

# THRUMS

## President's Message

Hello weavers,

My summer has flown by! It has been filled with a lot of sailing and not enough weaving. I'm looking forward to the new Guild year with its inspiring programs, challenge, and conversations with members. At each meeting, I come away with at least one new item on my weaving to-do list.

I still consider myself to be a beginner after five years when it comes to weaving (especially when compared to the many very talented weavers in our guild!). But with my can-do attitude, I never think something is too hard for me to try. If it doesn't work out, oh well. I learn something anyway.

So I encourage all of you to forge ahead in your weaving adventures and have fun in both your successes and failures! I think in my next life I will start learning to weave as a child; there are so many things to try and not nearly enough time.

Happy weaving!  
Rachel

## Mission

The mission of the Syracuse Weavers Guild is to stimulate an interest in the art and craft of weaving, achieve a high standard of excellence and help encourage all persons interested in weaving.

## Guild Officers 2022-2024

### President

Rachel Abbott

### 1st Vice President

Nancy Gaus

### 2nd Vice President

Sue Szczotka

### Secretary

Donna Connery

### Treasurer

Donna Johnson-Brown



Wall hanging from Sue Szczotka's  
first solo show

## Looming Questions - Collaborative Advice by SWG Members | Rachel Abbott

Dear Tabby,

Have you done any weave to wear?  
What yarns and yarn sizes did you  
use? Structures? What did you  
make?

From,  
A Stitch in Time

Dear Stitch,

What a timely question! Our upcoming Guild challenge is *Sew Much Fun! Constructing with Handwoven Fabric!* I know many weavers are hesitant to take scissors to their precious handwovens. I hope advice from your fellow weavers will help you overcome this hurdle, so you can create wonderful things with your fabric!

–Tabby

Donna C.: I've been "planning" to make garments for years, as attested to by a bolt of handwoven sari silk in my closet. But I finally moved into a new realm this summer: making a peplum blouse for my sister using 10/2 mercerized cotton warp and 8/2 tencel weft. Why now? I talked to one of my friends who has made a 40+ year career designing, knitting, and selling Norwegian stranded sweaters, patterns, and wool. I figured she would "get" my fear. Instead, she laughed and reminded me she steeks all her sweaters. Her advice? You just need a plan. So, I completed color and draft sampling, practiced cutting and seaming, picked the color (purple), and ordered the yarn. The challenge I'm having is pattern matching a horizontal design element at the waist. So I bought a roll of striped wrapping paper and am working that out now, just to make sure I have a plan!

Nancy G.: I've been sewing my whole life—my Mom taught me to sew when I was four years old. I ran a sewing business for several years focusing on bridal and

formal wear, dance costumes, home decor, and

even helped a friend launch a clothing line. But I had never sewn anything from handwoven fabric until this summer. I was prodded into submitting an entry into the CNY Fiber Festival, but I have only been weaving for a few years and have not been productive enough to weave yardage.

While complaining about my lack of self-woven fabric to my weaving-friend Elaine, it occurred to me that she had a whole chest full of cloth she had produced but had not sewn with. After checking with the rules of the competition, we decided to team up. I sketched up some ideas for her to consider, then designed and drafted the pattern for an asymmetrical top. She offered some fabric from her stash, and we were in business! We solved two problems with this approach. I could finally create something even though I'm not a productive weaver and I was easily able to cut into handwoven fabric (not mine!) that she was reluctant to attack with scissors. Win-win!

[A win-win indeed! Nancy and Elaine's top won a blue ribbon!]





Rachel: My aunt turned 90 this year and requested that I make her a vest. I thought about buying some fabric, but decided I could weave something to make the vest extra special. I had just upgraded to an 8-shaft loom, so I chose to weave an 8-shaft twill using 5/2 mercerized cotton for warp and weft. The warp was a mix of three shades of red with randomly placed blue, yellow, and green threads. I used a pattern by Daryl Lancaster, who has very helpful YouTube videos with demonstrations. I made two mock-ups in different sizes out of commercial fabric for my aunt to try on before cutting my handwoven fabric. My aunt loves her vest and wears it often. I even had enough leftover fabric to make a vest for myself!

