

## Gorge Handweavers Guild report on Jette Vandermeiden's Linen Workshop

The Gorge Handweavers Guild hosted Jette Vandermeiden in a Linen Workshop, October 25-27, 2016, at the Grace Carter Weaving Studio, Odell, OR.

This was a process workshop, learning to weave with different types of linen where explained. The objectives: 1. To study techniques for successful warping, dressing the loom, and weaving with various linens.

2. To use a trapeze when warping.
3. To try several weave structures suited to linen weaving.
4. To work with selvages, tension, bobbin control, beat and balance in weaving.

Thanks to our ANWG Grant of \$600.00 and to WeGO sponsoring Jette Vandermeiden as the Travelling WeGO Workshop Leader for Oregon this year, the Guild was able to present this workshop to 18 participants at a fee of \$135.00, which included the cost of all the various sizes of linen used plus a 50+ page notebook. Part of the ANWG grant money was used to sponsor an open free of charge lecture, "Shuttleing" for all interested fiber workers in the area. This is part of our goal of educating the public in weaving and fibers.

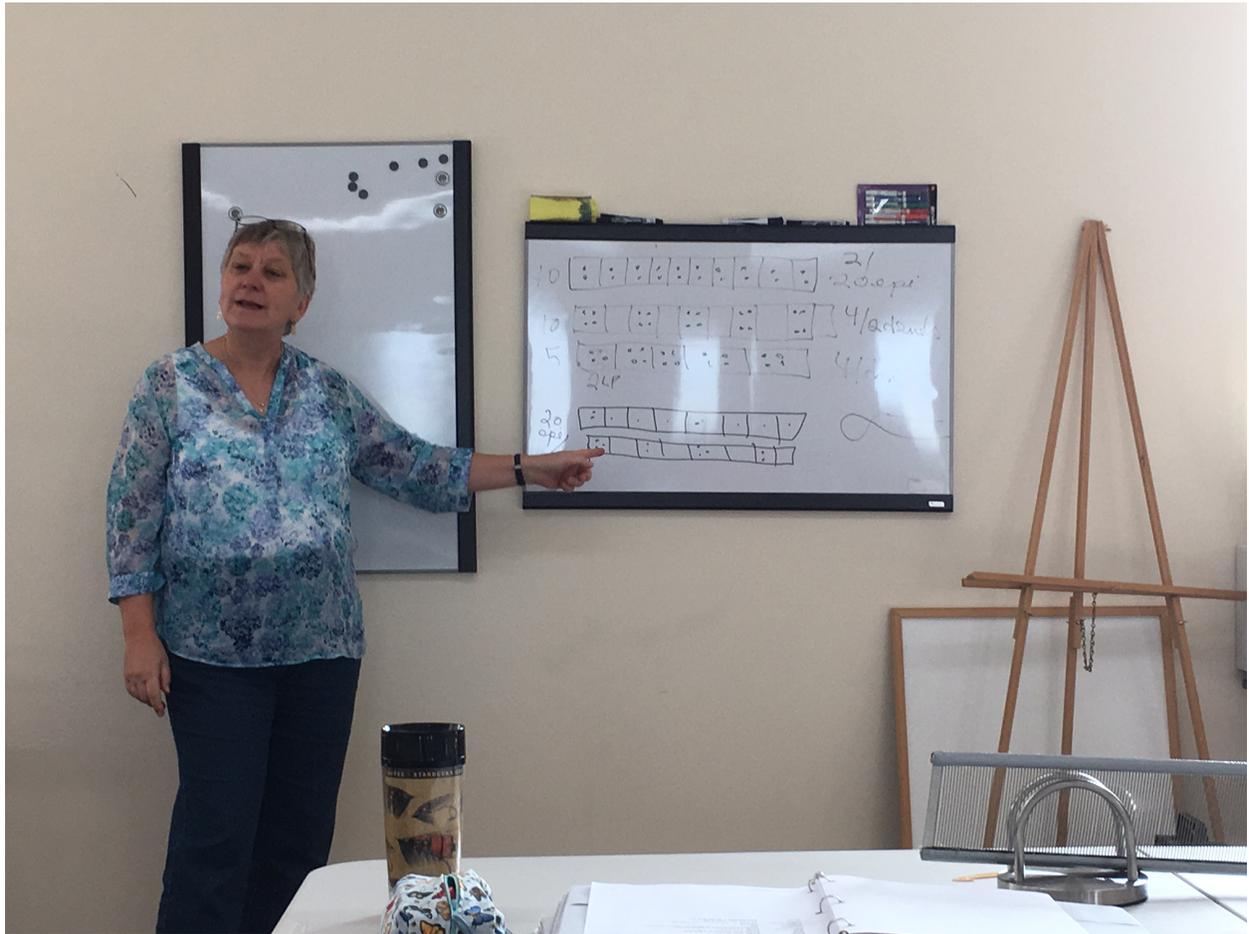
This was a process workshop where the emphasis was on the methods stated above, rather than the product of producing a woven sample during the workshop. Jette assigned each participant a weave structure and a particular size of linen yarn, based on the student's experience, equipment, and based on the size of cotton yarn she was comfortable with using. As agreed by the Gorge Handweavers Guild last spring, each student would, after mastering her sample, would weave off the remainder of the warp which would hang in the Odell Studio for a set time before being taken down and cut into equal pieces and distributed to all students for their notebooks. At present, due to our long, harsh, and lasting winter conditions in The Columbia River Gorge, the sample strips are still hanging on rods on the wall with a few to yet be finished. Each piece has been washed and hard pressed with a heavy rolling pin (cold mangle idea). Presently after the March Gorge Handweavers Guild Meeting the samples lengths will come down, cut apart, edges sealed, and be distributed in April.

It has been a great deal of joy for all to inspect the linen lengths when we are at the Studio.

During the Workshop we all had to do the process as Jette was presenting, giving no arguments, but being given thorough explanations why this method was the correct way and not necessarily your way. Hopefully many of us will stick with her methods for weaving linen, and other fibers, but time will tell when the "whip" is not held over us. Below are pictures from the class.

Submitted by

Dottie Smith – Gorge Handweavers Guild



Jette Vandermeiden – Linen Class



Warping the linen – wall mounted warping board



Warping by placing the board on the loom



Pre-sleying the reed

Using the trapeze while warping the loom.





Linen projects in various colors and yarn sizes.

