

PENELOPE'S NEWS



February Edition 2022

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

Carmen Deschenes.....Acting Chair
Mandy Heggteit.....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."*

The guild gratefully acknowledges the funding that it receives from the City of Ottawa.

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Meeting Info

This month's Zoom meeting:
Monday, February 7, 2022, at
7:30 pm

Program: Stefan Moberg

February Executive Meeting:
Monday February 21 @ 7:00 pm

The next Zoom meeting: Monday,
March 7, 2021.

Program: Alanna Wilcox

President's Message

As I write this note, Ontario is set to loosen restrictions in a few days. We will most likely have a gradual reopening over several months.

This means that we can again cautiously plan for the year ahead while respecting Ottawa Public Health and Heartwood House guidelines.

However, it will take time to return to our new normal.

Initially, we will maintain masking and vaccination rules at Heartwood House while the pandemic and its Variants of Concern are present. We are likely to initiate a hybrid model for monthly meetings when we can again safely gather as we've had feedback that many people prefer joining the meetings from their homes, particularly in winter. And we will look at the feasibility of offering some workshops or study groups online even as we move back to in-person workshops.

Over the longer term, we hope to return to social days at Heartwood House, begin working on our new 100-inch loom, and participate in more outreach and fibre demonstrations. We will plan for this year's Exhibition and Sale while being aware that the situation could change again.

The Guild completed its grant application for funding from the City of Ottawa in mid-January. The City provides the majority of our funding that allows us to rent space at Heartwood House. This funding is particularly important this year as our revenue has decreased since the start of the pandemic. Prior to March 2020, much of our revenue came from memberships and workshops.

Membership has decreased since we had to stop meeting in person and could not participate in our usual outreach. As well, we have been able to offer only a small fraction of the workshops that we once did.

The executive is monitoring the accounts and working to rebuild our programs and offerings. We are looking at the 2020 member survey. We welcome any suggestions and help that anyone has to offer.

Let's take advantage of our experiences over the past two year to move forward incorporating the best of both worlds — online and in person —as we renew our acquaintances with the Guild and each other.

Our next executive meeting is Monday, February 21 at 7:00 p.m. All members are welcome to attend; please email president@ovwsg.com for the Zoom link.

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 February newsletter are due no later than **February 25, 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 December Newsletter can be accessed at:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/December-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

Welcome to New Members

Wendy Hall
Delia Courmanopoulos
Rhonda Wadel
Laura Anderson

Carolyn Rayfield
Annie Russell
Debbie Hoover
Janet Osborne

Members Returning after an Absence

Angela Thain, Emma Fisher, Cole Mclaughlin

Updates from Program Coordinators

Programs

Our February guest is Stefan Moberg! www.stefanmoberg.com

The types of wool found in Scandinavia have a long history and connections to the types of wool used by the Vikings. There are some unique types of wool which are hard or even impossible to find in other places of the world. In 2020 Stefan Moberg started up the project Swedish Tweed, with the generous support of The National Swedish Handicraft Council. In this project, Stefan has worked with these unique sheep breeds to develop a Swedish tweed yarn and fabric, spun by a small artisan spinning mill in Dalarna, Sweden and woven on a traditional Hattersley loom. The Hattersley domestic loom was introduced on the market around the turn of the century 1800/1900. It is a semi-automatic loom made from cast iron and powered by foot pedals.

Come and hear the history of the Swedish Tweed project, wool in Sweden, and lots more!

Stefan Moberg is a hand weaver and spinner, with deep roots in the Swedish textile industry and traditions. As a weaver Stefan's primary focus is working with wool, which has led to developing a tweed yarn and fabric made from the unique types of wool you only find in Scandinavia. As a teacher Stefan is in demand in both Sweden and internationally and is also published in both VÄV magazine, Handwoven and The Wheel Magazine. Addition from Joan: And he plays the cello!

"We have other exciting guests lined up for future meetings. In March, our speaker will be Alanna Wilcox, a spinner and dyer who completed her spinner's Master through the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Guild. Her Master Thesis was about dyeing with synthetic dyes but with a twist. She has established a system that lets you dye, with great precision, any colour under the rainbow. You can find out more on her website <https://www.alannawilcox.com>.

At our April meeting, we will have a guest from Canadian Wool, an organization that aims to promote wool as a valuable commodity and connect consumers with Canadian wool products. Go to <https://www.canadianwool.org> to find out more.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting!

Your program team,
Joan, Josee, Liane"

Library

In hopes that we will get the OK to go into the studio in the near future, Please consult the Library lists on line at our web site (<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-SUBJECT-LIST-01-22-21-updated.pdf>) and the new editions for 2021 I sent with last month's reminder note, to select your February reading.

We need to know the **Call number**, **Title** of the book, and the **Author** in that order. Pick up to 4 that you would like to read, and they will be due back the next library day (which we hope will be in early March). Since we are not sure if Feb 6, our original planned Library day, will be a go we are going to leave the dates for February; tentative and March; to be decided. We will await word from the executive, but we might as well plan ahead.

