

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD

Issue No. 25 APRIL 2004

GUILD WEB SITE: <http://basketry.homestead.com>

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Carol MacNeil
717-240-1276
nana@macneil.ws

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

Guild meeting dates and times are included in each newsletter. Please send any weaving tips, articles, websites – *anything* you would like to share – to:

Donna Kumpf
kumpf@toast.net

Or mail to:
Donna Kumpf
580 Pleasant View Road
Lewisberry, PA 17339

The deadline for the next newsletter will be June 15.

Basket Weavings 101

BY Jeff Shields, Guild President

The only thing more intimidating sometimes to a basket weaver than a pile of reed is a blank page in the word processor! Through some “magical” process, that incredibly intimidating blank page morphs into a means for the conveyance of someone’s thoughts, beliefs and ideas. By the same token, that clump of wayward, tangled reed somehow gets transformed into a thing of (we hope) esthetic beauty. Ultimately, the end results of both endeavors say something about the person who created them. The medium and the messenger are inextricably bound together.

So, what do your baskets say about you? I have found most basket weavers made an almost instant connection to their craft the first time they took reed in hand. Of course, the weaver sees his or her efforts as a creative and worthwhile outlet. But to weave a basket takes an investment of time, effort and yes, some bucks. Each of us has those 24 hours in a day and out of all the almost countless activities that we could potentially be doing, we choose to weave when given the chance.

But basket makers come in many “flavors” and undoubtedly personality traits enter in to the equation of why one is, for example, completely a Nantucket fanatic while another is an advocate of round reed to the exclusivity of all other forms of the craft. So while all of you who read this are kin in your love of basket making, our weaving family is by no means the homogenous group that others usually tend to pigeonhole by labeling us as “basket weavers”.

I look forward to this upcoming year as Guild president. (Maybe I’ll even get it right this time!) When I look back at my past seven years in the Guild one thing stands out. I came to the Guild originally because of my love of basket weaving. I stay in the Guild because of all the wonderful people I’ve met here.

Jeff

Guild Schedule for April, May and June

Currently, we have April, May and June events scheduled. July's meeting is not yet finalized...please check the website or the June newsletter for more information.

SATURDAY, APRIL 17

WHERE: Gravel Hill United Methodist Church
Palmyra, PA (Directions on page 4).
TIME: 9:00-4:00

The class will be taught by Donna Mentzer. Entitled "Pathway to Courage", this basket was inspired by two of Donna's friends who are cancer survivors and the courage they developed through their personal paths traveled. Donna uses a marvelous technique to create hidden joins, and will also discuss techniques for control in compacting and shaping the basket. The basket measures 9" in diameter and about 4 1/2" high. Materials needed for this class are:

1/2 lb. of #3 round, 1/4 lb. of #2 round, and 1/4 lb. of #4 round. Donna will provide the dyed reed. Another guild member has offered to bring extra round reed - if you need to purchase just 1/4 lb, she has #2, 3 and 4. Tools needed include: scissors, basin for soaking reed, crimpers or needle-nose pliers and an awl.

Cost for class: \$10.00, paid to the instructor.



"Pathway to Courage" basket

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004

FREE CLASS!

WHERE: The Country Seat, Kempton, PA
TIME: 9:30 AM to 1 PM
(Store will open at 8:30 for early shopping.)

Guild members will have a choice of two footstools. Footstools must be purchased prior to the day of class and assembled/stained/finished. **Mention the**

Guild when ordering! The Country Seat's phone number is 610-756-6124. See pg. 4 for directions.

- New England Footstool Kit: Guild price \$10 (reg.\$13.50) – includes smoked flat reed.
- #301 Oak footstool, frame only: Guild price \$15 (reg. \$17.00)– student provides seating material (approximately 1 coil flat reed, binder cane, slab rattan, flat fiber).

All students will be weaving a splint seat, but they can purchase the materials of their choice.

Tools & Supplies Needed: towel, water bucket, red cutters (or shears, etc.), hand held stapler, Elmer's white glue, tweezers, needle nose pliers (or bent nose pliers), flat edged screwdriver (or Weave-rite D or F), rubber tipped spring clamp with 1" opening.

SUNDAY, JUNE 13, 2004

Guild Picnic & Dyeing Party

WHERE: Carol MacNeil's home (directions- pg. 4)
TIME: 1:30 pm to ???
Bring plenty of reed to dye. Guild provides the dye and the food!

Colleen's Basket Collection!

Guild member Colleen Skelton shared baskets from her amazing collection at the February meeting. Colleen has attended many basket conventions since 1991, when she began acquiring baskets. She brought only *part* of her collection, including a Penobscot Indian ornament basket, a miniature phone wire basket, baskets made of willow, ash, bark, paper and many, many more! Colleen also shared a wealth of information and fascinating stories about her baskets. Thank you, Colleen!



Colleen and a "few" baskets from her collection!

