

Pine Needle Basket Class
Sponsored by the Southwest Women's Fiber Arts Collective

In this class instructor Ric Rao will teach students how to make a small basket from pine needles. Ric says that pine needle basketry is a truly American technique, as the Cherokee people made baskets from pine needles. Ric teaches this technique in the way that the Tohono O'odum (formerly Papago) of Arizona do, with a few differences. He uses pine needles coiled and stitched with artificial sinew, and they use bear grass coiled and stitched with yucca. The stitches are basically the same. They use an awl for the stiff yucca; Ric uses a tapestry needle for the more flexible artificial sinew. Some people use raffia, natural or synthetic to stitch their coils. The effect is the same but the sinew is easier to learn with since it is waxed and holds the stitches in place which is very important for beginners learning the stitching and coiling techniques.

Biography of the Instructor: Ric Rao has been collecting baskets for many years. His career as a basket maker began in 2001 at his first Southwest Regional Spinners retreat when he took Susan Jewell's pine needle basket workshop. Since then he has made many styles of baskets, using a variety of materials. He has even combined basketry with another talent — gourd art. Ric is also a spinner, dyer, needle-felter, weaver, and former shepherd. He is currently writing a book on the subject of pine needle basketry.

Supplies: Ric will provide the pine needles, sinew, tapestry needles, and a booklet about pine needle baskets. SWFAC will provide scissors so students will not need to bring any supplies.

When: Saturday, July 12 from 9-12:30 pm

Where: SWFAC Fiber Arts Center, 211-D Texas Street, Silver City, NM

Cost: \$29 for current SWFAC members, \$34 for others with full payment required to register. There is also a \$3 material fee to be paid to Ric at the beginning of the class to cover costs of the booklets and other materials he provides.

Registration: Deadline July 7. Register by mail, by phone with charge card, or in person at The Common Thread. We'll need your name, mailing address, email and phone information when you register. Mail goes to:

SWFAC, PO Box 636, Silver City, NM 88062
Or by phone or visit:
The Common Thread, 107 W Broadway Street, Silver City NM, 575-538-5733.
Call for store hours and days open.

Cancellation Policy: to get your check or money order refunded, we must have notice of your cancellation by July 7-call The Common Thread at number below. After that date we cannot return your class fee. SWFAC reserves the right to cancel the class by date above if we do not have at least 3 students registered, in which case all class fees will be returned.

Class size is limited to eight students so early registration is recommended.

For more information contact The Common Thread at 538-5733,
Or Ric Rao at ricrao@zianet.com (mention class in subject line),
Or Jean Hill at Jeanh@fiberartscollective.org .