

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BASKET WEAVER'S GUILD

From our President

November 1997

Hi. Welcome to the first Central Pennsylvania Basket Weaver's Guild Newsletter. For those who are new to the organization I thought a bit of history would be in order.

The Central Pennsylvania Basket Weaver's Guild is the result of the desire of several people to meet, share, and learn more about basket weaving. The Guild would be considered a 'yearling' in horse circles. Meetings were begun in January of 1997 and have continued every month since. Meeting topics have ranged from storage and dying reed to weaving and every other basket topic in between.

As you will see in the rest of this newsletter a variety of items of interest are planned for the meetings in the future. In addition to the sharing on different topics almost every meeting will include some kind of weaving. We all love to wet reed, start the project and then share ideas as we work, so we have planned to include alot of weaving.

If you are a Basket Case please join us for 1998. We are not 'experts', the only requirement for membership is a love of the craft. So if you have woven your first basket or your first thousand, and are hooked on basket weaving we need you.

Happy weaving,
See you at the next meeting,
Linda Clifton

1998 Programs

Note change from 2nd to 3rd Sunday of the month

January 18 - Robert Zink

The New Year begins on an up note when Mr. Robert Zink, well known local (Lancaster County) Nantucket basket maker takes us on a journey into the heart and mind of a craftsman and artist. He has displayed his work at a number of juried craft shows including Mt. Gretna, Franklin & Marshall College and Winterthur in Delaware. Mr. Zink's baskets are truly unique and beautiful creations and he will bring a number of them along with him for us to admire (and covet!).

February 15 - Round Robin

Break out of those Winter "blahs" by participating in a round robin basket weave. To get this one started each participant needs to construct a basket base at home prior to the meeting; round, square or what have you. Then the baskets are passed around the room where each participant will have the opportunity to add their own creative touch to each of these masterpieces. Each participant then gets to take home their finished basket filled with many warm memories of a winter's afternoon.



YES, I want to be a member of the Central Pennsylvania Basket Weaver's Guild

1998 DUES \$15.00

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ E MAIL _____

YES _____ NO _____ do /do not include my address and phone number on a list distributed to all members.

Return this portion with your check to: June Blake
19 West Shore Drive
Camp Hill , PA 17011

March 15 - Weaving Demo

We will be moving to the East Shore Public Library this month to demonstrate the art of basket weaving. Everyone should bring a weaving of their choice to weave as library patrons stop by to observe and admire our craft. There will also be quilters and singers to join us.

The library is located at 4501 Ethel Street, behind Boscov's at the Colonial Park Mall.

April 19 - Handle Carving Demo / BYOB (bring your own basket)

The (wood) chips will be flying as we are led by one of our own knowledgeable members in step by step instruction on how to create our own basket handles from scratch. You are encouraged to bring along a basket in progress into which you may then incorporate your newly created handles. Bring along a good sharp knife for this one!

All meetings are held in the Community Room at the Camp Hill Shopping Mall

Route 11/15 and 581

Camp Hill, PA

Note - exception for March

For more information contact Linda Clifton

303 Sharon Drive

New Cumberland, Pa 17070

March Display

During the month of March we will be displaying our baskets at the Mechanicsburg Public Library, 16 Walnut Street. All baskets to be placed on display should be brought to the February meeting and will be returned at the April meeting. If this is not convenient and you need to make other arrangements please contact Paula Evelhoch at (717) 766 -7286 prior to March 1st.

The library has four display cases measuring four feet high by three feet wide with three adjustable shelves in each case. However, the shelves are only nine inches deep with about an inch and a half to two inch clearance between the door. Please keep this in mind when choosing your baskets to be displayed.



CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD

March 1998

From our President

Hello Fellow Basket Weavers:

Basket Weavers in this area are coming together to learn and share in larger numbers all the time. The Guild is such a dream come true.

This newsletter for the Central Pa Guild will list the meeting plans for upcoming months. We have many great activities planned. Come join us as we weave and learn.

Weave on-----

Linda Clifton

(717) 938 - 4309

LindaClif@aol.com

Upcoming Monthly Programs

March 15 - Weaving Demo

Note change in location

We will be moving to the East Shore Public Library this month to demonstrate the art of basket weaving. Everyone should bring a weaving of their choice to weave as library patrons stop by to observe and admire our craft. There will be tables and water available for our use.

The library is located at 4501 Ethel Street, behind Boscov's at the Colonial Park Mall.

We will begin with a short business meeting at 1:30 P.M. and be ready to weave at 2:00.

