

Teacher Bios

Peggy Adelman, Greensboro, NC

My basket career started 27 years ago when we first moved to North Carolina. I took a basket making class at Guilford Technical Community College. From there I joined the North Carolina Basket Makers Association and have taken many classes and workshops from different teachers. In 2009, I became the basket making instructor at Guilford Technical Community College. The last 10 years I have taught my original designs at national basket making conventions. As you can tell, I love weaving baskets and helping others learn the craft. I currently live in Greensboro, North Carolina with my husband and our 3 dogs. My basket website is Bluemoonbaskets.com

Candy Barnes, Shepherdstown, WV

I have always been involved in crafts, starting with sewing, knitting, crocheting and needle point. After taking a basket class over 20 years ago, I was hooked. I also found a craft that worked with my husband Dave's love of woodworking.

Susan Baxter, Penn Yan, NY

Many years ago, I received a basketweaving kit as a graduation gift. It was the best gift ever as it kept my hands busy, and my brain engaged. Fast forward 30 years to my love of creating SheleeArt acrylic blooms on slotted bases and pairing that with round reed. In an ironic twist of fate, after enjoying the ease of slotted bases, I discovered I was all thumbs when creating a woven base. I enlisted my son to help develop jigs that would hold spokes when my hands were otherwise occupied. After more than a few duds, we now have 5 different jigs. It has been exciting to embed new technology with time-honored weaving techniques for a fresh approach to basket creation. My weaving journey now includes my husband Eric and we feel blessed to have the opportunity to explore new places, meet new people and engage with an amazing and inspiring community of fellow weavers.

Denise Bendelewski, Magnolia, DE

I have been weaving baskets since 1999. I particularly enjoy taking reed-weaving techniques and using them to make Nantucket baskets unique. I started adding colored can to my Nantucket Basket weaving several years ago, to add a new look to traditional Nantucket baskets. I am now a primary supplier of colored can and reed to nantucket and traditional baskets maker through my business Magnolia Baskets. I have been teaching basket weaving

since 2001 in my Magnolia, Delaware studio, where I instruct both reed and Nantucket basket making. I have taught at several Basket guilds in other states.

Jenny Elzy, Atlantic Beach, NC

I have been involved in the art of basketry for over 30 years. I've taken classes from so many excellent teachers. I have taken my knowledge, experience and joy of basketry into my teaching for 20+ years. I like sharing new and different weaving techniques. Now that life has afforded me the time and opportunity, I enjoy passing on and sharing the things I've learned. Over the years, I've been fortunate enough to win numerous awards for my baskets. I have taught at WTWKY, Guilders Weave, Country Weavers, NCBA, Basket Cruise, Port City, CWBG, and for some local guilds.

Pati English, Seneca, SC

Basket collector of Native American and baskets from around the world, Pati enjoys creating new designs with her collection as inspiration. She teaches in her S.C. home studio, at schools, as Artist-in-Residence, museums, John C. Campbell Folk School, state conventions and guilds in SC, NC, DE, MD, FL, GA, IN, KY, PA, TN, VA. Attend her studio and be inspired by the view out every window. Pati dyes all reed in her designs with kits and patterns available from the website she maintains, www.BasketsMySpecialty.com. Former Elementary School Teacher and Librarian, Pati is the author of, *Award-Winning Basket Designs; Techniques and Patterns for All Levels*, 349 color photographs, 15 patterns, a helpful reference book. Her designs were included in The Wren House, A Southern Living Showcase Home, and at the S.C. Artisan Center. Most recently, Pati was awarded 1st Place and Viewer's Choice for "Midnight Blue" at the North Carolina Basket Association's Annual Convention Exhibit. Pati continues to design and teach to keep the art of Basketry alive.

Brenda Fairweather, Rockingham, VA

Brenda has been weaving baskets since 1986 when she was a stay at home mom. She is a juried member of the Artisan's Center of VA at the professional level. She has attended juried shows for over 30 years and her baskets are in shops, and galleries in VA and WV. She has taught her rib baskets in various settings and in her home. Wild grapevine is her favorite handle material and she has a passion for weaving Appalachian style rib baskets.

