

# WEAVING CONNECTIONS

The Newsletter of the *Tennessee Basketry Association*

*Winter (February) 2016*

## **TBA President's Message**

Welcome to the 21st Century and the age of technology. TBA board of directors had our first conference call board meeting January 16 and I think it was worth trying again. Since we have members from Memphis to Bristol, using the phone for a meeting saved lots of travel for many. All voting members were present via telephone. Our next meeting, April 2, will be at Pickwick Landing State Park and those that cannot travel that distance will join us by conference call.

Winter can be the best time for weaving since we can't always get outside to do other things. So, I hope all of you are enjoying this season with lots of weaving. I know I am making plans to attend several conventions over the next few months and hope the same for each of you. TBA convention is in the planning stage and progressing in a wonderful way. We have more teachers and more classes than in a very long time. Mark your calendar for July 20-23 for Destination....TBA at the Knoxville Airport Hilton Hotel and Conference Center. Convention is such a great time for weaving, fellowship with our weaving family, and learning new skills. Invite a weaving friend.

Please remember this winter to make plans to weave or make something for convention raffle and door prizes. Raffles are TBA's way of making money for the next year's convention and extremely important for convention growth and survival. So, intentionally making something now for July is the thing to do. Also, as you visit conventions and supply stores pick up something basket related for door prizes to donate. From my house to yours, have a blessed weaving season and see you in July in Knoxville.

*Gwen Morris*

## **Member-At-Large**

**Sharon Seneker**

If I am not weaving baskets I love to look at baskets online! I belong to several Facebook weaving groups which helps me keep up with what is new in the world of basket weaving.

If you have not joined the newly formed National Basketry Association (NBO) Facebook group "Basket Guild Bulletin Board" you might want to join. From Facebook basket convention/seminar links or from doing a Google search for 2016 basket weaving conventions I find convention sites and love looking at all the beautiful basket classes offered for attendees. I also get newsletters from basket weaving teachers.

I am really looking forward to receiving the 2016 TBA Convention "Destination TBA" booklet and registration information so I can not just look, but select my classes! Thanks to all who are working on the 2016 TBA Convention. If I can be of any service to you as Member-at-Large with TBA or the TBA Board please let me know.

Enjoy winter and keep on weaving! If there is a blizzard please follow the directions BLIZZARD PREP for Basket Weavers!

A graphic with a blue background and a black header box. The header box contains the text "BLIZZARD PREP for Basket Weavers" in white, all-caps, monospace font. Below the header is a list of 10 items in black, sans-serif font. The background of the graphic shows a snowy landscape with trees covered in snow. At the bottom of the graphic is the website address "www.BasketWeaving.com" in blue, sans-serif font.

**BLIZZARD PREP for Basket Weavers**

1. Get extra ready-to-eat food
2. Double check flashlights and batteries
3. Snow shovels at the ready
4. Gas in car
5. Charge up phones and other electronics
6. Have plenty of water
7. Check medications
8. Battery-operated radio
9. Hope that Jim Cantore isn't coming to your town
10. Cut basket weaving spokes & coil weavers

[www.BasketWeaving.com](http://www.BasketWeaving.com)

# ***DESTINATION.....TBA***

***Set your GPS for Hilton Knoxville Airport Hotel and Conference Center  
Knoxville/Alcoa,***

***Tennessee July 20-23, 2016***

***Enjoy 2 1/2 days of weaving and fellowship with those who share your interest!***

## ***Fran Sorrell and Debra Martin, 2016 Convention Co-Chairs***

TBA Convention 2016 is well on its way. Baskets have been selected, booklets put together, printing is in process and shortly you will have a Convention packet in your mailbox! There are so many things going on and it is exciting. Be sure to make your selections and get them in early, mark those forms for all the activities you will participate in and make your reservation at the Hilton. Don't forget your tee-shirt orders! As always we need you to help make this convention a fun and successful event so let us know how you will participate.