April 19 - Handle Carving / BYOB

(bring your own basket)

The wood chips will be flying as we are led by one of our own knowledge members in step by step instruction on how to create our own basket handles from scratch. You are encouraged to bring along a basket in progress into which you may then incorporate your newly created handles. Bring along a good sharp knife for this one!

May 17 - Bread Basket

Suitable for all ability levels, this is an attractive yet relatively basic basket which is distinguished by a novel use of twining with a combination of cane and round reed on the sides. It's great for holding bread, rolls, muffins, or what-have-you and will add a real touch of class to your dinner table. For this one you will need the following materials : 1/2" flat, 1/4" flat, 1/2" flat oval, #2 round and some narrow cane. Pattern will be provided. Or order a kit from Jeff Shields at 774-3508 (or e-mail at shieldsj@mindspring.com) for a \$5. materials fee.

June 21 - Paper Plate Basket with Hearts

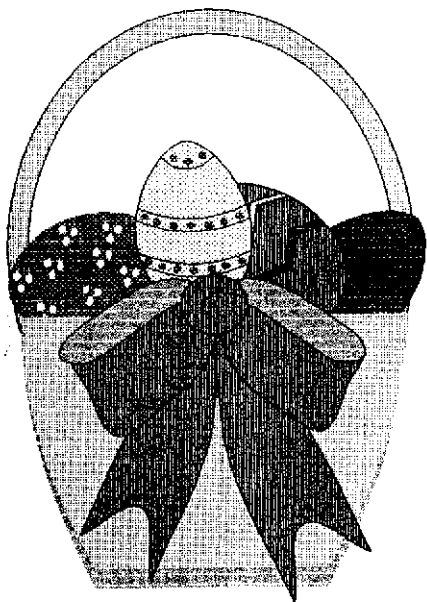
Join "the sisters" (Suzette & Paula) this month for one of their favorite baskets. Just in time for your next picnic, this basket is perfect to hold your paper plates in style with a touch of triple twining surrounded by hearts. You'll need to bring 1/2" flat, 1/4" flat, #3 round, 1/2" flat oval, and about 15 yards of #3 round dyed in the color of your choice.

**All meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month at 1:30 P.M. in the Community Room at the Camp Hill Shopping Mall.
Route 11/15 and 581, Camp Hill, PA**

Program suggestions for upcoming meetings are welcomed and encouraged. This is your guild! If you have a favorite basket, please volunteer to teach it. At the April 19 meeting, we ask you to come with an idea or two for topics at future meetings.

July 19 - Handle Wrapping & Braiding

Wrapping and braiding a handle is a great way to spruce up a basket - even a "plain Jane" market basket can be transformed into something special. And the best part of it is that the techniques involved are really quite easy to master even though they may look complicated to the casual observer. Come to learn some of the basics and you will soon be creating all kinds of great variations. Bring along a wooden handle or two to practice on. Other necessary materials will be provided.



Are antler baskets illegal?

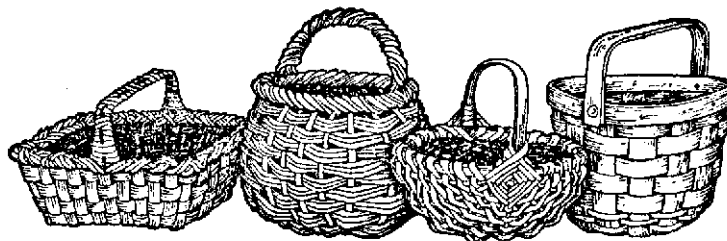
A recent conversation at a guild meeting brought up the issue of selling and ownership of deer antlers in Pennsylvania. In order to clarify what is and is not allowed in Pa with antlers, I talked with a representative of the PA Game Commission and this is what I learned in that conversation.

According to Title 34 of the Pennsylvania Code antlers (any inedible part) of a lawfully taken game animal may be sold by the hunter who took the game within 90 days of the close of the season in which the wildlife was taken.

What effect does this law have on the making and selling of antler baskets?

1. You may buy an antler from a hunter in accordance with the above law.
2. You cannot sell an antler in any form (basket or other) unless you are the hunter as specified above.
3. You may make an antler basket and keep it for yourself or GIVE it to someone.
4. You may use antlers lawfully taken in another state, but you may NOT SELL them no matter where they come from.

If you would like to read the Pennsylvania Code which address this issue and the penalties for violations see 34PaCSA section 2312.