Terri Feutz, Hartford, WI

Terri has been weaving and teaching classes for over 25 years. It all started with a class at a local craft store and turned into a lifelong fascination. She has always had a great desire to learn more, and this has led to wanting to teach others to weave. Terri lives in Hartford, WI with her husband Jeff, who makes her bases and handles.

Diane Hamelic, Medina, OH

Basket weaving has been a hobby of mine for over 30 years. In 2022, I recently retired from teaching middle school students for 32 years. While teaching, men in my building would come into my classroom after school during Christmas time and make baskets for their wives. What a memorable experience that was! Since retiring, I have been traveling to various conventions and learning new skills and techniques. In January, 2025, I created my business - DH Creations, LLC. I love getting into the "basket zone" when I'm designing and creating. I'm eager to teach and share my love of basket weaving with you.

Carolyn Kemp, Matthews, NC

Basketmaker and watercolor artist Carolyn Kemp is a resident of Matthews, NC. Carolyn has been painting her whole life and combined it with basket weaving in the early 1980's...now she does both with equal enthusiasm. Her focus now is on weaving with painted paper rather than weaving with reed or other materials. She has co-authored an illustrated numerous books on basket making and teaches basketry at many venues around the country. "Weaving is pure joy for me... I love doing it and I love sharing what I've learned with others."

Gina Kieft, Rothbury, MI

Gina began weaving baskets at her local Community Education classes. She loved it from the start! She has been teaching for over 28 years, written over 200 patterns, had works published in two magazines and has won several awards. The opportunity to teach her love of basketry is a great thrill! Gina has enjoyed teaching at the local Art's Council, Council on Aging, and Scout Troops as well as private groups, basket guilds, home studio classes, and many basket seminars on the East Coast and Mid-West. Trying new mediums and new techniques is something Gina enjoys; however, twill is her favorite! Gina is also now a "colorful girl" selling dyed reed all over the country. You will find her quality dyed reed and other weaving material on her website - <http://www.ginabaskets.com>

Karen Kotecki, Dousman, WI

Weaving has been my artistic passion for more than 30 years. It is my privilege to teach my designs in the US and Canada, and on the high seas! Complicated designs and twills intrigue me the most. I keep my ideas fresh and my enthusiasm high by attending loads of craft shows and hunting down beautiful old baskets in thrift shops and roadside stands as I travel. My favorite

basket is always the one I am weaving today. My license plate holder says it all: "I'd Rather Be Basket Weaving".

Barbara McCormick, McClellanville, SC

Barbara was born and raised in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina where she learned the trade of sweetgrass basket weaving from her grandmother, mother, aunts, and other family members at a very early age. She has since carried on this tradition and has shared her talent with others including her family. Barbara teaches several classes along the East Coast and has her work displayed in several publications including: "Row Upon Row: Seagrass Baskets of the Lowcountry," a documentary, "Grass Roots: The Enduring Art of the Lowcountry Basket," as well as the Kaminsky House (Georgetown, SC) and McKissick Museum (Columbia, SC) just to name a few. Sweetgrass basket weaving is an art form that came from West Africa over 300 years ago during slavery.

Lori McCoy, Holly Ridge, NC

I taught in New Jersey for 28 years. I moved to North Carolina in 2020 after retiring, and discovered the art of pine needle coiling. Having an art background, I am constantly searching for new and unique ideas for my projects. I thoroughly enjoy teaching and sharing my ideas.

