

Join us at a ...

Willow Gathering

June 27th thru July 2nd, 2013

On the campus of [Luther College](#) in [Decorah](#), Iowa

Featured Basket Makers

Alison Fitzgerald
Benburb, Ireland



Margaret Mathewson
Alesa, Oregon



Joanna Schanz
West Amana, Iowa



Willow Gathering 2013 will be an encore gathering of willow enthusiasts, teachers and students, for the purpose of learning, sharing, and immersing themselves in "all things willow." Classes will be offered in a range of styles and techniques from 3 notable instructors, Alison Fitzgerald, Margaret Mathewson and Joanna Schanz.

The site for the Gathering is [Luther College's Baker Village](#), all powered by solar energy. It offers townhouse style housing and a commons area with a full kitchen for those bringing their own food/cookware. Alternative housing options include several of Decorah's motels, B & B's or area campgrounds.

Class participants will be treated to lunches & snacks prepared by [Trout River Catering](#). Chef Ruth Hampton will provide well-balanced, local/regionally – sourced vegetarian fare, thoughtfully prepared, that include both traditional and exotic favors.

Jo Campbell-Amsler and Lee Zieke Lee are the hostess/planners for this event and look forward to sharing this willow experience with you!

About Decorah



Nestled in the rolling hills of beautiful northeast Iowa, Decorah fits everyone's image of the quintessential rural town. Perched on the banks of the Upper Iowa River, Decorah offers many recreational opportunities such as a new bike-hike trail, trout fishing and river sports. Downtown Decorah boasts a vibrant mix of shops, galleries, restaurants offering a wide selection of cuisine options, a wonderful food coop and a bustling farmers market (Saturdays 8-11am). More information about Decorah is available at www.decoraharea.com

Questions? Contact...

Jo Campbell-Amsler jocamsler@hotmail.com 319-465-5376 <http://www.willowridgebaskets.com>

Lee Zieke Lee ziekelee@mabeltel.coop 563-735-5570 <http://www.willowglennursery.com>

Alison Fitzgerald

Benburb, Ireland

Alison Fitzgerald fell in love with willow more than 20 years ago when she came to live in Ireland.

“An understanding of the natural qualities of willow is a key feature of my work. My abstract wall designs express its lightness, flowing movement and pliability. I love the strong gentle curves of frame baskets which can be enhanced by the natural bark colours of the many varieties of willow, all locally grown.”

Alison Fitzgerald came to live in Ireland at the Horticultural Research Station in Loughgall, Co. Armagh in the winter of 1980. The beauty of the willow beds there, with long, straight, brightly coloured stems inspired her to try weaving. The local tradition of basketmaking on the shores of Lough Neagh has also been a source of inspiration and knowledge. In 1985 she set up her own workshop, Greenwood Baskets. Since then her work has been sold and exhibited widely in Ireland, the UK, Europe and America. Learn more at <http://greenwoodbaskets.co.uk>



Linen Basket

Thursday/Friday – 14 hr (2 days, 7 hrs/day)

A beautifully shaped form, Alison uses a modification of rib-rand that she calls “ripple weave” for the Linen Basket. There can be variations in the shape for this basket and an option of weaving a lid can be considered. This basket with its complex weave and challenging shape will be a good choice for the experienced willow weaver.

Approx. size: 24”H x 18” dia. (at widest point). Will vary according to shape woven.

Students Should Bring: Sharp knife, shears/pruners, bodkin (large awl), a square of leather or heavy denim, wrapping iron.

Cost: \$280 (class fee \$205, Material fee \$75)

Weaving Level: Intermediate to advanced experience



Boat Basket

Saturday/Sunday – 14 hr. (2 days, 7 hrs. /day)

From start to finish, all steps of this basket will be made in class. Making the hoop for the frame of the Boat Basket, learning the skill of splitting thick willow for ribs, being precise in shaping to achieve the lovely shape, “doubling up willow” for an interesting weave, and attaching a handle, are all skills that Alison will be sharing in this class.

Approx. size: 15 ¾”L x 11”W x 4”H (8 ½” H w handle)

Students Should Bring: Sharp knife, shears/pruners, bodkin (large awl), a square of leather or heavy denim

Cost: \$265 (class fee \$205, Material fee \$60)

Weaving Level: Intermediate



Potato Basket

Monday/Tuesday – 14 hr. (2 days, 7hrs/day)

The Potato Basket is a pleasantly rounded basket, which uses some wonderful willow techniques that will add to your knowledge of rib style baskets. Making the frame hoop, splitting & shaving ribs, precise shaping and adding twisted rod handles will teach you how to create this wonderful classic basket.

