

Saturday Handweavers Guild

Elizabeth White

The Saturday Handweavers Guild meets on the second Saturday of each month, September through June, generally in the Medford Library, but moving to the Jacksonville Library in the months of May and June. Several new members have joined us this year, and it is always a pleasure to welcome new members and new weavers.

October – October's program was a showing of a DVD by Deb Essen, "Color Theory Basics for Weavers." A successful use of color can be challenging for many weavers!

An event for 4th graders at Hanley Farm on October 6 was an opportunity for our members to share their craft and encourage young spinners and weavers. Linda Lindsey presented wool products from beginning to end.

November – Our program this month was a presentation by Kathy Walker on the results of her experiments in dyeing silk and wool with Lanaset dyes.

Several Guild members displayed their fiber arts during November and December at Weisingers Winery in Ashland.

Our Guild participated in the Rogue Valley Mini Maker Faire at ScienceWorks in Ashland on Saturday November 19, and also Friday November 18, which was a school preview day. This was a wonderful opportunity to share spinning and weaving with the younger generation, giving them hands-on experience.

December – This was the month for our holiday potluck and "Gift the Guild" silent auction. Many wonderful items were donated, and our generous bidders raised a record amount to fund scholarships for guild members to attend workshops and share their new knowledge with the Guild. In addition we were able to add to our library fund and also to put some of the proceeds towards guild programs by outside guest speakers.

January – Suzie Liles from the Eugene Textile Center visited our Guild and gave an inspiring and colorful presentation on Inkle Loom weaving

February – We had a drawing this month to select four winners of scholarships to use as they wish to learn and "give back" to the Guild in the form of a presentation next year. A guest speaker, Janis Thompson, the owner of Dye Lots in Eugene talked about the creative use of color. We are hoping to have Janis return to do a spinning program as many of our members are spinners as well as weavers.

March – One of our very talented members, Thalia Keple gave an interesting presentation on Japanese free-form Saori Weaving, and showed some of the items that she has created using this technique.

This month's big event was a workshop with Diane Totten on making Crimp Cloth. All our attendees had great fun learning a new technique, and sharing all the wonderful and varied results of our efforts.

April – Lucy DiFranco will give a presentation entitled "A Journey of Making Clothing from Handwoven Cloth.

We have one study group this year that is exploring Madelyn van der Hoogt's "Complete Book of Drafting for Handweavers."

Each year our members donate handwoven items to benefit Friends of the Animal Shelter. These items raised \$656 for FOTAS at the Puss 'n Boots Ball in October.

This year's guild challenge, to be presented in June, is "Weave something you've never woven before."