



# The Weaver's Bag

Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's Guild of Utah • June 2022 • Vol. 70, No. 6

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## June Guild Meeting

**What:** Indigo Dyeing, Guild Challenge Reveal, and Potluck Lunch

**When:** Saturday, June 11, 2022, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Where:** Susan Hainsworth's Family Park, 91 East 400 North, Centerville

*Indigo Dyeing.* At our June Guild meeting, we will be learning about indigo dyeing. We will also be able to dye fabrics or yarns in indigo vats. Indigo dye is one of the most important dyes in the world and is fascinating to work with.

Maureen Wilson and Jill Dahle will provide an introduction to the process of indigo dyeing and will have two indigo dye baths prepared. High-quality cotton dishtowels will be provided for anyone who would like to dye one. You are also welcome to bring an additional skein of yarn or piece of fabric to dye if you wish.



Maureen and Jill will demonstrate simple resist techniques, and we will be able to try these techniques on the dishtowels that are provided or on other fabrics before dyeing them.

Please bring rubber gloves and wear something that won't be damaged if you get dye on it. Since the Guild library is in Susan's home, you will be able to browse the wonderful books!

*Guild Challenge Reveal.* If you have made a plaid item for the Guild Challenge, please bring it to this meeting. We will all get to see the beautiful things! You can also bring Show and Tell.

*Potluck:* Please bring a salad or dessert to share. The Guild will provide the rest.

## President's Message

Dear Fellow Weavers:

Since I received the request for the President's Message, I have been trying to think of something inspirational or uplifting to say, but I haven't thought of anything. So I will say that I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the Guild meeting on Saturday, June 11, at 10:00, at Susan Hainsworth's home. *Beth Myrer, Guild President*

## Guild Challenge Reveal at June Guild Meeting

*Please bring the plaid fabrics woven for the Guild Challenge to the June Guild meeting.*



For those of us who are "challenged" to create a plaid this year, we will be excited to see your creations at our June meeting. Please bring your plaid weavings to our June Guild meeting on Saturday, June 11, where we will have plenty of time to share what we have done. *Juliette Lanvers*

## **Guild Officers for 2022–2023**

Most of the elected Guild officers from the 2021–2022 year are continuing into the next Guild year, and we are very grateful to them! We will vote on this slate of officers at the June meeting. Please note that according to our Guild bylaws, these officers are elected. Other officers are appointed, so we don't need to vote for them.

*President:* Beth Myrer

*Vice President:* Catherine Marchant

*Membership Secretary:* Barbara Allen

*Recording Secretary:* Margaret Hopkin

*Treasurer:* Sam Kievit

## **Schedule for the MMAWG Southwest Branch**

*Saturday, October 15, 2022*

10:00 am to mid-afternoon. Indigo dying. Location: Doni Pack's house.

*Monday, November 14, 2022*

5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Diversified plain weave. Location: Nancy Crowley's house

We will meet at Nancy's house to see the loom setup with two beams for diversified plain weave. We will discuss the structure and tips and tricks.

*December, Date TBD, Holiday Party*



## Getting to Know Maureen Wilson



If you want to find Maureen Wilson, you might want to start by looking outside. She grew up on a farm in Michigan and has always been drawn to nature. She recently retired from being a biologist for the federal government working on water quality, wetlands, and aquatic habitats.

After finishing her degree, Maureen travelled in Europe. The one thing that surprised her was how many people on the trains were knitting. Maureen grew up with textiles. Her grandmother and mother both knitted. Feeling inspired, she went home and took a knitting class. She quickly joined the Salt Lake Knitters Guild and loved it. At a Guild meeting Show and Tell, someone showed their handspun yarn, and that opened up a new world for Maureen. She took a spinning class from Judy Gunn, and she quickly found friends in the Spinning Guild. During Covid, Maureen spun her entire stash of wool (see photo below) and has now broadened out to spinning

fibers from endangered sheep breeds through the “Shave ‘Em to Save ‘Em” effort. She uses her handspun yarn in her knitting and weaving.



