



Spring (May) 2020



2020 Convention Update

On a very sad note the TBA Board voted to cancel this year's convention. Your safety and good health are very important to us and we do not want to put you at any risk. Our state has now reopened but numbers are continuing to grow and many individuals and visitors are not complying with state guidelines.

We have rescheduled our convention next year at the Airport Hilton for July 21-24, 2021. We look forward to seeing everyone there and ready to make a lot of beautiful baskets. Please don't forget to cancel your hotel reservation for this year if you have made one!

We hope that you will continue to support our basket teachers and vendors during this rough period of time. Please consider contacting them and placing an order. We listed many of their phone numbers and email addresses in the convention booklet this year to assist you.

We appreciate your strong support of our convention this year and plan to fully refund registration fees and vendor fees by the end of the month. We will shred all checks that we received for specific classes or kits. Please let us know if you have not heard from us by the end of this month. We deeply appreciate our mail service but things do happen once in a while. 😊

Take care, stay safe, and we will see your smiling faces next year. Pam and Ann

A Note from the President:

In spite of our new normal, spring has once again made its beautiful debut in Tennessee. I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and having some time to work on those unfinished basket projects during our shelter in place.

As you all have heard by now our summer conference has been canceled and we are now hard at work making plans for our next conference scheduled for July 2021. More details will be forthcoming. If you have registered for the conference this year, your registration fee will be fully refunded during the next month. Even though we will not meet in July this year, I do want to thank our conference chairs Ann Fairhurst and Pam Parman for their many long hours and time-consuming planning sessions. We are grateful to you both and your work is appreciated by us all.

So what can we do now? We can continue to support our state association. We depend on our conferences each year to help fund the following year's conference. That said, I urge each of you to continue to support your association by sending your membership dues. In addition, please consider purchasing materials and kits from teachers/vendors. Lots of time and expense goes into preparing for events and conferences.

I look forward to seeing you all next year.

April Harper

sahkch@aol.com

Reed all about it!

Find out about events and classes going on near you! Get involved in your local guild chapter!
Spread the basket love!

Tune in for news from the Tennessee Guilds:

Odds and Ends

Prior to COVID, Odds and Ends had planned many teacher visits. We did host Anne Bowers just ahead of the onslaught of restrictions! She was with us for 2 days in early March, teaching 4 baskets to 14 students. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and creativity. Beautiful baskets resulted!

Odds and Ends continues to provide New Angel Baskets to East Tennessee Children's Hospital. Thank you to Joyce Bolton Smith for bringing baskets from her group also. If any other guilds would like to participate, let Sandy Miller know at sandy.miller75@yahoo.com

We wish everyone good health. Be smart and safe.

Be Kind,
Sandy

Gourmet Weavers- Middle TN

Gourmet Weavers haven't had their weekly sessions in the past 2 months but will get back to those as soon as possible. We hosted Anne Bowers in March for a three day workshop in Byrdstown and several went away with some beautiful baskets.

Gwen will be continuing with classes at Cordell Hull State Historic Park on Saturday and has 4 more classes scheduled this year with hopes of adding new members to our fold.

With school closing early the biannual class with the Cookeville HS Art Class was canceled.

If the virus makes an exit or becomes more safe there will be another class at a local church in late June. These classes always stir interest in our craft and in our weekly sessions.

In the meantime lots of baskets are being made at home to pass the time and everyone will get to enjoy those baskets at a later time.

Stay safe and weave on friends.

Gwen Morris

West TN Basket Guild

West TN Basket Guild has followed decisions of other guilds during these past few months. Many hard decisions had to be made, from postponing classes to canceling annual events. Through these days and weeks, our members have been weaving from their stashes--a definite nod to buy more kits when the impulse strikes! Several members are craft multi-taskers. We have quilters, painters, needleworkers, paper crafters, and sewers. Members are tapping into their creative side as well as completing unfinished home projects. Little did any of us know that the WTWKY, March 5-7, would be the last organized basket weaving event we would attend for a while.

The TBA Board will have to address the same hard questions. Prayers for wisdom as you slog through the facts. Whatever the decision for the Convention, I admire and support the Board Members for their hard work and dedication to the success of this organization.

The bright spot is that we are hearing about Fall plans for weaving events, Folklife festivals, and class schedules. We will be back to learning and sharing new basket weaving techniques and visiting with our basket friends. All will be slathered with a new appreciation of fellowship and sharing.

As with all of you, some days we are surviving and other days we are blossoming. Our personal talents will give us strength and encouragement. Take time to appreciate the world around us.

Weave on,
Fran Pierson
WTBG

Tri-State Basketry Guild

May 10, 2020

Because of COVID-19 and state mandates, the guild postponed our April and May classes. Bridget Van Remortel will now teach her paracord basket in September and Joe Bruneau will teach his rib basket class in October.

