



Monthly Newsletter – March 2009 Issue

I don't know about you, but I feel my best when I have things to look forward to. After seeing the booklets for this year's Silver Dollar City Basket Weaving Seminar and Workshop and the Missouri Basket Weaving Convention I think there are lots of basket weaving things to look forward to in Missouri. If you are part of the Missouri Basket Weaving guild, you should have received your brochure in the mail. It is also available on the web site,

<http://unionpoint.net/convention.html>. The convention, August 6-9, is in Independence, Missouri. The 2010 convention will be in St. Louis again in early August, so plan ahead.

The Silver Dollar City Seminar and Workshop, May 14-16, is in Branson. I attended last year and really enjoyed it. For information on that convention, you can mail Sandra Scherlin sscherlin@silverdollarcity.com.

I'm hoping to attend the Missouri convention this year. It is a great opportunity to learn and meet weavers from all over.

Carol

Weaving Hint – Spoke Weights

Spoke weights are invaluable when laying out a base. The weight is needed to hold your stakes, your weaving warp, in place until you can get a few rows of weft in place. There are a few different types of spoke weights to choose from:

1. **Heavy Ruler Spoke Weight** – This 16" long ruler-type spoke weight with the zero reference at the center, is great for making sure your spokes are spaced correctly. It weighs about 22 oz. Can also double as a personal safety item. Most weaving supply places sell these. I like mine but wished it fit better in my tool bag.



2. **Flexible Fabric Snake** – A fabric tube filled with pea gravel, usually about 24" in length. These are hand-made. They are nice because they are flexible and are useful for round basket spokes. They do tend to have gravel dust as they age. Mine has gotten pretty dirty and stained with age. It needs a good cleaning but I'm unsure as to how it would hold up to a washing. I should just get a new one.



3. **Vinyl Covered Chain** – This is a recent discovery, a 30” heavy chain with vinyl coating. I purchased mine at Lowe’s in the bulk chain area. I like it because it is heavy and being vinyl covered it can be easily cleaned. It is also flexible and easy (though heavy) to carry in my tool bag.



If you have your favorite spoke weight variety, let me know and I’ll do a follow up.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Date	Event	Location
April 26th	April Free Weaving 5-9pm (Sunday)	St. Charles, Missouri
May 9th	Hickory Hollow class at St. Louis Basketry	St. Louis, Missouri
May 30th	Harvest Bowl class at St. Louis Basketry	St. Louis, Missouri
May 31 st *	May Free Weaving 5-9pm (Sunday) (tentative)	St. Charles, Missouri

* Tentative date

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