

Step-by-Step Willow Baskets

April 29-May 3, 2025

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Course Description

In the world of willow basketry, there are an infinite number of techniques to learn and perfect. Rib-style techniques will be the focus for this class, following the designs of many century-old basket styles. Learn about willow as a basket material, using wild and cultured, harvesting, sorting, and preparing for weaving. We will discuss and practice a variety of common techniques such as making frames, lashings, handles, and rims. Students will construct three or four baskets and make a variety of samples for future reference. This workshop is suitable for all skill levels, but hand strength is a must – willow is a strong material. Materials fee \$95 and up, depending on baskets woven. This fee is payable directly to the instructor during class.

Tools & Supply List - Sharp hand pruner, Bodkin or Large Awl, Sharp fixed blade knife (box cutters work well, not the disposable ones) Basket Shears, 1-foot square leather or denim scrap, 1 old bed sheet or 2 old beach towels to wrap willow and materials in, 2 bungee cords (12"-16") or cord to tie willow bundles, Pack of chenille sticks (craft pipe cleaners), 25 per pack or more, available at most craft/hobby stores **Optional** - Work apron, spray bottle

Material Fee Includes: Will include basket frames, all willow materials for weaving, various miscellaneous supplies, tool usage and handouts. Fee is \$95 and up, depending on the baskets woven.

Class Minimum = 6. **Class Maximum** = 10

Short Bio 2024

Jo Campbell-Amsler has been weaving baskets with willow since 1981. Her work is featured in magazines, books, and seen in exhibits across the U. S., the most recent being an exhibit "Touchstone: A Half-Century of Craft" in the Speyer Gallery at Falling Water, a home designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Teaching nationally, Jo has co-organized basketry events: The Willow Gathering, Willow Weekend, and The Willow Connection. She organizes and hosts basketry tours to Ireland, Scotland, Spain, France, Denmark, Wales, England, Italy, and Peru, visiting with fellow basket weavers and learning new skills. 2024 will find her traveling to Shetland and the Orkney Islands to meet with weavers there. <http://www.willowridgebaskets.com>

