

Susan Baxter

Susan started her basket weaving journey in the 80's when she received a basket kit as a graduation gift. Since then, she has created many patterns and expanded her basket weaving knowledge to create acrylic bloom basket bases and patterns. She has taught in many states as well as her local 4-H groups and loves to merge modern day technology with basket practices.



Annie Brock

Annie started weaving baskets in 4-H at the age of 7 because her mom wanted a basket. She wove through 4-H up until she aged out at 19 years old. While in college, she started designing patterns with waxed linen between classes and even made a basket for an independent study which went on to win many awards. While she enjoys weaving with many different basket materials, her favorites are waxed linen and painted paper. Now, after a collective 27 years of weaving experience, this will be her first-year teaching.



Sandy Bulgrin

Sandy originally learned to weave baskets because she was asked to become a basket teacher. The art stuck with her as she still teaches 4-H groups in the area to this day. She also co-owns the Basket Bits Magazine and organizes the basket weaving cruise.



Joann Kelly Catsos

Joann started her weaving career in 1985 as a suggestion from her husband to enjoy a night out. She wove a “rather ugly” melon basket, but it changed her life. She started teaching the same year.

She has won many awards and has baskets in numerous museums, with the most prestigious being the Smithsonian. Her baskets have been in traveling exhibits all around the country. She is also on the television show Handcrafted America and demonstrated wheat weaving on the Hallmark Channel.

In 2016 and 2018 she was invited to the Dutch Caribbean Island Saba to teach locals how to weave melon baskets using the Indigenous hoo bush, aka hoop vine. Weaving with this material was lost to the islanders until Joann helped process and weave it.

Working with black ash splint, she has taught workshops nationally and state conventions along with the National Basketry Organization conventions. She has also taught at the Handweavers Guild of America conventions, Arramont School of Arts and Crafts, John C. Campbell Folk School, and the Peters Valley School of Craft. She also teaches locally in her community.

The black ash in the baskets that will be taught at convention were processed near her home in southwest Massachusetts.

Her website is www.joannkellycatsos.com, Facebook is JoAnnKellyCatsosBasketmaker and Instagram is joannkellycatsos.

Char Ciammaichella

Char has been a basket weaver for more than 30 years, designing, weaving, and teaching reed baskets. About 3 years ago, she became very interested in the lapidary process of cutting rocks into beautiful cabochons to use in both jewelry and pine needle basketry.

As she has worked at perfecting coiling techniques on many pine needle baskets, she has been encouraged to start teaching the process. It begins when she collects pine needles in Florida. The needles are dried, cleaned and then soaked in glycerin to make them more pliable for coiling with. Finally, classes will teach techniques to design and weave your custom basket with selections of patterns, colors, beads, etc.

The baskets will start with a cabochon center that she will personally trim, grind and polish into centerpieces mounted and ready to start weaving!

She also turns many cabochons into beautiful silver pendants through silversmithing techniques.

In addition to pine needle baskets, she also continues to teach chainmaille weaving into bracelets and earrings out of sterling silver jump rings!

Her website is www.charsweavings.com



Poppy Hatinger

Poppy has been weaving baskets since the early 80's and started growing willow in 2000. She now grows and harvests willow for basketry and living garden structures. Her first willow weaving experiences were with the American teachers Joanna Schantz, Sandy Whalen, Jo Cambell Amsler, and Katherine Lewis. She has also had instruction from several international teachers including Danish, English, German, Irish, and Spanish weavers. Poppy started teaching and presenting willow information in 2005 and has done classes with gardening groups on living and garden willow structures in Upper Michigan and Wisconsin, along with basket and willow weaving at the Porcupine Mountain folk school. She has also been the co-coordinator of the biannual Coracle event at Echo Cove since 2011. Her work was accepted by the National Basketry Organization and included in their juried exhibition All things Considered VIII. We would like to give Poppy a warm welcome to the AMB Convention.

Gina Kieft

Gina began weaving baskets at the local Community Education when her youngest son was a year old, that was over twenty-five years ago. Choosing to be a stay-at-home mom when her children were young, basket weaving became an outlet for her artistic side. At this time, she has over 150 written patterns, has had works published in two basket magazines and has won several awards in exhibit rooms at many different basket conventions. Her baskets have been sold and displayed not only locally, but all over the world.

Living in rural Rothbury, Michigan, nature plays a large part in her basket designs. Nuts, seeds, pods, grasses, and bark make great embellishments. She enjoys the challenge that new materials present to make a truly unique basket. Trying new mediums, new colors and new techniques is something she loves; however, twill is her favorite.

