

ANWG Newsletter

January 2026

Note from the Editor

Happy New Year to one and all. I hope this missive finds you deep in fibrous creativity, warm and cozy with ideas popping up like snow drops in the warming ground. The ANWG board met January 29 with important topics on the agenda, such as updating bylaws, looking at our grant program, and continuing plans for the 2027 Conference. Let your representative know if you have questions or suggestions for the board. The next board meeting will be in April. Give some real thought to volunteering to help with the many functions and activities for your local guild and for this organization. Together we make things happen.

I often say I am more comfortable with 19th century technology than 21st century. Friday I lost half my work on this edition of the newsletter and had to re-do it. I apologize for the delay and appreciate your patience.

Important Notice

Remember that your individual guild members can subscribe directly to receive our ANWG newsletter directly in their email in-boxes.

How to subscribe to the Newsletter

1. Go to our website: www.northwestweavers.org
2. Fill out the form at the top of the page including your email address
3. Look for the email in your inbox to confirm your subscription

ANWG News

Education Chair

Members, I'm beginning to run a little lean on Movie Bites videos as we rely on no-cost entertainment for the monthly viewing. If you have suggestions for fiber-related films or other venues like the December offering please let me know. I'd love to expand but

am somewhat constrained by costs, so your help is appreciated. Want to be on this team? I'd love company.

- Liz Moncrief ANWG Education Chair

2027 Conference Update

The conference committee is busy planning the next conference, and we can announce that the theme for the conference is *Rivers & Bridges: Connecting Fiber Communities*. More information about the theme will be posted to the [conference website](#) soon. Be sure to check there for the latest information, and subscribe to the conference blog to get updates delivered to your inbox.

We've added a new sub-committee chair who will focus on identifying grants to help with funding, and have very few spots left on the committee. We're still in need of folks to lead the effort on the shows and exhibits, including the Open Show and Juried Show. If you'd be interested in helping out with those roles please contact the [conference co-chairs](#).

- Dan Steves and Edith Gummer, Conference Co-Chairs

There's still time to apply to be an instructor at the 2027 Conference

The 2027 conference is still accepting applications for instructors and proposals for sessions. The deadline is **January 31**. If you are interested in applying you can find the [call for instructors](#) on the [conference website](#), along with the forms to be completed for instructor applications and session proposals. And, if you have a favorite instructor that you want to see at the conference be sure to let them know there's still time to apply. Also, while we're encouraging folks to submit multiple proposals you are welcome to submit a proposal for a single workshop or seminar.

- Niki Schulz and Lynne Fitzsimmons, Conference Education Co-Chairs

Guild Reports

Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

Kalispell, Montana

Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild (AWSG) meets in Kalispell, Montana, but members span northwest Montana from Eureka in the north to Polson in the south. There are monthly guild meetings, as well as monthly meetings of a weaver's group, and two spinners groups, one in Kalispell and another called The Mission Mountain Spinners group which meets in Polson.

The guild theme for 2025 was *Start to Finish*. To start the year and the theme, members learned how to evaluate and skirt a raw fleece during the January meeting, as demonstrated by member Sylvia Smith in the photo below. and then some of the members took fleece home to scour. When the scoured fleece was brought back, anybody who wanted to participate took fleece home to spin. In August, the weavers warped the guild four harness loom to weave a table runner using all the wonderful yarn from the spinners. They decided on a huck lace pattern with weft floats using black and white warp in order to accentuate the handspun yarns which were mostly white and gray. See the sample below.



At meetings during the year the Spinners learned about tools used to prepare fiber for spinning, such as a drum carder, combs, hand carders and a diz, and had a demonstration by member Nancy Kaumeyer on how to process flax that she had grown.

At other meetings during the year, Weavers tried out finger manipulated leno lace, Danish Medallion, and Soumak, and worked on the theme woven runner using the spinners yarns.