For now, let's get a list of requests ready to go and we will send out the rest of the Pick-up/ drop-off details when we have more information about dates.

Please Reply to Library at ovwsg.com with book requests or questions

All for now Jan, on behalf of the librarians

Workshops

Our study groups and in person workshops last fall went well but the memberships input on future study groups and classes is needed. We will look at the feasibility of offering some workshops or study groups online even as we move back to in-person workshops as restrictions allow.

Anyone with ideas or interest in leading a study group, please reach out to the group at workshops@ovswsg.com.

Heartwood House news

As you know, the Ontario Government will begin adjustments to its COVID safety restrictions on Monday January 31st.

As of January 31st, Heartwood House will return to its regular operating schedule of:
Monday 8:30a.m. to 6:00p.m.
Tuesday to Friday 8:30a.m. to 5:00p.m.

There will be no change to the COVID restrictions in the House (i.e. only essential services in HH are open, and all other organizations can only enter to pick up work to take home).

The front entrance will continue to be locked and masks must be worn at all times in common areas.

OVWSG Policy and Procedures Code of Behaviour for Virtual Events

Policy	
	The Ottawa Weavers' and Spinners' Guild is committed to fostering a positive experience for members and guests who attend virtual events. Discriminatory language or imagery and behaviour that threatens or intimidates another person or group is not tolerated.
Date of Effectiveness	January 17, 2022
Procedures	
Expected Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professionalism is expected in all virtual communications. • All participants must comply with the instructions of the meeting's host/moderator. • Participants must join the event displaying their name. • Everyone is expected to be respectful of speakers and other participants. • Participants must raise their hand if they wish to speak, are expected <u>not to interrupt</u> or stray off the topic being discussed. • Behaviour that is distracting to other participants must be avoided. • The recording of presentations or content is prohibited without permission of the Guild.
Consequences of Inappropriate Behaviour	<p>In the case of inappropriate behaviour organizers may take any action deemed warranted, including but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warning the offender to cease the behaviour • Removing the offender from the event, and • Ban the offender from future events.

Member Book Reviews

54.742.1HAN Handwoven's Design Collection: #2 - Table Linens; #10 - Terrific Table Toppers; #16 - Kitchen Collection.

These three all contain very attractive patterns and ideas for their subject matter and since they complement each other really well, they lend themselves to be borrowed as a set.

57.736GIP Liz Gipson - A Weaver's Guide to Swatching.

This is a charming little book with extremely clear instructions on how to swatch, from start to finish. The pictures are well annotated, and there are Worksheet templates for several applications included at the back. Excellent for a new or beginning weaver. The subtitle is "How to fail faster and weave better". The only drawback is that the sample loom used is a real tease!

Show and Tell



Moira White

Handwoven basket photographed by weaver on the cover of the OHS Fibre Focus.



The January 3rd meeting was a presentation by Diana Sanderson and Jo Skinner of Sanjo Silk in Vancouver, which must have been delightful, because a group purchase from them was made as a result. Here is a picture of the many varied items chosen.

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



Looking to buy a 4 extra shaft kit for an **Old Leclerc Colonial loom - 45"**, No: 6395-7009.

Please contact mlmartel@live.ca



Indigo Hill
textile arts supplies, finished goods, and workshops
www.indigohilldystudio.ca
info@indigohilldystudio.ca
26 Main St. E., Vankleek Hill, Ontario

FOR THE LOVE OF FIBRE

Saturday May 7, 2022, Johnstown Community Centre, 24 Sutton Drive, Johnstown Ontario.

According to my old paper fold up map Johnstown is about an inch south of Spencerville on Highway 2.

I intend to be a vendor at this Fibre Festival, and I have both Polwarth and Rideau Arcott wool for sale.

After I retired in 2007, I purchased 2 Polwarth Ewes from Shirley Browskey and I have had their fleece processed into roving by Wool-4-Ewe. The majority is white with a small amount coloured with Acid Dyes and Tintex.

The Rideau Arcott fleece has been processed commercially, by several mills, into roving and a variety of weights of yarns.

I also have processed some of the Rideau Arcott by hand into batts and some handspun yarns. This is mostly white with some natural grey and some coloured with Acid dyes, Wilton dyes, Tintex, weeds, and flowers,

To be a vendor contact fibregals@gmail.com

Merilyn Mulligan

The following items are for sale at the prices noted with all proceeds going to the guild. More photos, including close-up details, are available on request. Items can be picked up at any time. Transportation is the responsibility of the buyer. Items sold "as is".

Please contact rebecca.cairns@sympatico.ca or 613-592-6974.



