



OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA

Volume 19 Issue 5

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

September 2019

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Fall, my favorite time of the year is just around the corner. To get you there take a look at all the pictures in this newsletter. There are tons of them. Thank you to everyone who sent me pictures.

Be sure to contact Mary about kits for the guild projects listed to the right. The pumpkin basket is very pretty with its different shades of orange. The embellishment on top adds a great touch. The bear basket for the December project has trees that are different from any I have seen on a basket before. The branches look like they are interwoven.

In this newsletter you can learn how to calculate the number of spokes for a round base and see what can be done with gourds.

You will find out what you missed if you didn't go to Laura Lee Zanger's classes back in August.

One way of dying reed is explained on page 6.

Learn about entering the State Fair and why we have to have a lot of you enter next year. There is a way to make it easier for people living out of town, so plan to enter next year. But first read about it here.

Find out about what can be done with gourds. I went to the Texas Gourd Festival. It was amazing and we will benefit from a class with gourds next year.

Learn what a Random Weave Basket is and where they were made.

Yes this newsletter is full of pictures and information. Enjoy and see you on October 19th. Janet

Guild Project on October 19

The project for the October guild meeting is a lovely orange pumpkin basket. It measures 6.5" x 9" x 9". The colors of the pumpkin range from bright orange to subdued. Embellishment is added to the top of the basket. The basket is great for decorating your home for Fall or for holding all that Halloween candy. You can also use it for rolls at Thanksgiving time. The kit will be \$12. Contact Mary Lee by October 1 to order a kit. 405-820-0354.



At the same time you order the October kit you can order the December kit. It is a basket decorated with a bear and trees. More information on the basket will come in the next newsletter. Mary is planning ahead and you can take care of two projects at one time when you contact her. Cost of the basket kit will be \$15. The size is about 12" x 10" x 13" and is mostly 5/8" reed. So order kits and show up to weave. Fun! Fun! Fun!

BWGOK meetings are held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum located near I-44 and NE 63rd Street in Oklahoma City. The meetings are held on the 3rd Saturday of the even months. Meetings generally start at 10am with weaving a project then the business meeting coincides with lunch at 12 noon. Everyone brings a covered dish to share at lunch. If you did not order a project kit come anyway and bring whatever you want to weave on. Bring finished projects to show and tell. We are usually done between 2-3.

BWGOK Officers - Elected and Volunteer Positions

President: Janet Newman

Vice President: Mary Lee & the Norman Weavers

Secretary: Fran Cates

Treasurer: Marcia Balleweg

Membership: Janet Newman

Librarian: Marcia Balleweg

Newsletter: Janet Newman, Newsletter submissions can be sent to: dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net

BasketWeavers Guild of Oklahoma Minutes

National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

At 12:05 the meeting was called to order. There was no meeting in July so there were no minutes to report. Marcia Balleweg gave the Treasurer's report.

Treasurer's Report as of July 31, 2019

Balance as of March 31, 2019	\$8843.05
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Expenses

Secure Care Self Storage—April	\$61.20
Secure Care Self Storage—May	\$61.20
Secure Care Self Storage—June	\$61.20
Secure Care Self Storage—July	\$61.20
Janet Newman reimburse supplies #1327	\$21.37
Marcia Balleweg reimburse kits #1329	\$84.40

Total Expenses	\$350.57
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Deposits

Dues	\$105.00
WW transfer from PayPal	\$491.56
Laura Lee Zanger class fees	\$800.00
Laura Lee Zanger class fees	\$350.00
WW registration and dues	\$60.00
Laura Lee Zanger class fees	\$150.00
Laura Lee Zanger class fees	\$25.00

Total Deposits	\$1981.56
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Old Business:

Weavers Weekend—Marcia Balleweg: 55 registered, 4 canceled, 7 instructors

Weavers Weekend Donations—Janet Newman: working on it

Membership—Janet Newman: 103 paid members

Projects— Mary Lee:

October 19—Pumpkin Basket

December 21—Christmas Party, Sue Ybright offered to make Fry Bread for Indian Tacos. Project (?)