Nancy S.: Ages ago I made long skirts, one for me and one for my mother-in-law. The fiber was

cotton, probably 5/2, and the skirt was plain weave with a large border of Weaver's Fancy at the bottom. I also wove two "bog jackets" with wool, natural and hand-dyed color accents. The color stripes, down the front and back and on the hood, were woven in Monks Belt, and the rest of the jacket was plain weave. Mine got a lot of use before Bog Jackets became a thing of the past. I also wove a poncho for one daughter, plain weave with stripes, using (if you can believe) worsted knitting yarn. Another child garment was a dress sewn using store-bought fabric but with a front panel of little people woven in a Rosepath structure.

**Please** send any looming questions for future columns to Tabby.



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## New Member | Paulette Quinn

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So, I am on a narrow path in my fiber journey. I have a long-idle inkle loom, but at this point, I hardly consider myself a weaver. My late mother was much more talented and was a spinner, weaver, and hooker. It has become my task to dispose of her collection of looms, spinning wheels, and accompanying paraphernalia. I had no idea as to how to go about that until an overheard conversation led to a connection with the incredibly helpful Elaine DuBois and the SWG. Perhaps there will be someone from here who will want to grow their collection.

As I learn more about what this group does, I expect that I will find the inspiration to resurrect my inkle loom. And, knowing that fiber folks are special people, I look forward to making some new friends along the way.



## Syracuse Weavers Guild 2023-2024 Programs | Nancy Gaus

9/9

## Designing and Constructing with Handwoven Fabric

## Part 1: Designing Handwoven Fabric You Can Wear

Making handwoven clothing you are proud to wear starts with designing fabric to suit the particular needs of the planned garment. Drapery shawls, loose-fitting wraps and fitted, tailored jackets or dresses all require cloth that will perform as needed, not only during fitting and construction, but during repeated wearing and cleaning. This lecture offers advice about designing and weaving garment-worthy fabric, as well as finishing, cutting and sewing tips.

Presenter: Karen Donde (via Zoom)

Facilitators: Nancy Gaus and Donna Connery

## Part 2: Sew Much Fun! Constructing with Handwoven Fabric

Announcing the Guild Challenge! What can you make from your handwovens? This challenge is all about constructing garments and accessories – tops, ruanas, handbags and more – from your handwoven fabric. Love to weave but are not confident about construction? Accomplished sewist but don't have the yardage? Team up with a partner to create. A guild Sewing Support Group will be forming to help you work through difficulties. Let's put our handwovens to work!

Presenters: Nancy Gaus and Donna Johnson Brown

10/14

## Field Trip to Thistle Hill Weavers: Studio of Rabbit Goody

Textile historian and amazing weaver Rabbit Goody has agreed to open up her mill to us once again. For more than 30 years, Thistle Hill Weavers in the Cherry Valley has been weaving luxurious custom fabrics, carpet, and trim for designers, home owners, museums, and the film industry. Rabbit spoke to us in 2012 about her experiences weaving for the movies, and we last visited her mill in 2016. At the mill you will get an up-close look at the various mechanical looms used in her work, including a Jacquard, and other fascinating equipment for production. Rabbit is a wealth of information and at the mill you have a chance to learn about and see how historical fabrics are reproduced. You can find out more about Thistle Hill Weavers at <https://thistlehillweavers.com/>

