

The Reed Reader

by *Bright Expectations Baskets*

Basket Weaving Patterns * Ready Made Baskets * Custom Created Baskets

Sometimes Life Just Gets in the Way

This newsletter is a HUGE priority for me and I normally am working on the content for the entire month leading up to the mass email. April however, has been one of those crazy months when life has just gotten in the way and this month's issue is abbreviated. But don't expect this to become a trending habit.

The BIG news is ... I'm unveiling my newly revamped website! Those of you who have tackled this can understand the mind boggling task of first off deciding which venue to use (I've chosen Shopify). Learning the ins and outs of a whole new software has been enough to make me want to pull my hair out at times. But it's evolving and a continued work in progress. The website address is the same ... brightexpectationsbaskets.com. I'll still be using my Etsy shop also, but will be transitioning customers to use the new website. Patterns will still be available by instant, digital download, as well as ready to ship and custom order baskets.

I will be also adding a blog to the website with more tips, ideas, and information of interest to not only customers, but to other weavers as well. Plus there will be a resource page coming soon with lots of links to vendors of general supplies as well as specialty items.

As if that wasn't enough, I'm switching the distribution of the newsletter to utilize MailChimp software. I'm hoping this will avoid some of the emails from ending up in the recipient's spam folders. I'll be anxious for feedback. New subscribers will be able to sign up directly from my website.

Between these issues plus some new patterns, I've spent WAY too much time staring at a computer this month. Next month I hope to return to normal - whatever that is :o)

Please remember that when viewing the newsletter from your computer, that clicking on anything shown in blue will link you directly to the correct website referenced.

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You can find me at:

brightexpectationsbaskets.com

www.brightexpectations.etsy.com

www.facebook.com/BrightExpectations

Or by email ...

beckybechtel@gmail.com

What's New this Month >>

Kenzie, Faye, & Hannah Patterns

What's New this Month >>

Selling Online - Photography

Next Month >>

Let's Roll - A Border That Is

Bright Expectations LLC

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Mt. Vernon, IL or Naples, FL

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BASKETRY SUPPLIES - COUPON

Basket Bees - Home of The Perfect Slotted Wood Base www.basketbees.com

With your first order of 2016, receive the Basket Bees original pattern "Little Liberty" and a 3" round single slotted wood base!

Visit their new website and "like" them on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/basketbees).

No Glue + No Tricks = No Frustration

Are you a supplier or vendor of basketry related items? I would love to feature your store or webpage here. If you can provide a discount to "The Reed Reader's" followers that would be great! Even a small discount for a limited time can encourage a new shopper.

["Hannah"](#) - Market Basket with Braid Weave



Braid weave has been showing up on several baskets lately. The technique is actually quite simple but adds a unique look to a basket. The interlocking v knot on the handle tops it off.

This pattern contains almost **30 photos** with detailed instruction for the braid weave - and the bonus tutorial for the interlocking v knot.

"Hannah" is woven with all natural reed which many buyers prefer, but this basket would also be very pretty using different dyed reeds for the braid weave and knot.

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Hannah"](#)

["Faye"](#) Divided Tote Basket with Shaker Tape

Perfect shopper's tote! Fits neatly behind the seat in your vehicle and is comfortable to carry on your shoulder or in your hand.

"Faye" is a super-sturdy tote that can handle a load and still be organized. The smaller, inner basket is attached at the base and the sides.

This pattern is very in-depth in detail and has **29 photos!**

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Faye"](#)



*Unique tips in the pattern
"Faye" include uses for a
wood paint stirrer and
plastic gallon milk jug!
Intrigued??*

["Kenzie"](#) - Bucket Style Basket with a Twist



I had posted a preview picture of this bright and colorful basket and gotten great feedback. Several weavers wanted to use the pattern for a fun summertime guild project. It's a quick weave and has some many summertime uses.

The fun twist in the twining adds a little something extra!



[Kenzie](#) is woven on a wood base and has handy wire and wood side handles.

Contact me for a discount on orders of multiple patterns for your guild or weaving group to buy and use.

*To purchase this basket PATTERN,
please click below.*

["Kenzie"](#)

My 1st Weaving Convention - Stateline Weaving Retreat 2016

I've always been a bit jealous of all the pictures you see on Facebook of a big group of basket weavers all in the same room weaving up a storm. Because of logistics, other commitments, or just plain didn't get registered in time, I have never before had the opportunity to weave at a convention or retreat. Until this year ... until Stateline Weaving Retreat in Richmond, Indiana. Wow! What an awesome experience! If you haven't tried it yet, well ... you should!

First, I was fortunate to be able to meet many of The Reed Reader subscribers and put some faces to the names. What nice folks you all are! If I had one significant suggestion to make it even better, it would be to have a social gathering where we could simply mingle, meet, and greet maybe on the evening of early registration. I understand the space restrictions they have and this might not be possible considering the vendors are setting up at that time. But I did get to meet several in the classes that I took. I wove around a bottle using cedar with Pam Talsky, made a market basket with a unique handle design with Trista Rothgerber, and created nesting paper baskets with Annetta Kraayeveld. And while the cedar and paper weaving were out of my normal element, I thoroughly enjoyed the classes and brought away tips and ideas that can be used with traditional reed baskets too.

If you haven't had the opportunity to weave at a convention before, here are some tips that as a newbie myself, I feel worthy to pass on.

