottawa** North Gower 2452 Carsonby Rd. West – Ann will give you information.

We look forward to seeing you, Your librarians

Workshops

Upcoming workshops:

- 2110 Acadian Weaving with Judith Rygiel **(Full)**
- 2108 Spinning 2 with Elizabeth Watt **(Full)**
- 2109 Spinning 3 with Elizabeth Watt **(4 spots remaining)**

You must provide proof of vaccination to attend workshops and wear a mask at all times in Heartwood House.

Study Groups:

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

Heartwood House news

Heartwood House remains in a geographic hotspot. As a result, the front door is to remain locked at this time.

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.
- Studio capacity is limited to 4, classroom capacity is limited to 6 people. Masks must be worn when physical distancing cannot be maintained.
- Anyone attending meetings, workshops, classes, socials, renting equipment, borrowing publications or working on OVWSG equipment must use hand sanitizer upon entering, show proof of vaccination, and where possible maintain a 2 m distance from other users. (Individuals exempt from vaccination for medical reasons must provide a medical exemption certificate signed by a physician and a negative COVID-19 test issued within the past 3 days.
- Bathrooms are limited to 1 person at a time.
- 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.

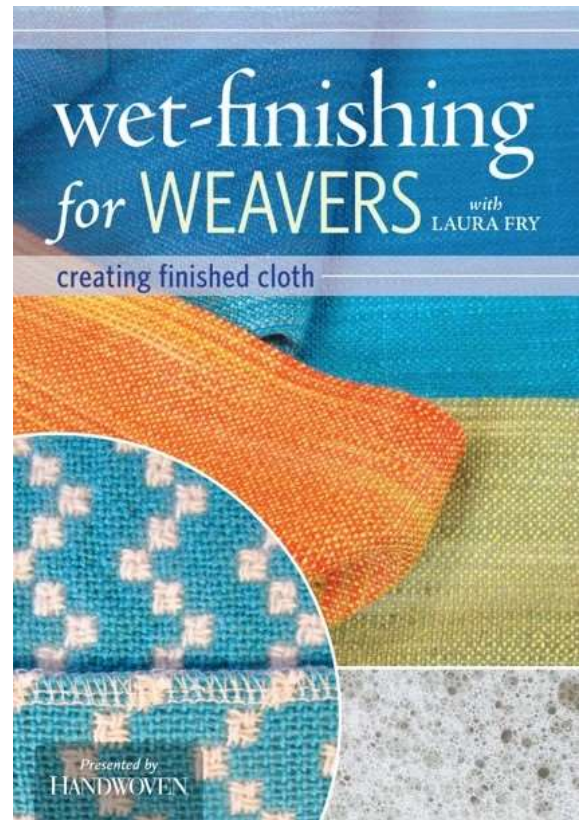
Please don't use the front entrance unless it is necessary to transport materials into the building. If you are transporting materials into the building and you meet a visitor at the front door, please assist the person to use the intercom to call the front desk.

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.

Member Book Reviews

Wet Finishing for Weavers, by Laura Fry - DVD DVD738.FRY

This is an excellent DVD. I recently heard someone say (maybe Laura Fry in this DVD) that a piece of woven fabric just off the loom is “just” an interlacement of threads. They unify into cloth during the process of wet finishing. Here is the description of the DVD from the case: “Wet-finishing is the process that turns weaving into cloth. Handwoven threads need water and motion to open them up, flatten them out, move them into place, or shrink them into the fabric that you intend them to be. In this video, professional weaver and teacher Laura Fry shows you how to wet-finish different kinds of fibers and cloth, from the magic that happens in the water through to proper pressing and drying techniques. You'll learn the fulling process for woolen and worsted cloth; how to wet-finish cottons, silks, and rayons; compression techniques to create the smooth, crisp hand of linens; how proper pressing brings out the shine of silk; wet-finishing techniques for differential shrinkage and textured fabrics; and tips and tricks for fringe and other finishing steps. ... By seeing her fabrics before and after wet finishing, you'll understand why Laura says, “It isn't finished until it's wet-finished.”