Presenter: Rabbit Goody

Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill

11/4	<h3>Conference Roundup</h3> <p>This was a big year for regional conferences. MAFA, NEWS, EGLFC, and others were in full swing and many of our members joined in. Come hear about their experiences taking classes from some of the best weavers in the business. Get a brief introduction to some new structures or techniques to see what you might want to try next and consider the benefits of taking in a conference in the future.</p> <p>Presenters: TBA Facilitator: Sue Szczotka</p>
12/2	<h3>Beyond Color Card Wraps</h3> <p>Color card wraps can be much more than a way to audition how colors play together - they can be art! Inspired by the book "The Yarn Winding Manifesto" by Astrid Skibsted, we will play with color striping, intersections and harmonies while creating small works of art suitable for hanging on the wall, on your Christmas tree, or anywhere else you can imagine. (It is also a great way to use up more of those thrums!)</p> <p>Presenter: Sue Szczotka</p>
1/6	<h3>Video: The Handicrafts of Gujarat with Marilyn Romatka</h3> <p>India. The word alone conjures up images of vivid color and pungent spices. The handicrafts one finds there are stunning. Here is your chance to explore many of the skilled craftspersons that make up this national legacy. Follow along with the weaver and the photographer, as they probe the variety of hand-skills in one of the most artistic states in India: Gujarat.</p> <p>Facilitator: Joyce Lock</p>
2/3	<h3>Profile Drafts and Block Weaves</h3> <p>Block party! We invite you to come along to learn about blocks and explore their possibilities. After an overview of what block weaves are and when it is useful to use them, we will cover how to read drafts that utilize them, how some of the drafting programs use blocks, and how to use profile drafts to sketch out your own designs.</p> <p>Presenters: Susan Mehringer, Rachel Abbott, Nancy Gaus</p>

3/2	<b>Deborah Livingstone-Lowe: Upper Canada Weaving</b>
	<p>Deborah Livingston-Lowe is a weaver and historian who runs a business called Upper Canada Weaving, founded in 2010. Originally the business focused on reproduction of 19th century Ontario textiles, such as coverlets, rag carpets, and linens. Since that time, Deborah has expanded her production in innovative ways. She collaborates with fashion designers to create unique fabrics tailor-made for their garment collections.</p> <p>Deborah works directly with sheep, alpaca, and mohair goat farmers from the Upper Canada Fibershed to bring their fiber to a wider audience. Her designs are inspired by textiles of Eastern Canada (Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, PEI, and Newfoundland). It's her passion to produce custom fabric for designers, museums, and individuals wanting distinctive fabrics. In her presentation, Deborah will focus on the history of weaving in Eastern Canada, the Scottish influence, and her work in promoting the art of weaving from the 19th century on.</p> <p>Presenter: Deborah Livingston-Lowe Facilitator: Nancy Smothergill</p>
4/6	<b>Presentation of the Guild Challenge</b>
	<p>Bring the pieces you created for the guild challenge and tell us what inspired you. What challenges did you face and what new techniques did you explore?</p> <p>Facilitator: Rachel Abbott</p>
5/4	<b>Annual Potluck Luncheon and Towel Exchange</b>

All programs will be in the Community Room at the church with the exception of the October field trip and May luncheon.

## Common Threads Exhibit Coming to the Kirkland Town Library | Nancy Gaus

This October, members of the Syracuse Weavers Guild are once again joining the Foothills Fiber Guild in a month-long exhibit of handwoven and fiber art pieces titled "Common Threads". This biennial exhibit will be a celebration of friendship and our common fiber language. The event, sponsored by the Kirkland Town Library in Clinton, has room for over 40 pieces contributed by both guilds. We will be hanging our pieces on Saturday, September 30th, from 10am to 2pm. Any pieces for sale will be subject to 20% commission for the library. A reception is scheduled for October 5th. If you are interested in helping with either the planning or the installation of this exhibit, please contact Nancy Gaus. More details will be available at our September guild meeting.



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## SWG Study Groups | Sue Szczotka

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For those of you not familiar with the study groups, they are small groups with a specific weaving interest that they would like to explore in more depth with other like-minded guild members. Participants gather either in person or via Zoom at times and intervals that the group decides on outside of regular guild meetings. If there are any topics in which you would like to make a deep dive with other interested parties, please contact Sue S., and we will see about arranging a new study group.

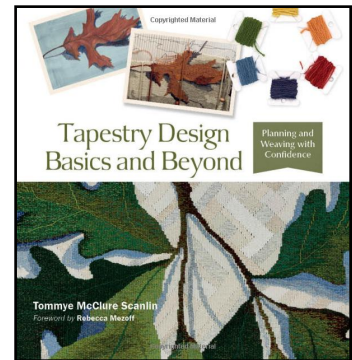
### Small Bands: Nancy Smothergill

In the coming weeks, members will be contacted about ideas for a focus for the small bands group.

### Tapestry: Donna Movsoovich

After taking the summer off, the Tapestry Study Group will be meeting again in September. We get together on Zoom on the last Tuesday of the month at 2:00 pm.

