

Teachers Bios

Anne Bowers - Kearneysville, WV

Anne is from the Eastern Panhandle of WV, where she works in her studio designing and teaching baskets. She was a production basket maker for many years and she brings those skills into each basket that she teaches. Ribbed basketry is her specialty, and some of her baskets have taken on a sculptural perspective in recent years. Anne has participated in many basketry exhibits, has received an award from Tamarack for being outstanding in the skills of basketry and has won many awards for her work. She is an active member of the National Basketry Organization. She has taught on three basketry cruises, teaches basketry widely and is still fascinated with the woven form. She recently participated in her 27th year of Jefferson County, WV's annual Over the Mountain Studio Tour. Her goal is to make each student's class a successful one.

Flo Hoppe – Rome, NY

Flo Hoppe is a full-time studio artist, teacher, and author. She began her career in 1971 teaching herself basketmaking from a small 1924 booklet. Her published books are "Wicker Basketry", "Contemporary Wicker Basketry", and "Plaited Basketry with Birch Bark". She has taught in England, Canada, Japan, Russia, and Australia. She is the recipient of the NBO Lifetime Achievement Award.

Candace Katz - Springdale, AR

Candace has been weaving for eighteen years and teaching for twelve years. Her designs include wood bases woven with reed, maple & cane. She has taught at MBG, LLWB, KBA, NCBA, Stateline, Oklahoma and Kansas weekend weaves. Candace is partners with Debbie Hurd in Bases to Weave, a supplier of wooden base products for basket weaving. She enjoys meeting new people, visiting with old friends and sharing tips and tricks. For her the journey is all about the love of the weave.

Karen Maugans – Waynesboro, VA

Karen took up weaving in 1999, quickly falling in love with the art. So much so, upon retirement she immediately went to work in a basket shop and then began teaching. She and her husband, Kim (who is also a weaver and teacher) now own "KnK CREATIONS". KnK CREATIONS is a home-based business carrying a full line of basketry supplies and offer monthly classes in their studio. Other interests are reading, gardening, church functions and enjoying the pleasures of each new day. She and Kim live in a small community called New Hope in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. They have a small place in the woods and share a mixture of pets – goats, chickens and an ample supply of cats.

Billy Owens – Aurora, MO

Billy is the second generation of the "Owens" white oak basket makers. His dad, Dale Owens, was self-taught and the first basket maker in the family. Billy's wife, Theresa, helps with the weaving as do the children and grandchildren (third and fourth generations). Owens Oak Baskets has been around for over 30 years in the Ozarks of Southwestern Missouri. All the material used in their baskets is made from timber grown in the Ozarks, which Billy selects, cuts and prepares by hand using a homemade hand tool which was made by his dad, called a "split knife". Billy has taught at conventions and workshops all over the USA. In his classes he enjoys sharing everything about the white oak, from selecting the right tree to how he prepares the material for weaving. It is his goal when he teaches, first and foremost, that everyone leaves with a finished basket they can be proud of and that they had a fun time learning about

the art of white oak basket making. He wants to ensure the tradition of Ozark White Oak Basketry lives on.

Elaine Sinclair – Salem, WV

In 1989 I decided to explore the world of basket weaving through the WV Extension Homemaker's Club. Shortly thereafter, I began teaching classes on my own. I have taught in OH, PA, KY, VA, IN, NC as well as locally in WV. I started a basket guild in Harrison County around 2000 and I am still president. I have taught students at the local elementary schools as well as my church and our VBS. In 2006, I was juried into Tamarack in Beckley, WV where one can still find my baskets and penny rugs for sale. In my second year at Tamarack I was named the 2nd top seller for 2008! In 2011 I was chosen as one of the top 15 of 3,000 artisans and WV Living magazine did a feature article on those honored. I was also selected to run for the Governor's Award. I still reside on the family farm in my very own "hundred acre woods" with my husband of 36 years and my dog. My three children stuck close by and share with me our 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Karen Unroe – Rockbridge, OH

Karen Unroe made her first basket in 1987 with Hocking County's beloved Leota Hutchison as the instructor. From that moment on she was smitten with the art of basket making. Basketry has become Karen's primary focus of creation because of her ability to grasp the beauty and usefulness of this very old handcraft. Karen concentrates on making the traditional style baskets for her local craft shows. These baskets are intended for use in everyday life. Karen loves to incorporate embellishments (buttons, wood cutouts, etc.) and reed accents on her baskets to create an expression of beauty, grace, or whimsy.

Karen began teaching basket making in 1990 in her home in Columbus, OH. She also taught at state conventions and small basket weaving conferences for many years. (formerly known as Karen Wheeler). She loves to share her knowledge and love of this traditional craft. Due to circumstances beyond her control with family issues, Karen had to take a break from teaching for many years.

Karen weaves from her home in Rockbridge, OH located in the heart of scenic Hocking Hills where she resides with her husband, Michael and her 93-year-old father, Carlos Nye. They have two rambunctious Jack Russell's (Hydro and Izzy). Life has become somewhat normal. Karen now enjoys designing new baskets and is ready to embark on her new journey in the world of basket weaving.