

Miwok-Paiute Basketry



Lucy & Julia Parker
August 24–26, 2012

\$190 per person / \$175 for Mono Lake Committee members
\$80 materials fee to be paid to instructors
enrollment limited to 12 participants
optional primitive campsite near Lundy Canyon (no pets)

During this three-day seminar, participants will prepare materials and create a Miwok-Paiute burden basket, which was used for gathering pinenuts, acorns, and berries. Burden baskets are cone-shaped and made very large to be worn as a backpack. The baskets will be made from red willow using a form of two-strand twining. All materials will be gathered, seasoned, and prepared for each student.

This seminar is appropriate for all levels of weavers and begins on Friday morning. You are encouraged (but not required) to camp with the group, and Saturday evening will be spent around the campfire sharing food and traditional songs and stories. This seminar is designed for weavers of all levels, beginning through advanced.

Lucy Parker is a descendant of the Yosemite Miwok, Mono Lake Kutzadika^a, and Kayasha Pomo peoples. She learned traditional handiwork from her mother, a master basket weaver, and will pass on some of her knowledge in this special three-day/two-night camping seminar. Julia Parker

is Lucy's mother and has dedicated her life to learning and teaching basketry as well as continuing the traditions of her people. She is one of the famous basket weavers of California, and the only weaver still practicing who was taught by women who wove in the early 20th century.

Please note that basketweaving requires desire, time, dedication, and proper preparation of materials. *This seminar is designed for those who either wish to learn a new basket material technique or are new to basket weaving.*

ITINERARY

On **Friday, August 24 at 9:00am**, we will meet inside at the Mono Lake Committee Information Center & Bookstore in Lee Vining. After brief announcements and introductions we will travel to the campsite south of Lundy Canyon to set up camp and begin our seminar. We will introduce materials and technique, and then begin work on our baskets. There will be discussion of Miwok and Kutzadika^a (Mono Basin Paiute) culture. We will break for lunch.

If you prefer to stay in town or at another campsite you are welcome to do so. The seminar will meet at the group campsite location on Saturday and Sunday mornings.

On **Saturday, August 25 at 9:00am**, we will gather at the campsite to begin work. Most of the day will be spent working with your hands, and there will be breaks throughout the day. As we work we will enjoy the cool shade of the willows, cottonwoods, and aspens, and have opportunities to tell stories and discuss Kutzadika^a culture. In the evening we will have a special gathering around the campfire to tell traditional stories and sing traditional songs! There will be a potluck gathering before this event at 6:30pm.

On **Sunday, August 26 at 9:00am**, we will gather again by our campsite and continue our work and discussion. We may find nearby shaded spots/views for more time on the baskets. We will conclude our seminar in the early afternoon.

Altitude and Dehydration Cautions: Remember to bring (and drink!) lots of water because your body loses more water at the higher altitudes of the Mono Basin. Experts recommend that you begin drinking extra water as you drive to higher elevation in order to prevent dehydration and headaches. Also, the sun is rather fierce at high elevations, capable of burning even on cool and cloudy days, so be sure to protect yourself thoroughly using sunscreen, sunglasses, and hat.

CAMPING

The primitive campsite is optional but included with the seminar, available Friday and Saturday nights *only* (no pets, please). After registration and introduction in Lee Vining at the Mono Lake Committee we will caravan out to the campsite together, just a few minutes' drive away.

The campsite does not have good level spaces for campers/vans or for people who wish to sleep in their vehicles. *If you wish to camp, please bring a tent.*

If you're camping with the group, please bring all the gear you will need to camp at a primitive campsite (no flush toilets or piped water). You must bring all your own water for the duration, or you can treat the water available on-site. You can fill up containers with a hose on the side of the

Mono Lake Committee building (good spring water) if you run out. We will be exercising low-impact camping. *Please pack lightly—at the group campsite location, campsites are up to 100 yards from the parking lot, and you will have to carry all your equipment to the sites by hand.*

MEALS

You must bring your own food for the weekend. If you are staying in town, then plan on bringing your own lunches. *For all participants there will be a potluck dinner on Saturday night at the campsite (food and ingredients can be obtained in town at the Mono Market).*

TO BRING

Lucy may have some limited supplies available for purchase.

- long towel
- bucket
- sharp general-purpose knife
- hand pruners (for cutting additional willow)
- good quality, sharp scissors
- high-quality metal awl of small to medium size (not an ice pick)
- low lawn/folding chair or blanket for sitting on the ground
- large, long Tupperware container for soaking materials
- spray bottle
- sunscreen and/or hat
- water for the day (or for your camp for the duration)
- insect repellent
- a basket tool kit if you already have one

Please bring an \$80 CASH material fee to be paid to Lucy Parker. Basket materials must be collected by hand in the fall, winter, or spring depending on the material, which involves time and effort. Lucy must gather enough materials for 12 potential participants. If you need extra materials during the course of the seminar, they will be available for an additional charge.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

Some of the following books are available at the Mono Lake Committee and are excellent informational and reference sources:

The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry (\$20.00)

It Will Live Forever (\$14.95)

Remember Your Relations: The Elsie Allen Baskets, Family & Friends (\$20.00)

Survival Arts of the Primitive Paiutes (\$16.95)

Tradition and Innovation (coffee table hardback, \$49.95) **OUT OF PRINT**

Weavers of Tradition and Beauty: Basket Makers of the Great Basin (\$19.95)



Mono Lake Committee Field Seminars

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