A highlight of each year for AWSG spinners is field trips to local sheep and llama farms, some owned by guild members. See the photos below for guild members spinning with sheep and llamas. The guild also had a visit from two Angora rabbits, accompanied by a demonstration of preparing, spinning and weaving Angora fleece.



In December, the Mission Mountain spinners group dyed with Kool-Aid and the guild had a madder dyeing day. See examples below.



As usual, members demonstrated weaving and spinning at the Northwest Montana Fair in August, in addition to passing out Seven Strand Braid kits.

Check out our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AWSGuild/>.

DCAA Gallery Exhibit with COSW

DRY CANYON ART EXHIBIT - OUR PARTICIPATION INVITED

The newly opened Dry Canyon Community Art Center in downtown Redmond will be periodically changing the art in the main gallery. The current inaugural exhibit theme was "One from Everyone". This call went out exclusively to Dry Canyon Arts Association members to showcase our members' art made available to purchase.

The next exhibit will be focused on "Art Guilds in Central Oregon", and members of COSW (one of only three guilds) are invited to participate! The only requirement is that a COSW artist must be a current member of our guild and a resident of Central Oregon. The artists do not have to be members of Dry Canyon Arts Association. There will be no cost to participate, however a 30% commission to Dry Canyon Community Art Center will be taken, should you choose to sell your work, upon the sale of the artwork. An artist may also decide to submit their item for display only.

NOTE: Space is limited and will be divided up between the following central Oregon art guilds: *Central Oregon Metal Arts Guild, Watercolor Society of Oregon, Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers Guild and Glass Artists of Central Oregon*

The gallery will want some handspun skeins for sale during the exhibit, so we encourage spinners to enter their skeins. Linda Gettmann will do weaving demos a few times during the month of Feb. They will welcome any spinners that want to come and demonstrate also. We would like to have a good representation of woven items, handspun, tapestry, felted items, and any other fiber art you create.

KEY DATES

Submission Deadline – January 19, 2026

Notification Date – January 24 – 26, 2026

Intake Date – February 2, 2026

Exhibit Opening Reception – February 6, 2026, First Friday in Redmond

Pick up Date – March 1, 2026

Keep in mind that you will not be able to remove your art during the exhibition.

SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Use the DCAA web site to make your submission. See guidelines section below. Artists can submit a maximum of 3 artwork images.

Submission is free.

In order to submit, follow these instructions:

1. Have a photo of each of your artworks, the images resized to no larger than 500K max. Name your artwork images (lastname-firstname-title.jpg). à NOTE: If you have trouble with photo resizing, please email your jpeg photos to Linda Gettmann and she will resize them and email back to you.
2. Go to <https://www.drycanyonarts.org/art-center-art-submission-list> and fill out the online form to submit works for consideration. List your pieces in priority order. Click the SUBMIT button. Pieces may be marked "Not for Sale." Keep in mind there is a 30% commission when determining your asking price. à NOTE: When the submission forms are properly filled in and submitted an auto acknowledgement is sent. If you do not receive that then the form did not go through.

Questions or Concerns: Contact the Exhibition Committee at gallery@drycanyonarts.org.

ART INTAKE AND TAKE DOWN

Linda Gettmann will help with transporting items to the gallery for check in on Mon. Feb. 2 and picking up items after the exhibit is over on Sun. March 1.

PUBLIC RECEPTION:

A public reception will be held on Friday Feb. 6th from 4pm to 7pm. This is the *First Friday Art Walk* in Redmond.

The Dry Canyon Community Art Center is located at 415 SW 6th St in Redmond. The gallery is open 5 days a week, Tuesday thru Saturday. Members can stop by the Art Center to see the space.

ARTWORK GUIDELINES

These guidelines outline requirements for artists who wish to submit and exhibit work at the Dry Canyon Community Art Center Guilds Exhibition.

All art must be original. The Art Center cannot accept AI generated art.

