



Monthly Newsletter - December 2008 Issue

Hello Weavers! Welcome to the first edition of the Prairie Spirit Baskets' monthly newsletter. The primary purpose of the newsletter is to communicate to and inform the Prairie Spirit Basket community of things that might be of interest relating to Prairie Spirit Baskets and basketry. The Prairie Spirit Basket community to which this newsletter is targeted consists of customers who have purchased baskets, basket weaving kits, classes or patterns. I hope you will find the newsletter informative. Also, since I would like this newsletter to benefit you, I am always open to suggestions on what you would like to see. I know how busy everyone is and understand if you don't want another email clogging up your inbox, so I won't be offended if you decline to receive this newsletter. Just send me an email asking me to remove you from distribution. I will also be posting each newsletter on the web page. Enjoy!

Carol

A Christmas Gift for You!

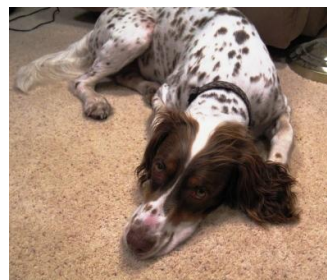
Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays everyone. Since you've all been mostly nice this past year (though I do have a few of you on my naughty list with the notation "spray bottle offense"), I've included a gift you each of you. I've attached a pattern for my adaptation of the Christmas door basket, "Woodland Christmas". Since Christmas is about sharing and giving, please feel free to share the pattern with others. The materials are pretty basic except for the wooden star and the 8" x 20" D-handle and you can get those from Wendy at St. Louis Basketry and Supply, www.stlbasketry.com.



Need Help Finishing Your Basket?

When taking a basket weaving class, students rarely have time to completely finish a basket. It is so sad when these unfinished baskets aren't able to reach their full potential and often end up in the closet or a box waiting to be finished. In an effort to help those baskets come out of the closet, Prairie Spirit Baskets is setting aside an evening each month where past students can bring their projects to my in-home studio. Weavers are invited to attend if they have either taken a Prairie Spirit basket class or purchased one of my basket kits or patterns in the past year. Each month I'll select an evening for "Prairie Spirit Free Weaving" where my private in-home studio will be open from 6pm - 9pm. Invitations will be sent out one month ahead of time. Whether you are working on finishing a basket or starting a new project or just need some moral support to finish up that project, please stop by. I'll provide water tubs and spray bottles. Just bring your tools and project.

One word of caution in advance, I am a “dog mom” so those of you who are allergic to dogs may not be comfortable weaving at my studio since Lucy (my dog) does keep me company in my studio when I weave. During the “Free Weaving” I will normally have a dog sitter (my husband) since weaving productivity can decrease when Lucy is around. (She loves to lie on reed!)



Student Showcase

Jane Goepfert made this cute melon-style basket at the November 1st antler basket class at St. Louis Basketry. Jane gets an A+!
Thanks Jane for sharing.



Upcoming Class

Inspiration was in the air at Camp Tuck in Bloomington, Illinois this past September! One of the basket weaving classes I attended, Fall Frolic by Venie Hinson (www.veniehinson.com), inspired my newest basket, “Osage Jewel”. Plans are to offer this basket in January at St. Louis Basketry. It is woven on a 5”x 8” wooden base and makes extensive use of sea grass. If you ever have the opportunity to take one of Venie’s classes, I would highly recommend it. Rumor has it that she might be paying a visit to St. Louis Basketry in 2009. Stay tuned!



Calendar of Upcoming Events

| Date | Event | Location |
|-----------------------------|--|------------------------|
| December 13 | I'll be demonstration Antler Basket Making at Kristkindl Markt (www.hermannfarm.com) on Saturday | Hermann, Missouri |
| January 2009 | The Margaret Harwell Art Museum www.mham.org will be hosting an exhibit of baskets. A few of my antler baskets will be included. | Poplar Bluff, Missouri |
| January 15 th * | January Free Weaving 6-9pm. (Thursday) | St. Charles, Missouri |
| February 16 th * | February Free Weaving 6-9pm. (Monday) | St. Charles, Missouri |

* Tentative dates.

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