

## Featured Teachers

### **Sandy Atkinson (Lennon, MI)**

Sandy began weaving in 1983 when she was home with her four daughters. In 1985 she and her husband, Steve, opened Atkinson's Country House where she could teach basket weaving and sell supplies. The success of the business grew into a nationwide mail order company. In 1986 Sandy approached the U of M PBS-TV about doing a series on basket weaving. The concept was enthusiastically received and the U of M produced the first two series of "Country Basket Weaving with Sandy Atkinson." Series three, four, and five were produced by Steve and Sandy. All five series have been picked up by PBS and Sterling Digital out of New York. Steve and Sandy continue to work at the basket studio in Lennon, MI. They live on a small farm, have eight grandchildren and love to travel in the motor home around the USA to teach.

Website: [www.sandyatkinson.com](http://www.sandyatkinson.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-14, FR- 8-36, ST- 8-46*

### **Steve Atkinson (Lennon, MI)**

Steve worked for GM for 34 years, retiring in 2000 to join his wife, Sandy, at Atkinson's Country House. He is in charge of packing and shipping, plus anything else that needs doing. Steve has also taken up woodcutting and now cuts most of the woodwork for the shop. Steve took up seat weaving several years ago and really enjoys coming up with new patterns to weave. He builds all his own seat frames. Steve coached boys' basketball, girls' basketball, volleyball, baseball, and softball for 32 years. Steve and Sandy continue to work at the basket studio in Lennon, MI. They live on a small farm, have eight grandchildren, and love to travel in the motor home around the USA to teach.

Website: [www.countrybasketweaving.com](http://www.countrybasketweaving.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-13, FR- 6-39, SN- 4-61*

### **Sheree Bingheim (Millstadt, IL)**

Sheree's passion for basket making began in 1984 when she took her first 6 classes through an adult education program in Michigan. After 34 years of taking many more classes and polishing her skills, she has begun to design her own patterns and teach. She is very excited to share her love of basketry with her students. She has been a member of the Missouri Basket Weavers Guild for 22 years.

*Class: TH- 4-12*

### **Char Ciammaichella (Aurora, OH)**

Char has been weaving for over 25 years and teaching for the last 15 years. She weaves mainly with reed and loves playing with color placement to get many different and interesting patterns. She teaches at home, at guild gatherings, and many weaving conventions. She loves teaching and passing down the weaving techniques to all. She has opened her website, [www.charsweaving.com](http://www.charsweaving.com) for weavers to purchase basket kits and basket related jewelry. Char is constantly trying new techniques, colors, and ideas! She has been the coordinator for Winter Weave Conference in Mentor, Ohio, for the last 20 years.

Website: [www.charsweavings.com](http://www.charsweavings.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-18, FR- 8-38, ST- 6-49, SN- 4-68*

### **Jeanne Dudley (Troy Mills, IA)**

Jeanne is a retired visual arts teacher, having taught 33 years at the North Linn Community Schools. She has her MA in Fiber Arts and Art Education. She has been making brooms for the past 8 years in the traditional Ozark Shaker style and basket weaving for 32 years, designing most of her own patterns. Jeanne teaches basket weaving classes in her home studio. She has taught broom making in IA, AR, KY, MO, and WI.

*Classes: TH- 2-6, FR- 4-21, FR- 4-22, SN- 4-69*

### **Dianne Gleixner (Brookfield, WI)**

In 1987 Dianne began weaving Nantucket style baskets, twills and anything else with a challenge. She has been teaching since 2004. She has written over 60 patterns and exhibits her baskets at art and craft shows and online through her website. Dianne has taught at many state and local guilds as well as at her private weaving studio near her home. She has won numerous awards at basket weaving conventions around the country.

Website: [www.diannegleixnerbaskets.com](http://www.diannegleixnerbaskets.com)

*Classes: TH- 2-7, FR- 6-27, ST- 6-43, SN- 4-63*

### **Debbie Hurd (Garfield, AR)**

Debbie began weaving over 30 years ago at a community education program in Arkansas. She retired from teaching first grade Reading and is now active designing new baskets, traveling, and just having fun weaving! She has taught in many states for conventions, seminars, small groups, and guilds. She also taught on the Basket Weaving Cruises. She and Candace Katz co-own Bases to Weave. Weave something new, learn something new, and pass it on to someone new. Website: [www.basestoweave.com](http://www.basestoweave.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-16, FR- 8-28, ST- 6-48, SN- 4-65*

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### **Gail Hutchinson (Milton, WV)**

Weaving is a big part of her life and has been for about 35 years. Designing and teaching are two of her favorite things to do. She has written over 100 patterns and taught most of them. Gail has met some lifelong friends along the way and looks forward to weaving and sharing with new friends. When she is not creating baskets or on the road teaching, she loves playing with paper and beads, doodling and watching her grandchildren grow.

