

# Nest Building with Nancy Basket

at Homestead Retreat, Clyde, NC - July 7th-8th, 2017

*“For 99.9 percent of our time on Earth, we humans were hunters and gatherers. We were arboreal. We lived in trees. What you were experiencing by looking up at those branches in the nest was a set of fractal patterns that evolved under a millennium ago. Biology says we are tuned by evolution to prefer landscapes that have those fractal patterns.”* Janine Benyus, biologist

Wouldn't it be great to change places with a bird? To fly freely, to perch on the highest branch - even to share the joys of building a nest! Join us for a fun filled, creative weekend with Cherokee elder, **Nancy Basket**, a renowned basket weaver, storyteller, and craftswoman. Nancy will guide us in the experimental building of one or two giant baskets - each large enough for a person to nestle into. In the green heart of the natural world we will create the Nesting Grounds. Once completed, people will be able to have a womb like experience, cradled in the free-form vessels that have been woven. During the course of the weekend Nancy will offer storytelling, share a Cherokee water ceremony and lead us in a blessing of the vines that we use. No previous basket weaving experience is needed.

## Registration

Cost for the weekend is \$135, plus food to potluck. A non-refundable deposit of \$80 is required by June 15th. Please reserve your space early - only 16 spots are available. Day trip participants are welcome, but must pre-register. Be sure and bring a pair of gloves and pruning shears.

**Facilitated by Nancy Basket:** for the last two decades, Nancy has researched and shared her basketry and storytelling skills at primitive skills gatherings, Pow-Wows, and as a presenter of traditional and contemporary baskets at the National Indian Education Association (NIEA). The Schiele Museum, in Gastonia, NC, purchased Nancy's miniature baskets representing many American indigenous cultures to display in one of their dioramas. The Barnwell Museum purchased her pine needle Cradleboard after it toured the US in the Wyoming Western Show. Nancy shares basketry and storytelling through the Pickens County Museum and Hagood Mill. The McKissick Museum recognized Nancy as a master basket maker, in an apprenticeship program to a Catawba woman. She was given a grant by the SC Arts Commission to make a book of her basketry designs. In 1992 her two chapters were included in the book *Natural Basketry*. Credit was given to the Arts Commission for their support of her work. Two movie companies commissioned her basketry skills in the TV series, *Young Indiana Jones* where Nancy made a hot air balloon basket out of cattail leaves, and *The Last of the Mohicans* where she made cattail leaf mats, bark baskets and corn husk masks.