Approx. size: 17 ½”L x 15 ¾”W x 7” H

Students Should Bring: Sharp knife, shears/pruners, bodkin (large awl), a square of leather or heavy denim

Cost: \$265 (class fee \$205, Material fee \$60)

Weaving Level: Intermediate



Willow Note



All materials provided in each class for completion of the project.

Please check “Students should bring” section above for tools needed.

Margaret Mathewson

Alesea, Oregon

Margaret Mathewson has been weaving since 1980. She studied Biology and Anthropology in college and has also studied basketry in California and the NW area with a number of traditional Native American teachers. She has a PhD from Berkeley focusing on contemporary trends in California Indian basketry and a Post doctorate from the Smithsonian studying early collections there. She works for Oregon State University as well as Western Tribes, museums and interpretive centers teaching ancestral skills, particularly basketry. She runs a retreat center and willow farm in western Oregon, Ancient Arts Center, teaching and hosting guest workshops. Learn more at <http://www.ancientartscenter.com>



Willow Coil

Thursday/Friday – 14 hr (2days, 7 hrs/day)

This is a traditional style from the California Sierra Nevada and Western Great Basin – one rod coil with split willow over round reed or a willow root. It will be as big as two days allows. Margaret will also demonstrate 2-rod coiling and pine pitch jars of the Southern Great Basin and show examples.

Students Should Bring: sharp knife, very small awl like a darning needle set into a handle, scissors, tin can or metal juice jar lid, towel

Cost: \$215 (Class fee \$175, Material fee \$40.00)

Weaving Level: Intermediate, dexterity is a good thing but beginners are fine.



Not-So-Big Burden Basket

Saturday/Sunday – 14 hr (2 days, 7 hr/day)

This is a twill twined cone shaped basket to carry your not-so-big burdens. Use skined willow and redbud in a traditional Great Basin style with a complex or not so complex design. Material preparation will be discussed in class. Size – 4-6 inches, will vary.

Students Should Bring: sharp knife, clippers or strong scissors, packing tool, small awl, tin can or metal juice jar lid, towel

Cost: \$235 (Class fee \$175, Material fee \$60)

Weaving Level: Intermediate – twining experience required



Swirl Medallion or Hair Pin

Monday/Tuesday – 14 hr (2 days, 7 hr/day)

Weave a twill-twined medallion or hairpin in several color combinations- using white willow and redbud, golden or black willow skeins. The pattern appears as spokes are added in a specific way. Two different borders will be covered in class along with material preparation. These are beautiful! Size – Will vary

Students Should Bring: sharp knife, clippers or strong scissors, packing tool, small awl, tin can or metal juice jar lid, towel

Cost: \$215 (Class fee \$175, Material fee \$40.00)

Weaving Level: Intermediate, twining experience required



Willow Note



All materials provided in each class for completion of the project.

Please check "Students should bring" section above for tools needed.

Joanna Schanz

West Amana, Iowa



My willow adventure began with Philip Dickel, the last active willow basket maker of the Amana Colonies. He helped me to plant a cultured willow patch, taught me how to harvest and sort, and then, how to weave a traditional willow stake and strand basket of our German community. Since then I have had the opportunity to travel to such places as England & Germany and learn new techniques from other willow weavers, increasing my knowledge. Most of the time I weave traditional willow baskets – Phillip taught me that baskets are made to be used – so my creativity comes from weaving fancy bases, fancy French randings, and playing with the replaceable bottom "foot". There are so many willow techniques to play with, that there seems to be no limit as to what can be woven.

Learn more at <http://broomandbasket.com>

Willow Harvest Basket

Saturday/Sunday – 14 hr (2 days, 7hrs/day)

This is a reproduction of an old willow basket from the Schanz family, used for harvesting the produce of the seasons. It has a wide bottom that tapers to a smaller top with one handle. Learn all the techniques used in the traditional German willow weaving of the Amana Colonies – twined and double twined base, four rod wale, French Randing, 2/2/2 border, replaceable bottom foot, and one twisted or cranked handle. A classic! Size: 12" H x 12"W (before handle) Sizes may vary.