*Classes: TH- 4-11, FR- 8-33, ST- 8-56, SN- 4-70*

### **Candace Katz (Springfield, AR)**

Candace has been weaving for 20 years and teaching for 15 of those years. Her designs include wood bases woven with reed, maple, and cane. She has taught at MBG, LLWB, KBA, NCBA, Stateline Friends Weaving retreat, and Oklahoma and Kansas weekend weaves. Candace is in partnership with Debbie Hurd in their business "Bases to Weave," a supplier of basket weaving materials and kits. She enjoys meeting new people, visiting with old friends, and sharing tips and tricks with students. For Candace the journey is all about the weave. Website: [www.basestoweave.com](http://www.basestoweave.com)

*Classes: FR- 8-34, ST- 6-55, SN- 4-62*

### **Sharon Klusmann (Tallmadge, OH)**

Sharon has been weaving, designing, and teaching basketry for 32 years. Her website has seven pages of her original designs. She not only teaches basketry from her home studio in Tallmadge, OH, but at national conventions and guilds throughout the country. She has had three of her designs featured in Create and Decorate Magazine. She is the author of "Business in a Basket," helping others who love basket weaving turn their passion into a successful teaching business. Website: [www.SharonKlusmann.com](http://www.SharonKlusmann.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-17, FR- 6-24, ST- 8-50*

### **Julie Kleinrath (Grand Junction, CO)**

Julie has been weaving since 1990 and teaching since 1993. She published her first book in 2010 and is working on her second book, reflecting her own designs and tidbits that will assist any level of weaver. Julie's baskets have been exhibited in galleries and have won several awards. She has taught at conventions and for private groups in over 35 states. She currently works out of her home studio and store. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing the joy on her students faces when they finish their first basket. Website: [www.wovendesigns.com](http://www.wovendesigns.com)

*Classes: TH- 2-1, TH- 2-4, FR- 8-25, ST- 6-40, SN- 4-60*

### **Karen Kotecki (Milwaukee, WI)**

Karen's license plate holder says it all: "I'd Rather Be Basket Weaving." She creates her designs incorporating reed, woods, barks, and cane. Weaving with her beautiful hand-painted paper is her current passion, expanding her exploration of design and color. The opportunity to share her knowledge and be inspired by the work of others drives Karen's desire to teach.

*Classes: TH- 2-5, FR- 6-35, ST- 8-42, SN- 4-67*

### **Mary and Jimmie Earl McKinzie (Washington, IL)**

Mary's love of baskets led to her first weaving class and she soon got Jimmie Earl involved. They have been weaving together for over 20 years. Mary is past President of the Land of Lincoln Basket Weaving Association (LLBWA) in Illinois. This teaching duo retired from their "day jobs" in 2012 happily spending more time together weaving and teaching basketry at guilds, conventions and on the Basket Cruise.

*Classes: TH- 4-9, FR- 8-37, ST- 8-47*

### **Pam Milat (Southport, NC)**

Pam has been weaving baskets for 12 years. Due to a previous heavy work schedule she was only able to teach on and off. A native of Kansas City, MO, she grew up designing, crafting, sewing, and painting in multi-medias from an early age. After a 16 year stint in central Florida, she moved to North Carolina, and got bit by the "basket bug" in 2004. She has served four terms as President of the Port City Basket Makers in Wilmington, NC. In addition to baskets she currently loves to crochet, cook, read, and dabble in other crafty ventures. Now retired, Pam is looking forward to sharing and teaching her love for heirloom crafts.

*Classes: TH- 2-8, SN- 4-66*

### **Pat Moore (New Haven, MO)**

Pat made her first basket in 1999 with friends at her church. The class was taught by her English-born friend, Mandy DeKrey. Pat took classes for 6 months. After moving from Florissant, MO, to Washington, MO, She began teaching basket weaving at the vocational school where she worked in the special education department. Seeing an opportunity to make new friends, Pat taught locally basket weaving to over 300 friends. She currently teaches in her home, bi-monthly in Troy, MO, and at the Arts Center in Montgomery City, MO. She enjoys making and teaching all types of baskets. She likes to recreate old baskets and teach it. Pat also canes chairs, teaching students to cane using the strand method and web caning.

