

# Gail Woodcum The Weaver

Gail has been a weaver for over 37 years. It all started with a festival where she saw a weaver. "I knew it was something I just wanted to do," said Gail, who is originally from West Palm Beach but whose family hails from Kentucky and is now residing in St. Augustine. She began learning the art of weaving in 1980.

Happening upon a particular flyer advertising a weaving class, Gail signed on. Her instructor advised her to take it slow, but Gail was already interested in stepping up her weaving game by tackling challenges meant for those with more experience. Eventually, her weaving instructor stopped teaching and Gail took over her classes.



Up to this point, five or six years of learning, Gail had never woven a tartan. The Scottish American Society of Palm Beach County asked her to give a weaving demonstration, so she conducted some research and taught herself tartan weaving. In 1991, the Scottish American Society of South Florida contacted her about demonstrating at the highland festival.

"I've been there every year since. I have demonstrated at several places including a St. Patrick's Day festival, the Fourth on Flagler in West Palm Beach, Bloomingdales in Palm Beach Gardens, and various others," said Gail.

Though she is no longer teaching, Gail still weaves and is happy to be once again at the annual Scottish American Society of South Florida Highland Games.

Gail likes weaving tartan because she appreciates the interplay of colors. She enjoys being at the annual SASSF festival because she really likes interacting with people.

"I love it when the kids come, especially the little boys who are just fascinated," she said.

In addition to weaving for herself and her family, Gail on occasion offers private lessons.

When she demonstrates at the festival, Gail uses a cotton thread which is stronger than wool.

As a result of her involvement with the festival, she decided to explore her own ancestry, and guess what? Gail is 36% Scottish.

"Every time they update it (Ancestry.com), the Scottish goes up!" she said.

If you see her at the festival, you will notice she is wearing the Skene tartan as her paternal grandmother was a Skene. Her maternal grandmother, on the other hand, was a Marshall.

This year Gail is happy to return to us to proudly showcase her craft.

She learned of her own Scottish background while researching tartan weaving. Gail has taught handweaving for many years both in public classes and privately. Her works have been displayed and sold throughout the State of Florida and nationwide. She has demonstrated various types of handweaving and at many different venues over the years,

but especially enjoys tartans with their beautiful colors and history.



# Fort Lauderdale Mariners Club