

PERPETUATING THE ART OF BASKETRY

Shaker Basketry

DCBG is happy to have Dave and Candy Barnes teach again at the guild in October. They are able to offer a couple Shaker basket styles this year...but what are Shaker Baskets? Art Stritch willingly did some research and combined with his knowledge of the subject, provided the following article to answer that question! *Thanks Art!*

United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing or as we commonly know them as Shakers. Founded 1747 in England and then organized in the United States in the 1780's. The Shakers practiced celibacy and communal utopian lifestyle, pacifism, uniform charismatic worship, and their model of equality of the sexes, which they institutionalized in their society in the 1780s. At its peak in the mid-19th century, there were 2,000–4,000 Shaker believers living in 18 major communities and numerous smaller, often short-lived communities. By 1920, there were only 12 Shaker communities remaining in the United States. As of 2019, there was only one active Shaker village: Sabbathday Lake Shaker Village in Maine.

The Shakers traded with the Native Americans and one such commodity was baskets. The Native baskets were made mostly of river cane and grasses that did not exactly meet the need of the growing communities. They needed stronger baskets for use in the fields as well as household storage. Shakers being a very industrial group, created baskets from the very prolific ash tree, known in the regions of the Northeast. Stronger and very pliable ash became the choice of material for all aspects of their weaving endeavors. Basically, there were two types of baskets those for work and the “fancier” baskets of which we are most familiar with today.

The Shakers embraced technology and adapted wood working tools to tasks necessary in basket making. Tools for removing the bark were fashioned. Large wooden mallets were used to pound the logs to force the annual growth rings to split from the log which would become the staves (stakes) and the weavers. The preparation of the materials were done largely by the male members of the community, while the weaving was done by the women. Depending on the strength, feel and appearances, the splits (wooden rings) were further prepared into the components of the baskets. The most innovative feature was the development of moulds (molds) to ensure a more uniform appearance of the baskets. Molds were constructed of pine, poplar and in some cases oak and cherry. The last two types being harder and required more work in forming the desired shape and size.

(Continued on Pg 4)

SPRING 2026

Newsletter Highlights

Shaker Basketry

Guilders Weave Update

Public Classes

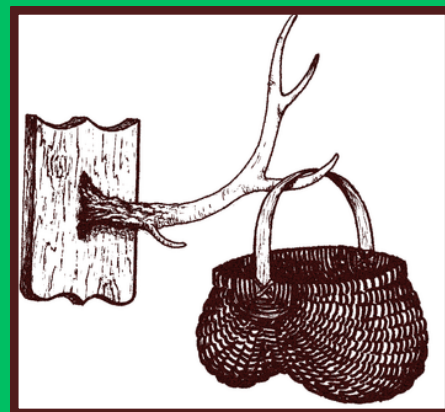
Website Scavenger Hunt

Free Pattern

Tips from the Barnes'

Upcoming Classes

Out and About



“The Lash Word” is a quarterly publication of the Deer Creek Basketry Guild



Hello Members!

I'm melting! I'm melting! Well that's how I felt recently in the extreme heat. But there are some cool ways to beat the heat with classes being held at the Spenceola Clubhouse. We just said goodbye to Cheryl Thomas after her classes in June. The Guild's participation with Steppingstone Events kicked off in July with Saturday at the Farm. We were in the air-conditioned building where classes are held. Our activity was helping youngsters (and any interested adults) finish a simple basket. Volunteers are so needed to assist the participants. We'll be there again on September 12th for Saturday on the Farm.

Another July event is the Harford County Farm Fair. Mary Anne and I continue to urge members to submit baskets to demonstrate the wide range of basket types that our guild creates. Hope you were able to participate and start planning for next year. After the Harford fair, consider taking your baskets down to Timonium for the State Fair and show off to an even bigger audience.

Since there is no August meeting keep an eye on the guild calendar for the Gourd class at Spenceola, the State Fair, September Steppingstone Event, Weaving Odyssey and the Fall Bingo. As of now, I hope you have been able to participate in a lot of the guild events!

Stay cool, *Mary Louise Orth*



UPCOMING CLASSES

Check guild website: deercreekbasketryguild.org for more information!

- August 1, 2026, Public/Member Beginner class at Steppingstone.
- August 8, 2026 - Jim Anspach, weaving on a gourd. Class is full, waitlist established.
- October 1-3, 2026, Dave and Candy Barnes Nantucket classes. Register NLT August 30, 2026.