*Classes: TH- 4-15, FR- 8-32, ST- 6-44*

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### **Debbie Mroczenski (Waukesha, WI)**

I started weaving in 1992 at a PTO meeting. I have shared my skills with family, friends, and taught 4-H groups. I've taught at East Troy Basketry in Wisconsin, Canada, Jabez, MI, MN, MO, and at Stateline. In 2014 I won an award in the professional teacher category at the Michigan Convention and also at the 2016 Missouri Convention. I enjoy all types of weaving. I find weaving a wonderful way to unwind and relax. I look forward to meeting weavers and sharing my designs.

*Classes: TH- 4-10, FR- 8-23, ST- 6-41, SN- 4-59*

### **Doña Nazarenko (Tunbridge, VT)**

Doña has been weaving since 1988 and teaching classes since 1992. She has taught throughout New Jersey at school campuses, local basketry guilds, and at various galleries. She has won numerous awards for her baskets, has been recognized on local television, in newspapers, magazines, and several basketry magazines. Not slowing down since moving to Tunbridge, VT, in 1996, she has continued to teach across the country and hold classes at her quiet and secluded "Country Spirit Basket" studio with her husband, Warren. She enjoys the gifts of nature which she shares with her students. Warren and Dona harvest birch bark on their property which is used in many of her basket designs. Dona is accredited for teaching over 75 birch bark designs and more than 135 reed basket designs.

Website: [www.countryspiritbaskets.com](http://www.countryspiritbaskets.com)

*Classes: TH- 2-2, TH- 2-3, FR- 6-31, ST- 8-54, SN- 4-64*

### **Ann Rohlf (Manyeno, IL)**

Ann has been teaching basketry for 25 plus years. Her interest in basketry started at an early age and eventually led to a full time career. Sharing her love of basketry through teaching is a privilege and a pleasure.

*Classes: FR- 8-30, ST- 8-53*

### **Cathy Sylvester (Independence, MO)**

Cathy Sylvester of Tanglewood Baskets has been weaving baskets since 1988. She has taught classes in the Kansas City area for over 15 years, including for the Blue Springs Schools, Independence Schools, Jackson County Parks and Rec, Missouri Town 1855, and Powell Gardens, a botanical garden in Kansas City. Cathy is a retired middle school teacher. Website: [www.tanglewoodbaskets.com](http://www.tanglewoodbaskets.com)

*Classes: ST- 6-45*

### **Kathy Taylor (Hohenwald, TN)**

In 1999, Kathy was a widow working at Dartmouth College in Hanover, NH, when she met Nathan Taylor. Their first date was a trip to Nathan's basket shop in Sanborton, NH, to make the 7" Classic Round Nantucket basket. They married and Kathy built her skills as an ash splint basket maker over the next 12 years. Eventually they followed the warm weather to Tennessee where they opened a store front basket shop. After 16 years in the business Kathy has decided to teach. She loves knowing that these baskets will still be around long after she is gone.

Website: [www.basketshop.com](http://www.basketshop.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-19, SN- 4-58*

### **Pat Vogler (Warrenton, MO)**

Pat's love for basket weaving began in 1999 when she was convinced to take a class at the local community college. She collected antique baskets for years and her family thought she should make her own baskets. In 2004 she opened her shop, Bittersweet Baskets, on her property where she teaches and sells supplies. In 2007, she and her husband, John, started making ash bases. In 2013 she purchased Homestead Heirlooms, a leather handle making company. Look up their website, [www.bittersweetbasketsandsupply.com](http://www.bittersweetbasketsandsupply.com) for all your weaving supplies.

*Classes: FR- 8-29, ST- 6-52, SN- 4-57*

### **Laura Lee Zanger (Augusta, GA)**

Laura Lee has been designing baskets and writing patterns since October of 2000. She has been teaching on the basketry convention circuit since 2002. She enjoys expressing her creativity in the Southeastern Native American twill techniques of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chitimacha and Caddo. Laura Lee has also written basketry poems and instructional books. Her goal is to enlighten everyone in the thrill of twill, weaving the SE NA traditions of the single and double woven baskets. She is currently working with Caddo Mounds State Historic Site in Alto, Texas, where she makes mats and baskets for their Interpretive Center and Gift Shop.

Website: [www.dreamweaversenterprises.com](http://www.dreamweaversenterprises.com)

*Classes: TH- 4-20, FR- 8-26, ST- 8-51*