Another summer class introduced her to weaving, where she wove a tapestry rug. She also took weaving lessons from Deanna Baugh at the Taylorsville library. She joined the MMAWG in 2004. She enjoys how the Guild challenges you. Over time, Maureen acquired better

equipment and set off to make a household of handwoven items – hand towels and table runners that allow you to play with design – and rag rugs. She uses her goods as gifts for friends and uses the Guild sale in the fall as her motivation to have things ready for that event.

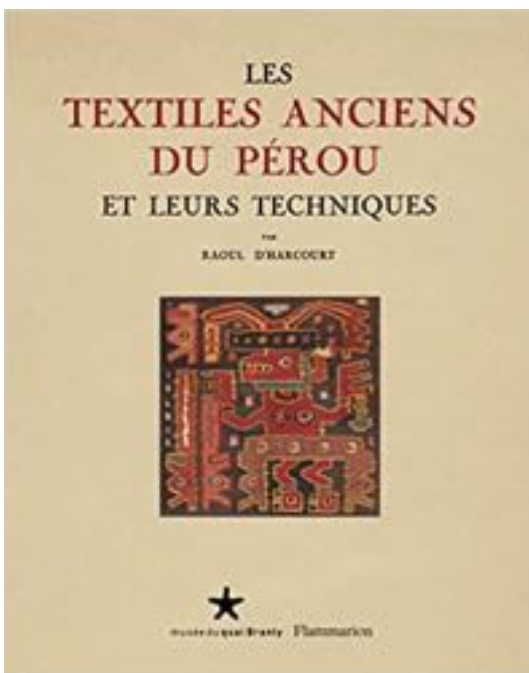
Maureen has a special interest in educating others about the writings of Mary Meigs Atwater, with a special focus on the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin. You may have seen Maureen’s many articles in the newsletter. She is also the coordinator of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group, which the Guild hosts to learn more about Mary’s guidance on materials, weaving as a business, and good-quality weaving structure, just to name a few things. A special effort was made to include all of the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins on the Guild website. Maureen invites everyone to take a look and learn something new or come to one of the study group meetings.

What does Maureen like to do when she isn’t knitting, spinning, or weaving? You might find her reading about textiles. She also loves to feel the sunshine while she gardens or enjoys a walk in the foothills. She is looking forward to travelling more, with bird watching on the agenda. “Anything to be outside in nature,” she said.

As our conversation was coming to a close, I asked Maureen what advice she would share with members of the Guild. She replied, “Get involved in the leadership roles of the Guild. We need more weavers to participate and bring their ideas and talents.” She shared an African proverb that captures the benefit of being part of a Guild: “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” *Rosemarie Deppe*

## Shuttle-Craft Bulletins: Peruvian Weaving and More Pick-Up

This article is based on the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins from August 1935 and November 1938. You can read these bulletins on the Guild website: <http://www.mmawg.org/Bulletin.htm>



In August 1935, Mary Meigs Atwater wrote: “The world of weaving is so wide that no one person can hope to explore it all.” But it can be inspiring to look at the art of weavers from other locations and times.

The inspiration Mary took in 1935 was from a French book: *Les Textiles Anciens du Perou*, by D’Harcourt. An English translation is in the Guild library. The book contains many diagrams, notes, and plates displaying beautiful textiles.

Mary lived in South America in 1907 before she started her weaving life. She remembered that she saw native weavers working on ponchos on warps stretched out on pegs flat on the ground – an arrangement she called “highly inconvenient,” but which seemed to work for the weavers. The photo below is taken from the National clothing website



(<http://nationalclothing.org/america/27-peru/147-traditional-weaving-in-peru-the-main-clothing-craft-of-quechua-people.html>) and shows something similar to what Mary might have observed. While the weavers are not “practically standing on their heads to weave,” I would agree with Mary that weaving on a multi-harness floor loom would be more to my comfort level. It is amazing that these weavers can achieve such beautiful, intricately patterned fabrics on such simple tools. The weave structures shown in the book include tapestries, double weave like Finnweave, gauze, lace work, tufted weaving, and bands.