Email dcbg@zoominternet.net and let June know which classes you'd like to take after they've been announced and she will email you a registration form!

Tips from Nantucket Teachers, Dave and Candy Barnes

Candy shares: I have always been involved in crafts, starting with sewing, knitting, crocheting and needle point. After taking a basket class over 20 years ago, I was hooked. I also found a craft that worked with my husband Dave's love of woodworking.

A good tip to remember is that, when weaving on the mold, if you are a right-handed weaver, keep your left hand (left-handed weavers, right hand) on the staves on top of the mold while holding your hand down tight. This helps keep your weaving tight to the mold along with keeping your spokes as straight as possible.

Dave shares: I grew up in Wrightsville Beach, NC and attended the US Coast Guard Academy. I developed my woodworking skills while stationed in Curtis Bay, MS, Pensacola, FL, Astoria, OR and Sitka, AK. Recently retired as a Marine Analyst and ship's Captain, I can now devote full time developing my woodworking skills on baskets for my wife Candy.

Dave advises us to apply your finish on both the inside and outside of your basket, including the cane.

Not to late to sign up for their October classes!

Out and About

At The Country Seat, Kempton, PA



There are plenty of opportunities to hone your basketry skills throughout the year, and not so far from home.

The Country Seat is known as the go-to spot for basketry supplies. From reed of all sizes and colors, tools and gadgets, kits and patterns, stains and dyes, and lots of embellishments. If you need it (or want it), The Country Seat has it! (countryseat.com)

But did you know they offer basket classes, too? They offer one-day or weekend-long classes throughout the year sure to peak your interest. This year, opportunities included Mel Kessler who taught “The Farmer’s Market tote” in June. Anne Bowers was there for 3 days in July, where students took a deep dive into all things rib basket related, including “The Josephine Knot”, an independent study in egg basketry, as well as other intricate and colorful offerings.

Melinda Kessler will be there for a one day class in October to teach her “Double Swing Handle Wine Basket”, and Denise Bendelewski will be there for 3 days in November for those who love weaving Nantuckets! And don’t forget to check their Facebook page where lots of interesting articles and opportunities are posted.

Contributed by Lisa Owens!



Membership

July 1st marked the beginning of a new year at Deer Creek!

Have you renewed yet? Visit the Guild website to download an application and follow the form instructions. Be sure to email dcbg@zoominternet.net if your contact information changes during the year.

Rejoin for a fun and productive year!

Video of the Quarter

We hear about it, we see it and we LOVE it...but most of us are afraid of it and shy away...I’m talking about the Gretchen rim. That beautiful but complex basket finishing that looks like a dream but is a nightmare to do. Or is it? Check out this YouTube video entitled “Taming the Wretched Gretchen” and see if you can quiet your fears.



Meet Your Board Members! Treasurer, Kathy Garrett

“I am the oldest of 4, 2 sisters and 1 brother, and grew up in Baltimore County. I have lived in Harford County for 37 years. I am married and have 2 children, 4 step-children and together we have 12 grandchildren. We are blessed.

Having been a teacher in Harford County for 23 years, all of which was spent at Homestead-Wakefield Elementary, retiring was exciting but what to do with my time was stretching before me. Basket Weaving was a skill that had been on my so called “bucket list” since a fellow teacher was holding weaving classes in her home.

Too busy to undertake this craft while working, my first wish was to find classes somewhere. I had always said no one would find me at the Senior Center when I retired, but much to my surprise beginner basket weaving was offered at the local senior center so there I was.

I signed up for class with Joanne Sheriff in 2018 and have never looked back. I now have the tubs of kits to be made and baskets decorating our home that so many of you have talked about. Weaving is relaxing for me and the community of friends that I have met through the Senior Center and Deer Creek Basketry Guild has filled that social void that occurs once you retire.

I have learned many new weaving skills and techniques since then from all the wonderful teachers that Deer Creek has invited to teach for the guild. I love working with twill designs and reed. I have stepped outside my comfort zone and am embracing the joy of Nantucket weaving. There are few things better than creating a new basket with a room full of friends.

Thank you all for welcoming me into the guild with such kindness and friendship.”

