

Dream weavers



FCE Council sponsors Swedish weaving class

BY **MARGARET HOBBS**
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Once upon a time, women accented their homes with lovely linens embellished with hand stitchery of all kinds. They proudly showcased their tablecloths, napkins, runners, pillowcases, aprons and even handkerchiefs, displaying their talents.

Whatever the reason, that is not as prevalent today in many households. One group of ladies is hoping to encourage all to challenge themselves and take up a craft activity. They are also hoping to reintroduce some of the older arts and craft activities enjoyed in previous years.

The Warren County FCE Council has planned work days for participants to learn and enjoy various craft projects through their Crafting Then and Now series. They recently took up the challenge of learning Swedish weaving, or as it was also referred to, huck stitching.

Swedish weaving is an interesting fabric art, and was popular in the 1930s and '40s used to embellish tea towels and aprons. The technique has been found in linens dating back to the 1600s.

Huck refers to one of the fabrics used for this technique of weaving. In actuality it is an embroidery form, weaving floss or yarn through the top threads of either huck toweling, monk's cloth or aida cloth. The thread stays on top of the fabric so there is no thread visible on the back of the piece.

Several of the ladies were familiar with the art, with many learning it in home economics class in school.

"I did it in high school, and have now started back," said Alda Bandy. "It's just relaxing, much better than TV, and you end up with something useful and creative."

County Council president Frances Hobbs encourages anyone interested in attending the classes to sign up early, as classes fill up quickly.

"These classes are open to everyone. You don't have to be a member of a FCE club," said Hobbs. "In fact we can have more classes if we can get teachers. If anyone has something they would like to teach or share with us, give me a call."

The next class will be a basket weaving class on Feb. 5. Hobbs reports the class will be taught by Linda Johnson, but is already filled to capacity.

Upcoming classes are planned for the first Monday of each month at 9 a.m. at the Warren Administration Building. Avid quilter Brenda Clark will present Quilting 101 in March. The class is free, but attendees must bring supplies and a sewing machine. The group is also planning a rag rug class, and hope to find someone to present the art of chair caning.

Anyone interested in the projects, or has suggestions, contact Hobbs at 931-743-4716.



Margaret Hobbs photos
Alda Bandy enjoys crafting, and has especially enjoyed sharpening her Swedish weaving skills. She first learned the process while attending high school home economics class, but is now attempting more difficult patterns.



As part of the Crafting Then and Now series, Swedish weaving was presented to interested ladies, with other classes scheduled. Anyone interested in attending or even teaching a class, should contact Frances Hobbs at 931-743-4716.



Attempting new things can be both fun and challenging, as Hickory Creek FCE member Pam Duff finds. She tried Swedish weaving for the first time, and hopes to continue the learning process.



FCE County Council president Frances Hobbs, at left, offers assistance to Sue Adcock with her Swedish weaving dish towel. Several ladies took part in the Crafting Then and Now activity.