Be sure to stop by the Mechanicsburg Library at 16 Walnut Street during the month of March to check out the Guild's display on the art of basketry.

CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA BASKET WEAVERS GUILD

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for the privilege of being the President of the Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild for the last year. The establishment of the guild and the quality of the interaction at our meetings is certainly a dream come true for me. I am looking forward to being a part of our forward progress under Jeff's leadership in 98/99. Please visit my web page frequently to check on updates of the Guild newsletter and other guild information since I plan to devote some time to that project in the near future. The address is -

<http://members.aol.com/Linda Clift/>

Weave on ----

Linda Clifton

Business

1. At the June meeting, officer elections were held. The new officers whose terms begin on July 1st are as follows:

President - Jeff Shields

Vice President/Treasurer - Colleen Skelton

Secretary - Lyn Levan

2. In addition to the elected officers, the guild board also consists of the following positions:

Program Chairman - Val Poirer

Newsletter Editor - Paula Evelhoch

Member -At-Large - ANY

VOLUNTEERS??

3. Also at the June 21st meeting, the draft By-laws were ratified. Several grammatical errors and inconsistencies have been eliminated. The substantive change is as follows:

In Article VII - Nominations and Elections, Paragraph E. was changed

From:

A majority vote shall elect.

To:

A Majority vote of the responding members shall elect.

Copies of the By-laws will be available at upcoming meetings.

From the President

All of us in the guild owe our founder and first president, Linda Clifton, a large debt of gratitude and a big hug. Simply put, without Linda there would be no Central PA Basket Weavers Guild. Over the past year and a half she has been selfless and untiring in her dedication to nurturing the guild from just a dream into a thriving and growing organization of 25 people. Linda, you have enriched each and every one of our lives. We love ya.

I was struck the other day while looking at our membership list. As near as I can tell, our members come from 14 different counties. I am amazed at the distances some of our members happily travel each month to spend a few hours with some of their fellow "basket cases". That speaks volumes to me about how deeply and passionately we feel toward our craft.

As with any craft, basketry is not really about who can make the best, or most, or how much profit there is to be made. When I weave a basket there are two results. The first of course is the basket. Second, and more importantly, I am a different person than the one who began the basket. Each weaving experience affects those of us who are in the throes of "basket fever" in a very meaningful and profound way. Certainly, basketry is a recreational activity. But taking another look at the word "recreational" I also realize that with each basket I weave I also "re-create" myself. (Thanks to June Blake for planting that seed).

Take time to weave,

Jeff Shields

Our thanks to the outgoing officers, Linda Clifton, President, June Blake, Secretary and Jeff Shields, Program Chairman for getting the guild started and for setting the tone of what we want to be.

Mark your calendars now for October 24, 1998

The Central PA Basket Weavers Guild is sponsoring a class with Deb Roberson of York County on that date. We will be making a basket that uses a German weaving technique in the base with twill woven sides. The cost will be \$35.00 which covers the class and all supplies. Reserve your space in the 9 - 4 event which will occur in the Camp Hill Shopping Mall Community Room and plan for a great day of weaving and learning. Checks should be sent to our treasurer, Colleen Skelton.

Usual Supplies -water bucket or basin, spray bottle, towel, scissors, clothes pins or other holding device, sharpknife, measuring tape, yard stick, spoke weight, awl or tool for opening spaces, small pair of pliers
This is a basic basket weaver's tool kit. Of course none of us have stopped there, have we??

Terminology - anyone new to reed description should know:

RR - round reed (sold by numbers 00[small] to 17 [large])

FF - flat on both sides **FO** - flat on one side and oval on the other
(flat reeds are sold by the inch or millimeter measurements)

Upcoming Events

(note program change for July)

July 19 - Open Weave

Bring in a project you are working on and enjoy a few relaxed hours of community weaving and conversation.

August 16 - Mold Weaving

Deborah Hammond has created some very nice baskets using a variety of "molds" such as a Snapple bottle or mayonnaise jar.

Bring : Snapple bottle (for a narrow mouth vase)

Quart Mayonnaise jar (for a wide mouth vase)

wash and remove labels from your jars

2 **RR**

3/16" or 1/4" **FF**

1/2" **FF**

seagrass

usual supplies

You may never look at a Snapple bottle the same way again!