Hanging Art:

- 2-D artists may submit up to three works, none of which may exceed 35 pounds and no larger than 36" x 36".
- 2-D work must be wired to hang on the gallery walls.
- Unframed 2-D work must have finished edges. Unframed work may be on any substrate. Some examples are canvas, glass, wood, or cradle board.
- 3-D artists may submit up to three works.
- 3-D work that hangs must be wired to hang on the gallery walls.
- All work must have ID Tags on the back with artist name, artist guild, phone number, title of work, and price. You can use your business card for this. Leave 1" space at the bottom of the card for the gallery bar code and price sticker.
- Work cannot exceed 35 pounds and no larger than 36" x 36".

[https://mailchi.mp/9e507e26fb24/cosw-october-2023-newsletter-13912327?
e=5fe84515b1](https://mailchi.mp/9e507e26fb24/cosw-october-2023-newsletter-13912327?e=5fe84515b1)

Columbia Fibres Guild

Columbia River Gorge, Oregon and Washington

Our annual holiday luncheon was another great success. We met at the historic Gorge Hotel. The crew who organized the party had so many door prizes donated by businesses that nearly everyone went home with goodies. The beaded knitting needle take home decorations were a hit and Izzy's annual cookie table was quickly devoured. We had a White Elephant exchange and many of us participated in an individual gift exchange.

We are very pleased to welcome our new treasurer, Annali Cross, with heartfelt thanks to retiring treasurer Barbara Hansen. Thanks to both of you for stepping up when we needed you.

The new year is starting out with several programs offered by our own members. Rachael Foss demonstrated entrelac knitting, followed by a mini workshop to teach us how to do it ourselves. Boy, to watch Rachael knit backwards makes my head spin! In February Lou Palermo will educate us about lace making. Jillian MacIntosh will demonstrate and teach nuno felting in March.

Three of our members are confirmed newly certified NwSFA fiber art judges. Margot Siebenmorgan, Elise Clark, and myself, Nancy Skakel, are eager to serve and to continue learning about the many applications of fiber art.

- Nancy Skakel, ANWG rep

Desert Fiber Arts Guild

Kenewick, Washington

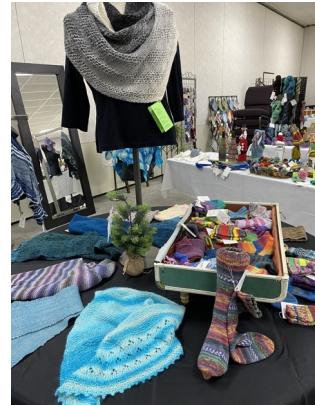
In early November, Desert Fiber Arts had the most successful Fall Market in our history, with over \$15,000 worth of items sold.

Members donated over \$1000 worth of merchandise and most participants received 80% of the sale price of their sold items.

This year, our theme of RepurposeReuse and Recreate was illustrated for some items with Green Tags, which told a short story about the item's previous use.

DFA members volunteered time to cashier, docent, demonstrate, wrap and bag items. What a team! Here are a few pictures of our Fall Market 2025.

- Betsy Dickinson, ANWG rep



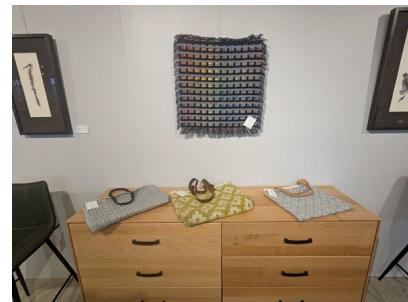
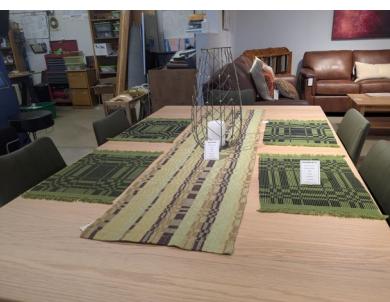
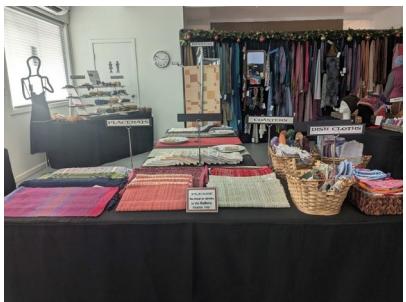
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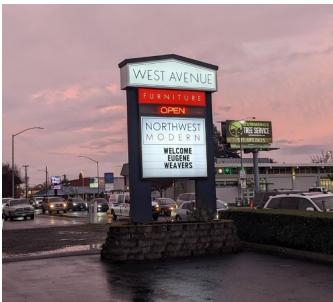
Eugene, Oregon

