



OVER AND UNDER ACROSS OKLAHOMA

Volume 15 Issue 3

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

May 2015

President's Letter

President's Letter:

Can you believe May is here already! This spring has been wonderful. My lilacs were the best they have ever been and all the flowers have been stunning. OK, enough about my yard...on to basket business.

If you weren't at our March meeting, you missed a great group of new weavers. We had about a dozen attendees and a very enjoyable class.

Remember to be working on your basket for our Positive Tomorrows' service project. We will need to bring our filled baskets to the September meeting. I know that seems like a long time away, but if you are like me, if someone doesn't remind me once in awhile, I'll be rushing around at the last minute. Your basket should be of medium size, any design you want, and filled with kitchen items. We will wrap them at the meeting.

Plans are coming along for Weavers Weekend. The dates are October 16 to 18, 2015 at the Shawnee Expo Center. More information will be in the catalog soon. We have 34 classes this year with 10 great teachers.

Our next meeting is May 9. See you there!

May 9 Guild Project

The project for the May guild meeting will be an open weave. It will be a time to bring unfinished projects or a new kit to work on. If you have a technique you need help with, someone will probably be able to help you. Several people will bring extra kits they have that can be purchased so bring some cash if you don't have anything to work on. Bring lots of good food items for lunch. We will visit, eat and weave. It promises be a fun time.

Note from the Editor: Janet Newman

This newsletter is dedicated to all things willow and weaving sculptures out of willow, small sticks and saplings. You will find the reason for this on page 6 where I explain my new willow adventures. Pages 4 and 5 are dedicated to the weaving sculptures of Patrick Dougherty. Find out about the State Fair of Oklahoma on page 3. It's gardening time so learn how to make a trellis for a very cheap price. That's on page 8 along with some interesting tidbits. See you May 9. Hope you enjoy your summer of weaving.

BWGOK Officers

Elected and Volunteer Positions

President: Marcia Balleweg

Librarian: Marcia Balleweg

Treasurer: Pat Horsey

Vice President: Shirley Hill

Historian :Vivian Havenstite

Membership: Janet Newman

Secretary: Jo Ann Miller

Newsletter: Janet Newman

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

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 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
March 14, 2015 Minutes
Beginner's Class

Call to order at 10:19 a.m.

Everyone introduced themselves – 10 members and 3 guests for business meeting.

No minutes were recorded from the January 2015 scheduled meeting – we consider going to the Quilt Show as our January meeting date.

Treasurers' report was given by Marcia

Account Balance as of 30 October 2014 \$14796.18

	Expenses:	Deposits:
Food – WW	\$1715.39	\$643.66
Expo Center	1697.50	96.00
Supplies	66.45	345.65
Web Master	156.30	300.00
Expo Center 2015	302.50	
Expo Center 2016	302.50	
Quilt show	90.00	
OTC Taxes	<u>435.08</u>	
Total:	4765.72	Total: 1385.31
Balance as of 28 February 2015		\$11410.77

Weavers Weekend update – October 16, 17, and 18, 2015

Class Selection Committee of 12 conducted the selection process online.

9 teachers sent proposals --With 72 classes being offered.

Donations committee – will be filled as soon as possible – need volunteers

Welcome Bags – Mary Lee has volunteered to organize this group.

Set-up – need volunteers.

Silent Auction and Raffle Committees – need volunteers

April Newsletter should have information about the catalog and web updates.

Announcements: Ok State Fair is sponsoring a craft teaching day for youth (9-15) and adults.

2 classes in morning and 2 in afternoon** 10:00 – 3:00** Lunch and materials will be paid for and a small stipend for conduction the class.

June 13th Saturday Adults – 2 classes in the morning

July 9th – Thursday for Youth 10-3:00 p.m.

No Basket to raffle –plus, we couldn't remember who was supposed to bring the raffle basket.

Door prize drawing – the kit went to a visitor, Becky Martin's friend.



State Fair of Oklahoma Competition Schedule.