Rami McKinney, Norfolk, VA

I learned how to weave baskets while we were stationed in Hawaii, back in 2001. I have been weaving and passing on this important art form ever since. I have taught basket weaving in various states, and submitted my work to numerous juried art shows and craft shows. Over the years I have also offered my services at several historical sites, demonstrating & selling my baskets, while interpreting the different styles of baskets & their history to the public. I served as the basket maker at Middleton Plantation in South Carolina; Hancock Shaker Site in Massachusetts, and Watervliet Shaker Site in Albany, New York. I have taught locally at the Hermitage Museum in Norfolk, Va. My work has been sold in multiple Artisan Co-Ops. Ribbed baskets with seagrass are my favorite and a specialty of mine. I am currently trying to rid rib baskets of their "bad" reputation. They are not a hard style to weave but are just time consuming.

Kathy Petronzio, Emerald Isle, NC

Kathy started weaving in a local class in NC, and fell in love with basketry. She quickly expanded her education while living in Japan with her family. She is influenced by the intricacy of Japanese basketry, and the beauty, tradition, and usefulness of Nantucket and Shaker basketry. She exhibits in shows across the east coast and teaches around the country.

Pam Philpott, Swansboro, NC

An educator of 35 years, Pam is retired and lives in the historical coastal village of Swansboro, North Carolina. Although she learned the technique of coiling Pine Needle baskets over 46 years ago, her baskets were gifts and mainly for family. Pam started coiling baskets seriously when she moved to Swansboro and her friends wanted to buy her baskets. Pam teaches pine needle coiling out of her home regularly but for the last five years Pam has enjoyed sharing her passion throughout various states such as Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Stowe, Vermont, and North and South Carolina.

Scott Russell, Leesburg, VA

Scott has been an elementary art educator in Loudoun County, VA for 26+ years. He has sewn since he was 7 years old thanks to a mother who loved to cross stitch. Sewing is a part of his elementary art classes from grade 2 through 5. He became interested in temari from seeing a pattern book in a craft magazine when he was in high school. However, he tried to run the marathon before he could walk in learning the art form. Fast forward to 2020 when the world shut down and he rediscovered the book, and spent quarantine working cover to cover successfully through the 70+ designs. Since then he has stitched over 300 temari in various sizes and shapes.

Cheryl Thomas, Linden, NC

Cheryl has been weaving since 1993. In 2021 she started Bend in the River Baskets and began teaching basketry classes at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Since then Cheryl has added a second basketry class at FTCC. She has taught at various conventions such as the NCBA, Guilders Weave, Upper South Carolina, and most recently at Stowe Basketry Festival. Cheryl has also taught at various guilds in North Carolina, Tennessee, Maryland, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia. Cheryl has also held board positions in the Cape Fear Basketmakers' Association and the NC Basketmakers' Association.

Bridget VanRemortel, Bakersville, NC

I have been weaving for over 13 years. I belong to several guilds and I am the current Vice President for the North Carolina Basketmakers Association. I have taught in Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, West Virginia, Kentucky and North Carolina. I love weaving functional baskets with color.

Pamela Wilson, Bloomingdale, NJ

Pamela Wilson loves all styles of basket making and finds great satisfaction in creating beautiful works, and in sharing her love of basket makings with other weavers. Her work is exhibited at Peters Valley in Layton, NJ. She has taught for most basket guilds throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic States, and eastern areas of the Mid-West. She is a long-time member of the National Basketry Organization and Central PA Basket Weavers Guild. She holds a BFA from the University of Oklahoma and an MFA from Florida State University.

Judy Wobbleton, Williamston, NC

Basketry artist Judy Wobbleton, has been creatively weaving baskets for over 40 years. She uses traditional techniques to create functional pieces influenced by Native American and traditional Appalachian designs. She is also cofounder of NCBA, currently serving as Treasurer and has held previous board position as President, Convention Coordinator 1986, 2005 & 2012, 2020, 2021 & 2022, CRC committee, Membership Chair and Treasurer. Judy's work has been featured in several publications including *NC Our State* magazine, *The Basket Book*, *Basketmaker's Baskets*, *Craft Works in the Home*, *A Basketmaker's Odyssey*, *Over, Under, Around and Through* and *The Ultimate Basket Book*. In addition to weaving, Judy serves on the board of the Martin County Arts Council of NC and chairs Williamston Downtown INC.