We will be discussing Tommye Scanlin's book, *Tapestry Design: Basics and Beyond*. "Be inspired to explore "weavable" ways to manage line, shape, color, texture, emphasis, balance, rhythm, and more for results that bring your tapestries to a new level." So if you are interested in the design aspects of tapestry weaving, it's a great time to join us!



### Handweaving Museum Helping Hands: Donna Connery

There has been a lot of excitement at TIAC after receiving a \$2M arts grant to construct a new building, including much improved and expanded space for the Handweaving Museum. Accessioning continues with a summer effort on the Jeanetta Jones loom controlled embroideries handwoven collection of about 200 pieces!

Our accessioning support has taken on a new urgency as TIAC works towards construction over the next few years. Donna C is now on the Handweaving Museum committee to add input into the process, a very exciting time indeed. Read more about it here!

<https://tiartscenter.org/thousand-islands-arts-center-awarded-2-million-by-the-new-york-state-council-on-the-arts-for-new-arts-facility-construction/>



### Shoddy Book Club: Nancy Smothergill

The Shoddy Book Club has yet to decide on a book for our next meeting.

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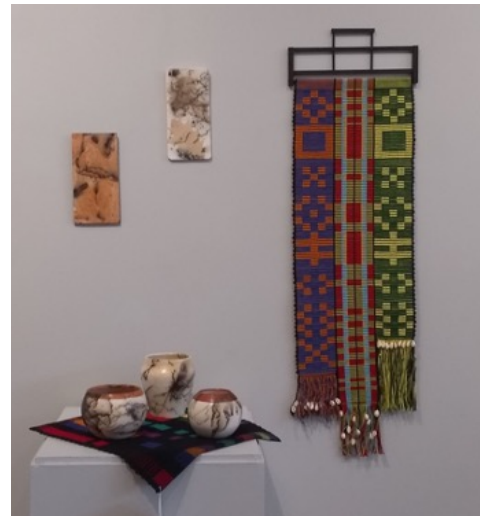
## Library | Donna Connery

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Another year, another chance to try new things. If you would like to see books, magazines, and DVDs in our library resources collection, you can access the link to our catalog in LibraryThing via the SWG website. Remember to enter your search in our page, not all of LibraryThing! When you find something of interest, just contact me via email and I'll bring it to our next meeting.

## My First Solo Show | Sue Szczotka

Well, I survived my first ever solo show presented at the Artisan Gallery of the Broome County Arts Council in Binghamton. The show ran from July 7th to 28th with the opening on the 7th jam-packed with people. (I think they came for the wine!) The show included 19 rep weave wall pieces mounted on hand-crafted wooden hangers interspersed with my horsehair raku pottery. I gave an "artist's talk" on Thursday evening the following week where I discussed my weaving experience and techniques, demo'd a little on a Peacock loom, and showed some samples. I had to be reminded to talk about the pottery! In all, it was an amazing experience, and I am so grateful to all of my guildmates who made the trek to Binghamton to lend their support.



## Upcoming Fiber Events

9/9 - 9/10	Endless Mountains Fiber Festival Location New Milford, PA	<a href="https://endlessmountainsfiberfest.com/">https://endlessmountainsfiberfest.com/</a>
9/16	WNY Fiber Arts Festival East Aurora, New York	<a href="https://wnyfiberartsfestival.org/">https://wnyfiberartsfestival.org/</a>
9/23 - 9/24	Adirondacks Wool and Arts Festival Greenwich, NY	<a href="https://www.adkwoolandarts.com/">https://www.adkwoolandarts.com/</a>
10/2-10/8	Spinning and Weaving Week Online festival sponsored by HGA	<a href="https://weavespindye.org/spinning-and-weaving-week-2023/">https://weavespindye.org/spinning-and-weaving-week-2023/</a>
10/14 - 10/15	Fall Fiber Arts Festival Dwyer Memorial Park, Preble, NY	<a href="https://cortlandrep.org/events/fall-fiber-arts-festival/">https://cortlandrep.org/events/fall-fiber-arts-festival/</a>
10/21 - 10/22	New York Sheep and Wool Festival Rhinebeck, NY	<a href="https://sheepandwool.com/">https://sheepandwool.com/</a>
10/23 - 10/25	Weaving History Conference, virtual, sponsored by Thousand Islands Arts Center	<a href="https://tiartscenter.org/weaving-history-conference/">https://tiartscenter.org/weaving-history-conference/</a>



