Goodbye Springtime and welcome Summertime! It sure does seem like we jumped right from the cool mornings and evenings of spring right into the heat and humidity of a full blown summer. Whew! And all of those mosquitos and no-see-ems that were sleeping now are wide awake and hungry. Gees. So much for sitting outside in the early morns and evenings. It’s time to take the weaving back indoors.

I’ve seen so many pictures posted on Facebook of you all in your glorious ‘by the lake’ or ‘by the river’ weaving spots up north and it makes me a bit jealous of what I imagine is a cool breeze gently blowing. Not so much in the Midwest and south now.

But I have been inspired by many of the basket photos I’ve seen posted. Some new ideas and awesome baskets have been graciously shared. And they all look so perfect.

I’m curious though. What do you do with your mistakes? You’ve woven 15 rows and your shape just doesn’t look like what you intended. The colors you had carefully chosen look hideous together (the feature article this month is on choosing colors). What do you do when you’ve reached the rim row and found that your handle choice is NOT going to fit?

Me … I make the most of it (usually). I do NOT like ripping out (unless it’s a shape issue – then you pretty much have no choice). Otherwise, I adjust as I go either changing colors up or choosing another handle selection. I find some baskets will turn out surprisingly well and a new pattern is born - even though it wasn’t what I originally planned.

If you’re a new weaver, mistakes are proof you are trying, don’t give up. Sometimes your best teacher is your last mistake. And no matter how many mistakes you make or how slow you progress, at least you are trying. One who makes no mistakes, makes nothing.

What is it they say? It’s not a mistake to make a mistake, but it is a mistake to make the same mistake twice.

I’d like to say that I never make the same mistake twice. But sometimes I make it five or six times. You know … just to be sure :o)

Funny thing though. The same thoughts that apply to mistakes when weaving baskets also apply to life. Think about it.
**"Gracie" – Large Gathering Basket**

Woven on a wood base, “Gracie” was designed for a customer’s yoga mats and exercise equipment. It’s also the perfect size for a hearth side basket filled with throws and afghans.

My little fur baby model, Gracie, thinks it’s the ideal place to snuggle up for an afternoon nap. And she’s pretty finicky about where she sleeps (just kidding – she will sleep anywhere, lol).

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**There are some great weaving technique videos available online. We all use them from time to time. I don’t know about you, but I don’t always weave close to my computer and I can’t remember what I watched. A printed pattern or technique tutorial is the easiest reference to have at your weaving table. Coming next month, I will be releasing printable technique instructions on my website – FREE!**

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**"Makayla" – Basket Weaving Pattern on Sale during July!**

Contrasting interior and exterior patterns are highlighted by the triple lashing technique used to lash this table basket.

Detailed photos will help you gain a lashing skill that looks complicated but is simple to master.

Learn how spoke and weaver placement will create an interesting and eye-catching design.

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**Have you tried a Bright Expectations Baskets pattern yet? Most patterns have more than 10 photos – some as many as 30! Very detailed instruction is included with each pattern.**

**"Shop Bright Expectations Patterns Now"**
It’s sometimes hard to choose an accent color for a new basket you are weaving. It’s even more difficult to select multiple colors that complement each other and don’t clash. Plus, did you know that 1 in 12 men (which is why wives have to pick out their husband’s clothes, lol) and 1 in 200 women have some degree of color blindness? People with the most severe forms of color blindness (or color deficiency) can only tell about 20 hues apart from each other. Compare that to the normal color vision which can distinguish more than 100 different hues. So most of us can use a little help from time to time.

For those with true difficulty in seeing true colors, it always helps to ask a friend their opinion. Don’t wear your heart on your sleeve when they say “you’ve got to be kidding about using those!” Just heed their advice and ask for a little help in making an alternative choice.

Choosing color schemes can be as easy as going to the paint counter at your local Lowe’s or Home Depot. Many paint swatches show color combinations that are pleasing to the eye. You can pick up a few of these and start an inspiration library. For me, I have a Pinterest board titled “Color My World”. I’m always pinning color palettes for easy reference later. One of my favorite inspiration websites is www.design-seeds.com. I love that they give color swatches and then also a “real life” example. Check out a few examples below.