The postponement of guild activities may be extended; we just don't know. We need to be aware of and adhere to CDC, state, and federal guidelines. We are practicing social distancing, especially those of us who have chronic autoimmune or other illnesses that make the virus catastrophic. Most of our members are older,

also in danger of acute illness. It is imperative that the USA medical situation does not become a crisis such as the one in Italy with a shortage of ICUs, beds, and ventilators. Our guild needs to do our part, and we will.

In March the guild had a Dye Day at Candy Alexander's home. There was fun, good food, and lots of dyed reed for everyone.

We look forward to the next guild meeting, and we are hopeful to have an open weave in June.

Barbara Holt

Guild President

Other Announcements

WHAT TO DO WHEN GUILDS ARE NOT MEETING...WHEN CLASSES AND CONVENTIONS ARE CANCELLED...

Surely in the past classes have cancelled due to issues such as weather, instructor illness, or low registration, but never to a global pandemic as we are experiencing in 2020. One by one, the dominoes began to fall, and at this writing almost all basketry conventions have been cancelled or postponed.

As we TBA members contemplate how to keep the art and craft of basketry alive, we have proudly and gladly worn many hats by holding offices, teaching, vending, and attending classes. In any basketry organization, keeping basketry alive is a mission whether it is stated formally or simply understood. Members keep basketry alive.

How can we keep basketry alive in 2020? First, let's **SEND** in our dues to support TBA. The organization has spent startup funds for the 2020 convention with no raffle to generate startup funds for 2021. Next, **WEAVE** baskets. Weave more baskets. Do not lose your skills. Your skills continue to get better when you make baskets on a regular basis.

Just as vital, I encourage you to communicate with enthusiasm. Some things we can do cost money but many things are free:

1. **WRITE** a newsletter article for your local or state group such as I am doing.
2. **DONATE** patterns that you have written via email and via newsletters so that others may use them.
3. Use the funds that you would have spent at conventions and classes to **PURCHASE** kits from teachers who have lost that income.
4. Use the funds that you would have spent at conventions and classes to **PURCHASE** supplies and kits from vendors. Order from businesses.
5. **JOIN** Facebook and other online groups that promote basketry and share ideas. Post.
6. **SUBSCRIBE** to blogs and email newsletters from teachers and vendors.
7. Always **SUBMIT PHOTOS** of baskets you have made for writings and posts. Always **GIVE CREDIT** to the designer if you have used someone else's kit or pattern or idea.
8. **START** a basketry book club to report books that you have found helpful and interesting.
9. **SHARE** basket making tips with beginners, and encourage viewing online videos.
10. Take time to **READ** some historical writings about basketry. Search online.
11. **READ** about contemporary basket making. Search for online exhibitions.
12. Consider joining associations from other states or locales so that you can get vital information and access to resources; you will **CONTRIBUTE** to their continued viability. Many guilds have great notices

that include free patterns, tips, online links, and even recipes. If you **JOIN**, you contribute to keeping that organization going.

13. Keep 2021 alive. **TALK** about the conventions, workshops, classes that are planned. Be sure to include the Worldwide Children's Class.

Barbara Holt



KIDS NATIONAL BASKET WEAVING DAY IS CANCELLED THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19. WE WILL TRY AGAIN FOR JUNE 26, 2021.

Even if the virus is beaten in May and we are safe and life gets back to normal there will not be enough time to complete our preparations and execute a successful international event. We are many people in many countries and the effects of the virus has not yet peaked worldwide. With that to consider as well as your support and input I am resigned to make this announcement. Thank you for sharing this journey. We will continue it together. Weavers Rock!

Laura Lee Zanger

April 18, 2020

Bored during quaran-spring?
Enjoy this fun flowered basket for a bit of a spring fling (but without the pollen).

Pattern credit to Sheri Burns

Garden Party Basket

Materials: ½" flat reed for spokes and weavers

8" x 12" rectangle hoop

A length of 3/8" flat for the rim row

½" flat oval for rims

Seagrass for rim filler

¼" flat oval for lashing

Small scraps of dyed ¼" flat for making flower embellishments

Green dyed ½" flat reed, enough for 2 rows only.

Preparation: From the ½" flat, cut 7 spokes that are 30". Cut 8 spokes that are 25" long and cut 6 filler spokes that are 15" long. Lightly mark the spokes in the center with a pencil. Briefly soak the spokes in water for a few minutes until they are pliable.

