

April 2017 – Volume 19

Page 1:

Will I See You There?

Page 2:

New Pattern Releases

“Gretchen” Rolled Rim Border

“Camille” Shelf Basket

“Tabitha” Gathering Basket

Page 3 - 4:

Get a Handle on Your Handle

Page 5:

Patterns Available on my
Website or in my Etsy shop.



*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.*

Bright Expectations Baskets LLC

is weaving in either
Mt. Vernon, IL or Naples, FL

Becky Bechtel

Phone: 618.316.1838

E-mail: beckybechtel@gmail.com

www.BrightExpectationsBaskets.com

www.BrightExpectations.Etsy.com

www.facebook.com/BrightExpectations

So Many Conventions, So Little Time

I don't know if time or money is the issue, but there are so many great weaving conventions, seminars, and retreats this time of year. And I always want to go to them *ALL*! Do you have your dream list of baskets that you would love to take a class to learn? Or a specific instructor that you have salivated over the possibility of sitting in on one of their classes?

Because of my (normally) south Florida residence, I don't have the opportunity to attend very many. But I am making a concerted effort to attend at least a few this year. I just signed up for the Bluegrass Area Basketmakers Seminar in Jabez, Kentucky on June 13th to 17th and am finally going to get to take not just one, but TWO classes with Anne Bowers. She has been on my bucket list for quite some time and I'm pretty psyched to weave two ribbed baskets in her classes. I'll also be taking an intricate Cherokee twill class with Laura Lee Zanger who I had the opportunity to meet and have teach at our Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat in January. She is one of the best, if not THE best, on awesome twill weaving and I'm going to have a seat front and center to learn from the master. Will you be there? Check it out at:

[Bluegrass Area Basketmakers Seminar](#)

Here are some other weaving events that you might want to check out (that I'd sure love to attend). Who knows ... maybe I'll see you there!

[11th Annual Stateline Friends Weaving Retreat April 6th-8th](#)

[Northeast Basketmakers Guild Gathering April 21st-23rd](#)

[Weavin' Up North 2017 \(Bemidji, MN\) – April 21st-23rd](#)

[Western Pleasure Basket Retreat – May 4th-7th](#)

[Stowe Basketry Festival – May 14th-21st](#)

[Tennessee Basketry Association Convention – July 19th-22nd](#)

[Weavin' in Winona – June 23rd-25th](#)

[Missouri Basketweavers Guild Convention – August 3rd-6th](#)

[Heritage Basketry Guild's Fall Weave – August 24th-26th](#)

Did you know that you can access back issues of “The Reed Reader”? If you'd like to read any of the newsletters you missed or share back issues with a friend, just click here ...

www.BrightExpectationsBaskets.com/Newsletter

"GRETCHEN" – The Wretched Gretchen in Detail



We have all discussed (and cursed) the Wretched Gretchen rolled rim border. And if you were like me when I was trying to learn it, I searched and searched (to no avail) for either a video or clear pictures to go with the verbiage on how to weave the darned thing. Well, I finally took the time to do a simple basket with clear and detailed instruction **WITH PHOTOS!**



The pattern for "Gretchen" is more of a tutorial on the rolled rim (rather than the very basic table basket – although it is included). There are 25 pictures in the detailed guide that will have you toasting your success of conquering the Wretched Gretchen. The technique can then be used on any basket's rim.

To purchase this
PATTERN, please
click below.

["Gretchen"](#)

"CAMILLE" – Shelf Basket with Geometric Accent



To purchase
this
PATTERN,
please click
below.
["Camille"](#)



One of these days I am going to fill my pantry shelves with pretty, handmade shelf baskets. And my office. And heck, why not ... my bathroom closet shelves too. "Camille" would be a great choice for any of those.

The basket is basic in nature and woven on a wood base. The fun part is the geometric accent weaving that is added at the end. Step-by-step instructions will walk you through the "overs and unders" of creating the layered diamond design. While "Camille" is woven in neutral tones, it would be pretty in rich jewel tones too.

"TABITHA" – Gathering Basket for Toys, Laundry, or Throws



To purchase this
PATTERN, please click
below.
["Tabitha"](#)

I have to admit it. I'm a big basket kind of girl. You know ... go big, or go home kind of thing. And I really like designing big baskets. "Tabitha" is a BIG basket. Big enough for a full load of laundry, a full bushel of apples, a huge pile of toys, or several throws or blankets hearthside.

"Tabitha" is woven on a wood base and has functional and stylish pottery handles. If you like these handles in particular, and would like to order some, just let me know. I have them custom made by an artisan in Tennessee and have many colors and shapes (round, hexagon, and oval) available.



Get a Handle on Your Handle



Disclosure to begin with. I didn't come up with the idea for this nifty little double X idea for the handle when lashing. In a class of mine at the Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat, I watched someone do this on a basket and was intrigued by the little added bonus flair it added. (I think it was Jinger Wilson?) And since then, I've seen the accent done on a couple of baskets on Pinterest.

So I decided to see if I could figure it out and this is what I came up with. While it might not be exactly as they had weaved it, it's still a pretty cute addition to a basket.

The finished look of the double X on basket pattern called "Oceana".



First off, because there are many new weavers who subscribe to the newsletter, I'm going to do some very basic instruction. When lashing a basket with either a push-in or D handle, in my opinion, it looks much better if you "X" the handle as you go by it. So, we'll go through each step here. And I apologize for the change in the exposure in the following pictures. It's what happens when you go from a controlled light source, to your standard kitchen lighting (where I happened to be weaving this basket).



The basic "X" over your handle is illustrated above. Normally, after completing the "X" you would continue lashing into the space between the next two spokes (marked with a yellow arrow).



For the double "X", return your reed behind the handle and go over it again (red arrow, far left) on top of the previous reed. As you make the second X over the handle (right photo), go over the reed (that was the first leg of your second X). Use your small packing tool to raise the first leg of the **FIRST** X, and pull it through.



Pull the reed snug and adjust the tension of the previous legs, if necessary. Thread your reed through to complete the second X (middle picture above), and continue lashing the basket as if you had only placed one X on the handle. The photo above right, shows a back view behind the handle.

Sampling of Bright Expectations Basket Patterns

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