You can see than not only does it give you colors that go well together, but it shows you how they work in nature with real life examples. And for those who need particulars – Design Seeds also provides the color code number so you can look it up (great for website design or painting your bedroom).

This next website is a really fun one! Try out www.palettetfx.com. You can upload (very quickly) one of your own pictures. A color palette will be generated immediately that reflects your photo. You can then click your mouse on any one of the colors in the palette to identify it. See the photo down below.

They will then provide a “complementary” color – which is one that is opposite it on the color wheel. Use complementary colors when you want something to stand out.

The “triad” colors will also be provided. Triad colors are evenly spaced (triangle) around the color wheel and can be used to create “harmony”. Using triadic colors are best used when one dominates and the two others are used for accent.

Here’s an example from their website using a photo I took of a recent sunrise in Naples, Florida.

I know … isn’t that just an awesome sunrise! Hypothetically, if that photo was blown up to 16” x 20” and was hanging over my entryway table, I could easily choose colors that would perfectly coordinate.

I hope you have not only gained some potential sources for exploring color combinations, but that you have also learned some interesting facts.

“The purest and most thoughtful minds are those which love color the most.” John Rushkin
ENJOY THESE COLORFUL BASKETS AND VISIT THE WEAVER’S WEBSITE BY CLICKING ON THEIR NAME BELOW EACH PHOTO.
UPCOMING WEAVING EVENTS

JULY, 2016
7th-9th: Kentucky Basket Associations 20th Annual Convention. kentuckybasketassociation.org
10th-16th: Traditional Cherokee Basketry w/Larry Croslin in Taos, NM. taosartschool.org
15th-16th: Black Ash Basketry with Alice Ogden in Scottsville, KY. basketmakerscatalog.com
20th-23rd: Tennessee Basketry Convention in Alcoa, TN. Contact Fran Sorrell at 901-409-8649 or fwsorrell@ael.com. tennesseebasketryassociation.org

AUGUST, 2016
4th-7th: Missouri Basketweavers Guild 25th Annual Convention. basketweavers.org
25th-27th: Heritage Basketry Guild Fall Weave Retreat in Dayton, OH heritagebasketryguild.com
27th: Columbia Basin Basketry Guild in West Linn, Oregon. basketryguild.org

SEPTEMBER, 2016
4th-6th: WVBA 2016 Convention in Clarksburg, WV. wvbasketweaversassoc.com
19th-23rd: Michigan Basketweavers Annual Convention "Weavers Wonderland". michiganbasketmakers.com
21st-23rd: Oklahoma's Basketweavers Guild 17th Annual Weavers Weekend in Shawnee, OK. okbasketweaversguild.com

OCTOBER, 2016
27th: Columbia Basin Basketry Guild in West Linn, Oregon. basketryguild.org

NOVEMBER, 2016
5th-7th: Western Pleasure Basket Retreat in Sandpoint, Idaho. www.jchoatebasketry.com

JANUARY, 2017
19th-22nd: Texas Basket Weavers Assoc. To be held in Houston. texasbasketweavers.com
TBA: Northwest Basket Weavers Retreat Workshop "Weave in Winter". nwbasketweavers.org

FEBRUARY, 2017
TBA: Georgia Basketry Assoc. Annual Convention "Baskets Forever and Ever". georgiabasketry.com
TBA: Wildwood Basketry Guild's "Winter Weave" in Mentor, Ohio. winterweave.com

MARCH, 2017

APRIL, 2017
6th-8th: Stateline Friends Weaving Retreat in Richmond, Indiana. www.statelinefriends.com

MAY, 2017
5th-7th: Conference of Northern California Handweavers in Pacific Grove. www.cnch.org

There are many guilds, weaving groups, and clubs across the country. There might be one near you.
To see a listing of guilds by state with contact and convention information, please refer to this listing provided by The Country Seat. Click here.
Pattern Library

Clicking on any PICTURE will connect you to the pattern listing.