## CNY Fiber Arts Festival: Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition | Joyce Lock

Congratulations to Elaine DuBois, Nancy Gaus, Maria Aridgides, Eileen Kloss, and Donna Connery for their prize-winning entries in the Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition held in Bouckville, NY in June. There were over thirty lovely entries and judge Joyce Robards rewarded each participant with a thoughtful critique of their work. Many thanks to those who entered their weavings. Categories for the 2024 competition will be Wearables and Home Goods, along with a new Novice Weaver category. All are welcome to enter, so start planning your award winning entry now!



CNY Fiber Arts Festival Viv Fulton Memorial Weaving Competition  
June 2023

## Story Loom & Weaving Demonstration Booth at CNY Fiber Festival | Sue Szczotka

This past June was the second appearance of the Story Loom at the CNY Fiber Festival. This year it was also joined by a Peacock table loom, a baby Macomber floor loom, a rigid heddle loom, and an inkle loom. Demonstrations were provided all weekend by Nancy Gaus, Rachel Abbott, Eileen Kloss, Maria Aridgides, Donna Connery, Valerie Kaiser, and Elaine DuBois.



There was a very enthusiastic response from the festival go-ers with people trying their hand at the tapestry loom and floor loom, and avidly watching Valerie weaving some beautiful colors on her rigid heddle loom and Rachel weaving a lovely band on her inkle. We would like to make this demonstration a permanent addition to the festival, and considering the expansion into other loom types, the booth will now be called The Weaving Demonstration Booth. Anyone interested in participating next year should speak to Sue Szczotka.



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## Classified

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New homes needed for my mother's looms! Looms are located in Auburn. Email me (Paulette) for info or more photos.

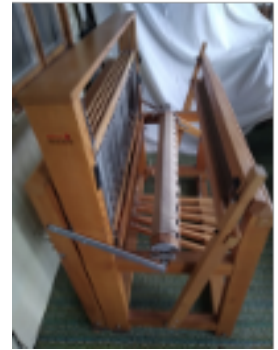
- Inkle looms started it all! My father made several of these for her. Shuttle included. \$25 each.
- Tensioning Box \$125
- Yardage Counter \$75
- Warping Board \$50
- Large Warping Board \$75
- Horizontal Warping Reel \$125
- Spool Rack \$50



Dorothy (Nilus LeClerc) - 4 shafts. Mounted on legs. 15 3/4". Shafts are operated by side levers on the right. \$250 each



Cambridge (Reed Loom Company) - 4 shafts, 6 treadles, weaves up to 45" wide. Historical documentation of purchase and [Joy of Handweaving \(1952\)](#) by Osma Couch Gallinger, inscribed to original owner has been maintained with loom. \$300



Nilus 36". 4 Harness jack-type loom that folds to a depth of 25". Bench Included. \$500



Macomber "AD-A-HARNESS" 4 harness. 20". Folds for travel. Built in 1961. Extras included. \$500

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## More Inspiration! | Nancy Gaus

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Here's a great idea for a simple sewing kit from the studio of Lucienne Coifman (author of *Rep Rip Reps Weave*).





## Refreshments | Sally Meyers

The Refreshments volunteers provide a snack or dessert and hot water. Members should bring their own lunch, utensils, mug, etc. Please bring any questions or concerns to Sally Meyers.

### Duties:

- Know your day. Sally will email a reminder about a week before the meeting.
- Arrange for someone to take your place if you cannot make it and notify Sally.
- Communicate with your partner.
- Provide dessert.
- Arrive early to prepare the table and hot water.
- Clean up the food area.
- If you notice that items are needed in the supply baskets, let Sally know.

September 9, 2023

Donna Connery & Chris Haefner

October 14, 2023

No refreshments due to field trip.

