

Atlantic Spinners & Handweavers

2019 - 2020 Annual Reports

President [out-going]

I think it's safe to say that the 2019-2020 year for ASH was not what anyone expected! We had an excellent beginning to the fall with programs focused on Mary E. Black and the build up to the upcoming 50th Anniversary of ASH, but the year itself had other plans. Though we have missed out on programs and hands-on workshops, we are fortunate that the toll of Covid-19 has not hit us here as hard as other parts of Canada and that the continued efforts of the Atlantic community means that we can hopefully reunite in person again soon.

As we began lock down in March, I was still under the impression that I would be moving come the summer to B.C. How drastically that has changed! Thankfully I'm still in Nova Scotia with the move postponed until the late spring of 2021. My fingers are crossed that there will still be the opportunity to see you all again at either the meetings or the much missed fibre days. My appreciation for the mentorship and friendships I have gained from the group is hard to put into words and being together in person will be greatly missed.

Since we've been practicing social distancing and "Staying the Blazes Home" I am grateful that during this time we at least have some means of keeping in touch on the ASH Facebook page. Keep up the good work in posting your current projects, they will bring me much joy once the move finally takes place. Now more than ever it goes to show how important it is to stay connected with one another through the networks we have available.

I want to say a special thank you to all who have volunteered in the various positions of what makes ASH the organization that it is. With your continued support ASH has made it to it's 50th Anniversary and with our combined efforts, it will continue for many more!

Take care and stay safe,

Kristina Vermeulen



Fibre Saturdays at Scott Manor House

Fibre Days occurred monthly from September 2019 until March 2020 on the second Saturday of the month from 10 am until 2 pm. A two dollar fee was collected from guild members and tea, coffee and cookies were provided by the guild. There were occasional donations of food. Usually our season runs until May but COVID 19 curtailed group activities and Scott Manor House was closed to us.

Month	# participants	fee collected	amt. for tea, coffee, cookies
Sept. 14, 2019	11	\$22	\$12.55
Oct. 26, 2019 *	11 spinners 4 weavers	\$22.00 for spinners 4 X \$5= \$20 for weavers	\$13.46
Nov 9, 2019	15	\$30.00	\$10.50
Dec.14, 2019	10	\$22	-
Jan. 11, 2020	13	\$26	-
Feb. 8, 2020	10	\$20	\$7.86
Mar. 14, 2020	6	\$12	\$7.06
Totals	76 spinners, 4 weavers	\$154 from spinners \$20 from weavers	\$51.43

Our Fibre Days are well attended mostly by spinners but we also upon occasion have weavers and felters. It is a time for us to share informally. We have been following the ASH policy that Hands on and Fibre Days held by ASH at Scott Manor House are for ASH members only. If a non-member wishes to participate it, is with the understanding that they will pay a \$10 entrance fee over and above the \$2 for Fibre Day and various prices for Hands On Day (The \$10 is not a credit towards membership fee). They are encouraged to pay the \$30 membership fee which is more cost effective. Judy White has been our contact person for Scott Manor House.

Respectively submitted, Heather Thorne



Hands on at Scott Manor House

Similar to last years, hand-on, this year we once again ran the workshops as a team, with myself organizing the workshops and the fantastic Marilyn Gazeley taking care of the actual day, opening and closing Scott Manor House and making sure that everything ran smoothly on the day of.

Our Hands-on workshops provide participants with an opportunity to explore a topic in more depth than the program in a regular meeting. Our workshops over the past year have covered a variety of topics and interest:

September 2019: Reverse Dyeing – Wendy Landry

October 2019: Intro to Freestyle Weaving – Michelle Carey

November 2019: Felted Christmas Tree Ornament – Liz Nell

December 2019: No Hands-on

January 2020: Finger Manipulated Techniques for the Rigid Heddle – Daphne Trenaman

February 2020: Weaving Tips, Tricks and Hacks – Daphne Trenamen, Fran Nowakowski and Michelle Carey

March 2020: How do I draft Thee? Let me count the ways.... – Heather Thorne
[Cancelled due to Covid-19]

April 2020: Spinning Wheel Maintenance, with David Maxwell, the “Spin Doctor”
[Cancelled due to Covid-19]

Unfortunately, we missed two Hands-on Days this year due to self-isolation restrictions related to Covid-19. I hope that we'll be able to re-schedule those two workshops for some point in time over the 2020-2021 year.

My thanks to everyone who was willing and able to share their knowledge and expertise this past year, you were fantastic!

If you have an idea for a hands-on day topic, or would like to teach a hands-on workshop, please get in contact with me with your ideas! I'd love to hear from you!

Respectively submitted, Lorna Ash



Demonstrations

We participated in several demonstrations this year. In June, Lois Perry and Tina Oliver represented our guild spinning at the Cole Harbour Fibre Frolic. As usual, July was a busy month. Several members went to the Tantallon Farmers Market and spent a lovely sunny Tuesday afternoon spinning and weaving under a tent in the field. On Friday afternoon of the same week we were visiting with folks at the Craft NS show in Victoria Park in Halifax. Then, the following week found us demonstrating our crafts each afternoon to visitors at Scott Manor House. Both the Farmers Market and the Scott Manor House events were in combination with a successful sale of members' work. The fall was quiet except for the always popular Craft NS Christmas Craft market. I'd like to thank all those dedicated souls who faithfully come out to share our craft with an interested audience.