Workshops/Demos—Marcia Balleweg:

September 14: State fair demo volunteers

November 16: Volunteers needed for class at the museum

Minutes continued:

New Business:

- Kids National Basket Day June 27, 2020—Marcia Balleweg: It was voted that we would try to do the kids National Basket Day. We will see if the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum can accommodate that day for kids to weave. We will need volunteers. Janet Newman volunteered to be the contact person for those wanting to come.
- Second Beginner's Class in September of next year was discussed by Marcia Balleweg. She will see if the museum can accommodate the class time. Participants would have to pay for this kit.
- The Texas Basket Retreat in 2020 is January 23-26 in Huston, Texas. Registration can still be made.
- Officer Election will be done at the retreat on Saturday during lunch for the offices of President and Treasurer.

The meeting adjourned at 12:53

Prepared by Janet Newman for Fran Cates

BasketWeavers Having Birthdays

September and October

*Happy
Birthday
to all of you!!*

Cindy	Worman	9/8
Pat	Horsey	9/8
Linda	Parmeale	9/19
Sybil	Tibbetts	9/23
Denilgn	Jordan	9/28
Susan	Steele	9/30
Debbie	Hurd	10/1
Anne	Aubushon	10/2
Vickie	Gildon	10/11

WEAVERS WEEKEND UPDATE

Plans for the 20th annual Weavers Weekend are almost complete and there are still classes available if you haven't already registered or want to take additional classes. We have 56 enrolled weavers for 21 basket classes with 8 teachers. Included are 3 teachers who have not taught classes at Weavers Weekend before. Tammy Gore and Heather Starkey will be back to do chair massages. Sonny Secrist is not able to attend this year for sharpening services and he will be missed. We have 3 full-time vendors and 3 market-place vendors for shopping. The full-time vendors are Bases to Weave, Gifts by Brenda, and Atkinson Country House. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Oh yes, did you make your hotel reservation? There will be people in Shawnee about 11 am on the Thursday before the retreat to help get things setup and to fill goodie bags. Feel free to stop in and help.

Donations for the goodie bags are still being accepted.

How to Figure Spokes for a Basket with a Round Slotted Base

Taken from the blog for Basket Makers Catalog.

A customer wrote and asked: "... How do I calculate how many spokes I would need for a 5" slotted base?.....". Here's my answer:

Your choice of 3/8" uprights with 1/4" weavers will work.

Do you want a continuous weave? Do you want start and stop rows?

With a continuous weave, you will need an odd number of spokes.

With start and stop rows, you will need an even number of spokes.

Let's do the math:

5" times 3.14159 = 15.70795" This is the circumference. (3.14159 is PI)

Width of the spoke = 3/8". Width of the gap between spokes = 3/16".

Convert these to decimal and add together .375 + .1875 = .5625

Now divide the circumference by the width of the spoke and the gap: $15.70795 / .5625 = 27$ or 28 spokes. You may want the gap slightly larger, but this gets you in the "ballpark".

If the 3/8" spokes seem too weak, try 1/2" spokes (you'll have to re-calculate the quantity) or a smaller weaver. I usually stick 5 or 6 spokes in the slot of the base and try different weavers to see what works. It should not take you very long to find the combination that suits you.

The pattern below "splits a 5/8" spoke to make an odd number"

<http://www.basketmakerscatalog.com/mfiles/countyfairbasket.php>

The customer wrote back: "Thanks a million Scott.....I have never known exactly how to calculate the needed number of spokes, so really appreciate this tutorial....."

Hearth Basket Workshop

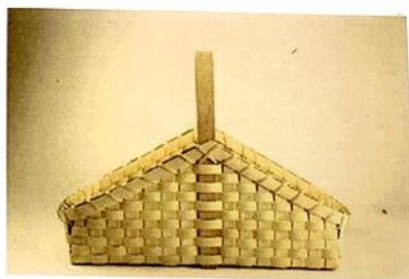
November 16; 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Every home needs a hearth basket to hold kindling, magazines or whatever you choose! Suitable for beginner to advanced.

Led by Basket Weavers Guild of Oklahoma, participants will create their own hearth basket, measuring approximately 20 inches long, 10 inches wide, and 14 inches high (with handle).