Weaving the base: Lay out the 7 30" spokes horizontally in front of you, alternating with the 15" filler spokes. Start with a 30" spoke, then a 15" spoke and so on. You may find it helpful to use a spoke weight or heavy book to hold the spokes in place as you lay them out. Line up the center marks. Weave the handle in vertically across the spokes, placing it on the center marks. Place the handle UNDER the first spoke and OVER the filler spokes. Weave in the 25" spokes vertically through the horizontal spokes, placing 4 spokes on each side of the handle. Adjust your base to measure 8" x 10". TIP: Your basket length is limited by the length of your filler spokes. If you would like a longer basket, just cut your filler spokes a little longer.

Now the filler spokes need to be tucked into the weaving of the base. Split the filler spokes down the middle, to the edge of the base. Tuck each end under the second vertical spoke from the end, trimming it so that it doesn't show. One split end of the spoke moves on a diagonal upward while the other moves on a diagonal downward. This pattern is often called "chicken feet" or "crow's feet".

Weaving the sides: Gently fold the spokes upward. The sides will be woven with 1/2" flat reed in stop/start rows. Weave 1 row of natural reed. Weave 2 rows of green dyed reed. Weave 11 rows of natural reed. Weave a last row with 3/8" flat reed for a rim row. Take a moment to tuck down the rows of weaving and straighten up any crooked spokes.

Preparing the rim: The spokes that are on the outside of the basket need to be tucked to the inside, down into the rows of weaving. You may want to trim the spokes so that the ends will not show when they are tucked. The spokes that are on the inside of the basket get cut off flush with the top edge of the basket. Make your rims with the ½” flat oval reed. Measure a length of reed to fit the inside edge of the basket, leaving a 2” overlay. Shave the oval side of one end of the reed and shave the flat side of the other end in the area of overlap. This will reduce the bulk of the overlap. Make a rim for the outside of the basket in the same manner. Clothespin the rims to the basket and place a length of seagrass in between the rims to fill the space and hide the rough edges of the cut reed.

Lashing the rims: Take a long piece of ¼” flat oval reed to lash the basket rims to the basket. A piece of reed that will reach 3 times around the basket is more than long enough to finish the rim without splicing. Push the end of the lasher from the inside of the basket through to the outside, just under the rim. Tuck the short end of the lasher up under the outside rim, under the rim filler, and down into the inside of the basket under the inner rim. This short tail can be trimmed off when the basket is finished. Wrap the long end of the lasher around to the front of the basket and push the end through the space between the next 2 spokes, just under the rim. Pull the lasher through, making sure not to twist it. Tighten the lasher to pull the rim pieces together. Continue around the basket. You may want to make a decorative X on the front of the handle. When the lasher meets the starting place, finish by tucking the end of the lasher up under the inner rim and pulling it straight up. Trim the tails of the lasher.

Make your favorite flower embellishments on the sides of the basket to complete your garden. Refer to the photos if you need some inspiration. 😊



TBA Reports

Approved on May 5, 2020
Tennessee Basketry Association Board
Board Meeting Minutes
April 20, 2020

Call to Order

President April Harper called the TBA Board meeting to order at 7:10 pm EDT via ZOOM. Also present were Barbara Holt
Pam Parman
Ann Fairhurst
Sheri Burns
Gwen Morris
Denise Robertson

Reading of the Minutes

The January 18, 2020 general meeting minutes were previously emailed to the Board. Pam motioned to approve. Ann seconded. Approval on vote.

Treasurer's Report

Pam submitted a written report last week via email with a balance of \$24,654.07, which is attached to the minutes. Pam motioned to approve. Sheri seconded. Approval on vote.

Reports

Membership: Denise reported that there are now 141 members. She noted that membership increased in part to more members from North Carolina; that is possibly due to the cancellation of the NCBA convention scheduled for March of this year.

2020 Convention: Pam reported that as of April 13 there were 82 registered. After discussion the Board decided that a decision on whether to cancel the convention will be made at a called Board meeting at 7 pm EDT on June 1, 2020 via ZOOM.

Gwen motioned that

- 1) If the 2020 convention is not cancelled, the Board should proceed with contract negotiations with Pickwick State Park for the 2021 convention, and
- 2) If the 2020 convention is cancelled, the Board should proceed with contract negotiations with the Alcoa Hilton for the 2021 convention, and with Pickwick Landing for 2022.

Ann seconded. Approval on vote.

Unfinished Business

After discussion, the Board assigned the responsibility to make arrangements for transportation and storage of inventory items. Each convention chair will assume that responsibility.

The Board discussed TBA's ongoing recommendation that conventions be rotated among East, West, and Middle Tennessee, and decided to continue the rotation.

New Business

Elections protocol for 2020-2021 will be decided at the June 1 meeting when decisions about the convention will be made.

Adjournment

Pam motioned for adjournment; Gwen seconded. Approval on vote.

Respectfully submitted by

Barbara Holt

Secretary

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