The Eugene Weavers' Guild focus this past fall was primarily Outreach! In November, we were the "featured artist" at West Avenue Furniture in Eugene, and we were able to display our handwoven "home goods" - runners, wall hangings, pillows, blankets, rugs. This tied in nicely as a lead up to our annual Fiber Arts Celebration and Holiday Sale, which is always the Friday and Saturday after Thanksgiving. They held an evening reception for us, and we were able to meet the public and highlight guild activities, as well as promote our Celebration and talk to people about weaving in general. This was the second year we've done this, and it's been very positive for both the guild and for West Avenue! Plus it's really fun to see our weaving on their beautiful furniture! (Photos attached)

Our November speaker was [Theo Rooden](#), of the Netherlands, who presented a very inspirational program. He spoke about the evolution of his weaving journey, and a bit about design, while highlighting some of the practicalities of weaving as a profession. His work is very engaging, and explores color and optical illusion in fresh ways.

We closed the guild year with a successful Fiber Arts Celebration & Sale at the end of November. Our primary focus is to showcase weaving and fiber arts to the community while providing a place for members to sell their work - we can't keep or gift it all! We had record sales and record attendance, and a record amount of fun, too, with demonstrations that appealed to a broad range of our shoppers!





Gorge Handweavers

Odell, Oregon

November 15 through 17, 2025 were the dates that The Gorge Handweavers Guild sponsored a three day Krokbragd workshop by Debby Greenlaw via Zoom. A Weaving Guilds of Oregon (WeGO) grant was used to offset the cost of this workshop for the participant. There were twenty participants. The majority of participants accessed the workshop from their homes but a small group met at the Grace Carter Weaving Studio in Odell, OR. The attached photos are of members weaving and of a sampler that was woven during the workshop and finished afterwards.

The Gorge Handweavers continue to weave fabric for chair cushions for the Timberline Lodge on Mt Hood. We delivered over 17 yards of fabric to them this past summer. We have woven over 15 yard of fabric on a 25 yard warp and hope to be able to deliver it to Timberline Lodge in the near future. We're really excited that there is an article about this project in the Winter issue of Shuttle, Spindle and Dyepot magazine! Please check it out!!

- Mary Davis, ANWG rep



Monashee Spinners & Weavers

Lumby B.C. and area

This was a busy year for our group which has grown quickly since Covid with several younger people joining us with their enthusiasm and physical energy. Regular weekly gatherings occur throughout the year for spinning and other activities.

We held a 3 day Retreat at the beginning of March where we shared how to hand card fibre, how to turn neat straight hems on our weaving and then we showed and told about each persons' items and discussed any problems and/or solutions they had/have. We always gain knowledge and have a great time.

April 5 saw our group host a very successful and well attended Spin in with people attending from Kamloops to Oliver thru the Okanagan valley. Some members knit 55 mini sweaters which were used for our name tags and saved as great souvenirs of the day. Great day to visit, spin, knit, and shop at 6 vendors booths. We plan to do this every 2nd year.

June 14th We had a great display and demos at our local Lumby Days. We have participated for more than a decade at Lumby Days.

Oct 4 & 5 we were asked to do a display of wool products for the annual BC Sheep Federation conference held this year in Vernon. We were very surprised with the great welcome and support that the sheep producers gave us. We made many connections with the wool producers which should benefit both groups in the future.

