



# OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA

Volume 14 Issue 2

Dedicated to the preservation, promotion and education of the art of basketry.

April 2014

## President's Letter

Spring is here and it's so nice to be outside! My lilacs were the prettiest they have been in years. Hope you all are enjoying this spring.

Our next guild meeting is May 10. I'm looking forward to seeing you there and working on Janet's Pie Basket project. It looks like a wonderful basket.

Our Vice-President, Rena Vickery, is recovering from her 2<sup>nd</sup> knee replacement. We send her good wishes and hope to see her out and about soon.

Are you looking forward to Weavers Weekend? Karin Roepel and her committee have chosen the classes and Shirley Hill, this year's Weavers Weekend Coordinator and Janet Newman are hard at work getting our catalog together. You can look forward to receiving an email as soon as the online registration is complete. I know we have a great array of classes, some returning instructors, some instructors new to us and half a dozen vendors. I can't wait!! Be thinking about donations you might want to make for the retreat. Remember to weave a basket or two to enter into the fair.

Marcia Balleweg

## May Guild Meeting

The project for May is a Pie Basket. The guild is paying for the base and handles for members who are at the meeting. An email went out in early April to order the base and handles. If you did not order the supplies, then bring something else to weave and join in the fellowship. You can call and see if supplies are still available.

Be sure to bring a 9" glass pie plate to use as a guide for making your basket. The weight of a glass one makes it easier to use than a small metal one.

## Note from the Editor: Janet Newman

Spring is here with summer to follow. With that comes time to be outdoors. While there, look for items from nature to decorate your baskets and gourds. Look for odd shaped pieces of drift wood to make basket handles. How about shells. They can be glued on or carefully drill a hole with your Dermal. Save daylily leaves to weave with. Gather them by the cut end and tie a string around the end. Then hang and let them dry. Or dry them flat.

Inside you will find an article on how to harvest and dry cattail leaves. Honeysuckle is a great material to use. I gather the longest vines and strip the leaves off. Then I boil the vines for about 30 minutes. The bark comes right off and you can wind them into a coil to be used as needed. I use a pair of fingernail clippers to cut off the little bard at the joints of the vines.

BWGOK meetings are held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum located near I-44 and NE 63<sup>rd</sup> Street in Oklahoma City. The meetings are held the second Saturday of every odd month at 10:00AM. Meetings generally start with the business meeting followed by a basket raffle, then lunch. Everyone brings a covered dish. After lunch we work on the scheduled project or whatever you bring to weave on. We are usually done by 2-3.

## Basket Weavers Guild of Oklahoma Minutes

March 8, 2014 -- Beginner's Class

Marcia Balleweg, President of BWGOK, called the meeting to order at 10:03 at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City on March 8, 2014. There were 13 members and 6 guests at the time.

The January meeting was cancelled so we could attend the Quilt Show; there were no minutes to read and approve. The demonstration times are used to advertise the Beginner's Class. We had 73 sign up. 16 students were in the beginner's class.

Pat Horsey presented the treasurer's report.

Primary Account:		\$113.70
Main Account:	Balance as of 10-31-2013	\$12,811.02

Expenses:		Deposits
Ok Tax Comm.	\$264.49	\$582.54
Supplies	155.36	<u>405.00</u>
Expo Center	1511.00	
Web Master	100.05	
Newsletter	<u>36.16</u>	
TOTALS:	\$2067.16	\$987.54

Balance as of 2-28-2014	\$11,731.40
Balance of both accounts	\$11,845.10

Correction of total balance as of October 31, 2013 --\$12,924.92

### Ongoing Business:

**Weavers' Weekend** – Shirley Hill, chair, reported that the selection committee checked out 73 baskets submitted by instructors. The contract for the Expo Center, Shawnee, has been submitted and fees have been paid. She will be checking with hotels for special considerations, etc.

Rena Vickery will be in charge of gathering items for the Welcome Bags. Jo Ann Miller will be in charge of the donations at the Expo Center. The bags will be stuffed in Shawnee.

We will use a bidding process for convention wear embroidery. Suggestions for items – shirts, tee shirts – no short sleeves, aprons, towels, etc. Contact Shirley Hill, [doug9471@sbcglobal.net](mailto:doug9471@sbcglobal.net), with guild embroidery in the subject line.

**Membership:** 102 members

### Guild projects:

**May** meeting will change to a pie basket (Janet Newman) – instead of the Nantucket Rim (Mike Tickle). The guild will pay for the wooden bottom and the handles. (Motion: Mike Tickle; Second: Rena Vickery) No other details were decided at this meeting.

