

Atlantic Spinners & Handweavers

2020 - 2021 Annual Reports

President

I want to start by thanking our membership for staying safe and banding together in this year of pandemic and uncertain times. Our annual reports reminds us that, although we practiced physical distancing, we were able to meet virtually and continue to foster friendships, share knowledge and get a few things done.

I would like to express personal thanks to:

Fran Nowakowski for not only keeping our web site growing but keeping me on tract.

Orin Eisenhauer for the "Zoom" research that enabled us to stay connected.

Lois Perry and her committee for updating the ASH Constitution (to be voted on).

Christine Bales and her committee for our updated advertising guidelines (to be voted on).

Heather Thorne and Tina Oliver for keeping everyone connected via "Zoom" for our bi monthly virtual fibre days.

Moving into the year ahead we all should look forward to August and our Exhibition and show. I have great hope that we will stop this pandemic in its tracks, get back to meeting in person, being able to share and touch our fibres and each other.

Respectfully submitted, Donna Haverstock



Fibre Days

With Covid restrictions in place this year and the closure of Scott Manor House, the decision was made to have Fibre Days twice per month via Zoom. Fibre Days occurred on the second and fourth Saturday of each month beginning on October 10, 2020. (Exception: only one Fibre Day in December) Fibre Days averaged 9 participants per session. The sessions ran for two hours from 11 am until 1 am. No fees collected this year for attendance at Fibre Days.

The consensus is that virtual Fibre Days via Zoom provided participants with much needed contact with guild members to chat as a group, get constructive advice and discuss what they were currently working on. Participants were weaving, spinning, knitting, warping, threading, etc. There was discussion at the April 24th Fibre Day to continue through the spring and summer and not end in May as we have done in the past at Scott Manor House. Participants enjoy the contact with Fibre people and have something to look forward to twice per month. Thank you to Donna Haverstock and Tina Oliver for opening up and convening the Zoom sessions. Tina agreed to continue to do this through the summer months for us.

Though Fibre Day participants would have preferred to meet in person, with the circumstances of the last year, Virtual Fibre Days via Zoom provided our members with a way to stay in touch with other ASH fibre workers and share their knowledge and enthusiasm with each other.

Respectfully submitted, Heather Thorne



Demonstrations

As experienced in almost every other aspect of our lives, the presence of the pandemic in Nova Scotia played havoc with ASH's demonstration schedule this past year. There were no demos in the past twelve months. Several of our usual venues, such as the annual Craft Nova Scotia summer and Christmas craft shows were not available. Many members felt the loss of the opportunities to share their enthusiasm about spinning and weaving with the public. As Nova Scotia emerges from the third wave of Covid-19, we can look forward to booking several demos in the coming months and again talking to interested people about our passions. I eagerly await the day when when we can reconnect and share our fibre experiences from the past year. In the meantime, keep weaving and spinning.

Respectfully submitted by Daphne Trenaman



Website

Our first full year with the Wild Apricot content management system was quite successful and very easy to manage. The integrated system made it easy to take of the day to day web site, membership and email aspects. Since we no longer used Siteground for our CMS we moved the hosting element to GoDaddy and applied for a free Gsuite account through TechSoup.

In September when it was clear that we would not be able to meet in person due to Covid restrictions, I was able to add a forum component which allowed us to have a show and tell for our Zoom meetings. I also worked with Christine Bales our advertising person to add a Buy and Sell component along with opportunities for businesses to advertise on our site. Our librarian Lois Perry and I have also been working on digitizing the back issues of Loomsong and storing them on our GSuite site. This is ongoing.

	2020 - 2021	2019 - 2020
Number of Users	2933	1273
Number of Sessions	4660	1291
Top pages visited	Yarn-Suppliers Equipment-Suppliers Learn-Travel Guilds Tapestry Equipment	Yarn-Suppliers Join-us Events Weaving Spinning Contact Equipment-Suppliers Learn-Travel Online-Tools

Respectfully submitted, Fran Nowakowski

Equipment

20 ASH members have rented equipment this last year as well as many renewals.

We ordered the Ashford Joy II wheel and have rented it twice with a renewal.

