

## HERITAGE SKILLS SEMINAR

### White Oak Basket

In partnership with The University of Tennessee Extension and  
The Tennessee Family and Community Education Council

Monday – Thursday, October 2-5, 2023  
Clyde M. York 4-H Training Center - Crossville, TN 38572

This year's Seminar will focus on breaking down a white oak tree and preparing the parts for making a basket.

We are fortunate to have Scott Gilbert leading this seminar. In 1982, Scott studied basket making with Ollie and Lestel Childress, generational white oak basket makers from Park City, Kentucky. He began teaching workshops in 1984 and continues passing on traditions today as webmaster, photographer, and artisan for The Basket Maker's Catalog in Scottsville, Kentucky, and with the Mammoth Cave Basket Makers Guild in Hart County. Scott is a current member of the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen and the Kentucky Crafts Marketing Program.

In 2013, one of Scott's white oak egg baskets was included in the exhibit *A Measure of the Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets* at the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum in Washington, DC. *A Measure of the Earth* explores the revival of traditional basketry in America during the past fifty years through works by sixty-three contemporary basketmakers who have gathered and woven with native materials.

On Monday, plan to bring any basket project you have to work on. This will be a good time to put the finishing touches on that project you just never got around to finishing. We will work, visit, and have dinner. This will also be a good time for you to explore the beautiful camp facility. Scott will come in on Monday, unload and prepare to get down to work with us on Tuesday. Plan to get a good night's rest and be ready for work on Tuesday.

You will spend two days (Tuesday and Wednesday) with Scott learning the age old White Oak Splitting process. Starting with the log, you will be using hand tools and will learn to split the timber into smaller and smaller pieces thus yielding wood for handles, rims and weavers for baskets. Scott will bring the timber and major tools, (draw horses, sledge hammer, wedges, froes, drawknives, etc.) to help the process. Splitting a white oak log into basket parts is not hard but does require hand strength and practice. Safety will be a major issue as the tools you will be using are sharp. Scott will demonstrate safe and powerful techniques so students can process the timber and not get injured. Scott will have extra knives for the students to use if needed.

Students should bring:

- Band-aids
- Gloves
- SANDPAPER: fine and course
- Pencil
- Sharp Whittling Knife
- Sharp Heavy-Duty Scraping Knife
- Kneepad of Denim

By Wednesday evening, students should have processed wood ready to make a basket. Scott will not be with us on Thursday, but we will have enough tools available so that you can either continue working wood or you can begin putting it to good use by setting up your basket.

The \$385.00 registration fee includes all your expenses (meals, lodging, instruction, and supplies). Though it is a camp facility, lodging is comfortable. This promises to be a relaxed learning experience, with good food, fun and fellowship at the beautiful Clyde M York 4-H Training Center on the Cumberland Plateau.

Class size is limited with registration taken on a first come basis. In the event the class fills, your name will be placed on a waiting list and you will be notified if/when there is an opening.

The seminar will begin at 1:00 PM CT on Monday and end after lunch on Thursday.

If you have questions or need additional information, please direct those to Brenda Kucharski - e-mail: [bpkucharski@att.net](mailto:bpkucharski@att.net) or call: 423-365-5101 or 423-605 8779. You will receive a final letter by mid-September with reminders and additional information.

Visit us on the web at <https://eastern.tennessee.edu/heritage-skills-seminars/>

# Registration Form

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1. Submit registration form and full payment of \$385.00 made out to **Heritage Skills Seminar** to:

**Brenda Kucharski  
339 Stump Hollow Lane  
Spring City, TN 37381**

Class size is limited and registration will be taken on a first come basis. In the event your registration is received after the class is filled, your name will be placed on a waiting list and you will be notified if an opening becomes available.

2. Full refunds will be made for cancellation prior to September 14, 2023. Because our numbers have to be guaranteed with the facility, **refunds made after September 14, will have a \$275.00 cancellation fee deducted.**
3. **If you do not have an e-mail address for confirmation of registration, please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address (if available): \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_