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The Nova Scotia Basketry Guild was formed in 1988 and currently has about 60 members spread across the province.

The main objectives of the Society are:

- ❖ To share information about basketry
- ❖ To promote an awareness of basketry in the community-at-large
- ❖ To promote the preservation of traditional Nova Scotian basketry techniques
- ❖ To promote the development of contemporary basketry techniques.

Our workshop instructors have come from the local community of traditional basketmakers – Mi'kmaq and Black – and from the wider international basket community – Switzerland, England, Sweden, Japan, Upper Canada, Western Canada and the United States.

We work with Willow, Witherod, Red Osier Dogwood, Maple, Ash, Poplar, fresh and saltwater marsh reed, paper, cardboard, telephone wire and a variety of other flexible materials to weave baskets, hats, bags, bird feeders, chair seats, garden support structures, living willow fences, and other assorted items

We usually meet Tuesday mornings with some weekend workshops and/or outdoors gathering trips.



Reflections

Incorporation, June 7, 1988
Deregistration December 1, 2015

Charter members met at Ross Farm Museum Thanksgiving Saturday October 1989:

Joleen Gordon	Val Meister	Jane Arbour
Eileen Hubley	Marianne LaPointe	Heather Sanft
Jennifer Waring	Anita Bishop	Gail Hoban

Honorary Members:

Werner Turttschi of Hondrich, Switzerland - Willow basketmaker
Michael Thierschmann of Neustadt, Germany - Willow basketmaker
Annie Paul of Indian Brook, NS - Mi'kmaq wooden flower maker
Olivia Elton Barratt of Little Hadham, England - Rush basketmaker
Clara Clayton Gough of East Preston NS – Black basketmaker
George Saulnier of Hectanooga, NS - Acadian basketmaker
Anne May Darville of Esakasoni/Halifax, NS - Mi'kmaq basketmaker
Greg McEwan of Bear River, NS – Mi'kmaq basketmaker

Organized basketry exhibitions with demonstrations and workshops:

2006: ***Basket Stories*** – The Craig Gallery, Alderney Landing, Dartmouth
2001: ***Nova Scotia Basketry Traditions*** – Dartmouth Heritage Museum, Dartmouth
2000: ***Basketry: Honouring the Past, Exploring the Future*** – Alderney Landing Visual Arts Gallery, Dartmouth
1997: ***Baskets: Traditional and Beyond*** – Nova Scotia Museum, Halifax
1993: ***Craft Theme Years*** – Mary E. Black Gallery, Halifax, Nova Scotia Department of Education and Culture Celebrating the first 5 years of the Craft Theme Years
1992: ***Gather Ye Baskets*** – Unitarian Church Ballroom, Halifax, where we displayed work of our members under the guidance of member Michal Crowe

Organized basketry demonstrations:

1988 – Present: Ross Farm Museum, Lunenburg Co. NS – annual program
1988 – Present: Nova Scotia Designer Craft Council - Summer and Winter Markets
Over the years: Various Locations of the Nova Scotia Museum
Over the years: Programs in the Public Libraries and daycares
Over the years: Dartmouth Farmers' Market



Participated in Community Events:

- 2008: 20th Anniversary of NSBG – 2 year series of events focusing on Ash baskets in Mi'kmaq, Nantucket and Shaker traditions with the Mi'kmaq Mainland Confederacy, the Shubenacadie Canal commission and the Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage
- 2005: Snake Charmer's Basket for Symphony Nova Scotia's production of The Nutcracker
- 2004-2006: Reed baskets for the IWK Hospital Auxiliary's annual Kermesse
- 1995: Summit'95 in Halifax – Basketry demonstrations
- 1994: August 15 – Our visit with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
- 1993: Birchbark: Micmac and Nordic Traditions with Shubenacadie Canal Commission
- 1991: The Craft Theme Year of Basketry – year long basketweaving workshops and demonstrations, compiling The Basket Notes and making the Nova Scotia Museum kit

Organized Special Workshops:

- 2006-2009: Greg McEwan, Bear River, Nova Scotia – Traditional Mikmaq Ash Basketry
- 2008: Martha Wetherbee, New Hampshire USA – Shaker Cat-head Basket
- 2006: Flo Hoppe, Rome NY, USA – Dyed Reed Basketry
- 2005: Todd Labrador, Bridgewater, Nova Scotia – Mi'kmaq Birch Bark Container
- 2004: Clara Clayton Gough, East Preston, Nova Scotia – Red Maple Basketry
- 2004: Joan Carrigan, Saltspring Island British Columbia – Rush Hatmaking
- 2004: Lyn Siler, North Carolina USA – Cherokee Ash Basketmaking
- 2004: Werner Turtschi, Switzerland – Willow Basketry Workshops – Province wide
- 2003: Louise Lortie, Prince Edward Island – Wheat Weaving
- 2003: Joan Carrigan, Saltspring Island British Columbia – West-Coast Cedar Bark Basket
- 2003: Clara Clayton Gough, East Preston, Nova Scotia – Red Maple Basketry
- 2002: Sanna Rahola, Finland/Nova Scotia – Felted Containers
- 2001: Mary Butcher, England – Willow Shopping Baskets
- 2000: Werner Turtschi, Switzerland – European Willow Basketry Workshops
- 2000: Anne Mae Darville Eskasoni/Halifax, Nova Scotia – Mi'kmaq Ash and Sweetgrass Basketry
- 1998: Ankaret Dean, Oakville, Ontario – Woodland Sculptures
- 1997: Shuna Rendel, London, England – Netting and Complex Linking
- 1997: Hisako Sekijima, Japan – Traditional & contemporary Japanese Basketry
- 1996: Kay Johnson, Witham, England – Traditional British Rush Basketry
- 1996: Jules Koch, Ontario – Wild Wither Basketry
- 1996: Sue Marvin, Washington – Northwest Coast Cedar, Cherry, Sweetgrass Basketry
- 1995: Lois Walpole, London, England – Waste Basket Workshops
- 1993: Melinda Mayhall, Toronto, Ontario – Colourful Reed Basketry
- 1993: Karin Lundholm, Sweden – Swedish Birch Bark Basketry
- 1990: Olivia Elton Barratt, Little Hadham, England – Traditional British Rush Basketry
- 1989: Werner Turtschi, Switzerland – European Willow Basketry Workshops
- 1987: Werner Turtschi, Switzerland – European Willow Basketry Workshops
- 1987: Michael Thierschmann, Germany – Willow Lidded-Cheese Basket
- 1985: Ankaret Dean, Oakville, Ontario – Telephone Wire Basketry

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