**July** – Mike will be in charge of the Nantucket Rim - To participate in the rim class – please bring a Nantucket basket woven up to the rim.

**September** – Shirley Hill is teaching the class. Participants will need to bring a 6"x6" basket – that has been woven up 3 to 5 rows using natural or smoked reed. Bring several pieces of 3/16" flat dyed (2 for each space at least 6 inches long) OR a kit of these pieces will be provided for \$5.00.

**November** – Rena Vickery – Christmas ornament

There was discussion about a special weaving time with an outside instructor. Janet Newman offered to check into this.

#### **Opportunities:**

Fiber Works for 2015 there will be a basket maker judging for 2015. Great time to enter your designer basket!

Marlys Sowers will be in Lawrence Kansas, March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Newsletter:** Articles/submissions due April 12, June 12, August 12, and October 12.

Order the May project by April 19th.

Jewell Cowan & Vivian Havenstrite won the drawings for the basket kits. We didn't have a drawing for a basket.

Jewel Cowan has woven a beautiful cylinder 23" long with a loop for hanging, decorated with wheat & feathers!

## WEAVERS WEEKEND 2014

The Retreat preparations are moving right along! Thanks to Karin Roepel and the selection committee, we have 51 classes chosen, 16 instructors, and 6 vendors. There will be a wide range of basket types and experience levels to choose from. Believe me, you will have a hard time deciding what to take. The catalog is being worked on. We hope to have it out in early May.

Remember to invite all the basket weavers you know. I'd love to see a record number of participants. There will be some great beginner classes with patient instructors, so no need to fear if you are a beginner. Remember also that beginner classes are for everyone. You just have to like the basket. Beginners can come and wet their toes with one class or dive in and do the whole weekend. Also, beginner does not mean people who have never woven a basket before! The people coming to the retreat will be less frustrated if they have woven several baskets and have a little understanding of the basic weaving techniques.

We are going to be at the Expo Center in Shawnee again this year, so start planning which hotel/motel you would like to stay in and restaurants to eat at. We'll have a list of prices of hotels/motels as soon as possible. Share the catalog with friends and let's make this the best attendance ever.

Rena Vickery is in charge of donations. Contact her if you have something to donate, [rscmv1958@cox.net](mailto:rscmv1958@cox.net).

Shirley Hill, Retreat Chairperson

## Weaving from Seagrass

*Seagrass is a renewable resource that is both durable and flexible. In its natural habitat, seagrass grows in meadows submerged in clear, shallow water. Fiber artists weave seagrass reeds to create baskets, furniture, rugs and other home decor accessories. Some craft stores sell bunches of dried seagrass that you can use to weave into a variety of projects.*

Seagrass is available as a twisted grass rope or a flat-surfaced reed that resembles rush from the Sea Islands and is used in many folk art baskets, rugs, mats, placements and table runners. It is favored by weaving enthusiasts because the seagrass begins as a green-colored fiber that turns tan with age. Seagrass is easily dyed with fabric dye to take on any accent color. The rope-textured seagrass presents a natural appearance and adds an interesting texture to any table.

Make a Seagrass Mat:

Make 12- by 18-inch placemats out of seagrass to add a touch of nature to any table.

1. Cut 24 pieces of seagrass rope 18 inches long and 68 pieces of seagrass 12 inches long.
2. Place the 18-inch seagrass pieces on a horizontal plane with 1/2 inch between pieces. Make sure the ends of each piece align to make an 12- by 18-inch rectangle.
3. Find the center of the 18-inch pieces of seagrass. Weave one 12-inch seagrass piece through the 18-inch pieces at the center mark, using an over/under weaving pattern. Leave 1/2 inch of each end of the 12-inch seagrass exposed past the 18-inch rectangle.
4. Weave one 12-inch seagrass pieces over/under on each side of the center weaving. Start the weaving opposite of the first weave. For example, if you started the first weave going over the first 18-inch horizontal piece of seagrass, start the pieces on either side of that center weave by going under the first 18-inch horizontal piece.
5. Continue weaving the length of the seagrass mat, alternating from side to side of the center to keep the placemat squared. Always start the new weave opposite (over or under) the piece next it. Continue weaving the placemat until 1/2 inch of each 18-inch end is exposed. The finished placemat now has an edge, and you do not need to add a binding or hand weave a finished edge.



Use this technique to make larger pieces like a door mat or a headboard for a bed. Go smaller and make a trivet or coaster. The pictures to the left uses three pieces for each woven section. It makes a nice pattern.