The forms, categories and rules for State Fair competition will be out in early June. However, it's not too early to start weaving those baskets. Let's see how many guild members can take baskets in. It's fun and rewarding to get those ribbons. It's exciting to take friends and relatives to see your items on display.

Important Dates and Reminders

The Creative Arts Program will be accepting entries on July 1, 2015. There is no charge for entries made on or before August 15, 2015.

Entry Clerks will accept registered exhibits at the Creative Arts Building or the Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center at the following times:

Saturday, September 12, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 13, 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m..

Entry clerks will release exhibits, upon presentation of a claim check, at the Creative Arts Building or the Oklahoma Contemporary Arts Center at the following times:

Monday, September 28, 2:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 29, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Take Part in the Fair

Two days of FREE Creative Arts instruction are offered each summer to help participants gain skills that may be used to enter the Creative Arts Competitions at the 2015 Oklahoma State Fair. With many class options to pick from, participants in 2015 will choose between learning the basics in the areas of fine art, crafts, cooking, needlecraft, photography, and ceramics. The 2015 class schedule is being finalized. In the meantime, mark the following dates in your calendars:

Adult Session – Saturday, June 13, 2015

Youth Session (15 & under) – Thursday, July 9, 2015

Watch for more details of the 2015 sessions of **Take Part in the Fair**.

Registration (COMING SOON)

Contact

Nancy Nortz
Senior Manager
Creative Programs
405.948.6731

creativeprograms@okstatefair.com

The above information was taken from the State Fair website, www.okstatefair.com.

Stick Sculpture Weaving with Patrick Dougherty

Patrick Dougherty was born in Oklahoma in 1945. In the last 25 years he has built over 200 sculptures and structures all over the world. Using things like twigs, branches, saplings, sticks and willow each sculptor is made entirely without nails or other supportive hardware. The result is a creation that resembles art that has shape and has a feeling of wind swept across the landscape. Patrick says he wants people to feel a sense of exploration where you are in another place and transported through the forest curtain back to the Garden of Eden.

Patrick combined his carpentry skills with his love of nature to learn about primitive techniques of building and to experiment with tree saplings as construction material. In 1982 his first work, Maple Body Wrap, was included in the North Carolina Biennial Artists' Exhibition, sponsored by the North Carolina Museum of Art. In the following year, he had his first one-person show entitled, Waitin' It Out in Maple at the Southeastern Center for Contemporary Art in Winston-Salem, North Carolina.



His work quickly

evolved from single pieces on conventional pedestals to monumental scale environmental works, which required saplings by the truckloads. Over the last thirty years he has become internationally acclaimed. His sculpture has been seen worldwide---from Scotland to Japan to Brussels, and all over the United States.

Patrick uses local volunteers who go out into the woods and cut small trees that shoot off larger trees. These sticks

don't live more than 3 years sucking off the trees because they don't get enough light. It takes a tractor-trailer load of sticks to make a big structure, maybe six tons of sticks.

For indoor sculptures they have to be sprayed for bugs. Willow is also used for special works. Patrick says that volunteers know about building with sticks from childhood and playing with pick-up sticks.

There are many examples and videos on the internet about Patrick and his work. I've included a few examples in this article. His own website, www.stickwork.net is very interesting and shows a wide array of weaving examples. The you tube video, Patrick Dougherty "Diamonds in the Rough" Time Lapse shows creating a structure from harvest to finished project.

Another time lapse example of work is Peekaboo Palace created at The Bay Area Discovery Museum in San Francisco, CA is also shown on you tube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z8EdywNTPKU>. You can go to the museum at www.baykidsmuseum.org. This sculpture is created in willow.



Left: Laying out a sculpture can be as simple as laying a rope or a watering hose in the desired shape. For a sculpture with rooms, a more detail approach has to be used. At the right, holes are dug for support beams.

Sculptures like the ones below usually take three weeks to complete.



Left: After this willow sculpture was finished it started growing. Willow is so easy to propagate that you can just cut off a stick and put it in the ground and it will grow roots and leaves.