\$35, \$30 for Museum members. All supplies provided. Lunch is on your own.

Register online by November 12 at nationalcowboymuseum.org/event/hearth-basket-workshop.



This will be our next service project with the museum. It is scheduled for November 16th. We will need volunteers. Each volunteer receives a free kit. Contact Marcia Balleweg if you would like to volunteer and get a free kit for your help.

Guild Calendar

- October 19: Bring Positive Tomorrows back filled with kitchen items. Project will be a Pumpkin Basket. Order by Oct. 1
- November 1-3: Oklahoma Weavers Weekend, Shawnee, OK
- November 16: Volunteers needed to help with Museum class, 9-5
- December 21: Christmas Party, project will be a Christmas Basket with a bear and trees on it

Tentative 2020 Calendar

- February 15: Waste Basket—Marcia Balleweg
- March 21: Beginner Class
- April 18:
- June 20:
- August 15: Make Positive Tomorrow's Baskets
- October 17: Bring Positive Tomorrows back filled
- October ?: Retreat
- December 19: Christmas Party and project

Dying Reed

Not long ago I needed to dye reed in 3 colors and 3 sizes. I decided if I was going to make a mess I might as well do it up good. Not sure how many coils of reed I did but it was 5 or 6 coils and 9 colors. The night before dying, I separated the coils into the amounts I wanted for the classes I would be teaching and coiled them up. Then the next morning I put my thinking cap on. I had 9 colors to do. If done one at a time it would take a long time to boil 9 stock pots of water one at a time. So I decided to use tubs and pour the hot water into the tubs. I just happened to have enough tubs on hand. I put the boxes of Rit dye in each tub and then put the reed to be dyed by each tub. Next came opening the boxes of dye and putting a cup of table salt in each tub. I used a hard plastic pitcher to transfer the hot water from the pot to the tubs. After adding the water I had a long metal spoon that I stirred the mixture. Then it was time to add the reed. Because I didn't add enough water to fill the tubs, I had to turn the reed over every so often. The reason I didn't fill the tubs up was to have a stronger concentration of dye. If I had filled the tubs, I would have had to put 2 boxes of dye in each tub. That doubles the cost of the dye.

Let me say that I did put plastic down on the floor and an old blanket plus I wore long rubber gloves and old clothes. Never do anything with dye without having gloves on. You will regret it for months.

After the reed was in the dye about 2 hours, I took each one out and rinsed it three times. In the last rinse I put a cup of vinegar and let it sit for about 15 minutes. While this was happening I cleaned the tub. All but 2 tubs came out with no stain. I think the blue and purple were the ones that stained the tubs. After all the reed was rinsed and back in its tub, I took the reed outside to dry. I use old plant stakes braced on something to put the reed on to dry. While it is drying I cover the reed with a sheet to keep the sun and bugs off it. I try to put the reed in the shade but the sun moves. The sheet also keeps the dew off the reed if you need to have it out overnight which I did.

After drying, I coiled each color in each size and put twist ties on to keep it neat. I use twist ties that are for tying up garden plants. It comes in a coil and I can cut it the size I need. It's not expensive to buy or hard to find. I get all the ends of reed together and put a rubber band tight on the end. After the cost of the reed and the labor put into it, I figure I have doubled the value of the reed so I want to take extra good care of it. Once coiled up it takes up less room. This is how I dye. There are many ways to do it. I knew one lady who put a small amount of dye in a baggie and only dyed enough for one basket.



Classes with Laura Lee Zanger

If you were not one of the 27 or so people who joined Laura Lee and Steve Zanger in Wellston in August, you truly missed a great time of weaving. Laura Lee and Steve work as a fine tuned team. They can finish each other's sentences. Laura Lee had groups of people setup by what type of project they were doing. You were forced to sit with people you didn't know which was great for getting to know new people. Because of the difficulty of weaving twills the first part of each day was very quiet. After figuring out patterns people were more talkative. Laura Lee was always right there to help. If she needed anything Steve made many trips to their trailer to retrieve kits or more reed. It was a super time. I truly felt I learned a lot about weaving twills and gained confidence that I could do it. The major thing I learned though, was that every row has to be woven perfect or the pattern is lost. That means you are always looking for a mistake and taking out rows to reweave is part of weaving a twill and that is ok.