July saw us hold 2 dye days at a members house which were fun times and we all dyed many things from locks, to roving, to skeins, and warp painted and just experimented as well as precision percentage dyed some articles.

In June we decided that we would have a holiday show and sale so planning and preparations started. Nov 29th saw a snow free day and hundreds of shoppers came through our joint show and sale in the Halina Centre in Vernon. We occupied the gymnasium and stage with sales tables and displays on the floor and demonstrations on the stage. The Kalamalka Weavers & Spinners occupied the Club room for their sales. The Halina center has a small cafe where husbands and shoppers needing a tea or coffee and goodies could go and sit down and then continue on. The whole group participated whether they were selling or helping or doing demos. A lot of planning ahead of time really helped to make the evening before set-up and the Saturday sale run smoothly. We were very happy with our sales and had many positive comments about our displays, demos and welcoming atmosphere.

We completed our year with a Potluck get together held Dec 6th and had 20 people attend for a lovely lunch, spinning and visiting.

Included are a few pictures of our events



MidIsland Spinners and Weavers Guild

BC

Mid Island Weavers and Spinners Guild's Bi-annual Destash - Restash Sale March 7th

2026 9:30 to 2pm

Spinning Fibre, Weaving materials, Equipment, almost anything that you can think of.
Great deals, great fun.

Cedar Community Hall 2388 Cedar Rd.

From the north- come off the Parkway onto Cedar Rd, turn right after going across the Nanaimo River bridge to stay on Cedar Rd. go approx 4km , hall is on Left, opposite the cemetery. From the south- turn onto Cedar Rd. at the lights just south of the airport, stay on Cedar Rd , hall will be on your Right, opposite the cemetery.

Please note: Cash Only - Credit or Debt not available

More info or for table rental @ \$35.00/table Contact Kathy McDonald 250-714-2287
cedarweaver@gmail.com

Missoula Weavers Guild

Missoula, Montana

SCANDINAVIAN MARKET: (Sons of Norway Holiday Sale)

The display table was a bountiful collection of handmade fiber items. Thanks to all who participated. Edie petting Kristi's Vicuna (yarn). The event was a good time to visit and exchange lovely fiber gifts, again and again.

WINTER RETREAT: The plan for the retreat is that we will all be able to work together on special pieces for the MAWS'26 conference, try our hand at Bateman weaving and learn more details of the conference plans from Sharon. We will have a show and tell and lots of social time as we create!



MAWS 2026 - A Thread Runs Through It

The Steering Committee is doing a final walk-through at the University Center to confirm venue questions and needs Tuesday, January 6th. Registration opens February 14th, in about 5 weeks !!! We are on track for a successful conference. There will still be details to take care of so there will be more opportunities for everyone to be involved.

Happy New Year !

Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners Guild

Surrey, BC

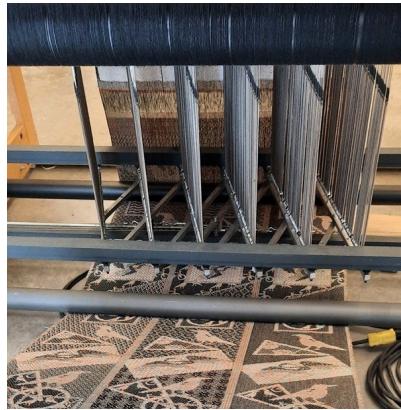
The Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners Guild continues to meet at and have a close relationship with the Museum of Surrey. This museum has a textile centre which houses a number of Guild looms and our members weave projects on the looms while the centre is open to the public. Our members who do this are registered volunteers with the city. They decide on the projects and pay for the cost of the materials. There is also an extensive dye and fibre garden on the grounds of the museum.