While you are browsing the booklet, take notice of the new activity this year. After Marketplace on Thursday evening we will offer *Make-n- Take*, an opportunity to add a fast and fun project to your schedule, strictly optional and you can sign up for the various sessions at the convention registration table.

Please take the opportunity check out the face book page, April will have snippets of information for you about the convention and teachers, and please promote this event whenever you can. We would love to have new weavers join our wonderful organization.

***Look forward to seeing everyone in July!***

## ***The Lineup of 2016 Convention Teachers***

Peggy Aldelman, Candy Alexander, Denise Anthony, Sandy Atkinson, Steve Atkinson, Ann Bowers, Patti English, Patty Feather, Gayle Green, Barbara Holt, Sharon Klussman, Nancy Mathews, Mary & Jimmie Earl McKinzie, Dona Nazarenko, Billy Owens, Joni-Dee Ross, Joyce Smith, and Kathy Taylor

## ***TBA Convention 2016 Door Prizes***

### ***April McCartney***

Hello TBA Members, my name is April McCartney and I am in charge of the door prizes for this year's convention. This year we are hoping to have items related to basket weaving but any gifts are gladly accepted. I am asking for anyone that wants to donate any items for door prizes to please let me know. It will be greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing everyone at this year's convention. Happy Weaving until then.

## **What is Basket Exchange?**

***Fran Sorrell***

Have you heard fellow weavers talking about Basket Exchange but do not know what it is? Are you new to TBA and just need to know? You need to join us in this fun and rewarding event!

Basket Exchange is an event at the annual TBA Convention where you bring a basket that you have made to exchange with another weaver. The process is like a game and you never know until the draw who will get your basket or whose beautiful basket you will get to take home. It is a wonderful way to share your creativity with others and learn more about your fellow weavers at the same time. Besides that, IT IS FUN!

All you need to do is bring a finished basket with you to convention. You will get tags and instructions in your convention registration packets. Look forward to seeing you there.

## **Volunteering and the Volunteer Raffle at TBA**

***Sandy Miller***

Hello fellow weavers! TBA Convention 2016 is coming soon. This is just a reminder that everyone who volunteers in any way (bringing raffle items, food items for the hospitality room, helping out with various tasks, etc.) will be given raffle tickets for our Volunteer Raffle. Items for this raffle are donated by our members. These items will be gathered and credited to you during the registration process. The Volunteer Raffle is our way of saying "Thank You" for all that you do to make "Destination TBA" a success. Looking forward to seeing you all in July!

## **News from Tennessee Guilds**

### **Gourmet Weavers-Middle Tennessee**

***Gwen Morris***

This fall had some of the Gourmet Weavers helping teach Cookeville High School art students to weave a basket. Working with the art students is a project that occurs in the fall and again in the spring with the baccalaureate art class.

Another project is to work with one of the Livingston Boy Scout groups to get their basketry badge. This is a month long project. Even the leaders bottomed a stool.

Gourmet Weavers can meet at 5 different times during the month in Livingston or Byrdstown. There are two day sessions and three night sessions so to meet needs. One of the day groups is a Nantucket session. If possible, the guild hopes to make three dozen angel baskets this year.

## **Odds & Ends Guild of Maryville**

### ***Denise Robertson***

Several times a year members of the Odds & Ends Group of Maryville work with residents of the Morning View Village retirement community to make some type of craft that involves weaving. Bruce Robertson leads the group with help from Maria Goetz, Pam and Royce Parman, Sandy Miller, Thelma Ryan and Denise Robertson. Although the residents no longer have the coordination, eyesight or dexterity they used to have, between all of us everyone leaves with a completed project. A favorite way to display their craft is to hang them on the doors of their rooms. There is much laughter, confusion and fun at every session!



## **Tri-State Basketry Guild**

### ***Judy King, TSBG President***

Hello, All

We canceled the meeting for February 13 because of snow. It's snowing again today- Valentines Day. Gayle Green, past treasurer of TBA, will reschedule her gourd weaving class to May 14. (We hope for warmer weather by then.)

