

January 2017 – Volume 16

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Basket Weaving Retreat

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Website or in my Etsy shop.

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clicking on anything shown in blue will  
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referenced.*

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## 2017 Weaving in the Sunshine State



January 27-29, 2017  
Ft. Myers, Florida

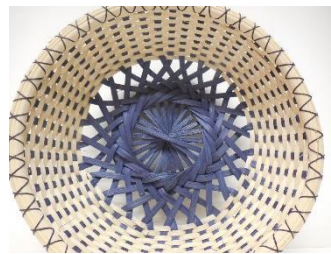
Hilton Garden Inn - Airport / Gulf Coast Town Center



Happy New Year!! I hope you can look back on 2016 with fond memories and will be blessed with many new ones in 2017! If you are planning to attend the first ever Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat at the end of January I know your year is going to start off wonderfully.

There will be seven instructors teaching a total of 27 classes over the three day weekend retreat. I'm looking forward to meeting everyone who has registered and can't wait to see the awesome baskets that will be woven.

Here are just a few of the baskets which will be taught by Karen Kotecki, Pati English, Sandy Bulgrin, Laura Lee Zanger, Jennie Baas, Debbie Mroczenski, and myself ...



There are still a few openings for classes! For details of the event go to [www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com](http://www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com), which will link you to my website blog. Or just send me an email!

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# HIPPITY HOPPITY ... ALREADY??



Now I know that the Christmas tree may still be up and the party favors from the New Year's Eve party are still laying on the kitchen table, but my weaving friends ... we must think ahead if we are going to be ready for probably **THE** biggest "basket" holiday of the year – EASTER. So if you are up north where it's cold (and dreary), you need to start thinking SPRING and get out those bright pastel colors of dyed reed and start weaving Easter baskets.

But first things first. Anybody who knows me, knows that I have a very inquisitive nature and with the plethora of information available on the world wide web, I am forever researching something trying to find out its origin. One thing led to another and my mind jumped from making the banner above to "why in the world do we have Easter egg hunts?". I mean, it has nothing to do with the resurrection of Jesus that I could think of. And so, the research began. And now I know you are thinking the same thing and you'd like to know also.

The egg itself has been a symbol of birth and new life for thousands of years. Although egg hunts don't have a crystal clear origin documented, it's widely believed that the Easter Bunny and hunts have been around since the 1700s when the German immigrants brought their tradition of an egg-laying hare called "Osterhase" or "Oschter Haws" when they settled in Pennsylvania. Their children made nests in which this creature could lay its colored eggs. Eventually, the custom spread and the fabled rabbit's early morning deliveries began to include chocolate and small gifts delivered in decorated baskets to replace the nests.

From a Christian perspective, the egg (new life) symbolizes Jesus' resurrection from the tomb. Easter eggs were originally dyed red to honor the blood shed on the cross. Egg Hunts could be symbolic of Mary Magdalene searching for the tomb and her joy at finding the empty grave (children's joy at finding eggs). The "Egg Roll" (a White House tradition since 1878) may represent the stone blocking Jesus' tomb being rolled away.

And one more tidbit ... the largest Easter Egg Hunt ever (according to the Guinness World Records) consisted of 501,000 eggs that were searched for by 9,753 children and their parents. It was held at Cypress Gardens Adventure Park in Winter Haven, Florida on April 1, 2007.

And so now we know the widely accepted version of the history of the Easter Bunny and the infamous Egg Hunt! So it's time to weave that Easter basket (nest) and I'd like to share my most popular pattern ("Amelia") for young egg hunters.

A handmade Easter basket is even more special when you choose a special tie on, buckle, or button. These are some of my favorites!