Besides meeting monthly, the Guild has weekly drop-in activities. This summer this involved field trips as well – to Granville Island weaving studios and Coniagas fibres. Attached is a photo of people spinning at Coniagas. Some other drop-in activities: e-spinners, lace making, beading, bead weaving. There was a weaving round robin workshop where participants warped their looms for different structures and wove on all the looms. Other workshops: cedar bark bracelets, rigid heddle weaving and felting. We hosted a spin-in at the historic Stewart Farm in Crescent Beach and demonstrated at the large fibre event: Fibres West in March.

The other photo is of the Jacquard loom at Ruth Scheuing's Granville Island studio. The Guild has access to a punch card Jacquard loom at the Surrey Museum that Ruth restored.

The Guild used to have a successful sale but no longer because we have no volunteer

- Janice Griffiths, ANWG rep



Portland Handweavers Guild News

Portland, Oregon

The Portland Handweavers Guild had a busy fall, and while it's colder outside the guild winter calendar is heating up. January sees us with a presentation from Rebecca Smith on Transparent Tapestry, February brings us Karen Selk with a program on Wild Silk, and March will include a program and workshop with Carly Jayne on Multi-heddle Weaving on a rigid heddle loom. Programs are available to the public via Zoom. You'll find program details and the zoom links on our website

- <https://portlandhandweaversguild.org/>

There are also plenty of hands-on learning opportunities in the coming months. In addition to the rigid heddle workshop with Carly Jayne we also are welcoming Stacy Schlutsmeyer to Portland to teach her 3 day workshop "From Zero to Sulawesi." January and March will also see the Ruth Dabritz Legacy Project offer two more sessions of our "Learning to Weave on a Floor Loom" class for beginners. Details on these and all our workshop offerings are available on the website.

- Dan Steves, Guild Rep



Rebecca Smith - Transparent Tapestry

Stacy Schlutsmeyer - From Zero to Sulawesi

Carly Jayne - Double Trouble and Triple Treats

Mastering Multiheddle Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom

The Portland Handweavers Guild has seats available in an upcoming workshop - "Double Trouble and Triple Treats - Mastering Multiheddle Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom." The workshop is taught by Carly Jayne, and runs March 14 - 15. For more information and to register see the PHG website at <https://portlandhandweaversguild.org/events/workshop-double-trouble-and-triple-treats-mastering-multiheddle-weaving-on-a-rigid-heddle-loom/?occurrence=2026-03-14>.

Sacajawea Fiber Arts Guild

Kelso, Washington

Sacajawea Fiber Arts Guild is a small but growing guild. We are located in SW Washington and meet in Kelso. Now we have about 35 members with many of the newbies in the under-40 age group. We are thrilled to welcome new generations of crafters. A guild effort is mentoring and encouraging the beginners while supporting those who have proficient skills.

There have been several keys to our growth. We broadened our scope from only weaving and spinning to become a forum for fiber and yarn enthusiasts of every stripe. Public outreach includes displays and demonstrations at 3 area fairs and the farmers' market. At the library we have participated in art and craft themed events. We are fortunate to have a home base at La Favorites Yarn & Coffee Shop. There we invite visitors to our meetings and schedule meet-ups for spinners, hand-stitchers, crocheters, and classes such as making Tamari Balls. This year our members seem less enthused about setting up public engagements. More interest is being expressed for bringing in a teacher for a workshop or class.

A special highlight last spring was the ANWG conference where 6 of our members attended; five for the first time. One of our new members was the lucky recipient of the Learn To Weave class. A fabulous start for her!

One study group formed to explore natural dyeing on wool. They met in the spring to plant seeds in starter pots then each took home a selection of their choosing to raise and harvest. The group met in September for the dye day using coreopsis, chamomile, horsetail, bachelor buttons, marigold, onion skins, and Black Knight Scabiosa. Each study participant now has a collection of swatches, recipes, and experience growing their own dye garden.

This year the challenge project is for small groups to select a theme and then make a collection of items that can be displayed together. Those items can be of any fiber/thread technique. The items can then be used in our guild displays at fairs and special events.