Mary chose two items from the D’Harcourt book to share: one was a threading for upholstery fabric done in a rich and sober design of alternate squares of plain weave and striped rep weave. She offered alternative materials, colors, and design repeats and provided an example draft in the Bulletin diagram. The second item was a design in double weave with a small overall pattern and a humanized animal figure with scepter. This piece is woven with supplementary warp and weft.

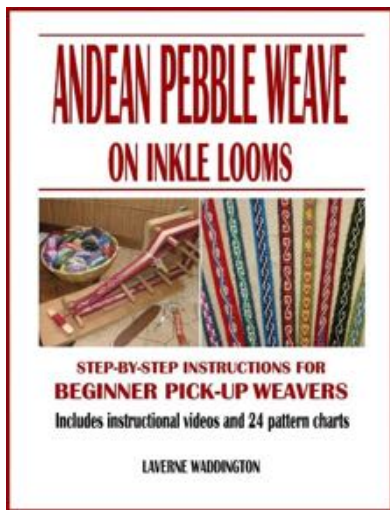


Mary also included diagrams of disconnected figures from the book, including our own Guild logo. These are taken from an elaborate piece described as done in a curious interlocking tabby technique, which Mary described as peculiar to the ancient Peruvian weavers. She found the spirited movement of the squares equipped with legs to be highly amusing.

These figures are included in her book *The Shuttle-Craft Book of American Hand-weaving* (see diagram 65, page 308, in the 1973 printing). There, she named the figures “fish-face, polliwogs and a frog; Peruvian Fish Pond.” In the D’Harcourt book, the figures are called “extremely stylized zoomorphic forms with head and extremities alternating.” Plate 4 from the D’Harcourt book is shown to the right.



Fabric with interlocked warp and weft yarn (plain weave)



In the November 1938 issue, Mary again turned to Peruvian weaving, re-examining a girdle or belt studied in a previous issue. She described the materials she used to reproduce the piece, using pick-up. These are warp-faced figures reminiscent of pebble weave. Some of them look very similar to Laverne Waddington's work on her website: [backstrap weaver](https://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/) <https://backstrapweaving.wordpress.com/>. Laverne has published several texts on pebble weave and pick-up. The book to the left is one from 2019 that looks interesting.

Mary provided diagrams of several figures to weave. The weaving is done on the

two plain weave sheds, with the pattern threads picked up and held above the open shed. She wrote that a firm beat is needed and described a method of achieving this with a flat beveled shuttle left in the shed as the web is beaten.

Lastly, Mary described a Mexican runner on page 3. It was woven in the same pickup method and the draft looked familiar. I found Mary's study sample in the Guild library collection. Here it is, just as described in the 1938 Bulletin. *Maureen Wilson*



## The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study Group



The remaining meeting schedule for the Shuttle-Craft Bulletin Study group is presented below. The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, at 7:00 p.m., at Mimi Rodes's home. The topic of discussion will be Camp and Portable Weaving from the June 1929 and June 1936 bulletins. Samples and tools will be shared.

The Shuttle-Craft Bulletin study group meets to discuss Mary Atwater's work from the Shuttle-Craft Bulletins. This is an informal group – if you have not participated, try a meeting. The meetings often begin with a reading from Mary Meigs Atwater's biography.

<i>Topic</i>	<i>Bulletins</i>	<i>Meeting Date</i>
<b>Camp weaving</b>	June 1929	June 2022
<b>Portable weaving</b>	June 1936	
<b>Modern art &amp; weaving design</b>	July 1929 August 1946	Aug 2022



**Mary Meigs Atwater Weaver's  
Guild of Utah**

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## Guild Calendar 2021–2022

**June 11, 2022**

Indigo Dye Vats and Challenge Reveal  
by Maureen Wilson and Jill Dahle  
Susan Hainsworth's Home