

PENELOPE'S NEWS



March Edition 2022

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

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

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, March 7, 2022, at
7:30 pm

Program: Alanna Wilcox

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

The next Zoom meeting: Monday,
April 4, 2021.

Program: Canadian Wool

President's Message

Happy early, early spring! I know that March can be a cold, snowy month, but there is something about the longer days and the light this time of year that bring me joy. I have also got a new (to me) loom to play with, so I am a happy weaver! I was also gifted some lovely handspun fibre this weekend (thanks, Alex Vyse!), and I am planning what I can make with it.

On this note, it is a perfect time to talk about renewal. This is a rapidly changing picture: the province is lifting many of the lockdown measures as I write, so we (the board) expect to be able to lift (or at least change) the capacity limits on the studio and classroom space over this next month. We hope to reinstate the onsite networking days/evenings when participants want. We also expect the masking and vaccination requirements to remain in place right now.

Please read the posts in the newsletter from our librarians and workshop team about reopening plans. The board has agreed to plan workshops for a term at a time: this is far easier than planning them for the year and then having to cancel them. If there is a workshop you would like to see be one of the first, please contact workshops@ovwsg.com.

A small group met this past month to finish putting together the sectional warp for 100-inch loom. A larger group then met via Zoom to plan our first project, which will be catalogues. We will let you know once we get start in case anyone is interested in seeing the work in progress.

As I stated in last month's newsletter, we plan to incorporate the best of both worlds — online and in person — as we reopen our facilities at Heartwood House.

For the next two months at least (March and April) our monthly meetings will continue online. Once we go back to in-person meetings, we plan to offer a hybrid model so that our members who live further away or don't like going out for evening meetings can join us from their homes. This will also allow us to continue bringing in guests from far afield.

Speaking of online meetings, I would like to remind everyone of Code of Behaviour for Virtual Meetings that we put in place last month. We meet to talk about our love of working with fibre and to connect with other fibre-loving people. We will respect the fact that not everyone holds the same political and personal views and make sure that everyone feels safe in our meeting space.

And finally, our AGM and elections are in May. This is my last term as president. We are looking for volunteers for the board, so please consider what you can offer to help make this guild a success. If anyone is considering running for a board position and would like more information, please contact me at president@ovwsg.com to talk more about this.

Our next executive meeting is Monday, March 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 April newsletter are due no later than **March 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 February Newsletter can be accessed at:

<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/February-2022-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

Carol Macpherson
Kerry Canam
Angela Thain

Updates from Program Coordinators

Programs

We have some very interesting guests lined up! At our next meeting, our speaker will be Alanna Wilcox, a spinner and dyer who completed her Master Spinner Certification through the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) guild. In her thesis, she explored and wrote 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>. Join us March 7 to hear more!

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.

We are also planning to run the popular fibre poker challenge. Stay tuned for more details to come via email, in the April timeframe.

That's it for now! Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting, Monday, March 7th.
Your program team,
Joan, Josee, Liane"

Library

The next Library Day is tentatively set for **April 3, 2022**. The OVWSG librarians will be sending an e-mail to all members as the date approaches.

Please consult the Library lists online at our web site:

(<https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021-SUBJECT-LIST-01-22-21-updated.pdf>)

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 (**TBD**).

Please Reply to library@ovwsg.com with book requests or questions.

Workshops

Our study groups and in person workshops last fall went well but the membership's 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@ovwsg.com.

COVID RESTRICTIONS

In response to the provincial changes in pandemic restrictions, for the period of Tuesday March 1st to Wednesday March 9th Heartwood House will unlock the entrance doors.

We will monitor the impact of this change on the activities of the reception staff; safety, managing the numbers in the front foyer and respect of visitors for number limits. During this time it is extremely important for visitors to know in advance that they must check in at the reception desk and sign in and out on the visitor journal.

For OVWSG members, this means that the following measures will continue to be in place:

- 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.
- 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.

Discussion on possible changes to OVWSG COVID policies resulting from the announcement of March 1, 2022, amendments to provincial restrictions will be added to the next Executive meeting.

PARKING

As of March 1st we will return to regular checks and ticketing of vehicles that are parked in the back lot with no parking permits.