- KathieLeigh Marts, ANWG rep

Salem Fiberarts Guild

Salem, Oregon

The Salem Fiberarts Guild held its annual sale in early November at its home in the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem, Oregon. Once again, the event was well attended, as the Guild sold dozens of scarves and rugs and, of course, the ever-popular dish towels. And we even gained a few new members that weekend!

WHC's Magic at the Mill at the end of November was filled with holiday lights, music, vendors and fiber demonstrations of all types. Weaving at floor and table looms, SFG members enthusiastically shared the how-to's of wool and cotton and warp and weft with families of all ages.

Back in October, several members learned that not all weaving is done with wool or cotton. Members of Center 50+ from Salem shared their skills and taught us how to make delightful pine needle baskets. The pleasant scent of wet pine needles was an enjoyable bonus!

At the business end of things, SFG has been putting the finishing touches on our new public website which will be released in early 2026. I've had a sneak preview – it looks terrific!

- Renay McLeish, Salem Fiberarts Guild



Saskatoon Spinners and Weavers Guild

Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Greetings from the Saskatoon Spinners and Weavers Guild!

The SSWG has an annual sale in November. For the last sale, we decided to hold a fashion show on the opening night, featuring lovely items created by our very talented fibre artists! Our members were also the models walking the runway. It was well attended despite the snowstorm that day. The appetizers were also created by one of our talented members and were much appreciated.

- Sheila ffollott, ANWG rep

Sunshine Coast

Sunshine Coast, BC

We have over 100 members now! Our guild has become a vibrant hub of sharing and learning.

Our workshop committee has several workshops planned this year, including the sold out "Yoga for Fibre Artists". Additionally, several skill shares are planned, which are free "mini lessons" on how to do a quick thing, like turning a heel, or tying a warp or something like that.

We continue to participate in the "Repair Cafe" held at our local library, where we show up with a variety of tools to help people mend their knitted items or figure out a knitting or spinning challenge.

Our outreach committee is working with the library to keep the Giving Garland filled with mittens, hats and scarves during this cold season.

Every January it is our "Stash Sale", where members bring no longer needed items from their stash to sell or trade with other members. It's always so much fun and garners some donations to our library.

- Kim Fenton. Past President and ANWG rep

Threadbenders

Northeast Oregon

Our guild had a busy and fun fall. In November, 14 guild members participated in a 2-day Krokbragd workshop with instructor Patty Huffer. We learned about the structure of Krokbragd, how to weave the treadling sequences, and how to create our own designs. Additionally, those with rigid heddle looms learned how to set up and thread a second heddle in order to weave Krokbragd. Patty also demonstrated several finishing techniques that can be used for Krokbragd as well as other woven pieces. This was an enjoyable and interesting workshop and many of us are now inspired to continue our own explorations of Krokbragd.

Also, for the second year in a row, we conducted two holiday sales within one week – quite an accomplishment for our small guild! We participated in Artist Sunday at the Crossroads Carnegie Art Center in Baker City on November 30th and were

featured at an Artisan Pop-Up at Art Center East in La Grande on December 6th. Both events were well attended and we nearly doubled our sales over last year due to the word spreading about the quality of our handcrafted pieces.

Happy new year, everyone!

Nancy Findholt, ANWG Rep





class instruction



Patty demonstrating how to design



Patty providing individualized



Krokbragd sample on the loom

Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild

Victoria, BC

Fibre from Stinging Nettles

Sharon Kallis from EarthHand Gleaners Society (<https://earthand.com>) taught a 2-day workshop on November 22nd and 23rd on the processing and spinning of dried stinging nettle stalks. Sharon discussed the availability and sourcing of stinging nettles on Vancouver Island, and their ethical harvesting and retting. She also brought fabric samples and clothing woven out of stinging nettle yarn for the members to handle and examine.