Bingo Dates

Fall 2026 - September 26, 2026

Spring 2027 - May 1, 2027

Fall 2027 - November 13, 2027

All held at Level Fire Hall, Havre de Grace, MD

Summer '26 Newsletter

- Contribute ideas, articles, resources, pictures, etc. to the next edition of “The Lash Word”! Write it up and email to Mary Anne Trembly at wyoled08@yahoo.com.
- Target publication date: Fourth Week of September 2026! Submissions due: September 15, 2026

It is assumed that Henry Ford developed the assembly line, but the Shakers relied on varying skills of their community members. If an individual was adept at weaving the bottom, then that is what they did and passed the basket to another weaver who was skilled in weaving the side and so forth and so on. The popular boxes and trays were made from preferred cherry wood, for its beautiful grain and its ability to be steamed and bent into the shapes desired. Once again molds were developed to fashion the bottom, sides and tops of the boxes. Boxes were used in household storage and food preparation and “storage”. Of course, refrigeration was still unavailable but the box was suitable to keep small rodents and some insects from spoiling the food stuffs. Trays were fashioned to carry sewing, writing or other components of a craft or task containing smaller items and tools.

By the mid 1800's there were now many communities throughout the northeast that developed baskets styles and used a variety of materials. The Amish wove with many types of wood and were used for utilitarian purposes. The whaling industry spawned the Nantucket style of basketry using many wood materials and eventually the rattan brought back from Asia.

The number of Shakers continued to dwindle since there was no design to re-populate outside the recruitment of adults who were seeking a more simple and peaceful way of life. Women continued to create the fancy baskets that would provide a very lucrative business for survival. Technology and art have elevated the Shaker Style of baskets that we are familiar with. Popular historical sites and many craft and art shows provide many basket enthusiasts engaged in collecting and re-creating their own. Historical re-enactment exhibits and museums keep

the history and cultural arts alive. There are currently 10 Shaker Villages, museums and societies that provide educational and cultural resources mostly located in the Maine, New Hampshire, and New York.

There are a number of Shaker Style basket instructors teaching and holding workshops throughout the U.S. Joanne Kelly Castos, Alice Ogden, Nathan Taylor, Eric Taylor, Sharon Dougan, Karen Wychock. There are most likely other artisans but do not routinely travel for the purposes of “teaching” many may offer small group workshops in their private studios. As a side note; Eric Taylor has developed his own hybrid style of basketry. He incorporates materials and techniques of both Shaker and Nantucket baskets. His skills at both weaving and woodworking have made his classes highly sought out events.

The next chance you get, look closely at a Shaker woven basket. Notice the satin feel of the stakes and weavers. Part of the satin feel is the growth of the ash. As it is split thinner and thinner the side as of the weaver become satiny to the touch and often plays with the light with its smoothness and shades. Black ash splint takes dyes very well and can offer opportunities to add vibrant color and beautiful curls and texture into your splint woven baskets.

Sadly, the ash boring beetle has significantly damaged the quality and availability of the materials in current times. Driving up the costs to make an ash basket or to purchase a finished one. Owning an ash basket is definitely an investment in an art and culture over 350 years old!



“Reed it and Weave”

by Pat Anderson

I picked “Addicted to Baskets: 20 Original Baskets with Step-by-Step Instructions” by Elizabeth Wheeler Clark to review particularly since we have three copies in our library! (The library is housed in our meeting room at Harford Community College.)

I was fascinated, not by the instructions for 20 baskets, but by the plethora of information about anything you ever wanted to know about basket weaving. I spent 2 hours flipping through the pages and reading about things I knew, things I do and things that just make

me chuckle. I like pitch-hitting with knitting needles if you don't have an awl. Being a frustrated knitter, I loved this idea!

Besides weaving tips, storage tips, tool tips, dyeing and staining tips there is a 10-page glossary of weaving terms.

And of course, there is the list of how you know that you are addicted to basket making. I am sure we can all add to that list.

Check it out!

Board Elections Term 2026 thru 2028



As Guild members were collectively gearing up for spring and summer, looking forward to warmer weather and family vacations, our DCBG Board quietly finished out their two-year term. And with that came the request for nominations for a new slate of officers. Paula Cavanaugh volunteered to coordinate 2026-2028 elections, soliciting nominees via email.

At the June meeting, members cast their votes and low and behold, the current DCBG board was re-elected, unopposed. Welcome back Mary Louise Orth (President), Mary Anne Tremblay (Vice President), Lisa Owens (Secretary), Kathy Garrett (Treasurer), Kathi Workman (Education Chair), Louise Beyer (Program Chair), June Hersey (Marketing & Membership)!

We thank you for your continued service to the Guild!