Efficient Weaver Techniques for Fast and Happy Weaving with Laura Fry - DVD DVD734.FRY

This, too, is an excellent DVD. Again, I quote from the DVD case. “While working efficiently depends on personal abilities and disabilities, space, equipment, and budget available, there are many things that one can do to work more ergonomically and efficiently. Whether one is new or more experienced, we can all learn from one another. The most common complaint of weavers is that they don't have enough time for weaving. Production weaver and teacher Laura Fry has an answer: weave more efficiently so you can make the most of the weaving time that you have. In addition to getting more textile for your time at the loom, Laura's techniques and tips will also help you weave better cloth while reducing wear and tear on your body. You'll learn how to warp your loom quickly and accurately; how to achieve correct, consistent tension during warping and weaving; how to thread faster than you've ever imagined; techniques for weaving perfect selvages; and dozens of ways to make weaving easier on your body.



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 – raw wool fleece; some lovely grey yearlings still available
- Sheepskin Rugs
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins
- 2021 lamb orders – thank you, once again we are SOLD OUT

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



Hi All,

Robert and Victoria at: www.infinityfarm.ca can't wait to see you all again!

In the meantime, we now have raw Mohair wool for sale from our Angora goats (Hairette, Mona and Friza). We also have raw wool from our Dorset sheep, our alpacas, and our beautiful black llama.

Also available:





Arnica oil, Handmade dryer balls, Felted soaps, Wool scarfs, Maple syrup, Grain chickens, Soup chickens, Fresh eggs (blue, green, white, brown) and Lamb meat!

FARM TOUR event! LUSKVILLE

November 6, 10:00 – 4:00

Our boutique Mobile will be open on weekends all year at Infinity Farm, **310 Chemin Kerr, Luskville**

Please contact us if interested at **873-353-7580** or visit our website!

<p>For the 4 ads below contact: marin.gouin@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Paypal only, all sales final, curbside pick-up in Sandy Hill area of Ottawa.</p>
<p>Indigo Hound 4-pitch English Combs, well-maintained, gently used. Includes 2 combs with stainless steel tines, 2 covers, stand with 2 pegs, doffer, tine straightener, diz, and instruction booklet. Does NOT include clamps to fasten the stand to a work surface. \$75.00</p>	
<p>Deb Robson, <i>Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook</i>, very good, \$25.00 Betty Hochberg, <i>Handspinner's Handbook</i>, very good, \$10.00 Connie Delaney, <i>Spindle Spinning from Novice to Expert</i>, very good, \$10.00 Beverley Horne, <i>Fleece in Your Hands: spinning with a purpose - notes and projects</i>, good, \$8.00</p>	
<p>Unless otherwise noted, all fibres are washed, hand-combed roving, and may contain <i>small</i> amounts of vegetable matter. All fibres \$8/100g unless otherwise noted.</p> <p>Manx Loghtan (short staples, 4-8 cm), \$5/100g, 270g Light-brown alpaca, 85g Medium-brown alpaca, 80g Black alpaca and extra-bleached tussah silk commercial top, \$10/100g, 200g Cotton sliver (commercial prep), \$5/100g, 500g Down Fleeces: Kerry Hill, 350g Llanwenog, 90g Portland, 210g</p>	 <p><i>Clockwise from top: Manx Loghtan, light-brown alpaca, medium-brown alpaca, black alpaca and bleached tussah silk, cotton sliver, Kerry Hill, Llanwenog, Portland</i></p>
<p>Maple Swatch Maker 3-in-1 portable mini loom, 9 ¼" x 6 ½" with weaving space of approximately 6" x 7", for weaving at 8, 10 or 12 epi. Includes maple tapestry needle, metal tapestry needle, threading needle for the 10 and 12 epi holes, step-by-step photo instructions and cotton carrying bag. \$40.00</p>	

For Sale: Ashford Wild Carder

Assembled but never used.

Asking \$500. Cash or e-transfer preferred

Pick up in Barrhaven.

Contact: Christine Turnbull chrissmt@outlook.com

Royal Ontario Museum Special Offer

Save 15% off ROM Admission

[Buy your timed tickets online](#) and enter promo code: **OVWSG**

The Cloth that Changed the World: India's Painted and Printed Cottons

On view through January 2, 2022

Made with novel cotton, vivid colours and exuberant design, the painted and printed cottons of India changed human history; they revolutionized art, fashion, and science wherever they went around the globe. Featuring pieces from the Museum's world-renowned collection, and several important international loans, this ROM-original exhibition explores how over thousands of years India's artisans have created, perfected, and innovated these printed and painted multicoloured cotton fabrics to fashion the body, honour divinities, and beautify palaces and homes.