Leclerc 20" table loom with floor assembly. Loom detaches from scissor-legged stand and can be operated independently with the levers on the right or set on the stand and the shafts attached to the floor pedals and operated as a floor loom. Some minor missing parts. Price: \$150

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Weavermaster loom (mine is disassembled as shown in the top image; assembled, it looks similar to the photos shown below that. It operates by turning the cylinders in the middle which act in the same manner as shafts on a conventional loom, shifting various threads up or down to make a pattern). Comes in the 3 red cloth bags shown. Price: \$100



Canadian Production spinning wheel, made in Quebec. Late 19th-early 20th century. Needs a bit of love. Price: \$100



Antique Great Wheel. In working order. Provenance: Canadian Maritimes, probably 19th century. Dimensions: Wheel: 46", Base: 45", wheel detaches for easy transport. Price: \$250



Antique Wooden Yarn Winder. Estimated 150 years old, wooden mortice & tenon joints, base height: 24". Price: \$75

December Meeting Minutes

December 2021 Meeting

Monday December 6, 2021, at 19:30 via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Moira White
- Introduction of the executive
- 38 members in attendance
- Welcome to new member Cynthia Yuschyshun

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House access remains status quo. Next week December 14th, the yearly Mingle Jingle will take place. Asking all member organizations to decorate their door and HH will visit. Mandy cannot be there, anyone that wants to go in and decorate next Tuesday. Jan Scott may be able to be there. Parking at the front now says for Heartwood House members and tenants.
- Library day was Saturday. Some new books from Natalie's estate have been added and will be posted as they are included. Donations can get in touch with library@ovwsg.com.
- Update from Program Coordinator. Schedule worked out until February. Moira has organized January from Sanjo Silk. February is a weaver from Sweden that Joan organized. Trying to work out the logistics of dual Zoom / in-person meetings. Hopefully a test run will occur prior to the end of the year. Any members that wish to contribute to programs, speak to Joan, Josée or Liane. It would be helpful for the first test run to have some local for the programme. Welcome to suggestions, write to programs@ovwsg.com
- Update from Workshops coordinator. A couple of workshops this fall, and they went well. A couple cancelled due to lack of interest. Suggestions to workshops@ovwsg.com or workshops@wattsfamily.ca. Study group wet felted starting in January.
- Rentals – No updates
- Newsletter breaks for the holidays but will be back at the end of January with the February edition.
- Next Executive meeting is December 20, 2021. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.
- Another 4 shaft Leclerc has been donated. Will take first come first serve, for any member that wants it.
- Anyone who received an email from Moira regarding grant application information, please provide your updates as soon as possible.

PROGRAM

Bingo

Josée is Bingo Caller. Everyone who responded to the call letter has 2 cards. Horizontal, vertical, or diagonal line constitutes a Bingo.

Winners: Game 1 – Sandy Jager and Lyndsay Harasymchuk
Game 2 – Janet Osborne

CRAZY HAT DRAW

Winner: Carlene Paquette

SHOW AND TELL

Liane – Fibre goodies from Portland (fluff, yarn, basket)

Mandy – guild challenge; stripe, satin, rich dark colours, use your own stash (damask)

Molly – wet felted gnome purse

Cynthia – Story behind her crazy hat – husband's hat, put a piece of paper inside with the owner's address so you can retrieve it. Hat blew off in the Grand Canyon, someone later found the hat and mailed it back.

Elizabeth – Fulled-knitting slippers; old table leg – made a bird house

Alison – Long (30m warp); Sayari weaving – catch and release using up scraps.

Carmen – short blanket woven on Natalie's spring with a chain from Natalie's estate. Undulating twill.

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

January Meeting Minutes

January 2022 Meeting

Monday January 3, 2022, at 19:30 via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Moira White
- Introduction of the executive
- 41 members in attendance
- Welcome to new member Carolyn Rayfield

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House update – thank you to Jan for her wonderful decorating of the studio door for the Mingle Jingle.
- Update from membership – current 184 active memberships, several new members in November and December.
- Library sent out list of new books from the past year. Sent a request for books wanted for library day scheduled for January 9th. Requests are due by end of day January 4 to library@ovwsg.com.
- Update from Program Coordinator. Stephane from Sweden, spinner, and weaver. Link to his website in the December newsletter.
- Update from Workshops coordinator. Study group on felting with Ann beginning soon. 3 spaces remain. Hoping that March we can start offering more workshops.
- Rentals – new wheels that arrived during the pandemic, both are e-spinners. Anyone interested in a wheel trial date, mention it in the chat.

- Newsletter submissions due for February edition by January 22, 2022.
- Next Executive meeting is January 17, 2021. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.

PROGRAM

Diana Sanderson and Jo Skinner, Sanjo Silks.

DOOR PRIZE

Pattern from Sewing for Weavers; winner Marilyn Mulligan

SHOW AND TELL

Melanie Lukach – homemade raddle

Moirra – OHS magazine – Cover photo basket woven by Moira.

Leslie – photo of tartan weaving

Diane Dillon – Emilia Earhart crochet doll, mixture of silk and merino

Jan Scott – Mingle Jingle door decorations

Liane Thiry-Smith – texture blocks for felting from Murray Redding

NEXT MEETING

Monday February 7, 2022