Learning All About Willow

Janet Newman

I took several classes in willow with Jo Campbell at the Texas Weaving conference last January. It was my first time to weave with willow and I fell in love with it. So much so that I bought 4 kinds of willow sticks at the Teacher's Market which I took home and put in the bottom of my refrigerator to spend the rest of the winter.

When I checked them about 3 weeks ago, low and behold they were growing roots and little stems. It was definitely time to plant them.

As always, nothing around my house is simple. We got one of those huge concrete storm shelters that had to go in the middle of the back yard. Believe me, they can really tear up a backyard with one of those little tractors and a concrete storm shelter. Then we decided it was time for a new fence and why not add a new patio next to the shelter and because they told us to keep dirt around the shelter, I decided it was a good place for a terraced garden. Like I said, nothing at my house is simple.

I said all that to say that I didn't have a place ready to plant the willow so I decided to plant the sticks in flower pots. Over the next few newsletters I will be giving you updates on how the plants are doing. They have been in the pots for 3 weeks now. I bought 16 willow sticks in 4 varieties. As you can see in the pictures to the right all the sticks have started growing leaves except for two in the top picture. I think they will be ok, just a little slower getting started. The cold evenings are not helping anything to grow.

A lot of people are under the assumption that willow can't be grown in Oklahoma. It may need some extra care during the hottest part of the summer but I talked to several people who were growing it. Willow needs to be grown in fertile soil that is well watered and weed free. Thick mulch will help to hold in water. Willow is low-maintenance and affordably easy to propagated. Most varieties have incredible growth rates. The branches can look different over the four seasons making it interesting to watch year around. Most can be pruned by coppicing (more on what this later) or left to grow into shrubs.

Willow plants can be robust and sturdy while others are fine and delicate. The difference arises from the dioecious nature of the willow. They have male and female flowers on different plants. Male clones tend to be more delicate than their female counterparts. This is important to basket makers.

Cutting willow to ground level is called coppice. Cutting it 3 or 4 feet above the ground is called pollard. Pruning is done in late winter when the willow are dormant. The brightest stem colors come from new growth. Most basket willow are the larger willows. Pruning the basket willow helps it to grow more long straight flexible rods.

Coppicing will is done over several years. The first year is dedicated to getting the willow rods planted. Year 2 the rods are trimmed to ground level in late winter. In year 3 the rods are harvested in late winter by cutting to ground level. If you want to weave heavier baskets leave some rods to continue growing a second year.

Pollard pruning will produce more of a tree affect. Year one plant the rods in evenly spaced rows. Year 2, when the plant is dormant, choose the strongest rod of the plant to leave and cut the others back to the ground. Cut the remaining rod back to 3 to 6 feet. This will be the trunk of the tree. On the third year you will prune all the rods off at the new trunk. Some can be used for weaving. The fourth and following years all the rods are harvested to the top of the trunk. Some growers will let the rods grow for two or three years in order to get heavier rods for larger baskets or furniture.

The above information is taken from the website for Bluestem Nursery at <http://www.bluestem.ca/willows.htm>.

My willow varieties. Notice the differences in the rod colors. The best colors come out in the winter after the leaves have fallen.



Dickey Meadows Willow



Green Dicks Willow



Polish Purple Willow



Sue's Red English Willow



At left: Living willow fences at Vevey Garden, Switzerland. Willow rods are pushed into the ground at an angle. The tops are tied to a horizontal piece and woven to give stability along the top. Willows have high levels of auxins, hormones that promote rooting success. The hormone is so prevalent that "willow water" brewed from willow stems, will encourage the rooting of many other plant cuttings. Images by Barbara at Over the Moon. www.flickr.com

Willow Tips:

Willow Water:

Root azaleas, lilacs and roses love the hormones in willow water. Make it by soaking two large handfuls of pencil-thin willow branches cut into 3 inch lengths in two quarts of boiling water and steep overnight. Refrigerate unused water. Willow water naturally has acetylsalicylic acid in it which is what aspirin is made from. In the early years of medicine it was used to relive pain and fever. Plants naturally make salicylic acid to build their defenses against bacteria, fungi and viruses. Spraying willow water on plants or watering with it will boost their defenses.

