

BLOCKBUILDERS

By Wendy Ferrier

Blockbuilders began in 1996 during a period when Whidbey Weavers Guild's other study groups were oversubscribed. It continues as a small, unstructured group of dedicated weavers who meet monthly about 8 times a year in Wendy Ferrier's studio.

The first topic considered was profile drafts and their application to various block weaves. In following years, Summer and Winter, Honeycomb, Huck, Shadow, Overshot, Double and plain weaves were studied. Samples and projects were never required but a great deal of information has been shared and some amazing finished projects have occasionally appeared.

The studio atmosphere has encouraged warping and tie-up demonstrations on the looms, research into books and periodicals, copying articles and drawdowns, comparisons and discussions of color and theory, and yarn exchanges. One year, the group agreed to weave towels for an exchange among members. It was a highlight and the towels give long-lasting pleasure.

Each meeting is unique with Show-and-Tell (and Ask) from each member present. The size of the group allows detailed discussion of failures as well as successes. Troubles and problems meet with sympathy and possible solutions and successes with appreciation and ideas for expansion and use.

Occasional field trips and lunch outings are part of the fun. New members and visitors are welcome any time.

In 2009 Blockbuilders became inactive.