

# CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD

Issue No. 27 SEPTEMBER 2004

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

## Guild Board Members

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### **MEMBER-AT-LARGE**

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[nana@macneil.ws](mailto: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](mailto:kumpf@toast.net)

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

Please submit by Jan. 1 for the next newsletter.  
Thanks!

## Basket Weavings 101

By Jeff Shields, Guild President

I trust your Autumn is starting off well. It's a very hectic time of year for most of us but I hope you are able to grab a few moments of leisure time now and then to just enjoy the spectacular show Mother Nature puts on this time of the year in our part of the country. Treasure those cool crisp days when the sky is so blue you can see forever and the trees are ablaze with incredible colors.

As I write this the 4th annual Weaving Odyssey weekend looms large on our Guild calendar. This is the major yearly event sponsored by the Guild and I'm happy to report that over half of our Guild members will be attending this year's Weaving Odyssey. The Odyssey committee has worked all year to insure each of you have a great time and come away with both beautiful baskets and memories. Odyssey committee members for 2004 are Jean Foutz, Suzette Humer (co-chair), Anne Kelley, Elaine Longenecker, Carol MacNeil, Dianne Pearce, Deb Roberson, Jeff Shields and Billie Stanford (co-chair). It has been a true pleasure to work with each of you dedicated ladies.

Along with this newsletter you also received two other items – a member survey and an officer election ballot. Please take a moment to complete and return both in the provided envelope at your earliest convenience. Both are important for the future direction and growth of the Guild. Thank you.

*Jeff*

### 2005 DUES

Membership dues for 2005 are due before Jan. 31 – Checks for \$15.00, payable to CPBWG, may be paid in person, or mailed to Suzette Humer, 104 Milltown Road, Landisburg, PA 17040-9306.

## Upcoming Programs

**Saturday, October 16, 2004**  
**Gayle Mosier – Nantucket Basket**  
(Session Two of class started in July)

When: 9:00 to 4:00

Where: J.C. Ehrlich Office,  
4565 West Market St. (Rt.30)  
York, PA [see directions pg. 3]

Gayle Mosier will be instructing Part Two of the Nantucket Basket class, which was begun in the July. Residing in Thurmont, MD, Gayle has been weaving Nantucket baskets for 7 years and teaching others to do so for the past 3 years. If you missed the first session of this meeting, feel free to

**SUNDAY, November 14, 2004**

WHERE: East Shore Library

TIME: 1:30 to 4:30 PM

Our guest for this meeting will be Mike Yeomans. Mike's presentation about Rye coil baskets will begin at 2:30, following our business meeting. Mike instructs at Landis Valley museum.

**December 2004** –No meeting.

**SATURDAY, January 8, 2005**

**"After Holidays Party"/Basket Swap**  
WHERE: Gravel Hill U.M. Church, Palmyra.

TIME: 9:00-5:00

BASKET: to be announced

The guild will be holding our annual basket swap and post-holidays party. Please bring your basket gift-wrapped and include who the weaver is on the inside! The basket swap is optional but we strongly encourage you to participate!

Lunch will be "potluck" -please bring a dish to share!

The basket class and instructor originally scheduled for this date have been changed. Information about this class will be available at our meetings in October and November, as well as posted on the CPBWG website.

**February 2005** - To be announced.

**March 2005** - To be announced.

## HOW TO GET THERE:

### Directions to Guild Events

#### OCTOBER 16 CLASS:

**Directions to J. C. Ehrlich Office, 4565 West Market St. (Rt. 30), York, PA**

**Phone: 717-792-5460**

**Linda Moore's cell phone is 717-891-5441:**

**From Baltimore and South** – Take Interstate 83 North to Route 30 West See below.

**From Harrisburg and North** – Take Interstate 83 South to Route 30 West. See below. Then, **Follow Rt.30** until the end of the 4 lane divided highway. Exit right towards Gettysburg. Go through 2 lights. The Ehrlich Office is on the right about 200 yards past the last light.

#### **November 14 meeting:**

##### **Dauphin County East Shore Library:**

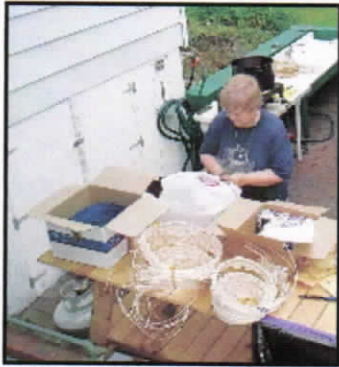
Take Interstate 83 North to Colonial Park exit. The library is located at the rear of the Colonial Park Mall, near the intersection of Rt. 83 and Rt. 22. The meeting is in the Lower Level of the Library. Please park in the Mail lot near the rear of the Boscov's store.