Students Should Bring: Bodkin (large awl), sharp fixed blade knife, sharp pruners or basket shears, rapping iron, 12" ruler, paper & pencil for notes, old beach towel or sheet (wrap willow in)

Cost: \$222 (Class fee \$160, Material fee \$62.00)

Weaving Level: All levels



Willow Note



*All materials provided in each class for completion of the project.
Please check "Students should bring" section above for tools needed.*

Salad Supper at Seed Savers



Saturday, June 29th, starting at 6 PM

Join us for a special evening at Seed Savers Heritage Farm.

- Dinner catered by the [Oneota Coop's Water Street Cafe](#) and will include a lovely mix of scrumptious salads and picnic fare.
- Water & iced tea provided. Feel free to bring other beverages or favorite foods.
- Carpooling from Decorah is encouraged. Maps will be provided.
- Visit the display gardens and shop the visitor center's gift shop.
- Cost per person is \$14.00. Bring a guest for the same price.
- Reservation requested on our Registration Form

**Be sure and make a personal copy for your records before sending.*

Instructions...

1. Select the class(s) you would like to take
2. Complete contact information
3. Consider housing option
4. Consider special evening at Seed Savers
5. Mail this form and deposit (\$100.00 U.S.)

1 **2 Day Classes**Place a by each class you wish to take.**Thursday/Friday** June 27-28 (14 hours) 9:00am – 5:00pm

Linen Basket \$280.00 (\$205 / \$75)
 Willow Coil \$215.00 (\$175 / \$40)

Saturday/Sunday June 29-30 (14 hours) 9:00am – 5:00pm

Boat Basket \$265.00 (\$205 / \$60)
 Not-So-Big Burden Basket \$235.00 (\$175 / \$60)
 Harvest Basket \$222.00 (\$160 / \$62)

Monday/Tuesday July 1-2 (14 hours) 9:00am -5:00pm

Potato Basket \$265.00 (\$205 / \$60)
 Swirl Medallion or Hair Pin \$215.00 (\$175 / \$40)

**Each class fee listed includes a lunch catered by Trout River Catering plus morning and afternoon beverage/snack break.* If my class choices are already full, I would be interested in the other classes. (Please check if applicable).

\$ _____ Total of class choices

\$ _____ Willow Gathering 2013 Registration Fee (non-refundable) - \$25.00

3 **Baker Village Housing** (housing option)

Stay on site at the Baker Village Housing at Luther College. Single or double bedrooms with shared living space – 6 people per townhouse. Housing available Wed (June 26th) thru Tues (July 2nd) more details about housing at : <http://www.luther.edu/reslife/residencehalls/upperclass/bakervillage>

Baker Village Housing fee = \$40 per night.Nights needed (each): Wed ___ Thurs ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ Mon ___ Tues ___

Total nights x \$40 per = \$ _____ total housing fee. I would like to be placed in the same "townhouse" with: _____

\$ _____ Total of optional housing

Check or money order (U.S.) for housing fee payable, with remaining class balance fee, due by March 15th, 2013*If you would like to make other housing arrangements, check out <http://www.decoraharea.com/lodging.html> for other places to stay in the Decorah area.***4** **Salad Supper at Seed Savers** (optional) If you would like to attend this special evening, please complete the following:

\$ _____ Seed Savers Salad Supper (_____ # of people x \$14 per person = \$ _____)

That's it! Enclose a Check or Money Order for \$100.00 U.S. (pre-payment fee of \$75.00 & registration fee of \$25.00)
payable to: Willow Gathering 2013

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Mail to: Jo Campbell-Amsler WG 2013
 21552 Stone Bridge Rd
 Monticello, IA 52310

Questions? Contact...Jo Campbell-Amsler jocamsler@hotmail.com 319-465-5376Lee Zieke Lee ziekelee@mabeltel.coop 563-735-5570**2**

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

• \$75.00 pre-payment fee is required to be sent, along with a non-refundable \$25.00 registration fee and form. The pre-payment fee is refundable only if you are not assigned a class.

* Classes will be filled on a "first come" basis. Send those registrations and fees in early!

• Class confirmation letter will be sent after January 15th, 2013. The balance of all fees are due after class assignment, no later than March 15th, 2013. These fees are non-refundable after March 15th, 2013 unless class is canceled.