## "We didn"t realize we were making

 memories ... we were just having fun."I had the best time this year at the Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat! I continue to be amazed at our growth and can't believe we had right at 140 in attendance in only our $3^{\text {rd }}$ year. My experience is so limited in organizing these events (l've got a lot of learning to do yet), but projections from many of those in attendance is to "expect even more in 2020".

And on that note ... applications have been accepted from teachers for 2020. Their proposals are being turned over to the jury committee for judging in the next few days. I anticipate that the class selections for next year will include more from the "best of the best teachers" based on the preview of submitted class proposals I have had the opportunity to indulge in.

Teachers will be notified of their selection mid-April and possibly some sneak peeks at classes will be posted to entice you while you await the release of the Retreat Brochure which should be available mid-July. Registration for 2020 will begin in August.

If you would like to see photos from this year's retreat, please join us on our Facebook group page, Florida Basket Weavers (click on the blue wording to be hyper-linked to the Facebook page). If you are browsing through the photos, I would also appreciate it if you would tag yourself and your friends.

I'll also be working on a website revamp to implement some more user-friendly navigation and hope to unveil the updates upon release of the Retreat Brochure in July. Just click on the logo to the left to reach the website.

And guess what else??? Save the dates for February 2-4, 2021. Yep, that's 2021. The venue is booked, and dates reserved!
> "Sometimes just spending quality time with good friends is the only therapy you need. Time spent weaving baskets with good friends is simply bonus therapy."

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/TheReedReader

## "CLAIRE"- The Gatherer

"Claire" was a very popular class this year at the Weaving in the Sunshine State basket weaving retreat and the class filled up quickly. The classic design and neutral colors appeal to most everyone as it easily fits in with all décor styles.
The class had the options to choose from either a segmented wood base or a solid oak option. And surprisingly, every single student opted to purchase artisan made pottery handles to accent their basket.
The pattern is releasing now for "Claire", but l'll be teaching it again at the Bluegrass Area Basketmakers Seminar in Jabez, KY in June. Come join us there for some time rocking on the covered patio and weaving with some great friends.


If you'd like a complete weaving kit for "Claire" and/or the optional pottery handles (colors vary), just send me an email to check current availability. You can also order the base in either solid oak or in segmented woods. It's hard to keep this kit in stock!


This fun-to-weave wall basket, aptly named "Keysha", not only will hold your mail, but also has cute little pegs to hold your keys or dog leash. Hanging it on the wall near your back door will keep all these things handy for your next trip out the door.
"Keysha" is a quick to weave project and was presented as a two-hour class at this year's Florida weaving retreat. You can purchase the pattern (instant, digital download) or buy the ready-to-weave kit via the links provided below. The kit for "Keysha" has a "quick weave" handle that has been pre-stained and polyurethane sealed for your convenience.


Click Here to Purchase "Keysha" (the Kit)


## "CYNTHIA" - Table Basket with Twined Accent



One thing l've (almost) learned ... I'm better off to NOT start out with a planned design when I'm in a creating frame of mind. I wish I could post a photo of what I intended to weave when this basket was created. Not even close. The alternating spokes didn't work for the twill weave I had in mind, the twining accent was to have a different look entirely, and the top of the basket was to be a solid red. Hmmm ... this did not turn out as expected, lol.
But nevertheless, "Cynthia" turned out lovely I think and I'm pleased with the end look (even if I did "un-weave" a few solid rows of red in the upper portion, lol).


The accent twining attempts to upstage the design, but really just gives a visually appealing transition from the two different weaving patterns. Step-by-step instruction for creating the twined accent affect, along with photos, is included in the pattern.
The basket is on the larger size and holds a bevy of fruits or veggies. The polyurethane sealed wood base it's woven on, will give you an easy, wipe-clean surface.

Click Here to Purchase "Cynthia" Pattern available by instant, digital download.

## "Skylar" - Table Basket with " X " Twining

While you have out that \#2 round reed, try out the pattern for "Skylar" too. Twined accent adds so much to any basket design! As mentioned above, it's a great transition from weaving patterns, triple twining can mask areas when you split or add a spoke, or it can simply be added to a basket design because it's pretty.
The teal or turquoise dyed reed beside the soft gray offers a soothing palette. Vibrant contrasting colors would be great too and would showcase an entirely different look. You choose
 your two reed colors and get started.
There are great tutorials included in the pattern for not only creating the $X$ twining technique, but if you have never triple lashed a basket's rim before, you'll appreciate the step-by-step instruction for that also. The pattern is full of photos to assist you.
While "Skylar" is not quite as large as "Cynthia" above, it's still more than amply sized. Everyone needs a go-to bread basket, and this is a great option. "Skylar" is also woven on a wood base.

Click Here to Purchase "Skylar" Pattern available by instant, digital download.

## Buckhannon Upshur (BU) Work Adjustment Center

The Buckhannon Upshur Work Adjust Center, most commonly simply referred to as the BU Work Adjustment Center or BU WAC, is located in Buckhannon, West Virginia. Buckhannon (in Upshur County) is a small community (roughly 5500 residents) in upper West Virginia in an area that is near to very peaceful scenic views and pristine rivers. When strolling the historic streets and downtown area of this quaint town, you'll find unique local restaurants and specialty shops. Just on the outside edge of town, you'll find the BU Work Adjustment Center.


The Work Center was organized in 1975 and is a 501 c3, non-profit or charitable organization. The facility employs individuals with disabilities and must maintain that a minimum of $75 \%$ of labor hours are performed by certified disabled individuals. These individuals could be military veterans, young people or older adults and could have varying degrees of disability which has been certified through either medical or psychiatric physicians.


Larry and Mary Dean took over running the center in 2014 and have made many improvements upgrading not only the building structure, but also replacing outdated equipment with newer and safer models. They have also contributed innumerable personal volunteer hours to overcome a reputation from mis-management of previous administration. Their compassion and dedication to this organization has brought B-U WAC back to a highly reputable supplier with a quality finished product built by a special group of dedicated and talented individuals.

While there are other similar workshops within West Virginia, B-U WAC is unique in the product that it provides - primarily products made from wood. Lumber is sourced locally, and the center uses it to make many products ranging from picnic tables, survey stakes, porch swings, display and book cases, bird houses, corn hole games, to ... wood bases for basket making in all sizes and shapes.


The B-U WAC employees can make just about anything you can dream up. If you have an idea for a unique base or other weaving project, chances are that the creative workers there can help you bring your concept to fruition. Many of the hardworking individuals at B-U WAC have been there for many years and they do wonderful work - work they are very proud of and rightly so.

Currently, the work center employs around 25 disabled individuals providing vocational job training. They are open Monday through Friday from 8 am until 4 pm. The facility is located at 211 Little Sand Run Road in Buckhannon. The phone number is (304) 472-4678. Contact them via email at upshurwac@suddenlinkmail.com to place your order (the current price list - subject to change - follows).

I hope that you'll consider the Buckhannon Upshur Work Adjust Center when you are ready to place your next order for basket bases. And keep in mind that they welcome your ideas for custom work too.

Do you need a little inspiration for your next project? Lara Lawrence had approached me to possibly feature B-U WAC in an issue of the newsletter, and I'm glad she did. Lara's weavings have featured their bases in literally hundreds of baskets. You know her as a teacher and a very, very generous weaving friend who has shared not only her designs to inspire us but has also shared the detailed instructions for her patterns on many of her creative projects. The collage below features Lara's work and the B-U WAC wood bases.

"You're not disabled by the disabilities you have.
You are able by the abilities you have."
Oscar Pistorius

Pricing Effective 02/14/2019



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## Looking for an Upcoming Retreat or Convention?

Here's just a sampling of upcoming events. Be sure to visit the referenced websites for more information and all the details. If you've never had the opportunity to be a part of a weaving retreat or convention, you're missing out! April 11-13, 2019: "Stateline Friends" Weaving Retreat at the Kuhlman Center in Richmond, IN. statelinefriends.com April 26-28, 2019: Headwater's Basketmakers Guild "Weavin' Up North" in Bemidgi, MN. Visit them on Facebook.

April 26-28, 2019: Northeast Basketmakers Guild, "Weaving the Past and Future Together with Friends" Spring Gathering in Enfield, CT. www.northeastbasketmakers.org

May 11-17, 2019: Stowe Basketry Festival at the Trapp Family Lodge in Stowe, VT. www.roundhearth.com
June 10, 2019: Land of Lincoln Basket Weavers Association "Starved Rock Weaving Day" in Utica, IL. www.llbwa.com
June 11-15, 2019: Bluegrass Area Basketmaker's Seminar in Jabez, KY. www.babasketmakers.org
June 21-23, 2019: $26^{\text {th }}$ Annual "Weavin' In Winona" Basket Workshop at the Winona State University in Winona, MN. www.weavinwinona.com

July 16-21, 2019: National Basketry Association's $10^{\text {th }}$ Biennial Conference, "Tradition and Innovation in Basketry" at Western Kentucky University in Bowling Green, KY. nationalbasketry.org/10th-biennial-nbo-conference

July 24-27, 2019: Tennessee Basketry Association's Annual Convention at the Meadowview Conference Center in Kingsport, TN. www.tennesseebasketryassociation.org

August 1-4, 2019: Missouri Basketmaker's $28^{\text {th }}$ Annual Convention "Come Weave With Us" at the Hilton Garden Inn in Independence, MO. www.basketweavers.org/convention

August 22-24, 2019: Heritage Basketry Guild's "Fall Weave In" in Dayton, OH. heritagebasketryguild.com


## Sampling of Bright Expectations Basket Patterns

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