Steve was eager to share and help when needed. He kept things running smooth.



Jo Ann and Sybil have tried two times to make a mat. They might have gotten a few more rows in one that was started years ago.



Laura Lee worked around the tables to help people and answer questions.



We did a lot of helping each other.



Hard at work.



This reed will do what I want it to.



The fun of weaving.



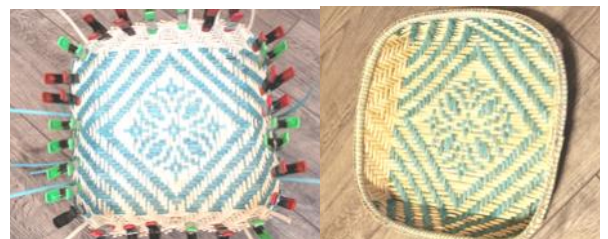
Even harder at work.
Twills take a lot of studying the pattern.



Weaving is therapy and so relaxing.



Works in progress and finished works of art.



Oklahoma State Fair News for 2020

While working at the State Fair last Saturday, the organizer of the fair competition came over and talked to us. She said that only 2 baskets were entered into the fair this year and if we don't have a lot more next year that the basket competition will be eliminated. I and many others don't want to see this happen. I didn't enter this year because I now teach. I was told that does not matter. Competition is open to everyone. I'm asking you to start planning now to enter next year. Any basket that is made between the 2019 fair and the 2020 fair can be entered. One of the baskets entered this year looked like one of our beginner baskets so they don't have to be fancy baskets to be entered.

Another thing that was discussed was that of getting items to the fair for people who live out of town and don't want to drive to OKC to deliver baskets and then come again to pick them up after the fair. For this reason I will plan to pick up anyone's baskets from out of town at a guild meeting and deliver them to the fair on the weekend that they are accepted. The fair doesn't allow items to be mailed. That means you would have to bring the baskets to the July guild meeting. After the fair I can bring them to the October guild meeting or to the retreat. I hope this will make it easier for out of town people to enter the fair and win ribbons. Best of Show receives a \$25 check. The guild is the sponsor of the Best of Show monies.

Below is a list of the categories so be sure to plan your weaving this year to be entered into the Great State Fair of Oklahoma.

TRADITIONAL:

Ribbed – Ribbed baskets have spokes of round or oval material that extend from one side to the other and are tucked into a God's Eye, or other appropriate design, on either side of the basket. They can be woven on hoops or rings that are held in place by this design. They were used for gathering eggs, melons and potatoes. Some are called key baskets or oriole baskets depending on their particular shape.

Twill Variations – Twill weave is sometimes called herringbone weave. The spokes are flush against each other rather than spread apart as in traditional weaving. The basic weave is over and under a repeating number of spokes, forming a pattern or design. There are many variations that make designs such as a diamond, arrow or "X".

Double Walled – A double walled basket is woven with an inside and outside wall.

Coiled – A coiled basket is sewn together with such things as waxed linen, sinew, raffia or fabric. Typically, coiled baskets are made of fabric, pine needles or native grasses that are wound, tied or sewn in rows around the basket.

NON-TRADITIONAL

Gathered Materials – These baskets are made of things gathered from nature such as grapevine, honeysuckle, kudzu, grasses, bark and willow. They can be different shapes and can be woven many ways.

Non-Traditional Contemporary – These baskets have unusual designs or are made of materials not usually associated with traditional basketry. Some examples of these materials are paper, ribbon, plastic strips, wire and yarn.

Non-Wood – Non-wood baskets can be woven from anything other than wood, such as gourds, pine needles, feathers, beads, agate, bones, antlers, waxed linen, string and wire.

