

Natural Fiber Basket Newsletter & Spring 2011 Schedule for Workshop Bark-Peeling Days



There's nothing quite like making a basket all your own, from start to finish, from the standing tree to the finished basket in your hand! The whole process is a tactile, therapeutic, thoroughly absorbing experience, and one that is unforgettable! The end result is a simple woven basket, but one with a history full of your senses being awakened.



Natural fiber baskets are made with the bark, leaves, and shoots of several different trees and prairie plants. Once the weather warms up again and the sap in the trees starts flowing, it will be time to peel tree bark for baskets! Here in Missouri, the months of April, May, June, and possibly the early part of July, are the *only* times the inner bark will peel free of the sapwood underneath.

Workshops will be for *three days*.

Day 1 will be bark peeling. On that day, we will select the trees, cut them, trim the branches, and spend the whole day shaving the outer bark and peeling the inner bark. This inner bark is the primary material that we will later use to weave the baskets. Everyone will go home that day with their arms full of coils of wet inner bark to hang and allow to dry until we get together again for the basket weaving days.



The following dates are the schedule for the bark-peeling days for this season. If these don't work for you, call me and we can possibly work out something with our schedules.

April 9, 10, 23, & 24,
May 7, 8, 21, 22,
June 4, 5, 18, 19

Days 2 and 3 of the workshop will be spent preparing the materials and weaving the baskets. These days must be at least 2-3 weeks later, after the bark has had time to dry out and do most of its shrinkage. This can be anytime over the summer, whenever it works out for people.



Day 2 will be spent cutting and preparing the bark that was earlier harvested. Baskets will be started before the end of that day.

Day 3 will be spent continuing and finishing the baskets. Additional materials, such as Black Walnut, Hackberry, American Elm, or Willow bark, as well as Rattlesnake Master leaves, Siberian Iris, or Daylily leaves, will be provided for contrast in the baskets.



Cost: \$100 /three-day workshop

After the baskets are finished, most workshop people have bark left over from their trees. Additional basket weaving days can be scheduled any time over the summer or fall, at \$25/day.

There is a *maximum of 10 people/day*. If you are interested in coming as a group, be sure to reserve your dates with me quickly. Call or email to reserve your spot.

Hope to hear from you soon,
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The thing to remember about making baskets with materials from nature is this: *Each basket has the potential to create itself. You are simply the instrument that puts the pieces together.*

