



Weaving Workshop at Capon Springs

October 9-12, 2023

Reservations:

To make a reservation for any of the classes or open sessions, contact Margy at Capon at 304-874-3695 or email her at margy@caponsprings.net.

To reserve a room in the block for this group event, call or email Margy. Reserving in the block will guarantee you a spot in any of the classes and open sessions you want to participate in (weaving parties will be first-come first-served).

Initial short class description

Beginning Monday October 9 and continuing through the afternoon of Wednesday October 11, fiber artist/teacher and longtime Capon guest Liza Q. Wirtz will be leading Capon's first-ever weaving workshops focused on freestyle weaving, exploring color and texture without worrying about rules or requirements. Participants of all experience levels from complete weaving novice to longtime fiber-arts enthusiast welcome. Students will take home everything they weave to use in whatever way they choose—wall hangings, table runners, and more. All tools, equipment, and supplies provided, covered by moderate class fee.

Longer class description

So what's this new weaving class Capon's offering? It's called "Freestyle Weaving for the Creative Spirit."

Um, what's that about? Simple: you weave your heart! You're going to learn the basic skills of weaving in a fun and experimental style on a simple, approachable, easy-to-use two-harness floor loom designed for this type of weaving. Honor your inner sense of beauty and truth as you play with color, texture, and technique, and come away with a unique piece of woven art that reflects your creative spirit (and yes, before you protest, you *do* have one). This is an experiential learning class, not a project-driven one, so you're not weaving to a purpose; you're weaving to learn and play and create.

Hmm. Okay, I'm intrigued—but I'm a little concerned, too: I've never woven before! What do I need to know how to do in order to sign up? Not a thing. No, really! This is truly an all-levels class, open to anyone who wants to try freestyle weaving, from the complete novice to the expert fiber person. There's no homework prior to class, and no previous experience with weaving is required—indeed, students don't even need to have any prior experience with fiber and yarn whatsoever.

But then how will I know if I'm doing it right? Truth: there's no way to do this kind of weaving right—because there's no way to do it wrong. All that matters is whether what you weave pleases you. If the answer's yes, you're golden!

All right, I'm game. What do I have to bring with me? Your willingness to experiment, to explore, and to practice imperfection! Otherwise, not a thing. The teacher will provide everything you need—looms, tools required to use them (things like shuttles and bobbins), and lots of different kinds, colors, and textures of yarn. Plus there'll be boxes of fibery treasures—yarn bits, embroidery floss, scraps of different fabrics, fiber, trims, ribbons, beads, Mylar, and more—that you can pick from to add even more color, texture, and just plain fun to what you weave.

Now, that said: if you *want* to bring something personally meaningful to you to incorporate into your weaving if possible, you're welcome—indeed, encouraged—to do so. Some past examples: specialty paper, pieces of jewelry (this is a fun use for unmatched earrings), dyed or undyed fiber, leftover quantities of treasured yarn too small to knit or crochet a finished item with.

And what will I be taking home with me at the end of my weaving time? All of the cloth you weave, plus a bag of those fibery treasures for future use in whatever ways you like. You can turn your cloth into a hanging or a table runner, incorporate it into a quilt or a piece of clothing, wear it as is as a scarf or shawl, or just look at it and be proud of what you made. Hopefully, you'll also take home some good and joyful memories and the knowledge that you, too, truly are a creative and an artist at heart.

Schedule for Freestyle Weaving Workshops at Capon

Monday, October 9

7:00-9:00pm Weaving Party!

Description: Want to try your hand at freestyle weaving? Stop by tonight's Weaving Party and get a taste of this soothing, fun, and addictive art form. Everyone will be welcome to sit down for a bit at one of longtime Capon guest and professional fiber artist/teacher Liza Q. Wirtz's simple floor looms and get some basic instruction to create your own "stripe" in one of the community weavings. And if you fall in love with weaving, check sign-ups for one of the five class sessions taking place over the next three days!

Class Size Limit: Unlimited; first-come, first-served to try a bit of weaving

Cost: Free!

Tuesday, October 10

9:30am-12:30pm Introduction to Freestyle Weaving

Description: Spend a Capon morning exploring this free-flowing style of weaving done on simple floor looms. Choose your yarns and other “pretties” and make a small weaving personalized to your taste. No weaving experience necessary—all are welcome!

If you enjoy this morning’s activities, be sure to reserve your spot in the afternoon Open Weaving session this afternoon or in one of tomorrow’s sessions.

Class Size Limit: 10 people

Cost: Materials fee of \$75

2:00pm-5:00pm Open Weaving with Help & Instruction

Description: Reserve your spot ahead of time to return and continue your weaving from the morning’s class. Didn’t come this morning? No problem—you can start anew! Looms will be available for those who reserve a spot in this afternoon’s class and then to others on a first-come, first-served basis.

Class Size Limit: 10 people

Cost: Materials fee of \$75

7:00-9:00pm Weaving Party!

Description: Just want to try this soothing, fun, and addictive art form? Stop by the Weaving Party and try your hand. Everyone will be welcome to sit down for a bit at one of the simple floor looms and get some basic instruction to create your own “stripe” in one of the community weavings. And if you fall in love with weaving, check sign-ups for one of the three class sessions taking place over the next two days!

Class Size Limit: Unlimited; first-come, first-served to try a bit of weaving

Cost: Free!

Wednesday, October 11

9:30am-12:30pm Introduction to Freestyle Weaving

Description: Spend a Capon morning exploring this free-flowing style of weaving done on simple floor looms. Choose your yarns and other “pretties” and make a small weaving personalized to your taste. No weaving experience necessary—all are welcome!

Class Size Limit: 10 people

Cost: Materials fee of \$75

2:00-5:00pm Finish with Style or Start from Scratch

Description: Last chance to spend a Capon spring morning exploring freestyle weaving! Open both to continuing students from earlier in the week and to first-time weavers. See above for details.

Class Size Limit: 10 people

Cost: Materials fee of \$75

Instructor bio

Longtime Capon guest Liza Q. Wirtz runs multifaceted fiber-arts studio the Foldout Cat from her home in northern Alabama. Having spent several past lives in other occupations—including bookseller, lawyer, and professional singer—Liza now works fulltime as an artist and creative businessperson. A weaver, spinner, and dyer, she teaches freestyle weaving on simple floor looms, art-batt carding, and basic spinning on analog and electric wheels. Her teaching embodies the same philosophy that infuses her fiber-arts practice: create from your heart, make what gives you joy, and put beauty into the world. Liza wholeheartedly believes that everyone's an artist and that giving people access to fiber-arts tools and learning lets them prove it to themselves. No two people create the same way; that's how art grows and flourishes!

Liza also makes and sells multi-fiber batts for spinners and felters, handspun yarn, hand-dyed microbatch yarn and fiber, finished woven and crocheted items, and simple fiber-arts tools and supplies. She has taught, vended, or both at fiber events in multiple states, including Colorado, Kentucky, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. In 2023, she's adding Arkansas, New York, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia (Capon!) to the list.

Liza sings weekly, bakes when she can, and writes the very occasional will and power of attorney for legal clients in her essentially nonexistent spare time. She lives with a fluctuating number of cats (very peaceful cats! no, really!) near her partners in the Huntsville, AL area. Find her as FoldoutCat on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, and TikTok and on her website at foldoutcat.com.