Please take note of the following parking conditions:

1. Only vehicles with HH parking passes are permitted to park in the back lot (from Moorsvale entrance to the west brown fence) from 7:30a.m. to 4:00p.m. – Monday to Friday.
2. The front parking lot is for visitor parking only. Members with parking passes are asked not to park in the front lot.
3. Visitors are asked to pay \$1 for parking as of March 1st. All visitor vehicles must be registered in the parking journal at the front desk. Store front members who receive visitors during the day must ask these visitors to register their vehicles at the front desk. Non-registered visitor vehicles may be ticketed.

Member Book Reviews *by Deborah Newhook*

The Weaver's Inkle Pattern Directory, by Ann Dixon, 741.2DIX.

This is an awesome reference book. It not only has thorough basic (as well as more complex) instructions on the technique and equipment needed, but also 400 warp-faced weaves (illustrated beautifully). Additionally, included are various cultural styles, and alphanumeric charts for a variety of fonts. Most intriguing are sections describing methods of incorporating specialized weaving techniques into the inkle project, like knots, embroidery, “scribbling”, gathering, pleating, scrunching and Shibori – to name a few. There is more – finishing techniques, incorporating beads both onto the band and on the selvedge edges, fringes, etc. That is not all, but I leave you to be teased into exploring the rest yourselves.

The Practical Spinner's Guide; Cotton, Flax and Hemp, by Stephenie Gaustad, 641.1GAU.

This is an excellent book, both in content, illustrations, and writing style. Chapters cover Cotton, Flax, Hemp, Handling the Yarn, Knitting with the Enemy, and Weaving Yarns and Tales. Also included are a glossary, and sett table. Each of the chapters on the fiber discuss the fiber species, characteristics, growing, harvesting, preparing, and spinning. I would absolutely recommend this to anyone who is thinking of trying to work with any of these fibers as it really lets you understand the fiber and why it needs to be handled in a specific manner.

Show and Tell

Klára Kónya overshoot samples based on Myra Wood's book Crazyshot.

2/10 mercerized cotton was used as warp and tabby and fingering weight cotton yarn for the patterning.

The bottom left sample was woven using two 12.5 dpi rigid heddles, and the other (bottom right) doubling the yarn using only one heddle.



Felted Vessel on a Ball Workshop - The wet felted vessel on a ball class finally runs.

We had this class scheduled for early December. It was delayed due to covid lockdowns. So, we scheduled for January and just before the class we got locked down again. We crossed our fingers and rescheduled for February. And it was a go. Yay. There were 4 students, and we had a great time. It was so nice to be in person again. We started with a small sample piece to use to practice cutting later. Here are some shots from the day and the finished pieces.

Ann McElroy



Carlene working



Diane working



Carlene with final pot



Carlene's practice cutting



Carlene's final vessel



Diane's vessel



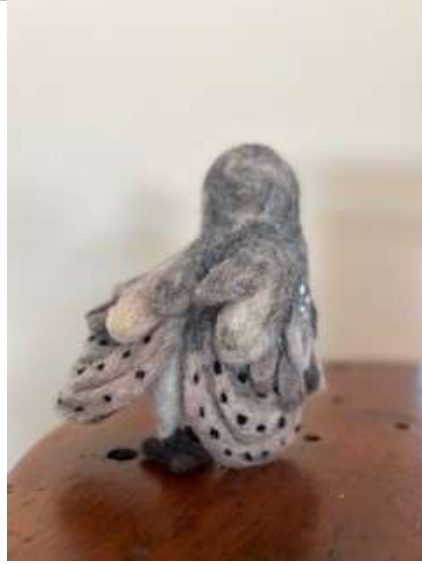
Christine's pot



Nicole's pot



Diane's vessel



Felted animals by
Wendy Hall



100" loom – Final assembly



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



FOR THE LOVE OF FIBRE

Saturday May 7, 2022, Johnstown Community Centre, 24 Sutton Drive, Johnstown Ontario (south of Spencerville)

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

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

MARCH CLASSES AND EVENTS AT INDIGO HILL

March 5: Good Food Garden Seed Sale, 11am - 2pm. Peggy from Vankleek Hill's Good Food Garden will be bringing her inventory of certified organic seeds: flowers, herbs, and vegetables for all your garden needs this Summer. She carries seeds from such reputable seed companies as West Coast Seeds, Matchbox Garden & Seed Co., Ferme Tournesol and High Mowing Seeds. Peggy is a wealth of knowledge about growing in our region and besides picking up this season's seeds you can chat with her about your gardening plans!