- 1) Register for your classes early. And consider taking a class outside of your normal realm. Try weaving with willow, paper, or cedar - how often are you presented with the teacher, supplies, and instruction to try something new in a single afternoon? Choose as many classes for each day as allowed rating your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice. Don't be disappointed too greatly if you don't get your 1st choice.
- 2) Take your full tool kit. In my mind, I thought it would be easier for a smaller version of my tool kit. I spent a good deal of time trying to find a particular tool that I knew was in that darned small kit, but couldn't see. I am familiar with my full tool kit and I will take it next year. It will be noted on your class description of special tools are needed.
- 3) Find out what vendors will be there and if you have an order to place, have them bring it with them to save you shipping charges. I found out (after the fact) of a vendor that I had hoped would be there (that wasn't on the list) that was there as a student weaver, not in a vendor booth. So even if they aren't on the list, it doesn't hurt to ask.
- 4) If there are particular patterns or kits you might have been looking for, and the creator is teaching, contact them and ask them to bring for the teacher's marketplace. I had been looking for a pattern (Footed Quatrefoil Provender) by Karen Kotecki, and score! She brought me the pattern I had been in search of for two years.

Here's a few tips I picked up in the classes:

- * When spokes are loose in a wood base slot, use long quilting pins to secure them in place temporarily until the first couple of rows are woven. Insert the pin on top of the spoke into the slot to act as a "shim" or wedge.
- * Add spokes in quadrants on wood bases, twining or weaving a locking row on each quadrant before going to the next section. Make sure your spokes number correctly and are spaced evenly for each quadrant. Using a template that is rubber banded to the base can help with this.
- * When triple twining, add *double spoke thickness* on the three starting spokes. You can choose to mirror this on the basket's opposite side if desired for aesthetic purposes. Begin and end your twining between the double spokes to hide the reed ends. No more gluing round reed or leaving raw ends to catch on the basket's contents! The double spokes will also remind you where to "step up" if required by the pattern.

I gained a new weaving tip, technique, or short cut in every class I took that I can apply or adapt to my everyday weaving. I will be making it a priority to attend any weaving conference that I can in the future and highly recommend the experience for you too.

A Favor to Ask of the Subscribers ...

I have received so many positive and encouraging compliments on The Reed Reader and the subscriber list is growing beyond what I ever imagined. That's a good thing. It is however, WAY more work than I expected in managing the various subscriber inquiries and requests. It is my intent to keep this as a free publication and to reach out to as many weavers as possible sharing tips, patterns, and ideas.

In order to continue with The Reed Reader as a complimentary newsletter, it would be deeply appreciated if you would consider purchasing a pattern from time to time to offset my labor cost in publishing this. Many, many of you have (and continue to do so) and I am grateful for your support. I believe that you will find my patterns very detailed with an unusual amount of photos and descriptive technique instruction. Many patterns contain 15-20 photos (sometimes more) with step-by-step direction.

I sincerely thank you for all of the kind emails, messages, and Facebook posts expressing your love of The Reed Reader. There are so many ideas that I have in my head that I just need to get transferred to copy for future issues. So much to look forward to. In fact, I think the future is filled with "*Bright Expectations*"!

All the best to you, and please keep sending me your thoughts, comments, and ideas for the newsletter.

WEAVING EVENTS

MAY, 2016

5th -8th: Western Pleasure Basket Retreat w/Jill Choate in Sandpoint, ID. squareup.com

6th-7th: Twining with Iris, Day Lily, and Cattail Foliage w/Matt Tommey in Asheville, NC. hmattommey.com

27th-30th: Black Ash Pack Basket at the Woodspirit Workshop in Odanah, WI. woodspirithandcraft.com

JUNE, 2016

6th-10th: Stowe Basketry Festival in Vermont. roundhearth.com

10th-12th: "Weave In" with Upper South Carolina Basket Makers Guild. orgsites.com

24th-26th: "Weavin' In Winona" in Winona, Minnesota. mbwg.org/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

9th-11th: Camp Tuck-A-Basket in Normal, Illinois. llbwa.com/events

15th-18th: Weaving Odyssey in Central Pennsylvania. basketry.homestead.com

16th-17th: NCBA "Hooked on Baskets" in Swansboro, NC. ncbasketmakers.com

23rd-25th: Wolf River Basketry Guild Fall Workshop in Shawano, Wisconsin. wolfriverbasketryguild.com

OCTOBER, 2016

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

NOVEMBER, 2016

4th-6th: WVBA 2016 Convention in Clarksburg, WV. wvbasketweaversassoc.com

JANUARY, 2017

19-22: 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

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 - Available in my [Etsy Shop](#)

Clicking on any basket name will connect you to the pattern listing.



["Beatrice"](#)



["Makayla"](#)



["Daphne"](#)



["Yasmine"](#)



["Cassie"](#)



["Sue"](#)



["Harbor"](#)



["Gabbie"](#)



["Kelsey"](#)



["Jaclyn"](#)



["Zoey"](#)



["Fiona"](#)



["Mia & Mya"](#)



["Zelda"](#)



["Betsy"](#)



["Mary"](#)



["Gloria"](#)



["Paisley"](#)



["Olivia"](#)



["Valerie"](#)



["Randa"](#)



["Minnie"](#)



["Lucy"](#)



["Reba"](#)



["Isabella"](#)