November 4, 2023

Margaret Welch & Jayshri Prasad

December 2, 2023

Joyce Lock & Donna Johnson-Brown

January 6, 2024

Donna Movsovič & Valeri Kaiser

February 3, 2024

Nancy Gaus & Elaine DuBois

March 2, 2024

Linda Miller & Maria Aridgides

April 6, 2024

Sally Meyers & Sue Szczotka



It's all smiles for Joyce after she and Donna C. warped 13 yards for the NY State Fair Wool Center weaving demos.



Donna C. in Atlanta with her entry in the Chattahoochee Handweavers' Guild biennial exhibit this summer.

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## Membership | Andie Scamehorn

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We have two brand new members! Please welcome:

Paulette Quinn

Maryellen Stearns

Interested in joining us? You can join at any time. (Our Membership year runs from May-May) You can join by sending me the form below with your dues or via Paypal. To pay online, sign into your PayPal account and send the dues to membershipSWG@gmail.com. Select "send money to a friend" so the Guild does not pay the transfer fee. Please include all your contact information in this field. We are excited to welcome you!

Dues: Regular: \$30. Senior (over 62): \$25

To pay by check, make checks payable to Syracuse Weavers Guild and mail to:

Andie Scamehorn  
8374 Salt Springs Road  
Manlius, NY 13104

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(For new members) What skill level do you consider yourself? \_\_\_\_\_

(For new members) How did you hear about the SWG? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Halcyon Yarn Guild Rewards | Joyce Lock

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If you are placing an order with Halcyon Yarn, please mention that you are a member of the Syracuse Weavers Guild. You can either make a note about the Syracuse Weavers Guild in the Comments Box for web orders or mention our guild in orders over the phone. At the beginning of the year the guild gets an annual check for 5% of total member sales for the past year. For purchases made in 2022, the guild just received a check for \$72. Many thanks to guild members for mentioning the guild when placing an order with Halcyon. Questions? See <https://halcyonyarn.com/guild/> or contact Joyce Lock.

Instagram: [syracuse\\_weavers\\_guild](https://www.instagram.com/syracuse_weavers_guild)

SWG Web site: <https://www.syracuseweaversguild.org>

SWG Library catalog: <https://www.librarything.com/catalog/syracuseweaversguild>

SWG Ravelry group: <https://www.ravelry.com/groups/syracuse-weavers-guild>

## Syracuse Weavers Guild Looms For Rent | Joyce Lock

Rental fee is \$2 per week. If interested in borrowing one of these looms and it is available, please contact the person listed in the table.

Description	Current Use	Contact	Notes
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	On Loan	Mauri Stott	
Kyra 22" 4S table loom	Travelling Loom	Sue Szczotka	Krokbragd
Peacock 12" 2S loom #1	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #2	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Peacock 12" 2S loom #3	Available	Nancy Smothergill	<a href="http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg">http://possumjimandelizabeth.com/adjusted_images/loom_table_plaid.jpg</a>
Inkle loom	Available	Joyce Lock	
Harrisville 22" 4S floor loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle">https://harrisville.com/products/22-floor-loom-4-harness-6-treadle</a> Picture shows 6 treadles, this one has 4 direct tie treadles. Not easily transported
Purrington Norris 12S table loom	On Loan	Elaine DuBois	<a href="http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm">http://www.purringtonlooms.com/tablelooms.htm</a>
LeClerc Dorothy Green Model 12" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm">https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm</a> Scroll down to find table looms.
LeClerc Dorothy 15" 8S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg">http://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/pics/leclerc/ldor007.jpg</a> Picture shows levers all on right hand side of loom. This loom has second set of shafts (5-8) located on left hand side.
LeClerc Jano 22" 4S table loom	Available	Joyce Lock	<a href="https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm">https://www.camillavalleyfarm.com/weave/leclerchistory.htm</a> Scroll down to find table looms.

## Committees

### Booklets

Nancy Smothergill

### Special Projects

Sue Szczotka

### Website Administrator

Joyce Lock

### Program

Nancy Gaus

### Refreshments

Sally Meyers

### Equipment Coordinator

Joyce Lock

### Library

Donna Connery

### Communications

Carolyn Wolfson

### Newsletter

Susan Mehringer

### Membership

Andie Scamehorn

Meg Welch