September 20 - Beginner Outreach Class

Here is a "no strings attached" opportunity for anyone who has never woven a basket before to learn the basics and go home with a beautiful basket made with their own 2 hands! We will be doing a basic market basket with guild members serving as teachers. Recruit your friends, relatives, and co-workers for the golden opportunity to come learn at the feet of the masters! A \$10. materials fee applies. All materials will be supplied, but students are encouraged to bring a bucket, shears, sewing tape measure, clothes pins, and old towel.

Checks should be sent to Colleen Skelton, 226 Walnut Street, Stowe, PA 19464 by September 1 to reserve a kit.

October 18 - Gretchen Border

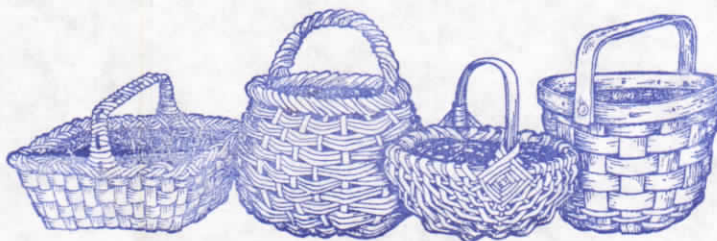
June Blake will take us through the steps to create this interesting rolled border.

Bring : a round fairly flat basket with NO rim

(the paper plate basket we did in June would be good)

3 **RR** in two colors

usual supplies



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Central Pennsylvania Basket Weavers Guild

October 1998

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The Weavin' Season

Autumn is my favorite season. After the hurried activities of Spring and Summer, the cool crisp days of Autumn seem to offer a respite for both body and soul before the holiday season frenzy descends upon us. At no time of the year does basket weaving seem to be a more natural thing. I feel stronger than ever the union with nature that basket weaving affords me. It just feels "right". What better way to spend a beautiful Fall afternoon than weaving under a canopy of blue sky and brightly hued leaves. And in a very real sense you are capturing and preserving those moments in the basket.

Our September beginner's class was a great success! Thanks to all who helped make it so. Your dedication is what makes this guild so great. A special nod to Suzette Humer for securing the supplies and making up the kits; no small job. I hope we can do another class again next year. For any non-members reading this, let me extend a personal invitation to please come join us. Our guild is not a professional association. Many

levels of experience and ability are represented. The common bond that brings us together is a love of weaving. So whether you are working on basket #2 or basket #1000 we will welcome you!

Happy Weavin'
Jeff Shield, President
shieldsj@mindspring.com
(717) 774-3508

Upcoming Events

October 18 - Gretchen Border

June Blake will take us through the steps to create this interesting rolled border. Bring a round fairly flat basket with NO RIM (made of flat stakes with or without handles), instead of the rim row do three rows of twining with # 2 round reed. Cut and tuck stakes in the weaving below twining. Bring # 2 round reed in two colors and your usual supplies. Since this probably won't fill the time, bring something else to work on.

*November 15 - Paper Rush
Onion Basket*

This workshop will be led by our own Valerie Poirier. This basket is relatively fast to weave and involves twining. No tools are needed except scissors, and no water is used. Valerie will bring the materials which should not run more than \$3.00.

*December 20- Christmas Party
/Basket Exchange*

Plan to join your fellow weavers in a seasonal celebration. Bring one of your favorite holiday snacks to share and a basket you have made for our gift exchange. Please wrap the basket so it will not be visible. You may add tuck-ins if you like (a small tool, a pattern, etc.) Be sure to put this time on your calendar, you don't want to miss it!!!

January 17 - Snowy Bird Man

Linda Clifton will lead us in weaving Susan Reed-Fanfoni's "Snowy the Bird Man", a folk art winter accent. Pattern fee will be \$1.25 for this project. Materials needed are: one 2 1/2" wooden ball knob (for head, drill 16 holes in bottom for # 3 RR), #2 RR, #3 RR, and 3/16" flat reed. Accessories : two twigs 7" - 8" long, black top hat to fit ball head, fabric for scarf, 3 buttons, tiny birds, bird

house or things of that sort that your "Snowy" will want.

December Display

During the month of December we will be displaying our baskets in the New Cumberland Library. Bring the baskets you wish to show to the November meeting. Baskets will be returned to the owners at our January meeting.

Helpful hints -

If you don't like working with a knife try using a vegetable peeler to taper the ends of flat oval reed for rims.

After upsetting the spokes on a basket you can file down any cracks that appear with an emery board. This will not weaken the basket.

Rinse your reed in warm water before dyeing. This will give you truer color and helps the reed take the dye more easily.

Keep cane in a plastic bag or it will become brittle.