New Policy / New Instructor Fee

A decision was made at the last Guild Board meeting to charge a \$10.00 fee for the All-Day Weaves. These monies will be paid directly to the instructor. The Board would like to implement this policy on a trial basis in an attempt to eliminate inequities in funding instructors. Previously only non-Guild members were recompensed for instruction. There are several Guild members who are instructors and it is in our best interest to utilize them (as well as "bringing in" outside teachers) as opposed to depriving them of any revenues while they offer continued support. This fee would be in addition to any materials fees that would be charged. There will continue to be "free" classes offered at the regular Sunday Guild meetings.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

Included with this newsletter is the newest list of members of the Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild. We already have an addition and an update- please add these to your list.

Laura Better
6576 Hemlock Point Road
New Market, MD 21774-6648
(301) 865-8083 Better@radicus.net

Elaine Longenecker (effective April 21):
710C Menno Village
Chambersburg, PA 17201
(717) 571-3939 brulane@peoplepc.com

LIBRARY DISPLAY

At the request of the New Cumberland Library, we will have a basket display there for the month of November. Please think about how you will be able to help with this - bringing a basket for display, or setting up, etc. New Cumberland is a borough several miles from Harrisburg, across the Susquehanna River. Another wonderful opportunity to promote our guild!

Proposed By-Laws

Included with this mailing is a copy of the proposed By-Laws for the Guild. We need Guild members to vote on the By-Laws. Guild members: Please complete the Ballot on page 4, and return to Suzette before April 10. Thank you!

Basket Courses and News from Other Basketry Guilds

We often receive information from other guilds including their newsletters, as well as basket classes, which may be of interest. If you would like to see any of the newsletters we have received, see Donna Kumpf. Here's a sampling of activities.

Sculptured Rocks Farm Country Inn, Groton, New Hampshire

Shaker Basket Class with Martha Wetherbee.
July 17 and 18, 2004

The class will be a Shaker Puzzle Cathead Basket.

For more details, see their web site:

<http://www.sculpturedrocks.com/todo.htm>

Phone: 603-744-6159

Southwestern Ontario Basketry Guild

Weaving and More in 2004

August 18 -22, 2004

For more information or to have your name on the mailing list, contact Alice Lingard, 291 Adelaide St. Strathroy, Ontario CANADA N7G 2V9, 519-245-2627 or lingardo@sympatico.ca

Lunenburg Seaside Craft School

Nova Scotia

Week long courses in traditional crafts, including basketry, during late July through August. Students can enjoy wonderful vistas of land and sea. Visit the school's web site for more information about courses, instructors, tuition and registration.

www.lunenburgcraftschool.com

WITF AUCTION

Watch the WITF auction April 16 - 18, 2004, or check out their website to see some of our members donations! The website is www.witf.org.

HOW TO GET THERE: Directions to Guild Events

APRIL 17 MEETING

Gravel Hill United Methodist Church
Palmyra, PA

From I-81: Take Exit 80, south to Route 22 (about 1 mile). Turn left (east) onto Route 22, proceed approximately 1 mile to Gravel Hill Road. (Green sign says 'Palmyra 6 miles'). Turn right (south) onto Gravel Hill Road and follow for 4.5 miles to white church on right.
From Route 422: Go to the "square" in Palmyra, turn north onto N. Railroad Street, continue for approximately 1.5 miles to white church on left.

MAY 8 MEETING

The Country Seat
1013 Old Philly Pike, Kempton, PA
Phone: 610-756-6124

From I-78: Take exit 35 (old exit 11), Route 143, North (turn left at bottom of exit ramp) for 4 miles. You will come to an intersection, there will be a gas station on your right, turn left and follow our brown and white signs.

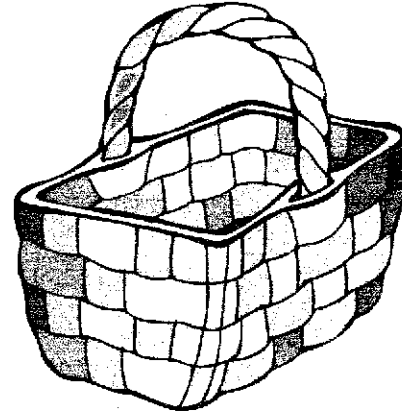
JUNE 13 MEETING

Carol MacNeil's home
1004 Harriet Street, Carlisle, PA
Phone: 717-240-1276

From I-81: Take exit 52 South, turn right at end of ramp. At the 7th light (approximately 4 miles), turn right onto Calvary Road. Take first right off Calvary Road onto Harriet Street. 1004 is the first house on the left.

2004 Odyssey Plans are Underway!

Mark your calendars now for the 2004 A Weaving Odyssey scheduled for September 17 – 19, 2004. Twenty-five baskets were chosen, out of 95 baskets submitted by 21 teachers!



2004 By-Laws Ballot

Please return completed ballot
by **April 10** to :
Suzette Humer
104 Milltown Road
Landisburg, PA 17040-9306

- I approve of the proposed By-Laws as written.
- I do not approve of the proposed By-Laws.

Member name/address:
