

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. Sandy did a five-year series with U of M, PBS-TV on basket weaving. Sandy continues to work at the basket studio in Lennon, Michigan. She enjoys traveling around the USA teaching basket making, teaching in over 20 states.

Classes: TH-2-2, FR-6-21, ST-8-42

Becky Bechtel (Mt. Vernon IL)

Becky is a relative newcomer to the teaching circuit. The majority of her designs are geared toward the intermediate level weaver. Patterns, kits and completed baskets are available on her website and in her online Etsy shop. Becky publishes a free monthly newsletter, "The Reed Reader", with over 900 subscribers to encourage and share with other weavers. She organizes the annual "Weaving in the Sunshine State" basket weaving retreat in Ft. Myers, Florida.

Website: www.BrightExpectationsBaskets.com, Etsy: www.BrightExpectations.Etsy.com

Classes: TH-2-3, TH-FR-10-18, ST-8-43

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 35 years of taking many more classes and polishing her skills, she is now designing her own patterns and teaching. She is excited to share her love of basketry with her students. She has been a member of the Missouri Basket Weavers Guild for 23 years.

Classes: TH-FR-12-19

Dianne Gleixner (Brookfield WI)

Dianne began weaving baskets in 1987 and teaching in 2004. She enjoys weaving ribbed baskets, Nantucket style baskets, twills and anything else with a challenge. She has written and published over 60 patterns. Dianne has taught in many states for their local guilds or state organization. She is honored that her baskets have won numerous awards at basket weaving conventions around the country.

Website: www.diannegleixnerbaskets.com

Classes: FR-6-23, ST-6-41, SN-4-67

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 has also taught on the Basket Weaving Cruises. She and Candace Katz co-own the business, Bases To Weave. Weave something new, learn something new and pass it on to someone new.

Classes: SN-4-60

Gail Hutchinson (Milton, WV)

Gail loves basketry and teaching technique. For the last 35 years, she has been writing patterns and traveling the US to teach her designs. Seeing how she can manipulate reed has been so much fun but presently, she is incorporating white oak into her designs in hope of one day weaving strictly with white oak. When not in her workshop designing or traveling to teach she loves painting, drawing, making cards, and watching her grand babies grow.

Classes: TH-4-13, FR-8-33, ST-8-47, SN-4-64

Candace Katz (Springdale AR)

Candace has been weaving for 20 years and teaching for 15 years. Her designs include wood bases woven with reed, maple & cane. She has taught at many conventions and weekend weaves. Candace is partners with Debbie Hurd in Bases to Weave, a supplier of wood base products for basket weaving. She enjoys meeting new people, visiting with old friends and sharing tips & tricks. For her the journey is all about the love of the weave.

Classes: TH-4-16, FR-8-36, ST-8-50

Gina Kieft (Rothbury, MI)

Gina began weaving baskets at her local Community Ed and loved it from the start! She has been teaching basket weaving for over 20 yrs. With over 100 patterns written, works published in two magazines and several awards won at the AMB and the NCBA Conventions, she is thrilled for the opportunity to teach her love of basketry. She enjoys teaching at the local Art's Council, Council on Aging, Scout Troops as well as private groups. Trying new mediums and new techniques is something she enjoys; however, twill is her favorite! Other information can be found on her website: www.ginasbaskets.com.

Classes: TH-4-12, FR-8-31, ST-8-45, SN-4-62

Julie Kleinrath (Grand Junction, CO)

Julie has been weaving baskets for 28 years and teaching for 25. She is the author of a book about weaving on wooden bases. Julie also owns a store in Grand Junction, CO where she teaches, sells finished baskets and supplies. Julie has taught in over 35 states and at sea twice. Teaching beginners is her specialty but, she loves experimenting with new materials and designs.

Classes: TH-2-6, TH-2-9, FR-6-24, ST-8-53, SN-4-70

Sharon Klusmann (Tallmadge OH)

Sharon has been weaving, designing and teaching basketry for 33 years. Her website: www.SharonKlusmann.com has seven pages of her original designs. She not only teaches basketry from her home studio but at national conventions and guilds throughout the country. She has had three of her designs featured in Create and Decorate Magazine and is the author of "Business in a Basket" to help others who love basket weaving turn their passion into a successful teaching business.

Classes: TH-4-17, FR-6-27, ST-8-55

Karen Kotecki (Dousman, WI)

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

Classes: TH-2-5, TH-2-8, FR-8-38, ST-8-52, SN-4-69

Annetta Kraayeveld (Beloit, WI)

Annetta began weaving in 1994 when she found a book and begged a lesson. She is still obsessed with baskets and finds great satisfaction working with her hands, merging an aged old art form with the contemporary world. Creating functional art pieces is her passion. Annetta has been teaching basketry across North America since 2000. Besides weaving, teaching and writing about baskets, she loves the people and the places she has visited through basketry. You can follow her and her blog at www.basketteacher.com.

Classes: TH-4-15, FR-8-35, ST-8-49, SN-4-66

Mary and Jimmie Earl McKinzie (Washington, IL)

Mary's love of baskets led her to weaving classes, soon involving Jimmie Earl. Now weaving together for over 20 years, both are juried members of the Illinois Artisans Association. Mary is Past-President of LLBWA in Illinois. Students are surprised to discover that Mary and Jimmie Earl both teach, but quickly appreciate the extra instruction this unique teaching duo provide. They enjoy designing, weaving and teaching basketry at home, at guilds and conventions in IL, MO, IN, OH, KY, TN, OK, KS and NC, and on the Basket Cruise.

Classes: FR-8-29, ST-8-44

Barb McNally (Indianapolis, IN)

Barb's beading obsession began when she was in junior high with a purchase of some seed beads from a local Ben Franklin. She started stringing "love beads", then moved onto bead weaving. The beading took a back seat when she started weaving baskets, but soon came back with a vengeance. Her work room now overflows with basket reed, handles, delica beads and too many patterns.

Classes: FR-6-22, ST-6-40, SN-4-61

Pam Milat (Southport, NC)

Pam Milat got bit by the 'basket bug' in 2004 and has been designing and weaving baskets ever since. A native of Missouri, she now calls Southport NC home. She is a member of the NCBA and her local based Port City Basketmakers Guild. Pam has taught at the annual Port City weave-in(s), the 2017 Bluegrass Area Weaving, MBG Convention and NCBA Fall Seminar events. She is already scheduled in 2018 to teach at Stateline, Upper SC and the Bluegrass events and at the local Leland NC Arts Center. Pam loves to share her love for basket weaving and other heirloom crafts.

Classes: FR-6-25, ST-SN-12-59

Marilyn Moore (Iowa City, IA)

Marilyn's first love is basketry and basketry related jewelry. Since 1979 she has taught for guilds, conferences and conventions around the country, has written numerous articles and been featured in many publications. Having graduated from the University of Washington with a BFA in Fiber Art in 1997, moving from Seattle in 2015, she now lives in Iowa City, IA. She has also recently joined the board of directors of the National Basketry Organization.

Classes: FR-8-37, ST-8-51, SN-4-68

Pat Moore (New Haven, MO)

Pat started weaving baskets in 1999 with friends. She has taught at the vocational school in her community and currently is teaching in her studio at home and in Troy, Mo and Montgomery City, Mo. Pat especially enjoys finding an old basket and recreating it to teacher to her students. Pat has been teaching basket weaving for 17 years.

Classes: FR-6-26, ST-8-54, SN-4-71

Debbie Mroczenski (Waukesha, WI)

Debbie started weaving in 1992 at a PTO meeting. She has shared her skills with family, friends and taught 4-H. She has taught at East Troy Basketry in WI, Canada, Jabez KY, FL, IL, IN, MI, MN and MO. In 2014 Debbie won 1st place in the professional/teacher category at the Michigan convention and in 2016 won 3rd place in MO. She was born and raised in Waukesha WI and has been married to Roger for 38 years. They are blessed to have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. She enjoys all types of weaving and says it's a wonderful way to unwind and relax. She is looking forward to meeting and sharing her designs with all of you.

Classes: TH-2-4, FR-8-32, ST-8-46, SN-4-63

Cindy Pauchey (Walters, OK)

Cindy is a retired art teacher with 28 years of experience. Weaving entered her life 34 years ago. She has since done many art shows, selling gourds and baskets. Her first goal was to weave baskets. At the time she had a quilt store in the small town of Walters, OK. She soon needed something more out of her personal progress. A thought occurred to her to grow gourds when they moved to the country. Cindy grew gourds several years before having an "ah ha" moment deciding to do her basket weaving on gourds! It made perfect sense. She could now add a sculptural quality to her gourds and baskets intertwined.

Classes: TH-4-14, FR-8-34, ST-8-48, SN-4-65

Polly Adams Sutton (Seattle, WA)

Polly Adams Sutton is a full-time studio artist and teacher of basket making. Living in Seattle, Polly gathers her own materials – cedar bark from logged forests and sweet grass from the tidal flats of Washington. The flexibility in these materials gives her the opportunity to work on asymmetrical shapes. She exhibits her work in galleries nationwide and her sculptural basket was chosen for the cover illustration of "500 Baskets".

Classes: TH-4-11, FR-8-30, ST-SN-10-58

Cathy Sylvester (Independence, MO)

Cathy is a retired Middle School Foreign Language teacher, and owner of Tanglewood Baskets. She started weaving in 1988 and has taught classes for over 15 years at MBG Convention, Missouri Town, Powell Gardens, Jackson County Parks, Blue Springs Community Ed., RIV Schools, etc. She has sold baskets at various festivals in the Midwest and in the Broom & Basket shop in the Amana Colonies, but her primary love is creating new patterns and teaching others the joy of weaving.

Classes: TH-2-1, TH-2-7, ST-6-39

Pamela Talsky (Waterford, WI)

It started with a pine needle basket in 1994. She loves everything about weaving, from the gathering and preparation of materials to creating beautiful, mostly functional vessels. The connection of weaving across the cultures continues to amaze and inspire her. Sharing her knowledge and continuing to learn from other weavers brings her great joy. Basketry has taken her to Thailand, Alaska, Ireland, Scotland and India. It has made for an amazing life.

Classes: TH-FR-12-20, ST-8-56, SN-6-72

Laura Lee Zanger (Augusta, GA)

Laura Lee has been designing baskets and writing patterns since October 2000 and began teaching classes on the basketry circuit in 2002. Laura Lee enjoys expressing her creativity using Cherokee, Choctaw and Chitimacha twills with everyone she encounters, maintaining the fascination of a child with every new idea, lesson and experience. Her goal is to enlighten everyone on the thrill of twill, weaving in the Southeastern Indian traditions of the single and double woven baskets.

Classes: TH-4-10, FR-8-28, ST-SN-10-57