In the October issue of The Reed Reader I did a feature article on the process that I used in dyeing my own reed.

And I wanted to give you a follow up on how this has been going for me and a picture is worth a thousand words, right?

I’ve decided a few things about dyeing reed …

- This is super easy to do!
- Fall is the perfect time with great weather to take your project outside. Who doesn’t like watching the leaves change colors – almost right before your eyes?
- No more having to buy full pounds of each size in every color you want. Just dye smaller amounts of multiple reed widths at the same time. Just make sure you dye enough for the basket pattern you have in mind.
- Convenience and on-demand dyed reed. My last order (from a supplier- NorEsta - who is now closing shop I’m sad to say) had a lead time of 8 weeks to ship. I don’t know about you, but that’s hard for me to plan for.
- This saves so much money! Just compare the price of a pound of dyed reed versus that of natural. Wow!!

Did you know that you can access back issues of The Reed Reader? If you’d like to read the issue about dyeing reed, or any other back issue, just click here …

www.BrightExpectationsBaskets.com/Newsletter

Registration is continuing until all classes are full and there’s no space left. So if you haven’t mailed yours yet, you need to! For details of the event, a class catalog and schedule, and a registration form, go to www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com, which will link you to my website blog.
"Alysha" – Large Gathering Basket

Chances are you have heard of Rodan and Fields and someone on your Facebook page is selling and promoting it. Their catalog has a signature bright blue (as does their “Redefine” product line). I was asked by one of their consultants to weave a basket that created ease of transporting their makeup and displays to home based parties and “Alysha” was born.

Woven on a wood base, this large gathering style basket would serve well as a toy basket, picnic basket, or on your fireplace hearth filled with cozy afghans and throws for the chilly winter ahead.

The bright accent color against the deep smoked reed gives “Alysha” a modern and contemporary look. You know you want this one!

"Kumiko" – Oval Market Basket

“Kumiko” which means “pretty braided girl” in Japanese is a fitting name for this vibrant market basket woven on an oval wood base.

The braid weave creates an interesting and textural center accent. The coordinating handle wrap gives the market style basket a cohesive finish. While this wrap looks like it would be delicate, it is **amazingly** sturdy.

Learn how to triple braid weave and do the handle wrap with detailed instructions with step-by-step photos. You’ll master these techniques in no time and have the skills to incorporate them on many other basket designs.

"Pasha" – Large Gathering Basket

“Pasha” is Alysha’s even bigger cousin. This bold aquamarine accent reed is some that I dyed myself using RIT dyes (the process was detailed in last month’s issue). The secret to keeping the true color of the dyed reed is to finish the basket with clear stain which tends to deepen the smoked reed’s hue.

The easy-to-grab leather handles make this a great toy basket or laundry basket. She’s a big girl and ready for big jobs. This sized basket is without a doubt my best seller.
Seriously … where has this year went? 2016 has flown by. It seems as the number of my years gets higher, the faster the years on the calendar zip by right before my eyes. It’s hard to believe that I’m putting a Christmas header in the newsletter already.

I’m not one to rush the holidays so don’t think I’m going to miss out on the turkey and dressing this month. But as a weaver, a little preparation ahead of time pays off. Baskets for gifting are underway and hopefully you’ve got some orders to get filled and shipped too. And maybe you have a holiday craft show or two that you still have on your schedule.

A small tree on your craft show display table with some hand woven ornaments is a great eye catcher. Ornaments can often double as gift card holders too. And if you like to be weaving as small project to garner attention to your booth, ornaments do not require much room or materials to transport.

Here’s a compilation of some FREE patterns available on the internet. Note … these are NOT my patterns and I always attempt to give credit where it’s due. Just click on the photo (when viewing the newsletter from your computer, tablet, or phone) and you will be magically transported to the pattern.

“Woven Heart” by Joyce Lantz from Sylva, NC (jlantz@smallbus.com). Pattern available on The Basket Maker’s Catalog’s website.

This cute little snowman (or add some hair for a snow woman :o) can stand alone or add a ribbon and hang it as an ornament. The “Standing Snowman Basket Pattern” was posted in 2007 to the basketpatterns.blogspot.com website. No author noted.

Free woven star patterns can easily be found by doing an internet search for “paper star patterns”. And you will find a multitude of options. Just substitute reed in 3/16” or 1/4” sizes and you’ll be good to go.

This woven star was made by Heidi and can be found on www.happinesshomemade.net.

I’m sure you’ve seen these cute woven reindeer in various patterns. This free pattern can be found on a website in another language but has great, easy to follow instructions. The author is Bulgakov Svetlana. Just change to ¼” FF reed!
Bright Expectations Pattern Library

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