Seagrass comes in round twisted sizes #00, #0, #1, #2, #3, and #4. It also comes in flat braids that are 3/8", 5/8" and 7/8" wide.

## Calendar of Guild Projects

**May:** Pie Basket taught by Janet Newman

**July:** Nantucket Rim taught by Mike Tickle. Bring a 6" Nantucket basket finished except for the rim. Mike will have rim parts for sale.

\* Make a Positive Tomorrow's basket at home and fill with household goods.

\* Weave a project to enter into the Oklahoma State Fair or the Tulsa fair.

**August:** Submit entries to the Oklahoma State Fair and the Tulsa Fair.

**September:** Bring Positive Tomorrow's baskets back filled,

\* Project—6" x 6" Basket with a new technique taught by Shirley Hill.

**October:** 24th-26th, 2014 Weavers Weekend Retreat

**November:** Election of officers

\* Christmas Ornament taught by Rena Vickery

## Heads up about Positive Tomorrows Project in September

Usually we make our Positive Tomorrows baskets at the July guild meeting and bring them filled to the September meeting. In order to have time for an extra project it was determined that Positive Tomorrows baskets would be done individually outside of a guild meeting and brought to the September meeting already filled and ready to go. You are encouraged to make a muffin basket or a market basket but it is entirely up to you if you want to make something different.

Fill your basket to overflowing with kitchen items. Use things like bowls, coffee cups, stirring spoons, measuring cups, dish towels, dish rags, etc. Do not place anything in your basket that is food related, perishable or could spill and cause a mess. Dollar Tree is a good place to buy items.

At the September meeting the baskets will be wrapped in clear cellophane paper and tied with a ribbon. A card will be attached that says the basket was handmade and donated by the Oklahoma Basket Weavers Guild.

### BWGOK Officers

#### Elected Positions

#### Volunteer Positions

President	Marcia Balleweg	Librarian	Marcia Balleweg
Vice President	Rena Vickery	Historian	Onita Lynch
Treasurer	Pat Horsey	Membership	Janet Newman
Secretary	Jo Ann Miller	Newsletter	Janet Newman
Newsletter submissions can be sent to: dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net			

## Door Prize Drawings

Donations are needed for the door prize drawings. Items do not have to be basket related. If you have questions contact Mike Tickle, [mtickle@cox.net](mailto:mtickle@cox.net) or Janet Newman, [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net). Let's keep this activity going.



## HOW TO PREPARE FRESH CATTAILS FOR BASKET MAKING

There are three steps to using fresh reed in basket making: 1. cut the right reed, 2. dry the reed, 3. rehydrate the reed. Cattail reeds are widely available in marshy areas or wetlands as they are a common plant in North America. You can recognize them by their long, flat leaves and distinctive flowering stalk which grow from 3 to 10 feet high. There is a broad-leafed cattail and a narrow-leafed cattail. The narrow-leafed cattail has a brown seed head shaped like a cigar. They grow from rhizomes that grow in muddy soil. Surprisingly the roots, stems and seed heads are all edible at different times of the year. The shoots have a flavor much like cucumbers and can be eaten raw, steamed, boiled or incorporated into salads. Some parts can be used for medicinal purposes.



Look for leaves that are about 1" wide and from 5 to 8 ft in length.

Harvest cattails leaves in the late summer or early autumn. Cut at the waterline with a knife or scissors. Bundle the stalks being careful to keep all the leaves going in the same direction. Tie the bundle for easy transport. Cut off the tips and the thick ends. Rinse the leaves with water. Broad-leafed cattails should be split down the middle. Lay the leaves flat on screens and elevate the screens for air to circulate. Turn the leaves several times a day to prevent mold. Drying time can be from several days to several weeks.

After the leaves are dry, select enough leaves to make a bundle about 10" in diameter and wrap snug with cardboard being careful not to bend any leaves. Store upright in a dry place away from sunlight.

To weave with the cattail leaves they need to be rehydrated. Lay plastic sheeting on a large flat surface. Lay a bed sheet down on top of the plastic. Spread the leaves on the sheeting and mist with a spray bottle. Roll up the leaves in the sheet. Then wrap the bundle in the plastic sheeting. Lay flat and allow to remain wet for 8-12 hours. Leaves are ready when pliable and feel soft like chamois. If the leaves crack, rewet and leave to mellow longer. Discard leaves that become too soggy or slimy. Be sure to wash the sheet before getting the next batch ready.