Gina enjoys teaching at her local Art's Council and Council on Aging as well as scouts, private groups and in her home studio. You will see her teaching at many of the state conventions, basket guilds and retreats. Having the opportunity to teach her love of basketry at different venues in the Midwest, East Coast and Southern States is something for which she is grateful. Teaching is her forte, with patience being her greatest strength. She has been teaching basket weaving classes since 1998. Passing on the love of the art of weaving and seeing the satisfaction of a student after they have completed their project is the greatest feeling. After leaving one of her classes, you have a great basket along with an excellent experience.

Gina is also now a "colorful girl" selling dyed reed all over the country as well as Canada and parts of Europe. You will find her quality dyed reed on her web site – <http://www.ginasbaskets.com>.



Annetta Kraayeveld

Annetta's home and studio are full of baskets. The collecting started when she was a child, the weaving, in 1994 when she found a book and begged for a lesson. She is still obsessed with baskets and finds great satisfaction working with her hands, merging an age-old art form with the contemporary world. Creating functional art pieces is her passion.

Baskets, their history and cultural reach, the variety of technique, the limitless creative possibilities, motivated Annetta to teach. Students are encouraged to master basketry techniques and stretch their perceived limitations. She has been teaching at basketry events and guilds across North America since 2000.

Annetta has earned several awards, and she was honored to have one of her baskets included in the NBO's 10th Annual Basketry Now Exhibit that was hosted in Kentucky.

Annetta was born and raised on the prairies in Alberta, Canada and lives and weaves today in the woods of Wisconsin.

Her website is <https://www.prairiewoodbasketry.com>



Sharon McElroy

Sharon has been weaving, teaching, creating, and selling baskets and patterns since 1982. One of her good friends, Polly Matheson, helped her get started. Matheson also encouraged her to teach baskets to others including one of the first AMB conventions. Even if she is not teaching at convention, she is always there taking a class or two. She has also taught at the North Carolina and Indiana basket conventions.

She has been an active member of the AMB Board serving many different positions including president and guild chairperson. She has been on many AMB convention committees including being a convention co-coordinator. She is also a member of the Crossroad Weavers Guild and has served as the president for many years. She also helps run the Crossroad Weavers Guild Winter Get-Away that happens in February.

As a child, she enjoyed being a member of the 4-H. She also wanted to give back when her children were in 4-H. She now teaches 4-H kids in two different counties, Clinton and Ingham. Many of these kids come back year after year to learn to weave baskets for their fairs. There are many times that she will stay late after the weaving classes or to help students finish their baskets for fair, sometimes it includes encouragement hours before the baskets are to be entered. Many of her kids compete for awards at those fairs every year, including 2020.

Marilyn Parr

Marilyn is from Stanton, Michigan. She has been weaving since 1979 when she took a basket weaving class with friends at a local school. She has been weaving ever since. She has been teaching her own designs since 2015. She loves to design baskets with leather handles and bases made by the Amish but were designed by her. She has taught at conventions and guilds all over the country including the Basket Weaving Cruise in 2020. She loves to sew, quilt and hunt. She has traveled all over the world to go hunting. When she is not traveling, she enjoys creating new patterns and taking care of her herd of cows.

Her website is www.4loveofbaskets.com

Bonnie Rideout

Bonnie wove her first basket in 1995 and quickly caught the “basket bug”. In 2006, she started her business, “Bonnie’s Baskets” teaching others how to weave. That led to selling basketry supplies, baskets and embellishments at craft and art shows. Shortly after she began designing her own baskets, which she absolutely loves to do.

In addition to teaching locally, she loves to travel to teach. “My travels have led me to many great places,” and she looks forward to teaching in many more.

She has lost count how many years she has served as Newsletter Editor and workshop chair for the Basket Art Guild, which meets in Decatur, IL. Currently she is also serving as Secretary for the Land of Lincoln Basketmakers Association. You can check out their website at www.basketartguild.com and www.llbwa.com

In 2018, she went back to her basket business full time. You can check out her website at www.bonniesbasketsil.com. You can also find her on Facebook, Instagram, and Etsy. She hopes to see you on the “basket trail.”



Lorelea Roberts

Lorelea wove her first basket at a maritime museum in Vermont. She was hooked on baskets due to them being a usable outlet for creativity. She designs her own patterns for her bi-monthly subscription box. While not going to conventions to teach, she is at her studio teaching in Louisville, KY. Her website is www.lorelea.com

Suzie Roberts

Suzie started broom making after discovering a long-lost kit when she moved to her new home, and she was hooked. She is self-taught and creates all her brooms intuitively. She teaches classes and workshops throughout the year and around the state.