I have organized some of the equipment, still have a bit to go in our room at Russell House. We have received a couple of donations of equipment that will be added to our equipment list.

Respectfully submitted
Tina Oliver



Treasurer

This is the final financial report for the past year's activities.

Please note that our membership and equipment revenues have held strong despite our inability to hold in-person events. Also, the cost of meeting venues has been reduced significantly by our strategies for online Zoom meetings. Our equipment assets were improved by the purchase of a new rigid heddle loom and a jumbo flyer for rental. Our bank balance remains healthy.

We have not used any of our reserve funds for their stipulated purposes for quite a long time. I suggest we think about re-assigning the conservation funds to educational purposes, in case we have an opportunity in the future to hold some in-person workshops, since it does not seem likely that we will be using them any more for the old MEB conservation project that has been dormant for many years.

Report respectfully submitted
Wendy Landry, Treasurer

Income Statement April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021

Revenues:

Memberships	2,855.00
Advertising	90.00
Fiber Day	0.00
Hands On Day	25.00
Equipment Rental	<u>230.00</u>
Total Revenues	3,200.00

Expenses

Meeting Venues	197.18
Samples	83.72
Administration	390.22
Bank Fees	48.00
Affinipay / Paypal Fees	94.33
Hospitality	0.00
Programs	0.00
Web Site	795.48
Equipment Repair	0.00

Mary Black Bursary	0.00
Membership Fees	105.00
Special Projects (Exhibition)	<u>0.00</u>
Total Expenses	1,713.93
Net Earnings	1,486.07

Asset Expenditures	
Library books	197.99
Equipment	943.53
Total Expenditures	1,141.52

Net Balance 344.55

Retained Operating Funds:

Bank Balance	16,225.02
Petty Cash/Float	68.25
GIC's	0.00
Total	16,293.27

Mary Black Bursary Fund	5,462.92
Mary Black Conservation Fund	452.16
Educational Reserve Fund	<u>2,150.10</u>
	8,065.18



Library

The following books were purchased for the ASH Library.

- **The Secret Lives of Color / by Kassia St. Clair**
Softcover 320 pages Published October 24th 2017 by Penguin Books
- **The Art of Tapestry Weaving: A Complete Guide to Mastering the Techniques for Making Images with Yarn / by Rebecca Mezoff**
Hardcover, 320 pages Published November 3rd 2020 by Storey Publishing, LLC
- **Velvet on My Mind, Velvet on My Loom: Velvet Weaving Past & Present / by Wendy Landry**
Hardcover, 280 pages Published May 28th 2020 by Schiffer Publishing
- **Huck Lace Weaving Patterns with Color and Weave Effects: 576 Drafts and Samples Plus 5 Practice Projects / by Tom Knisely**
Hardcover, 224 pages Published October 28th 2019 by Stackpole Books



Public Relations and Promotion

Summary of events:

- August 2020 – Designed an ASH ad for the Purebred Sheep Breeders Association of Nova Scotia's (PSBANS) Directory, a publication updated approximately every 4 years or more. Ad approved by ASH executive prior to submission.
- Fall 2020 – Drafted Guild Promotion Poster and postcards for distribution within the community. Activity put on hold during COVID community restrictions.
- September 2020 – the ASH Website Advertising Committee with ASH members Fran Nowakowski, Karen Shannon, Karen Guenther and Christine Bales (chair) was set up to develop ASH website advertising, buy and sell section, membership promotion guidelines and set advertising fees. Recommendations were presented to the Executive, approved and presented to the members at the December 2020 monthly meeting.
- November/December 2020 – 1st annual paid advertisement uploaded to ASH website. PR committee worked with client to design ad (Yarn in the Hollow)
- January 2021 – With NS COVID restrictions promoting ASH website advertising opportunities within the NS community at large was put on hold.
- Late April 2021- Met with Exhibit 2021's organizer, Fran Nowakowski, to develop an action plan should the August 2021 Exhibit Celebrating ASH's 50th Anniversary go ahead. Press Release and PR Postcard/Poster will be developed once it has been determined the exhibit will happen in 2021. Current Status – TBD.

Respectfully submitted, Christine Bales