Basket Weaving at Kate Banard Prison in OKC

Prepared by Janet Newman

Update: Su Ybright and Janet Newman are still going to Kate Banard Prison every week to weave with the ladies there. They are so excited to see us every week and can't wait to start to weave. Its good therapy for them and something different for them to do. Last week we had 11 students. Some are planning to weave when they get out. Some have asked how to join the guild. We hope to build up to 2 classes of 10 students each week. The first basket they make is a round reed basket with flat reed spokes and is taught by Su. These come out in all sizes and shapes. But all are unique and beautiful just like their creators. The next two baskets made are the Positive Tomorrows Basket and a Friendship Baskets taught by Janet. The Friendship Basket is shown on the left of the picture with the wagon. It has a handle made from extra long spokes. The pink basket on the right in the same picture is the Friendship Basket minus the handle. The maker was moving so fast with her weaving that we didn't notice she didn't put the handle spoke in. Its still a lovely basket. We have to stay on our toes to keep up with them.

As you can imagine, weaving with 10 or more ladies every week takes a lot of supplies. There will be a table at the retreat market place with items for sale to support the weavers at Kate Banard. There will also be a Donation Jar and a box to accept weaving materials that you might want to get rid of. We will accept anything you have and then develop projects around whatever materials we have. We are excited about this project and hope you are too. So we need your extra bases, handles, kits and reed.



This is the cart and bag that Janet wheels into the prison. Su also pulls a second wagon.



Samples of future projects that the ladies will weave when they have done the first three baskets that they get. We were able to get 40 4" bases with holes drilled for the middle basket. The vase on the left has a glass vase that came from Dollar Tree. The candle on the right came from Dollar Tree also. Inexpensive items to weave on. The candle also has a 2" wooden base so the spokes are 3/16" flat oval.



This bag is filled with Positive Tomorrows kits for the ladies. It also carries unfinished baskets that have been started. If someone decides not to come back then another person gets to finish what the first person started.



This picture shows finished and unfinished baskets plus supplies and tools that are taken back and forth to Kate Banard. We can't leave anything and the ladies are not allowed to keep unfinished items with them in their cells. They are not approved items but we are trying to get this changed so the ladies can keep their baskets and send them home when family visits.

Random Weave Baskets from the Southern Highland Craft Guild Asheville, N.C.

Since 1930, craftspeople residing in the mountain regions of Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, & West Virginia have come together to create a network and market for mountain crafts.

The Southern Highland Craft Guild in Asheville, N.C. represents over 900 artisans selected by a jury for their high quality craftsmanship & design. You will find fine crafts made of clay, fiber, glass, leather, metal, mixed media, natural materials, paper, wood, and jewelry. Mary Lee, Oklahoma Basket Weavers Guild member recently visited the Southern Highland Craft Art Shop in Biltmore Village, Asheville, N.C. This Art Deco building built in 1928 was originally the Biltmore-Oteen Bank in the village and is now the showplace for some of the artisans from the guild. Mary was especially impressed by these randomly woven baskets.



Other baskets Mary saw at the Southern Highland Craft Guild.



The basket to the right was made by Susan Steele of Norman. It is called Flight of the Butterflies by Christine Lamb.

Texas Gourd Festival

While not basket weaving, gourds can have weaving on them. I went to the Texas Gourd Festival the first part of August in New Braunfels, TX. What a great time. I have long loved gourds. They lend themselves to all kinds of art. I'm including some pictures to show you some of the things done with gourds. I did not make all of the items in the pictures. I did make the turtle. What fun to watch him come together. First I had to draw the parts of the turtle on a gourd. Then cut them out with a mini jig saw. Next came assembly. I put wads of paper inside the two shells to hold them apart. Then tape was put on to hold them together. The legs and head were attached. Then a product called Quickwood was used to sculpt the neck and where the fins joined the body. Then the turtle was painted and attached to a dowel rod and put on a piece of African drift wood. Don't ask the name of the wood. I can't tell you but it is beautiful. Sheila Gaudy wove the three gourds with reed and was very helpful in telling me how she does it. I love the effect of the reed on top of the gourd. I bought some of the gourds that the giraffe is made out of to try my hand at making one. The fringe on his neck is put in a long hole cut in the neck of the gourd. The Tree of Life gourd will be taught sometime next year at a guild meeting. It too was a wonderful class to take. The group of ladies are made from pieces of gourds and was in the competition they have. All the gourds were works of art.

