



REGISTRATION FORM INSTRUCTIONS

Weaving Retreat – January 27-29, 2017
Registration Begins – September 1, 2016
Registration Deadline – October 1, 2016
Assignment of Classes – October 15, 2016
Payment for Classes – October 31, 2016

Hi and thank you so much for your interest in participating in the inaugural “Weaving in the Sunshine State” basket weaving retreat! When the journey began for potentially organizing a basket weaving retreat a few weeks ago, I was certainly not prepared for the huge amount of interest that there now is. I am in awe of the many, many kind notes of encouragement and support that I have received in this venture.

This may be the first weaving retreat of this size to take place in south Florida and it is so exciting to see the potential for having an annual event. I certainly understand that the southern location may not be the most convenient for all and I apologize if it doesn't work in your plans for 2017. Other locations and dates may be explored for future retreats. For this gathering, for many reasons, it was necessary to have it in a locale closer to my south Florida home.

I do ask for your continued patience as I continue to work through the huge amount of details I'm encountering in organizing this event. It seems each day my notes have more post-it notes attached to them. I do expect there will be some kinks and mishaps along the way and during the event, but based on the overwhelming amount of offers from volunteers, I'm sure we will work out whatever comes up and finish the retreat with new friends made and smiles on our faces.

Please if you have a question or need clarification on anything, contact me through email at beckybechtel@gmail.com. It would be appreciated if you would not speculate and post potential scenarios on the Facebook group page “Florida Basket Weavers”. Many comment threads become quite long and people do not always read each comment and/or reply and then the little spark becomes a flame and it takes time to extinguish the scenario if it's not accurate. I will respond to your email and I can then post the clarification or answer for all to see – if you have a question, chances are someone else has the same one.

I'm looking forward to meeting you all face to face! It will be a great time to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. I'm sure there will be many laughs and memories made. I really hope this will be a retreat that you will always fondly remember and plan to attend in future years.

Thank you again for your many offers to help and assist during the retreat. I'll be in contact with volunteer opportunities when we get a bit closer to the big weekend.

All the best to you,

Becky

To register you must complete the REGISTRATION FORM. The Registration Form will be available on the evening of August 31, 2016 on both the "Florida Basket Weavers" Facebook group page as well as on my website blog which can be reached at www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com. Registration Forms must be mailed. **Your registration is NOT considered complete if the registration fee is not included.** Your registration fee helps to cover the costs in organizing the retreat as well as a buffet lunch for each day you are registered for.

Registration Fees are as follows: 1 Day \$65 2-3 Days \$130 (There is NOT a separate 2 day registration fee.)

REGISTRATION FORMS:

The Registration Form with your class selections is the *ONLY* acceptable application. Emails, texts, and any other means of submitting class choices will not be accepted. Please indicate 5 choices, in order of preference, for each day you are registered for. If you do not indicate 5 choices and the classes you have indicated are full, you will not be assigned classes for that day. Making only one choice will not guarantee you space in that class. Do not select classes that you are not willing to take. Please do not include notes such as "Mary and I want to have the same classes assigned". Once classes are assigned, you will receive an email with your schedule of classes. If you wish to receive a hard copy of your assigned classes, please include a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your Registration Form and payment.

Due to the large amount of interest in this event and the limited space available, a maximum number of 108 participants is anticipated for each day. After registration opens on September 1, 2016, the first 108 registrations received will be set aside. ***Registrations postmarked September 1, 2016 will be considered first day registrations regardless of when they are received. This will give fairness to everyone regardless of where it is mailed from.*** You will be contacted by email if your registration was received within the first 108 as quickly as possible. It is highly recommended that you proceed to make your travel arrangements and hotel reservations at that point. This is emphasized highly due to the retreat being held at a time when travel accommodations may be limited. ***Note: you will not be notified of your class assignments at this time.***

It will be posted on the Facebook group page "Florida Basket Weavers" and also on my website blog (which can be reached by going to www.weavinginthesunshinestate.com) when the maximum number of attendee registrations has been tentatively reached. The registrations received over 108 will be numbered in the order in which they were received and will be placed on the waiting list. I encourage you to submit your registrations early as a large attendance is expected.

