

KARLA LONG

In the late 1960's, while living briefly in Kentucky, I became enthralled with the spinning and weaving demonstrations at regional historical events. Several years later, after my family and I had returned to Missoula, I took a class in spinning in the mid 1970's. I acquired a spinning wheel made for me by a local man who was working from his memories of the wheels used by his mother and grandmother some 60 years earlier. I "played at" spinning for several years, with limited success.

In 1982, I took a one-day Learn to Weave class. By the end of the day, I was hooked. That same year I joined the Missoula Weavers Guild and began a continuing journey of learning and sharing that is on-going. Over the years, I have acquired looms, spinning wheels, an extensive library on fiber arts and history, and have developed a particular fondness for spindles. I have been able to share my interests with many people over the years, holding every office of the Missoula Guild except Librarian constantly since I joined, serving as a Member At Large of the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners for nearly 20 years, teaching classes and workshops for MWG, and demonstrating and teaching spindle spinning in schools, for youth organizations, and at festivals.