Willow and Deer:

Young cuttings should be protected from deer and rabbits. Deer will eat willow when there is nothing else. Pollard pruning will make the willow look like trees that the deer do not recognize. Many varieties of willow are bitter. *Salix purpurea* is the most bitter and therefore the least eaten willow.



This picture is taken from the website, Willow Basketmaker by Katherine Lewis. It shows the variation of color that different varieties of willow produce.



Left:

Basket Knot

How to Tie the Basket Weave Knot by TIAT

can be found on
YouTube.com



Above and Left: Master weaver Deloss Webber of Seattle, WA has a special reverence for rocks and all things weaving. He taps into Japanese and Native American Basketry techniques to weave cane and rattan on rocks. See more on his website, <http://www.delocks.com/gallery/6/index.html>

Weave a Trellis

I needed a number of trellises for my garden vegetables so decided to use the materials I had on hand, namely bamboo sticks and smoked #3 round reed that I've had for years and didn't like for baskets.

My tomatoes are already potted and growing. Thus the need for the trellis. The first trellis has 5 stakes that were placed evenly around the pot. I tied the stakes at the top with twine. That kept slipping so I had to put some glue on it. I then took two long pieces of the #3 reed and started twining. The weaving was too loose and wanted to pull into the center. I started twisting the reed in-between the stakes and twining a piece on each side of the stakes as I came to them. In other words, its twining with twists to fill the space between the stakes. Very easy to do.

You can go up the stakes in two ways. One is to weave in sections with a space between them. The other way is to spiral the twining up the stakes. I'm not sure which is stronger and which would last longer. I will report on that in a future newsletter.

For the second trellis I used 6 stakes so the space between them would not be so large. I started this one at the top and worked down. It worked out better than the first one. I plan to do this for my peas and beans. The trellis was very inexpensive to make. A package of 6—5 ft. bamboo stakes costs only \$2.17 at Home Depot. I may try a fence type trellis for the beans. This will be a series of stakes in a row and woven together with round reed. I'll let you know how it goes.



Weaving Events Around the Country

Plan a basket weaving trip in the coming year.

The Round Hearth at Stowe Stowe Basketry Festival	June 1-7, 2015 www.roundhearth.com/Stowe-Basketry-Festival	Stowe, VT
Kentucky Basket Association Center for Rural Development	July 9-11, 2015 http://www.kentuckybasketassociation.org	Somerset, Kentucky
National Basketry Org. Tradition and Innovation VIII conference	July 14-19, 2015	St. Paul, Minnesota
Land of Lincoln Basketweavers Assoc. Camp Tuck-A-Basket	Sept. 4-6, 2015 www.llbwa.com	Normal, IL
Basin basketry Guild Tidal Twinings Annual Retreat	September 16-20 http://www.basketryguild.org/retreat_2015	Rockaway, Oregon
Upper South Carolina Basketmakers Baskets at Dogwood	September 18-20 http://www.orgsites.com/sc/uppersouthcarolinabasketmakersguild/BasketsatDogwoodBrochure.pdf	Sherrills, Ford, NC
Association of Michigan Basketmakers Annual Convention	October 14-18, 2015 http://www.michiganbasketmakers.com/convention2015_proposal.pdf	Lansing, MI
Texas Basket Weavers Association Kickin It Up in Dallas	January 21-24, 2016 http://texasbasketweavers.com/	Dallas, TX

Calendar of Guild Projects

June: Look for the Weavers Weekend Catalog to come out.

July: State Fair of Oklahoma basket competition.

September: Bring Positive Tomorrow's baskets filled.

October: 16th-18th, 2015 Weavers Weekend Retreat

November: Election of officers

If you are teaching and a member of the guild, your classes can be listed in the newsletter when room is available. Send to Janet Newman: dnjn3227@sbcglobal.net. If you would like to be spotlighted as a instructor in our newsletter contact Janet for information. Let your students know about how you got into basketweaving.



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