

WeGO
Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild Report
October 19, 2024

May 2024

The program for May was on Kumihimo with metallic threads taught by Laurie Elliot. It was a little challenging due to written instructions not quite matching verbal instructions, but the group met that challenge and won! They produced some very pretty braids.

Our guild hosted Denise Kovnat for a two-day One Warp, Many Structures workshop the first weekend of May. There was some very bad weather and one workshop participant had to spend an extra night in Medford due to I-5 closures heading south. She needed to get the Shasta, CA. The workshop was fast-paced since Denise often uses three days for it, but we got a lot accomplished in the two days!

We held nominations of officers and will vote in June.

June 2024

We have no program at our June meetings, but one member, Gretchen, gave us a 20-minute demonstration of how to unweave without unweaving. As written in Mary Black's book on weaving, Gretchen took us through the process with photo handouts of weaving on her loom at home. She needed to bring the weaving back about to the beginning, but didn't want to lose all of her weft yarn due to cutting, and she wanted to preserve her warp. It is an excellent technique!

We held Officer elections and ate a nice potluck lunch before presenting our items created for the Guild Challenge, which was to weave Pinwheels or Checks (or both) Many members participated and shared many beautiful items. Lastly, we held our regular Show and Share.

July2024

Our usual Outreach events were not available to us this summer, so no Fair, and no Hanley Farms. The fair board decided to move all Home Arts (non-4-H) out to a semi-outdoor arena! Dusty, Vendors, no way to secure or lock anything – total no-go. The Officers held the annual Summer Board meeting in which we voted to adopt a revised Member Education Fund Guidelines and approved the 2024-25 Budget proposal, to be voted on at the September meeting.

Martha Green started up a summer Tapestry study group at her house, that met once a week learning the basics of tapestry. About 9 members participated. The group will re-start sometime later in the Fall.

September 2024

We didn't have an official program, but Martha, our program coordinator, introduced this year's Guild Challenge – Weave with a fiber you've never used before.

She also introduced the programs we'll be having for October through June.

We held a vote on the Proposed budget and it was approved. We are in the black!

There were many Show and Share items from over the summer, and we had fun being back together as a guild.

October 2024

The first Saturday of this month we had many of our members volunteer to work at the Talent Harvest Festival (Yes, the same Talent that almost completely burned in the Alameda fire four years ago).

The event draws thousands of people from all over! Our guild has had a booth at that festival for many years teaching how to weave Kumihimo braids, weave on a table and inkle loom, and even watch bobbin lace in the making. We also usually have a few spinners, which really fascinates kids and adults.

Our guild program was Weaving with unfamiliar fibers. (goes right along with the guild challenge)

Six members took turns talking about (and showing) items they've woven using a variety of yarns/fibers such as: Silk, Musk ox, Pineapple, Shifu, Linen, wool, Alpaca, Hemp, Milk yarn, banana yarn, and even Day Lily leaves! They discussed tips for using the fibers, wet finishing techniques, shrinkage, ways to get greater softness/drape, and more.

Our Workshop coordinator, Pat, discussed the Deflected Double Weave workshop with Natalie Drummond (Natalie Woven) coming up in the middle of November. We had a Zoom meeting with Natalie in the middle of this month to discuss our workshop materials. It should be fun!