Complete the Registration Form in its entirety including your class selections. Return the signed and dated form along with payment for the ***Registration Fee only***. Your class fees will be payable after you are notified of your assigned classes (approximately October 15, 2016, sooner if maximum attendance is reached quickly).

Return the Registration Form and payment to:

**Becky Bechtel
Bright Expectations LLC
17807 E. Shadow Lake Road
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864**

Retreat Schedule:

The proposed schedule is as follows:

Thursday:

Registration Desk: 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm (located in the Hilton Garden Inn lobby area)

Friday:

Registration Desk: 7:00 am until 8:00 am (located in the Hilton Garden Inn lobby area)

Classes: 8:00 am until 12:00 noon

Lunch: 12:00 noon until 1:00 pm

Classes: 1:00 pm until 5:00 pm

Marketplace: 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm

Classes or Open Weaving: 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Saturday:

Registration Desk: 8:00 am until 9:00 am (located in the Hilton Garden Inn lobby area)

Classes: 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Lunch: 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm

Classes: 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm

Classes or Open Weaving: 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm

Sunday:

Classes: 9:00 am until 1:00 pm

Lunch: 1:00 pm until 2:00 pm

Classes: 2:00 pm until 4:00 pm

Class Selections:

When choosing your basket classes, please note the skill level, tools required, and time allowed to make sure you are able to meet all requirements. Some classes may have special tools required. Also note the dimensions of the project. Some may be larger than they appear in the featured photo.

Please remember that it is not fair to the instructor or the other students to take a class that is beyond your skill level of expertise and that you are not ready to handle.

Skill Levels:

Beginner – The beginner weaver has little to no experience and has woven only a few baskets. They need practice with basic weaving techniques, bases, and shaping. These weavers are acquiring skills to become proficient in over/under weaving, start/stop weaving, twining, and rim lashing as well as learning to control shape.

Beginner/Intermediate – Having gained basic weaving skills, this skill level introduces new pattern weaves such as twill and different rim and lashing finish variations. Larger baskets and patterns with specific weaving instruction are included at this level.

Intermediate – Intermediate weavers have gained proficiency in weaving techniques. They are able to begin with ease and little instruction and have mastered basic weaving techniques. They do not need direction for setting up bases, twining, completing over/under weaves, or creating rims using the specific materials mentioned in the class description.

Advanced – Advanced weavers are proficient. They have mastered most weaving techniques and are ready to be challenged. Teachers are confident these students will not need assistance with basic weaving skills. Advanced weavers often design their own baskets and are quite experienced in most techniques.

CLASS ASSIGNMENT POLICY:

Classes will be assigned **RANDOMLY** to the first 108 registrations. Having your application received as the very first one **WILL NOT** guarantee you your first choices of classes. You will be notified **by email** on approximately October 15, 2016 of your class assignments. If you desire to have a hard copy mailed to you, you must submit a self-addressed and stamped envelope with your Registration Form.

PAYMENT FOR CLASSES:

Payment for your assigned classes must be received by October 31, 2016. Checks are to be made payable to each respective teacher and dated January 27, 2017. **Each check should have your name, plus the teacher and class name noted on the comment line.** The class fee checks should be mailed to:

**Becky Bechtel
Bright Expectations LLC
17807 E. Shadow Lake Road
Mt. Vernon, IL 62864**

Failure to receive payment for your assigned classes by the October 31st deadline may result in your cancellation from the weaving retreat and forfeiture of your registration fee.

Canadian Registrants ... You must submit checks made payable to the teacher for your assigned classes. Attach a note to the checks indicating that you will bring cash to the class to substitute for the funds.

CLASSROOMS:

There will be TWO separate weaving classrooms – one in the Hilton Garden Inn and the other in the Homewood Suites next door. These two facilities are both Hilton properties and share a parking lot. It is an easy 1-2 minute walk from door to door. Your assigned classes may require you to walk from one building to the other.

MARKETPLACE:

A Marketplace will be held in the Hilton Garden Inn weaving room on Friday evening from 5:30 pm until 6:30 pm. Teachers and registered attendees (who have reserved paid table space with their registrations) will have patterns, supplies, kits, and basketry related items available. The teacher's websites have been indicated by their name under "Teacher Bios". Please visit their websites and let them know if you would like them to bring something in specific with them for you.