#### **January 8 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.



Guild member Jean Fisher cooks up a new batch of dye at the **Dye party and Picnic in June**. Many members enjoyed a delicious picnic lunch and left with armloads of colorful reed! Many thanks to Carol MacNeil for graciously hosting us!

## GUILD OFFICER ELECTIONS

Attached is an election ballot for Guild officers for next year. **PLEASE VOTE!** Send ballots in the enclosed envelope to Carol MacNeil.

## MEMBER SURVEY

We would like **everyone** to complete the attached survey. The Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild is dedicated to its membership. Your opinion is very important in determining the direction and focus of this Guild. Please complete the survey and send it in the enclosed envelope to Carol MacNeil.

## 2004 A WEAVING ODYSSEY SUCCEEDS ... IN SPITE OF IVAN!

For the second year in a row, a hurricane threatened to thwart the Weaving Odyssey (Sept. 17-19). Hurricane Ivan spouted about 5 inches of rain in the Central Pennsylvania area, leading to flooded streams, rivers and roads. However, weavers are highly determined folks. In spite of detours around flooded roads, only a few weavers were unable to get through and all classes were held as scheduled.

Enjoy the pictures, and the poem (on page 4), which was read by Laura Lee Zanger's husband at the Odyssey!

### WEAVERS AT WORK!



A flooded Gravel Hill Road



Anne Bowers instructs student.



# My Wife's a Basketweaver

She learned to weave on Monday.  
Her basket was quite fine.  
She forgot to thaw out dinner,  
So we went out to dine.

She made a twill on Tuesday.  
She says they are a must.  
They really look quite lovely,  
But she forgot to dust.

On Wednesday it was wickerwork.  
She says the twining's fun,  
Three rod wale and braiding rims,  
But the laundry wasn't done.

Her basket swap was Thursday.  
"Expect her late," she said.  
I guess she really was too busy  
Cause she never made the bed.

It was ribbed baskets Friday  
Using new techniques for sure,  
But she never seemed to care about  
Her mess still on the floor.

So I found a maid on Saturday.  
My life is now complete.  
My wife can weave for hours  
And the house will still be neat.

Well, today is only Sunday  
And I'm already peaved.  
I cursed and raved and ranted  
Cause she taught the maid to weave!

rye coil (1411x1787x24b jpeg)

## RYE COILED BASKETS



The German people who emigrated to Pennsylvania and settled in this area brought many traditions with them, one of them being rye coiled baskets. Rye was an important staple in their diet, families usually eating a loaf of rye bread at every meal. The straw left over was used for thatching roofs, insulation, animal bedding, mattress filling and basket making. Rye was a good medium for making baskets because of its length, resistance to rot and mice did not like to chew through it (either no nutrient value or it tasted bitter to them - only the mice know!).

Most rye baskets were utilitarian in nature. Baskets were made for storage (lidded hampers), bee keeping (skeps) and bread raising. Hampers were used to keep a variety of goods dry and safe like feathers, dried fruits and vegetables, and balls of rags. Skeps, if kept sheltered from the

weather, were good hives because of the good insulating quality of the straw. Bread raising baskets were used to give form to the final loaf before it was turned out and baked in the bake oven.

Whatever shapes the basket were going take, they were all constructed the same way. Coil thickness was determined by the basket you were making. To keep the coil continuous, more straw was added as needed. The binding material or weaving splint was usually split white oak. If any open work was added, it was usually a bound handle so it could be hung up or for carrying.

Rye coil baskets finally fell out of favor with improvements in beekeeping and changing methods of bread baking.

I-learned to make rye baskets about ten years ago from Susan Kelleher, a gifted basket maker, at Landis Valley Museum. What made me interested in learning this almost forgotten craft were the skeps and the bread raising baskets. For over thirty years, I have been baking bread at home (which my wife says I don't do enough). About twenty years ago, a good friend got me into beekeeping. But moving from Springfield Missouri, my hives couldn't come with us to Lancaster Pennsylvania. With bread baking and bee keeping in my background, I found a fondness in this craft.

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A small, handwritten mark or signature in the bottom right corner of the page, possibly the author's initials.