



# OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA

Volume 22 Issue 2

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

April 2022

## April 16 Guild Project Gretchen Border



Vickie Gildon will be teaching how to weave a Gretchen Border at our April guild meeting. We will be weaving on a wooden bowl. These are not necessarily new bowls. Many are found at thrift stores. The bowls are drilled with holes around the top to accept round reed. A Gretchen border is a series of rows of the same weave. You might weave 8-10 rows to form the border but it is the same weave for each row. As you can see from the picture to the right, there are a variety of bowls. They will be picked on a first come bases.

If you would like to do this project text or call Vickie Gildon at 405-823-1674. Or email her at [cntrygrl@pldi.net](mailto:cntrygrl@pldi.net).

Cost of the class is \$25. Please order your kit by April 11th. This project can be done by a new weaver. Don't be afraid of weaving this project if you are new to weaving. There will be plenty of people to help you succeed.

We are back to doing potluck for lunch so bring your favorite salad, sandwich, soup or dessert. Coffee is provided. The project starts at 10am at The National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum on NE 63rd street.

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES

Our basket weaving year is off to a great start. We have had one meeting and have another one coming up on April 16th. Be sure to order your bowl so you can weave a Gretchen border. It is so good to see people getting out again. Everyone seems hungry to be with people so come join us. (Continued on page 6).



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: Susan Steele

Newsletter: Janet Newman, Newsletter submissions can be sent to: [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net)

April 16	Guild Meeting—Gretchen border
April 30	Spring Museum Class, will need volunteers
May 28-29	Chuck Wagon Festival, will need volunteers
June 11	Guild Meeting—Twill Spray Bottle—Janet Newman
June 23-25	Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival, will need volunteers
June 25	Special Weave-In—2 classes will be taught
July 23	National Day of the Cowboy, will need volunteers & reed donated
August 20	Guild Meeting, Positive Tomorrows project Plan to enter baskets in the State Fair
September 17	Fall Museum Class, will need volunteers
October 15	Guild Meeting, Bring back PT baskets filled
November 4-6	Weavers Weekend
December 17	Christmas Party

NOTE: Please note that the June guild meeting is on the second Saturday of the month due to a conflict with the museum.

## Honeysuckle Harvesting

A lady that lives east of Norman and south of Lake Thunderbird has a lot of honeysuckle that she is offering up to be harvested. If you are interested in going to her place, contact me and I will give you her information. I'm thinking of going myself. I have woven with honeysuckle before and love using it.



For more information on weaving with honeysuckle go to the website [www.sensiblesurvival.org/2012/05/19/make-a-honeysuckle-basket/](http://www.sensiblesurvival.org/2012/05/19/make-a-honeysuckle-basket/)

<http://youngnaturalistsclub.com/>

# HOW TO WEAVE A BASKET WITH HONEYSUCKLE VINES

## BY MATT TOMMEY

I came to honeysuckle vine later in my basketry career. Since I always had such a love for and understanding of kudzu, rarely did I ever look for other natural materials to use. However, when I found honeysuckle vines, that changed. In my book it can never replace kudzu, but it sure is a wonderful material to weave with. The trick with honeysuckle, as will all natural materials, is understanding what it will and won't do, its strengths and weaknesses.

There are those folks out there that use honeysuckle almost exclusively for their weaver. The Cherokee's still use a lot of native and Japanese honeysuckle in their work in random weave, twining, twill and rib basketry. Most of what I've used it for over the years tends to be as an additional sculptural element. The reason why is that the make up of the vine lends itself to being celebrated as a special feature, not just a normal weaver.

As a young vine, the honeysuckle vine runners can be very, very long - 20ft or more - and very pliable. The vine has a fine, paper-like bark on it that is a caramel brown color once it's matured a bit. When very young, it will be green. As the vine matures over the years, it usually becomes crooked, very woody and has a lot of twists and turns. Usually you'll find honeysuckle growing in wet, bottom areas like around creeks, marshes or rivers. You can also find honeysuckle growing on barns, buildings or in gardens. There are lots of different varieties that can be cultivated for home enjoyment within your own basketry garden.

**"Identification:** Japanese Honeysuckle is an evergreen woody vine that may reach 80 feet in length. The leaves are opposite and elliptically shaped. The tan vine may reach a thickness of 2 inches in diameter. Fragrant, white or pale yellow tubular flowers appear in April to August. Spherical, black glossy berries containing 2 to 3 seeds mature from June to March.

**Ecology:** Japanese Honeysuckle is a common invasive plant in the Southeast. The shade tolerant vine occurs along field edges, right-of-ways, under dense canopies, and high in canopies. This invasive vine colonizes by prolific vine growth and seeds that are spread by birds" [from http://www.ncsu.edu](http://www.ncsu.edu)

### Harvesting Honeysuckle Vine

Whenever you're using honeysuckle vine, you'll want to boil it for 3 reasons, pliability, bugs and bark. Obviously, boiling makes the vines much more pliable and easy to use when weaving. Also, any bugs that are on the vines or in them for that matter will be nixed when you boil the vines. Lastly, boiling the vines will loosen up the bark so you can remove it from the vines. You'll want to boil honeysuckle vines for about 20-30 minutes or so - until they are rubbery flexible. (NOTE: Honeysuckle has a real papery outer bark that comes off pretty easily. It also has another layer of bark that's usually pretty tightly attached to the vine. Get that completely off too. It can be a pain, but once you get a clean vine, it will turn a beautiful ivory white.) With small vines, you can literally put on some 'gripper gloves' (you know the garden gloves with gripper on the palms and fingers), pinch the vine and pull the bark right off. With larger vines, I recommend you go all the way down the vine twisting the wet bark on the vine. Then once it's totally loosened up peel it off. If you're a papermaker, this bark is fabulous for natural fiber paper making. You can also use the long strands of honeysuckle bark for twining or making cordage.



Now that you have your honeysuckle all boiled and cleaned you'll probably be ready for a nap! Welcome to weaving with natural materials :) However, now the fun begins. I usually separate my prepared materials by size. Large, gnarly pieces are great for handles, long straight pieces for weaving and then medium crooked pieces for weaving or as an architectural element on other baskets. Whatever it is, you'll want to weave while the vines are wet and pliable.

Hope this article helps you feel confident in going out and harvesting your own honeysuckle vines!

[HTTPS://WWW.MATTOMMEY.COM/BASKET-](https://www.matttommey.com/basket-weaving-techniques/how-to-weave-a-basket-with-honeysuckle)

[WEAVING-TECHNIQUES/HOW-TO-WEAVE-A-BASKET-WITH-HONEYSUCKLE](https://www.matttommey.com/basket-weaving-techniques/how-to-weave-a-basket-with-honeysuckle)







### Beginner's Class

We had a really good Beginner's Class on March 19th. There were 19 new weavers. 4 of them joined the same day. Several others want to join. I want to thank the 8 guild members that showed up and helped. It was a good day for sure.



### Volunteers Needed

Check out the calendar on page 2. There are a number of times throughout the year that we need volunteers to help us keep our commitments to the Cowboy Museum. The room we meet in is not free. We are required to teach 2 classes and help with several events throughout the year. If we do not do these events we will be charged \$350 per meeting to use the facilities. If you want to help us out please contact me, Janet, at [dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net) or 405-812-4454 or Marcia Balleweg at [mballeweg@yahoo.com](mailto:mballeweg@yahoo.com) or 405-823-5073.

The Spring and Fall museum classes are classes the museum offers and we help teach the patrons that sign up. These may or may not be new weavers.