Pre-Ordered Kits – The teachers who are offering kits for purchase from their classroom projects have indicated a purchase price in the Class Catalog. If you would like to pre-order kits for classes you were not assigned, **please contact the individual teachers with your orders and make payment through them.**

OPEN WEAVE TIME:

On Saturday evening, **IT IS ANTICIPATED** that the weaving room at the Homewood Suites will be open from 7:00 pm until 9:00 pm to allow a gathering place for you to meet with friends to weave projects of your own choosing. Mentors will be in the room from time to time to offer assistance if needed. There will not be space during the day for open weaving.

SCISSOR SHARPENING:

The popular scissor and/or knife sharpening service offered by Laura Lee Zanger's husband, Steve, will be available at the retreat. He will be located just outside the Hilton Garden Inn weaving room.

HOTEL INFORMATION:

Blocks of rooms are being held at both the Hilton Garden Inn and their adjacent property, the Homewood Suites by Hilton. ***You must make your own hotel reservations.*** Rooms at both properties are \$159 per night.

By phone: Call the number for the hotel indicated and ask for the **BRIGHT EXPECTATIONS** group rate.

By online booking: Use the website booking link. Enter your arrival and departure dates. Click “Check Rooms & Rates”. At the bottom of the blue sidebar on the left, click “**Have a Special Code?**”. Enter the Group Code **BRI** to be given the discount rate. You may book your hotel room at either facility.

The Hilton Garden Inn – Fort Myers Airport / Gulf Coast Town Center is located at 16410 Corporate Commerce Way, Ft. Myers, Florida 33913. For photos of the hotel and sleeping rooms, as well as a list of amenities, please refer to their website. You will have the choice of either a king or two queen standard rooms. Breakfast is not included in the room rate. The link to reserve your room online at the Hilton Garden Inn is: www.fortmyersairportfgcu.hgi.com, or you may contact the hotel direct at 239/210-7200.

The Homewood Suites by Hilton – Fort Myers Airport / Gulf Coast Town Center is located at 16450 Corporate Commerce Way, Ft. Myers, Florida 33913. For photos of the hotel and sleeping rooms, as well as a list of amenities, please refer to their website. The only room choice is a king studio suite. However, a hot breakfast buffet and an evening social is included at this hotel. The link to reserve your room online at the Homewood Suites by Hilton is: www.fortmyersairportfgcu.homewoodsuites.com or you may contact the hotel direct at 239/210-7300.

Other hotels in the immediate area are:

Holiday Inn – Ft. Myers Airport at Town Center (9931 Interstate Commerce Drive 239/561-1550)

Residence Inn – Ft. Myers at I-75 and Gulf Coast Town Center (10054 Gulf Center Drive 239/332-7001)

Marriott Courtyard – I-75 and Gulf Coast Town Center (10050 Gulf Center Drive 239/332-4747)

AIRPORT INFORMATION:

Southwest Florida International Airport / Ft. Myers (RSW) is located within 5 minutes of the hotels. Complimentary shuttle service is available by most hotels in the immediate area (please verify when making your reservation what their individual policies are). There are several airlines that fly into this airport - some of which are not always noted when booking through travel related websites. A listing of airlines that fly into this airport may be found at: www.flylcpa.com/airlines.

The Charlotte County Airport (PGD) in Punta Gorda is a little over 30 minutes from the event location. Airlines that fly into this airport include Frontier Airlines and Allegiant Air, both of which normally have really good fares.

Other airports in the general area that may be convenient to use are Fort Lauderdale – Hollywood International Airport (FLL), Tampa International Airport (TPA), St. Pete – Clearwater International Airport (PIE), and Sarasota Bradenton International Airport (SRQ). There are many shuttle and limo services in south Florida that provide transport to these airports also.

LOCAL RESTAURANTS, SHOPPING, and FT. MYERS BEACH:

Gulf Coast Town Center is located across the street from the Hilton Garden Inn. There are a huge number of stores for shopping and restaurants to choose from here, as well as a movie theater. (www.gulfcoasttowncenter.com)

Ft. Myers Beach is located only 15 miles away with long stretches of white sand beaches.

REGISTRATION DESK:

The registration table will be open on Thursday evening from 7:00 pm until 8:00 pm for those who arrive early and would like to get their registration packet. It will also be open from 7:00 am until 8:00 am on Friday morning and from 8:00 until 9:00 on Saturday morning.

