

November 2017 – Volume 25

There are still class openings!

www.WeavingInTheSunshineState.com

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Registration Continues
Retreat Merchandise

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"[Brianna](#)" Celtic Jar
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Patterns Available on my
Website or in my Etsy shop.

What a great response in the number of registrations received for the 2018 Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat! Several classes are now closed as the maximum number of students have been reached. But we've still got many awesome classes with spaces still available. The Class Catalog and Registration Form are kept current with openings (both available at www.WeavingInTheSunshineState.com). You know you want to put your toes in the warm Florida beach sand in chilly January. Plan to join us for a great time. Book an extra day or two to soak up the sun.

Also new this year is a great selection of retreat merchandise. The most popular item so far is the full apron with our retreat logo. This denim apron is a very nice quality that will launder well and serve you for many years. Three pockets on the front keep your tools handy. Extra-long waist straps and an adjustable neck strap are bonuses. A half or waist apron is also available.



[Basket Weaving
Suppliers Map](#)



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.

We've also got these super soft and comfortable three-quarter length tee shirts. I wish this newsletter had one of those "touch to feel" little swatches because this is the softest cotton blend! They are available in red or black trim.



Bright Expectations Baskets LLC
is weaving in either
Mt. Vernon, IL or Naples, FL

Becky Bechtel

E-mail: beckybechtel@gmail.com

www.BrightExpectationsBaskets.com

www.BrightExpectations.Etsy.com

www.facebook.com/BrightExpectations

An order form is available on the website. Check it out!

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

"BRIANNA" – Celtic Twill Weave Jar



One of my personal goals this year was to learn more about twill weaves using a grid. I was able to take a class with Laura Lee Zanger (Ombre' Osprey) at Jabez earlier in the year and what a great teacher and inspiration. If you get the chance to take a class with her ... do it!

"Brianna" is my first pattern using a twill weave grid and I'm pretty happy with the result. I've always loved Celtic knots and incorporating that into this jar was a fun (and learning) experience.

Options for jars are included in the pattern as well as instruction for adapting the pattern to other sizes.



To purchase this
PATTERN, please click
below.

["BRIANNA"](#)

Interestingly, I named this basket early on. When I posted a picture to my Facebook business page, I was asked if I was influenced by the TV show "Outlander". And no, I've never even seen it. Coincidentally, it's a Scottish themed show and one of the major characters is Brianna. Now how cool is that?? And also by sheer coincidence is the color – it matches the flag of Scotland! I'm thinking that this basket was just "cinnúint", (look it up ☺).

"DELTA" – Triple Braid Tote

Continuing with the triple braid in these great neutral colors, "Delta" is now available. This bucket style tote basket with a swing handle and its ample size can hold a bounty of fruits and or veggies, your craft project in process at your chairside, or for a picnic at the park. Roll up a few towels and sit it beside your soaker tub to keep them handy while also being an addition to your décor.



Separate step-by-step instruction with multiple photos is included to walk you through successfully learning the triple braid technique. Once you've mastered this versatile weaving design, you'll be incorporating it on many baskets.

To purchase this
PATTERN, please
click below.

["DELTA"](#)



Would you like to WIN something? Wouldn't everyone like something for FREE? I'm celebrating this month and feeling thankful (I mean it is turkey month and it's all about Thanksgiving, right?). I have no doubt that I'm going to reach a milestone of having sold 1000 patterns any day now. What a journey this has been. Between today and Thanksgiving Day (November 23, 2017), if you buy TWO patterns, I'm going to send you another one (at random) for **FREE**. And the lucky person who buys the 1000th pattern will be getting **TEN FREE PATTERNS** sent to them. Thank you to each and every one of you who has supported and encouraged me in writing my patterns!

Class Kits – Handy Tips

I will admit that I am not a huge fan of assembling basket weaving kits. It's like all the work and none of the fun of weaving. And let's face it ... it's also boring and tedious work. I used to be one of the people who complained about the price of purchasing a kit. Well no more. There's a LOT of time involved in getting a kit put together to make it easy and convenient for someone to weave your design. Measuring, cutting, bundling, and on and on. But there's a lot to be said about how nice it is to pick up a single bag of materials and begin weaving. No purchasing of a certain size of reed or color – that you may or may not ever need again. No excess of reed that will require storing. And if you weave with friends or at a guild, it's pretty handy to just grab the kit and your tools and head out the door.

I also want to point out to it's nice to give some grace and courteous comments back to the supplier. If your kit is missing something or short of a material, trust me ... we want to know. Accidents happen and oversights are inevitable. Just envision the chaos of putting together **10, 20, 30, or more kits at the same time** for a minute. Can you see it? And on the flip side, if you're totally blown away by how nice the kit was assembled, let them know that too. A compliment or note of encouragement can go a long way in improving someone's day.

If you're someone who assembles kits, these tips are for you. If you have more tips or advice to share – I'd love to hear it too!

PACKAGING

- Don't just throw it all in a mailing box loose. It tangles, becomes damaged, and looks unprofessional. Invest in some plastic bags that are size appropriate for the kit. If you're an Amazon shopper, search for "Plymor Reclosable Plastic Bags". They come in many, many sizes (and mil thickness) to fit almost any kit size. I bought 100 for \$26.79 that are able to hold a 10x15 wood base plus all the weaving materials. That's like a quarter for each kit for this large size. Smaller bags are even less expensive.
- Buy some of the smaller bags for delicate or special instruction materials (like handle wrap materials, fine cane, waxed linen, etc.). Trust me ... these can be found super cheap. Check in your local dollar store.
- Hefty makes up to a 2 ½ gallon sized zipper style bag (FYI ... these are also GREAT for storing reed) that can be purchased at your local Walmart and some grocery stores. But did you know that you can also find this size at Dollar Tree? It's an off-brand, but they are 5 bags for a buck, and pretty good quality.

LABELING

- Bundle materials. Please. No one likes to pull a material out of the bag and everything else come with it. Especially in class where it's now on the floor and no one knows what belongs to whom.
- Mark the materials if there is a possible doubt about where it will be used in the basket! Are you using #2 round reed in different techniques? Indicate by attaching a label to the end, stapling a note around the bundle (or even Post-It notes work well), or placing it in a separate smaller bag and using a Sharpie on the bag.
- This great tip I found on Facebook. Buy different colors of twist ties (again, Amazon is a great resource). Give a color code chart with each of your kits, i.e. RED twist tie indicates base twining, BLUE twist tie is for triple twining, GREEN for weavers, etc. This will eliminate the need to mark and label by hand the materials.

PATTERNS

- Place the pattern in a protective sleeve or sheet protector. We all know it's eventually going to get wet. Plus, the purchaser is most likely going to store patterns in a three-ring binder.
- Don't write the pattern assuming that the weaver is going to be in a class with you. Even if they are, chances are you as the teacher are going to be spread a little thin at times and the students are going to rely on the pattern details to proceed to the next step. And what if they don't finish in class and take it home to complete? I know this comment seems elementary, but trust me ... I've bought some of these patterns myself and it's very frustrating.
- Photos. Include them. Lots of them. This is probably the #1 comment I've received on my patterns – "thanks for all the photos of each step". Many people learn by **SEEING** and if they're not in the class, pictures are the next best thing.

Sampling of Bright Expectations Basket Patterns

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