**Tips:** Weave very tightly because the leaves will shrink a great deal as they dry.



Harvested cattails being wrapped up in a sheet and plastic to rehydrate.

Exposing drying cattails to direct sunlight causes them to turn brown quickly.

Rehydrate only enough leaves to use in one day as they will mold swiftly.



## May Project

The project for May is a pie basket taught by Janet Newman. The guild is furnishing the base and the handles for each member that is present and ordered them. There is also a kit available for \$5 for those who ordered them early. A separate email went out earlier in April to let everyone know about ordering the supplies. We had to do this in order to have enough for people present without having too many bases and handles as they are expensive. I would be glad to send the pattern to anyone who wants it. Just email me, Janet Newman at dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net. Supplies for the basket are listed below if you want to bring your own. If you did not order the supplies, come anyway and bring something else to weave on. I tried to order extra handles but at this moment I don't know how many, if any, are still available. Marcia Balleweg has ordered the bases. If you did not order a base and want one, Marcia has extras. Contact her for the price. The basket can be made without the handles.

The basket is about 34" around. Use this measurement to figure out how much of each size reed you need if you are bringing your own supplies.

5/8" flat for spokes, cut 32 at 12"  
 3/16" flat oval for weavers, 8 rows  
 3/8" flat for rim row  
 1/2" flat oval for outside rim  
 1/2" flat for inside rim  
 11/64" flat oval for lashing  
 #3 round for triple twine for 3 rows  
 #2 round for twining the base row  
 Seagrass for rim  
 8" slotted round base  
 2 10" by 10" wire handles with wood grips



**NOTE: Bring a 9" glass pie plate to use as a guide to make sure your basket fits the pie plate.**



## Membership Directories

Printed membership directories will be available at the March meeting. If you have had any changes in your email, address or phone number please send that information to Janet Newman at dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net. Printed directories are only available for people present at the meeting. They will not be mailed out. However I will email the files to everyone.



## GO DADDY TO OUR RESCUE

Marcia Balleweg and Janet Newman are busy learning how to put everyone's name and email into GoDaddy so it will be easier to contact all of you. It is very important over the next two months that each of you open any emails that you get from the guild. I don't think you will be able to tell if the email is sent by GoDaddy. It should look just like it always does.

I will be sending out an test email in a few weeks and asking that you open the email and reply to it if asked. When you open the email GoDaddy will know that you accept emails from The BasketWeavers Guild of Oklahoma. If you do not open the email, GoDaddy thinks you are rejecting the email and you get bumped into a file that is enactive. Marcia send out a test awhile ago and some of you are in there but we can't find you. Also some of the emails have bounced back to us. If you get an email with the BasketWeavers 's logo at the top you will know that email was created with GoDaddy. It will be very important for you to open the email.

We are still in a learning curve with this. We hope to send the catalog through GoDaddy. We have to have all the email addresses working though. So to help us, be sure you open anything that comes from the guild.



## Available Basket Weaving Classes Around the State

**Bethany:** Janet Newman (e-mail: [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net); phone: 405-789-4540) Janet teaches at *Francis-Tuttle Career Tech*, OK Basket Supply.

**Edmond:** Rena Vickery (e-mail: [rscmv1958@cox.net](mailto:rscmv1958@cox.net); phone: 405-285-6643) Rena teaches at the Edmond "Mac" Center.

**Hinton:** Paulene Asbury (e-mail: [habasketry@cox.net](mailto:habasketry@cox.net); phone: 405-722-1186)

Pauline teaches at the Buffalo Ranch in Hinton the 2nd Monday of each month. She also teaches at Christ Church in Yukon, the Nazarene Church in Mustang, Southern Hills Baptist Church in OKC and the Pioneer Center in Weatherford. You can check on her classes at [facebook.com/habasketry](https://www.facebook.com/habasketry).

**Wellston:** Marcia Balleweg (e-mail: [marcia@oklahomabasketsupply.com](mailto:marcia@oklahomabasketsupply.com))

Marcia teaches at *Oklahoma Basket Supply* in Wellston and at the Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee. Her website, [www.oklahomabasketsupply.com](http://www.oklahomabasketsupply.com) lists all her classes. To enroll contact Gordon Cooper Technology Center at <http://gctech.augusoft.net>.



## Beginner Class a Success

The beginner class was a huge success with 16 people participating in making the muffin basket. Everyone finished their basket. We had several people sign up to be members and several more that will become members at the next guild meeting.

A big thank you to Rena, Jo Ann and everyone else who supported the new weavers and making the class a success.





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