Respectfully submitted, Daphne Trenaman



Website

This was a major year for the web site! The system we had - Joomla for content management and CiviCRM for membership served us reasonably well and cheaply for a number of years. But there were definitely problems. It was cumbersome and onerous to manage, hence the fact that no one wanted to take the job! So in April last year we began to look for an alternative that would be relatively easy to use and provided the functions that we required. After testing out numerous options, it was evident that Wild Apricot did everything we wanted and was Canadian. It cost more than the Joomla combo but the Executive considered it worth the extra cost to get the functions and ease we required and on June 29 voted to subscribe to Wild Apricot. I then spent the rest of the summer learning the interface and migrating our content to the new system. By our September meeting everything was in place and the switch was made.

Subsequently we also pursued a way to retain our @ashguild.ca email addresses and got approved by TechSoup as a non-profit which enabled us to create a GSuite account which then provided us with the email addresses. All in all, a successful year.

Respectfully submitted, Fran Nowakowski



Equipment

There has been a good increase in the borrowing of spinning and weaving equipment this year. This is probably the result of several inputs. An increase in membership, increased interest in knitting and weaving in our community, and the easy of ordering brought about by new ASH website (thanks Fran!)

The weaving equipment needs some attention. It is very old, we should consider new equipment and supportive pieces (like more variety in reeds). I am a spinner and dyer and not familiar with the requirements of weaving. I would like the executive to consider breaking the spinning and weaving equipment be broken into two responsibilities with two managers. In order to keep this wonderful loaning program up to date, two managers would be able to suggest and report on their responsibilities.

I love driving and have broken the delivery of equipment into two methods

1. Arrange for the equipment to be picked up at my home
2. Delivered the equipment to someone when I am out on my errands.

Everyone seems good with these variations.

It was my respect for this wonderful collection of weavers and spinners that nudged me to take over the equipment management so many years ago from Sue Mather. The task of equipment management was made much less complicated by the ongoing generosity of Joan and Gordon Russell of Russell House and the dedication of Fran Nowakowski, creator of the new Atlantic Spinners and Handweavers website.

Respectfully submitted, Helen MacLean



Treasurer

Our membership numbers have remained steady at about 90 throughout this year and into the spring. We have suffered a little attrition as some older members decided not to renew; however, this was balanced by new memberships coming in even during the pandemic shutdown period. As a result, our membership income has been healthy. The financial statements show that we had fairly typical income and expenses for most of the fiscal, and that our equity balance is very comfortable. Most of this is the built-up accumulation from many years of sensible management. The high cost of our recent website renovation was offset by our discontinuation of our newsletter LOOMSONG, especially the printed edition. Samples continue to be mailed out twice a year this year.

**Atlantic Spinners & Handweavers -
Income Statement
April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020**

Revenues:	
Memberships	2,635.00
Advertising	0.00
Fiber Day (net)	283.55
Hands On Day (net)	123.40
Equipment Rental	205.00
Library Sales (uninventoried)	0.00
Special Projects	0.00
Honoraria & Donations	100.00
Total Revenues	<u>3,346.95</u>

Expenses	
General Administration	32.20
Bank Fees	48.00
Paypal / Affinipay Fees	69.43
Website Expenses	762.06
Meeting Rooms	625.00
Hospitality	33.95
Samples	350.58
Programmes	90.00
Membership Fees (external)	101.15
Special Projects	0.00

Total Expenses	<u>2,112.37</u>
Net Earnings	<u>1,234.58</u>

Asset Expenditures	
Library books	192.80
Equipment	0.00
Total Expenditures	<u>192.80</u>

**Atlantic Spinners and Handweavers
Balance Sheet
April 1, 2019 - March 31, 2020**

Assets:		
Cash	15,134.15	
Petty Cash	163.25	
Petty Cash Float	0.00	
Paypal	0.00	
Weaving/Spinning Equipment:	5530.81	
Library	8,806.38	
Prepaid Web (WA - hosting)	959.47	
Prepaid Web (Siteground)	0.00	
Prepaid Membership (GCW)	0.00	
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
Office Equipment	136.06	
Investments	0.00	
Liabilities:		0.00
ASH Equity	<u>30,730.12</u>	<u>30,730.12</u>
Balance		<u>30,730.12</u>

**Atlantic Spinners & Handweavers
Proposed Budget 2020-21**

	Actual 19-20	Proposed 20-21
Revenues:		
Memberships	2,635.00	2,500.00
Advertising	0.00	0.00
Fiber Day (net)	283.55	140.00
Hands On Day (net)	123.40	75.00
Equipment Rental	205.00	150.00
Library Sales (uninventoried)	0.00	0.00
Special Projects:	0.00	0.00
Misc.	100.00	0.00
Total Revenues	3,346.95	2,865.00
Expenses:		
General Administration	32.20	40.00
Bank Fees	48.00	48.00
Paypal / Affinipay Fees	69.43	80.00
Web Expenses	762.06	900.00
Meeting Rooms	625.00	300.00
Hospitality	33.95	40.00
Samples	350.58	175.00
Programs	90.00	100.00
Membership Fees	101.15	160.00
Equipment Repair	0.00	100.00
Special Projects:		
Exhibition 2021	0.00	25.00
Falkowska Conservation	0.00	
Misc: Sheep Breeders Ad	0.00	100.00
Total Expenses	2,112.37	2,068.00
Net Earnings	1,234.58	797.00
Asset Expenditures:		
Weaving Equipment		1,200.00
Office Equipment	0.00	0.00
Library	213.80	250.00
Total Asset Expenditures	213.80	1,450.00
Total Expenditures	2,326.17	3,518.00
Net Surplus / Deficit	1,020.78	(653.00)