Guilders Weave Update

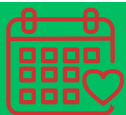
Guilders Weave class announcements and registration info should be coming soon! Target date is August 1st. Be sure to visit tidewaterbasketryguild.org. Make your plans now to attend scheduled for January 14-17 at Newport News, Virginia. DCBG is one of five sister guilds invited to attend Guilders Weave!

Website

Be sure to check our website, deercreekbasketryguild.org for latest information!

Suggestions to improve the website or to contribute resources, articles, pictures of Guild event..., email: dcbg@zoominternet.net

Meeting Dates



August 2026 - NO Meeting - Happy Vacationing!
September 13, 2026 - Harford Community College
October 4, 2026 - Harford Community College
November 1, 2026 - Steppingstone (Dye Party)
(Time: 10 am - 2 pm)
December 6, 2026 - Luncheon at Mountain Branch
Restaurant, Joppa, MD; Watch for Details

DCBG Public Classes

Do you have a friend intrigued by your basket weaving? Perhaps they would like to try it themselves but don't know how to get started.

A great way is for them to sign up for our public classes held at Steppingstone Farm Museum in Havre de Grace, MD. Each month the guild offers a beginner level basket they can finish in one day. Classes begin at 9:30 and are usually complete by 3:30 pm.

Have them send an email to dcbg@zoominternet.net to be added to the public list receiving class announcements or direct them to our website.

Guild Members volunteer their time to teach a different basket each month. It's a great way to keep the Guild visible in the community and to share the art of basket weaving. Our public classes are one of the Guild's most important outreach programs. So far this year, attendees have woven "Country Carrier" "Potato Masher" "Mason" "Criss Cross Market" Lazy Hearts" and "Flower Vase". Have them sign up for the "Beach Pouch" basket class to be held August 1st!

We do warn students that basketweaving can be addictive! As proven by the Guild adding approximately 20 members over the last couple years.

Interesting Facts The Number "3"

- The number 3 holds special significance across many cultures around the world, typically positive outcomes such as luck, balance, or divine perfection. But why three? There are several different explanations, from the ancient belief in the geometrical balance of triangles to the religious concept of the Holy Trinity.
- In Christian doctrine, the trinity, the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as three divine persons. The number is also found in other religions. In Hinduism, for example, the Trimurti refers to the triad of deities Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva. In Kabbalah, the Supernal Triad refers to the top three sefirot, or spheres of emanation, on the Tree of Life.
- Apart from geometry and religion, it seems humans have a psychological affinity for the number three — possibly because it's the smallest number required to create a pattern. For all these reasons, things often seem to come in trios in popular culture: three wishes, three little pigs, three bears, "third time's a charm."

Interesting!

This pattern contains some little hints. Also has the "interwoven backstitch" (aka "LoveKnot") added to the rim. You might want to add this nice little detail to a basket soon!

Springtime Tote Basket

2006 by Beth Hester

The Basket Maker's Catalog

www.basketmakerscatalog.com



Basket Size: 12" x 8" Height: 13" including handle

!

I created this colorful, feminine basket—with my mom, Betty Hester, in mind. It's generously sized, woven with flat and round reed on a wooden base and has a "Heart" handle. I hope you enjoy weaving this...with one of your favorite people in mind.

Materials:

5" x 8" Oblong Slotted Wooden Base	Item 2155	1
1/2" Flat Reed Multi Colors	Item M722	35 ft. Stakes / Weaver
#2 Round Reed		35 ft. Weavers
1/4" Flat Reed	Item 2020	85 ft. Weavers
12" Ash Heart Handle	Item 1014	1
3/8" Flat Reed	Item 2312	4 ft. Rim row 8
1/2" Flat Oval	Item 1038	ft. Rims
#6 Round	Item 3312	4 ft. Rim Filler
11/64" Flat	Item 2060	30 ft. Lashing
	Item 1164	

Hints in working with Reed

1. When the pattern calls for soaking your flat reed, soaking 1 or 2 minutes in warm water is usually long enough to make reed flexible. Soak the Round Reed and Flat Oval Reed for 5 to 10 minutes in hot water. If reed becomes dry while you are weaving, dip it in water for a few seconds or spray with water.
2. Do not over soak your reed, it will become mushy.
3. Flat reed has a smooth side and a rough side. You can determine the rough side by sharply bending a wet piece of reed in half. The rough side will usually fray or splinter more than the smooth side.
4. Keep your weaving even as you make your basket. When weaving the sides, do not leave spaces between the rows of weaving.
5. As you weave, gently push or pull on the stakes to keep them vertical, maintain a pleasing shape and keep the stakes equal distance apart..
6. Reed should be completely dry before being stored.