March 12: Macramé Wall Hanging Workshop for Adults, two sessions available: 10am - 12:30pm OR 2pm-4:30pm. Bianka of Homespun Lovey has chosen a delightful pattern for you to work on that incorporates three knot styles: a great introduction to the trendy art of macramé!

March 14-March 18: March Break Textile Arts Workshops for Kids aged 8-12 yrs., 10am-1pm each day. Topics include sewing a sock monster, mini loom weaving, bookbinding, embroidering a banner and indigo resist-dyeing. Register by the day or for the full week.

March 19: Pine Needle Basketry Workshop for Adults, 1pm - 4 pm. Led by Janis of Fair Winds Foraged Fibre Designs. Using pine needles, artificial sinew and a needle, students will learn to make a small basket with a fitted lid and decorate it with gemstones and/or foraged materials. Techniques include starting the basket, spacing stitches for even spokes, increasing the coil, controlling the shape of the basket, and making a lid with a flange.

For full descriptions, photos, prices, and registration information, visit www.indigohilldystudio.ca and see the Classes page.



Large Warping Mill looking for a new home

The guild is looking to re-home a large warping mill that previously belonged to long time member Mary Morrison.

Photo is for visualization purposes only. No photos of the actual mill were available. Mary's warping mill is not so elegant, dark wood but in very good shape. One complete turn of the mill makes four yards of warp and warps up to fifty yards can be made on it.

Donation to guild requested in lieu of fee.



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.



Roxton spinning wheel shaped object (SWSO), made in Quebec. Price: \$50



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



Antique Great Wheel, with direct drive spindle, approx. date: 1810, from Canadian Maritimes. In working order. Dimensions: Wheel: 46", Base: 45", wheel detaches for easy transport.
Price: \$300

February Meeting Minutes

February 2022 Meeting

Monday February 7, 2022, at 19:30 via Zoom

- Welcome from President, Moira White
- Introduction of the executive
- 51 members in attendance
- Welcome to new member Rhonda Wadel, Rouba, Carolyne Ticky

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Heartwood House update – business as usual; space is open within restriction limits, let Elizabeth know at least a day in advance; schedule@ovwsg.com to contact Elizabeth.
- Update from membership – current 196 active memberships, 169 individual, 13 family.
- Update from Program Coordinator. Exciting guest tonight Stephane from Sweden, spinner, and weaver. Upcoming programs, March Alanna Wilcox spinner / dyer from; April from Canadian Wool organization promotes wool as a valuable commodity; May AGM; June TBD.
- Thank you to the anonymous donors that have contributed recently.
- Update from Workshops coordinator. Available instructors are limited. Ideas and experience teaching would be welcome. Please contact workshops@ovwsg.com if you wish to volunteer. New instructors will be vetted. Program for workshops will be listed for 6 – 8 weeks at a time and there will be a limited number. Workshops will be posted on the website.
- 100" inch loom is up and going, sectional will be added to it. Hope to have it running soon. Meeting next Tuesday February 15 to discuss first project (Something simple to test drive). Reach out to Ruth Cooper if you are interested in participating. Moira will send a meeting invite. We ask that you have at least the beginning weaving course.
- Newsletter submissions due for March edition by February 25, 2022.
- Next Executive meeting is February 21, 2021. Guild members are welcome to attend as observers. Email president@ovwsg.com for Zoom link.

PROGRAM

Stefan Moberg from Stockholm, Sweden will be talking about the **Swedish Tweed Project** and wool in Sweden.

The Swedish Tweed Project: <https://youtu.be/EVxdXA5Stol>

Wålstedt's spinning mill: <https://vimeo.com/ourcollectiveheritage/httpvimeocomspinneri>

Sandy Zetterlund, Swedish fibre: <https://www.swedishfibre.com>

SHOW AND TELL

Klara – overshot samples on a rigid heddle room

Elizabeth – woven pillow cover and felted slippers

Jan - progress on Mr. Mer

Carlene – first cloth from new loom from warp from previous owner

Rebecca – 2014 British Ilse cruise to Outer Hebrides; Harris Tweed items blanket, bag

Moira – Samples for unit 1 for OHS Master weaver certificate program.

Annie – handmade backstrap loom and handwoven backstrap.

NEXT MEETING

Monday March 7, 2022