Anyone may attend. Let me, Judy King, or Candy Alexander know you are coming so you can get the latest information about getting to the meeting, basket price, etc. We hope to see you there! [judyking2001@gmail.com](mailto:judyking2001@gmail.com), 423-677-9416

## **Weaving Across Spain** **Bruce and Denise Robertson**

We were fortunate to participate in the NBO sponsored trip "Weaving Across Spain" in fall of 2015. The tour director was Jo Campbell-Amsler, a willow crafting icon in her own right. The tour agent was Celtic Journeys. Fourteen people from all over the U.S. were on the tour.

The first part of the tour was outside Madrid in the little town (100 people) of Caballar, the home of a Spanish basket master, Carlos Fontales. Carlos showed his extraordinary collection of Spanish baskets to us and generously shared his extensive knowledge. Then we got to work weaving willow and grass. Carlos did a fantastic Celtic knot demonstration for us, and then led a discussion on books about Spanish basket making. He even gave all of us a copy of one of his books!

For our next weaving adventure the group took the sleek and efficient high speed train from Madrid to Barcelona. We spent two days weaving with Monica Gilera and Tim Johnson in Mas de Barberans at the Palm Museum. Half of the group did a glass bottle woven cover led by Tim. The other half of the group made a willow bowl tied with cord fishing net knots led by Monica. We ended the visit with a demonstration of weaving with palm leaves.

The last part of the trip was a visit to the Spanish Basket Festival in Salt outside of Girona, Spain. The festival was attended by basket makers from all over Spain and beyond. All types and styles of baskets were being made, sold, and displayed. The Salt festival was a great end to all the things we had learned.

The Salt festival had fascinating demonstrations of human towers and marching giants. We all joined in the parade with the giants!



In addition to working on baskets, the group did find time to be tourists. In the Madrid area, we did city tours of Madrid and Segovia. In Barcelona we toured the Basilica de la Sagrada Família, strolled Las Ramblas and had some delicious seafood. We also made a trip to the Salvador Dali museum. Throughout the entire trip we shared many wonderful meals and Spanish wine.

***If you have a love of basket making and the ability to travel, we suggest you look in to the future NBO / Celtic Journeys tours!***

**MINUTES OF THE  
TENNESSEE BASKETRY ASSOCIATION  
MEETING THE TENNESSEE BASKETRY ASSOCIATION  
Board of Directors  
September 26, 2015**

The Tennessee Basketry Association met at the Public Library in Maryville, TN with the following members present: Gwen Smith, Fran Sorrell, Debra Martin, and Deborah Palk. The meeting was called to order by Gwen

**Proxy:** Gwen received a proxy from Denise Robertson to make a voting quorum.

**Secretary's Report:** Minutes from the July 18, 2015 meeting were read with one correction. Change Deborah Martin to Debra Martin. Motion by Fran and seconded by Debra to approve minutes with one correction.

**Reports**

1. Treasurer: no report available Gwen to contact Gayle to submit via e-mail and vote at next meeting.
2. President Elect: Verbal discussion about future convention sites
3. Past President: no report
4. Membership: no report
5. Newsletter Editor :no report
6. Webmaster: April McCartney has accepted this position.
7. Member at Large: no report
8. 2015 Convention Report: Reviewed the 2015 evaluation form and budget work sheets.
9. 2016 Convention Report: Logo will be "Destination TBA". A total of 21 vendors submitted and everyone urged to vote on the current great basket selection. Fran is planning a meeting at Fall Creek Falls on November 7, 2015 and the baskets will be available to look at.  
Fran also checked facilities at Paris Landing, Montgomery Bell and Pickwick Landing as possible future sites.
10. Historian: no report

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** The Nominating Committee will be Gwen Morris, Fran Sorrell, and Debra Martin. Debra Martin was appointed Outreach Coordinator. Discussion was held about the possibility of having the directory available on line only in order to save money.

Next meeting will be by conference call January 16, 2016 at 10:00 CST.

There being no further business, motion by Deborah and seconded by Fran to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Palk,  
Secretary

**Tennessee Basketry Assoc.**

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