Getting Started

Sand and finish the wooden base. Mark the center of each long side and each narrow end of your wooden base with a slight pencil mark. Cut 30 pieces (stakes) 11" long from 1/2" Multi Color Flat Reed and soak for a few minutes. Insert one stake (**smooth side up**) into the groove at each narrow end's pencil mark. These stakes are the stakes on which your handle will be inserted after the weaving is complete. Note where the center mark is on the long sides. Place one stake to either side of the pencil mark on the long sides. Insert remaining stakes evenly around the base.

Weaving the Basket

Soak a long piece of #2 Round and twine one row pushing each stitch tightly against the base. Twine a total of 4 rows, pushing each stitch tightly against the previous row. You are working on the outside of the basket at this point.

While weaving the following rows, stop often to check the circumference, adjust the staves so they are equal distance apart, and pack your weavers. Circumference at the basket's rim is around 32 inches. As you weave each row, position the center narrow "end" stakes (the stakes where you'll put your handle) straight up the basket.

Spray the stakes being careful not to wet the base. Hold the basket so the smooth side of the stakes are out. Weave the sides (smooth side to the outside) according to the following:

Row 1- 20	1/4" Flat
Row 21	#2 Round (twine or triple twine) <i>Do not cut the #2 after weaving this row</i> — <i>leave the ends of the #2 on the inside of the basket</i> — <i>weave Row 22 with 1/2" Flat Dyed Reed</i> — <i>resume weaving with the #2 for Row 23</i>
Row 22	1/2" Dyed Reed
Row 23	#2 Round (twine or triple twine) secure ends behind some weavers
Rows 24-29	1/4" Flat
Row 30	3/8" Flat (rim row)

Soak stakes that extend above the top of your basket. Cut and tuck each stake where the top row of weaver is on the inside of the basket, hiding the tucked end behind a couple of weavers on the inside of your basket.

Cut all remaining stakes level with the top of the basket.

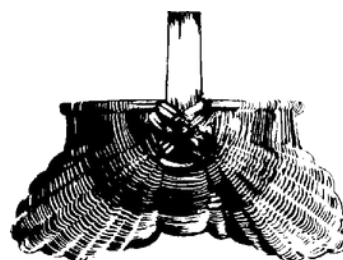
Sand the handle then insert it from the inside behind some weavers along the center stake on the narrow ends.

Measure the basket's circumference and cut the rim material to length (cut the outside rim 4 inches longer than the circumference and cut the inside rim 2 inches longer than the circumference); sand the oval side of your rims. Soak rims for a few minutes then attach rims to basket with clothespins and mark the overlaps with a pencil. Remove rims and carve the overlap areas--carving the rounded side of one end of each rim and the flat side of the other end.

Attach rims and rim filler to the basket, using cable ties, cutting the rim filler to butt against each side of the handle.

Double lash the basket (creating a ***love knot***—an interwoven backstitch—at the handle) with 11/64" Flat. See photo below.

This is such a wonderful basket in size and shape—and it's easy to make. I hope you really enjoy thinking of all the ways to use this practical, pretty basket .



GH Productions, Inc.
TheBasketMaker's Catalog
521 E. Walnut St. • P.O. Box 621
Scottsville, KY 42164
270-237-4821 • 1-800-447-7008
www.basketmakerscatalog.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

www.deercreekbasketryguild.org

	<i>Hunt for:</i>	<i>Found it:</i>
1	What door prize basket did we weave for the Spring 2024 Bingo?	
2	The Nantucket Group has several molds; which mold has a fruit in its name?	
3	What is the street address for our regular meeting location?	
4	What year was the guild founded?	
5	If you scan the QR code found on the website, what website does it take you to?	
6	On September 8, 2021, who thanked the guild for information found on our website?	
7	If you were a genie, which page on the website might interest you?	
8	Name the Board positions designated as "Members at Large"	
9	Who won the "Challenge Basket" category at the Harford County Fair in 2025?	
10	Identify the book we have in the guild library written by Elizabeth Jensen?	
11	I have a 5" Williamsburg handle; what pattern in the guild library uses this handle?	
12	Who should you contact if you'd like to help the guild at a public event?	

Website