Your registration packet will include a listing of your assigned classes, the teacher, and the location. The weaving retreat scheduled timeline will also be included.

There will be a bulletin board with classes that have available openings and you may sign up and pay for your add-on classes at that time.

DOOR PRIZES:

It would be greatly appreciated if you would consider donating an item or items to be included in the door prize drawings. There will not be a silent auction at this event. Prizes will be awarded by drawing attendee names. You must be present to win. No shipping of prizes will be offered.

Two books with patterns from each class offering will be among the prizes awarded.

HOSPITALITY AREA

There will be fruit infused water in each weaving room. The hotel does not permit us to have a hospitality snack area in the weaving rooms. If you would like a snack or drink *for yourself* other than the water provided, please bring your own. Coolers and snacks to share for a group are not allowed by their policy.

LUNCH

Your registration fees include a lunch buffet (that includes iced tea and coffee) that will be served at the Hilton Garden Inn. The anticipated menu is as follows:

Friday: Classic Caesar Salad with Shaved Parmesan Cheese and Croutons; Grilled Chicken over Penne Pasta with Alfredo Sauce; Tri-Color Tortellini with Pesto Sauce; Oven Baked Focaccia Bread and Garlic Breadsticks; and Italian Dessert.

Saturday: Spicy Ground Beef and Southwestern Chicken; Warm Flour Tortillas and Taco Shells; Santa Fe Rice and Refried Beans; Guacamole; Various Taco Toppings; and Dessert.

Sunday: Deli Market Selection of Roast Beef; Smoked Turkey; Black Forest Ham; Assortment of Cheeses, Salads, Breads, Rolls, and Condiments; Fresh Baked Cookies.

WHAT TO BRING:

To make the most of your weaving experience, it is essential to have the proper tools and equipment. It is suggested that you bring a dishpan or bucket, an old towel, sharp clippers or strong scissors, small and large packing tools, an awl or ice pick, several clips or clothespins, flexible measuring tape, water spray bottle, needle nose pliers, pencil, sandpaper, cable ties of various sizes, and a sharp pocket knife.

Make a note of any special tools that may be needed in your class selections.

Some of these items may be difficult to travel with so it would be appreciated if you would kindly share if necessary with those in your classes.

PRE-ORDERED KITS, SUPPLIES, ETC.:

Many teachers are offering pre-ordering of their class basket weaving kits (for those not assigned to their classes but wish to have the kit), patterns, supplies, etc. Please contact each individual teacher either through their website or by email with your order and arrange payment through them.

SHIPPING SERVICE

The Hilton Garden Inn has daily UPS and FedEx pick up of packages for shipping your completed weaving projects home. You would be responsible for boxes and packing materials. The service they offer is strictly a pick-up of parcels. The hotel can provide shipping labels and payment should be made by credit card through them.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICIES:

Registration fees must be paid at the time of applying.

If your application is received within the first 108 and class selections are assigned to you:

If you must cancel from a specific class or from the entire weaving retreat, your request must be made in writing (email to beckybechtel@gmail.com) and received ***BEFORE*** December 1st. A cancellation fee of \$25 will be applied to your refunded registration.

NO REFUNDS OF REGISTRATION FEES OR TEACHER FEES WILL BE MADE AFTER DECEMBER 1, 2016.

If your application is received after the maximum number of participants there is room for:

Your registration fee ***will be held until NOVEMBER 1, 2016 and refunded in full at that time.*** This will allow holding your place on the waiting list until class payments have been received. You may choose to have it refunded prior, ***but you will lose your place on the wait list.***

Miscellaneous:

No children under the age of 14 are allowed in the weaving classrooms.

You must be a paid registrant to be in the classrooms. Space will be “cozy” and your cooperation is appreciated.

As a courtesy to the teachers and other class participants, no cell phone usage is permitted at the classroom tables or in the weaving rooms during class times. Emergencies can arise, but please excuse yourself and step outside the classroom for phone calls.

Please do not play radios or music at the classroom tables. You may like to hear Led Zeppelin while you weave, but your neighbor may not.

Some of the attendees will be traveling by plane and not have every tool they normally do in their toolkit or a water vessel. Please be kind enough to share with your classmates.