Anyone can sign up to take the classes including guild members. For these classes, the participants sign up on the museum website and the people pay the museum. The guild does not make anything on them but we do fulfill our contract obligations. The Spring class is April 30th. It should have 16 people for a full class so we need about 5 people to sign up to help. The project will be the elbow basket that we made at the February guild meeting.

Start planning for the Chuck Wagon Festival that will be May 28th and 29th. Once again we will have a booth on the courtyard where children will be weaving on a mat that we provide. We are asking for donations of natural and dyed reed to do this. The reed can be brought to the April guild meeting.

## Things to Know

### Quilt, Craft and Sew Festival

The quilt show is June 23-25 this year. That is a Thursday through Saturday. We setup on Wednesday and teardown on Saturday. Anyone can come help and anyone can sell baskets at our booth. The booth is offered to us free of charge. What you sell your baskets for you get to keep. There is no commission to be paid.

### Special Weaving Day

June 25th is our Special Weaving Day this year. Its like a mini retreat so mark your calendars and plan to attend. More information will follow. There will be two classes taught that day. It will be held in the Annie Oakley room at the National Cowboy Museum.

### BasketWeavers Guild of Oklahoma Minutes

February 19, 2022

Meeting started at 12:00.

#### BWGOK Treasurer's Report as of January 31, 2022

Balance as of September 30, 2021	\$5737.74
Expenses	
SecureCare Self Storage -October	\$61.20
SecureCare Self Storage – November	\$61.20
SecureCare Self Storage -December	\$61.20
SecureCare Self Storage – January	\$61.20
Weavers Weekend Expenses	\$7223.31
GoDaddy – website security	<u>\$94.99</u>
	\$7563.10
Deposits	
Weavers Weekend deposits	\$6974.87
Dues	<u>\$180.00</u>
	\$7154.87
Balance as of January 31, 2022	\$5329.51

#### Old Business:

Weavers Weekend—Marcia reported that instructor and vendor letters have been sent out.

Membership—Janet reported that it is time to pay dues. 42 people have not paid.

Workshops/Demos/Projects—Janet reported there is a calendar on the back of the minutes

#### New Business:

State Fair—Marcia reported the fair is open to adding more categories.

Beginner Class—Marcia reported there are 21 people wanting to attend and we need volunteers.

Guild Librarian—Marcia asked for someone to take over handling the guild library.

Texas Retreat—Janet reported on the success of the Texas Retreat.

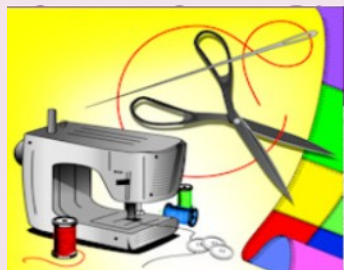
Meeting adjourned at 12:30.

**PRESIDENT'S NOTES Continued:**

We had a great beginner class with 19 people. They all made the napkin basket. Everyone finished their basket and had a great time doing it.

Plans for this year's retreat are underway. And there are many more events planned for the rest of the year. There are many events that need volunteers. You do not need to be a great experienced weaver to volunteer. Sometimes we just need bodies.

If you are interested in selling baskets then the Quilt, Craft and Sew Festival is something you need to check out.



*Bring Your Friends & Family for A Great Time!*

## **Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festivals**

**Quilt, Craft and Sew Festival**

This event on June 23-25 will be such a great opportunity for the guild you just have to come out and see what is happening. They give a 10'x10' booth for free. Anyone can sell their baskets in the booth. Setup will be on June 22. We sold a lot of baskets last year and had a lot of people sign up for the beginner class.

If you go to the website you can sign up for their newsletter. When it gets closer to time for the event, you can print coupons of money off at many of the booths.

<https://quiltcraftsew.com/oklahoma.html>

***ORDER YOUR GUILD MEETING PROJECT KIT.***

***MAKE SURE YOUR DUES ARE PAID.***

***VOLUNTEER FOR AN UPCOMING EVENT.***