Ten guild members began with nettle stalks that Sharon had previously harvested, retted and dried. A guild member brought some fresh stalks for comparison. The stalks were first scraped, flattened, and cracked open, peeling off the tough outside fibre. A variety of scrapers, rolling pins, washboards, and just hands were used in this step. Once the outer fibres were removed, the inner nettle fibres were worked to soften them up. A

hackle was used to soften and separate the fibres. They were sorted by length and any remaining coarse outer fibre was removed. The nettle fibres were lightly carded, either to prepare them as rolags or to roll up in a tea towel as a distaff.

Finally, using drop spindles, the fibres were spun into yarn. Yarn was spun from both rolags and the tea towel distaffs. The rolags were a little easier to manage when using a drop spindle. The fibre felt remarkably soft and smooth considering its source.



Sheep Shearing Support Project

Members of the Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild, in collaboration with the Vancouver Island Fibreshed, provided Sheep Shearing Support to a local farm on January 6th and 7th, 2026. The Fibreshed program involves teams of volunteers who are invited onto farms to evaluate fleeces as they are sheared from the sheep, sorting the fleeces and determining which are suitable for hand spinners.

The sheep at Parry Bay Farm are East Friesian, some Texel, and some Finn; most of them are crosses. The majority of the sheep are white so their wool can be sent to the wool board. Commercial spinning mills want white wool because it is easily dyed. There are a small number of colour sheep, though. Their fleeces are sought after by handspinners.

There were volunteers from the Guild, the Fibreshed organization and some veterinary students on a practicum. Some of the Guild members had their Level 1 Certification in classing wool. The vet students helped move the animals, support the shearer, and move fleeces from one skirting table to another.

Each fleece was first assessed as to whether it was of handspinner quality. If not, the fleece was skirted to remove poop and tossed into a large bag to be sent to the wool board. If the fleece was worth spinning, it was folded up and brought over to the second skirting team. The second team did a more extensive skirting, removing poop, excessive vegetable matter, and belly wool. The latter was moved into a separate bin so it could be sold by the farmer.

Information about the handspinner quality fleeces--staple length, amount of VM, softness, etc.-- was recorded on a sheet. The sheet was attached to the bag in which the fleece was packed.

At this event, 185 sheep were sheared over the course of the two days. The farmer benefited from knowing which fleeces could be offered to artisans, and the latter knew these fleeces had been skirted, assessed and judged to be of good quality. The lucky shearing-support volunteers also got to pick out any fleeces that they wanted!



Walla Walla Weavers and Spinners Guild

Walla Walla, Washington

Our Walla Walla Weavers and Spinners fall activities included more spinning, weaving, sharing, and a fun holiday gathering, where we made Carolina stars. We learned with paper strips, then progressed to reeds. It's a great project and a lovely holiday decoration.





Whidbey



Whidbey Weavers Guild

Coupeville, Washington

It was a busy and successful autumn for the Whidbey Weavers Guild. Our annual UnCommon Threads Sale was held November 7 & 8 in Coupeville. This has become a regular community event, with shoppers coming from the surrounding area every year. Guild members filled the hall with a wide variety of textile arts. We surpassed last year's totals for items and income for both the member vendors and the Guild.



The annual members only auction was held in Coupeville on December 4. Books, equipment, yarn, fiber and other items were offered for sale to members of the guild. Several new members joined that day and everyone seemed to have fun while helping fund guild activities for the coming year. Some of us left with just a handful of items and others needed help getting looms and spinning wheels home.

Our planning meeting is coming up in January and then we return to regular programs, beginning February 5 featuring a program on Handwoven Southern

Counterpanes. This meeting will be both in person and on zoom.

Of special note is our upcoming annual Spin-In. This year our Spin-In will be held on April 18 & 19th in Oak Harbor and our Guest Speaker will be Jacey Boggs-Faulkner. Jacey will be with us throughout the weekend. This promises to be a special weekend and we hope everyone is marking their calendar to join us.

- Donna Johnson, ANWG Liaison