## "AMELIA" Small Spring Market or Easter Basket



Approximate Finished Size: 8 1/2" x 13 1/2" x 6" (rim height); 12" Height to Top of Handle

### Materials Needed:

5/8" FF Natural Reed Spokes:	7 @25" (consider these your "horizontal" spokes)
	9 @23" (consider these your "vertical" spokes)
3/8" FF Natural Reed Fillers:	6 @15"
#2 Round Natural Reed:	Twining for Base
3/8" FF Natural Reed:	Weavers
1/4" FF Dyed Reed:	Accent Color for Basket and Handle
3# Sea Grass:	Rim Filler
5/8" FF Natural Reed:	Inner and Outer Rims
1/4" or 7mm Natural Reed:	Wrap for Handle
3/16" FF Natural Reed:	Lasher
8" Handle:	Either Push-In or 8" x 12" D-Handle (See Note at Bottom)

### For Push-In Handle:

Lay out base with fillers between each long horizontal spoke, rough sides up. The center vertical spoke goes OVER the fillers and UNDER the horizontal spokes. True the base to approximately 7" x 10". Either fold or chicken foot to the INSIDE. (If chicken footing to the OUTSIDE, filler spokes are placed with the good side of the reed to the INSIDE of the basket.) Twine two rows with #2 round natural reed. Upset the base.

### For D Handle:

You will only need 8 of the 23" vertical spokes. The D handle base will serve as the other spoke. The horizontal spokes will go OVER the handle and the filler spokes UNDER.

### Weave:

- 7 rows: 3/8" FF Natural with the first row on the OUTSIDE of handle spoke.
- 5 rows: 1/4" FF Dyed reed in your color choice.
- 3 rows: 3/8" FF Natural (the last row is your inner rim).

Fold and tuck the spokes. Insert the 8" Push-In Wood Handle.

Place 5/8" FF Natural outer and inner rims and lash with 3/16" FF natural (you will need approximately 9 feet). Use #3 Sea Grass rim filler starting and stopping on each side of the handle.

Wrap handle with 1/4" or 7 mm FF natural (you will need approximately 10 feet) with a piece of 1/4" matching dyed reed as accent.

Spray the finished basket with an oil based stain, such as Weavers. The baskets in photos were stained with a clear stain finish. Certain reed colors, such as pinks and yellows, will lose their true tints with an Oak stain. Test stain a scrap piece of reed before staining your finished basket to make sure you will be happy with the end result.



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## TIPS FOR WRAPPING THE HANDLE

1) Choose a piece of GOOD reed. Preferably one that is LONG enough to wrap the handle without splicing. Splicing will be inevitable on some handles, but try to avoid it.

Note: This basket has a 7/8" wide handle and I used 7 mm to wrap the handle. A good measure of length for this handle and size wrapping reed is 9" per inch of exposed handle.

2) While the reed is DRY, trim it and de-hair it. REALLY GOOD. You will be glad you did this later on when de-hairing the basket.

3) Wet the reed well, but not soaking wet. Your friend will be your spray bottle as you wrap.



4) Start with a 90 degree SHARPLY CREASED bend in the end, tucking inside the handle under the rim row. Start close to the basket rim with the accent reed nicely tucked under the first row of wrapping.

5) Start the first row STRAIGHT. Subsequent rows will be then also. (The backside of the handle will be at a slight angle - but the front is what shows!) Lay each row BESIDE each other - DON'T OVERLAP. The wrapped handle will look better if there are slight gaps beside the rows rather than overlaps.

7) Don't let the wrapping reed dry out. Spray the reed as you weave, keeping it DAMP - not wet. Pull each row GENTLY around the handle, easing it around the handle edges. SLOW and steady will keep the reed from cracking.

8) End the wrapping with another 90 degree sharply creased end that is tucked under the rim row on the inside of the handle (Red Arrow).



If you must splice (Yellow Arrow)... Sharply crease a 90 degree angle leaving about 1" that the new wrapping reed will overlap. Clothespin that to the handle and prepare the new piece with another 90 degree angle that matches and lays beside the ending piece leaving a 1" tail on it also. You will wrap and cover both of these 1" tails as you proceed. Use a strong clamp to flatten these flat to the handle while they are still damp.

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# Sampling of Bright Expectations Patterns

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