What You Need to Know Before Your Visit: We encourage you to visit rom.on.ca in advance of visiting to prepare for your visit. We're following the advice of public health authorities and making every effort to help ensure visits are enjoyable, entertaining and, above all, safe.

Social media:

Twitter: @ROMtoronto

Instagram: @ROMtoronto

Exhibition: #ROMchintz

Image Credit:

1. Woman's jacket. Made in coastal southeast India for the Dutch market; used in Hindeloopen, Friesland. Mordant-dyed and resist-dyed cotton, 18th century, 57.8 cm.

LINKS:

Buy your tickets online

https://www.rom.on.ca/en/visit-us/tickets-hours?utm_source=promo-partner&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=ROM

The Cloth that Changed the World: India's Painted and Printed Cottons

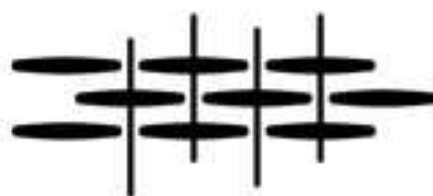
https://www.rom.on.ca/en/exhibitions-galleries/exhibitions/the-cloth-that-changed-the-world-indias-painted-and-printed?utm_source=promo-partner&utm_medium=banner&utm_campaign=chintz

What you need to know before your visit: rom.on.ca

https://www.rom.on.ca/en/visit-us/visitor-info/visitor-policies?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=visitor-info

Christmas Fair

2021



Guilde des
tisserandes
de Gatineau

— *artists and artisans* —

November 13 & 14
9am to 4pm



Communauty Centre
St-Jean-de-Brébeuf
70, Moreau Street
Gatineau



October Meeting Minutes

October 2021 Meeting

Monday October 4, 2021, at 19:30 via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Moira White
- Introduction of the executive
- 41 members in attendance
- Welcome to returning member Josée Labrie and to Pam Steacie attending her first meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House will have their Annual General Meeting on October 21. Mandy will attend on behalf of the Guild. A HH COVID policy is being finalized and is expected to be released at the AGM. Mandy will provide further details when it is released.
- Update from new Membership Coordinator, Alex Nunn. Membership currently sits at 172 members. Membership will no longer mail out paper membership cards. An electronic version will be sent to members upon request. Reminders will be sent to members who are up for renewal in the coming week.
- Nathalie's collection included some books on the guild wish list. They have been added to the guild library.
- Next Executive meeting is October 18. Moira will send the Agenda to members on the Thursday prior to the meeting for member review. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.
- Update from Program Coordinator. January's program has been arranged. A representative from Sanjo Silks will be presenting.
- Update from Workshops coordinator. In-person workshops will resume in October. Classes are on the website now. We will be starting with introductory spinning, and weaving. Any ideas for additional study groups or anyone wishing to lead one, please contact Elizabeth at workshops@ovwsg.com.
- A tensioning box has been refurbished and added to our collection. Contact rentals@ovwsg.com if you wish to borrow equipment.
- Thank you to everyone who assisted with Natalie's sale. The final tally isn't in yet, but it is expected to be about \$7500. A scholarship will be set up in Natalie's name to support members in attending classes and conferences.
- Member Borgia Destin has entered long term care. A fundraiser has been arranged to help support her ongoing care. Donations can be sent to borgiadeatin_gm@hotmail.com. The fund is being managed by her power of attorney. A de-stash sale is also being arranged.

PROGRAM

Amanda Carrigan, Natural Dyeing.

DOOR PRIZE

Pattern from Gist Yarn; Winner - Ruth Cooper.

SHOW AND TELL

Rachel Eugster – knitted colour from her spinning Fibre poker challenge.

Leslie Tepper – Hat from Belgian Shepherd dog hair mixed with Ram wool from ‘Bruce’, spun, thrummed and nail bound.

Anita Herbert – hand spun blend wool and acrylic knitted socks

Josée Labrie – ‘Flicker and flame’ hat from hand spun merino and BFL.

Sylvie Faucher – samples of linen housecoat project in progress.

NEXT MEETING - Monday November 1, 2021, at 7:30 via ZOOM