

Traditional Willow Basketry

I have been making traditional European Willow Baskets since 1983

I OVAL MARKET BASKET

18"x14"x12" | White Willow
An English market basket with a wrapped handle.

2 SCIATHOG

13"x13"x3" | Unpeeled Willow A traditional Irish frame basket, used for straining boiled potatoes. Use of naturally colored willows.

3 ENGLISH SQUARE SHOPPER

15"x11"x12" | Steamed Brown Willow A classic English shopping basket with a rectangular base, made in a screwblock. Slewing weave.

4 CAMERA BASKET

10"x5"x9" | Buff Willow | Leather A rectangular basket, not made on a mold, with twig slide fastening and leather strap.

5 BUSHEL BASKET

21"x21"x15" | Brown Willow A large functional basket with two roped handles and a replaceable foot.

6 SCIOB

14"x14"x3" | Brown and White Willow Another Irish potato straining basket with a unique open base weave.

7 POLISH ARM BASKET

15"x9"x20" | Buff and White Willow A lovely Polish arm basket with a cross-over handle. Made on a mold.

8 DETAIL OF BACKPACK HANDLE

The detail shows the roped handle and interface with the leather straps.

9 BACKPACK

18"x12"x17" | Brown Willow | Leather My own design of the basket and leather straps, which I make myself.





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10 FISHING CREEL 12"x7"x9" | Buff Willow | Leather My own design of the basket, lid and 3 part leather and brass harnesss.

II DETAIL OF CREEL LID

12 FIRESIDE LOG BASKET 14"x14"x19" | Steamed Brown Willow

13 "EARLY AMERICAN LIFE" LUNCH BASKET 10"x10"x12" | Brown Willow I designed this beginning willow basket specifically for the "Early American Life" magazine, featured October 1992.







14 CROCANE 19"x13"x12" | Buff Willow A traditional French market basket with replacement foot and large double roped handle.





Custom Design Work

- I-4 CUSTOM KITCHEN DRAWER BASKETS Since 1990, I have built custom kitchen drawer baskets for designer kitchens.
- 5 MOUNT VERNON ESTATE COMMISSION
 In October 2007, I was commissioned by the Mount
 Vernon Estate to build a buff willow basket specifically to
 hold Martha Washington's love letters, in an educational
 exhibit at Mount Vernon.

In January 2006, I was commissioned to design and build four hurdles (8 feet x 4 feet and 3 feet x 4 feet) to surround a copper trough (to hold plants) for the new Urban Outfitters Store in Suburban Square, Philadelphia.

6-8 HURDLES FOR URBAN OUTFITTERS

Urban Outfitters Store in Suburban Square, Philadelphia. A massive screwbolock (6) was designed and built to hold the vertical stakes for the weaving. The hurdles were then transported to the store and installed.



















Living Willow Installations

I have been engaged in building living willow installations since 2004. This work is an extension of my traditional willow basketry, in which I have been involved for over 20 years. I took several professional installation courses in England in 2005 and 2007. My installation work has been featured in the March 2006 issue of "House and Garden" magazine, the Fall/Winter 2006 issue of "Vogue Living" magazine and I will be featured in a Willow segment on the PBS TV Cultivating Life show in Spring 2008.

Living willow structures are a very exciting art form. They provide immediate three-dimensional structure to an often void and boring space. They can be used for function, contemplation, play, barrier definition and sitting areas. They can be simple as in the form of a fence or dome and as complex as the imagination with multi level and height components designed around a site theme with a large use of interconnected structures. Large willow rods are pushed into the ground and then horizontal and diagonal willow components are interwoven to make a very strong "fedge" (fence/hedge). This building block can then be applied to living fence, domes, arbors, tunnels and buildings. Growth of the structure is immediate, providing a living classroom in school settings. My work to date, includes:

- I 2004. Willow Lodge (dome), Rogers Environmental Education Center, Sherburne, NY; 8 feet by 8 feet.
- 2 2004. Two living arches, Cornell Cooperative Extension grounds, Norwich, NY; 15 feet by 5 feet.
- 3 2004. Wee Willow Dome (dome and fedges), Riverside Park, Tunkhannock, PA; 12 feet by 7 feet.
- 4 2005. Installation at artist residence (interconnected fedges, arch and dome), Norwich, NY; 20 feet by 20 feet.
- 5 2005. Living fence and archway, Gwynedd Mercy Academy High School, Gwynedd Valley, PA; 33 feet by 4 feet.
- 6 2006. Outdoor Living Room and fedges and arch at private residence, Amagansett, Long Island, NY; 14 feet by 14 feet and 35 feet by 5 feet.
- 7 2006. Living fence and arch, West Chester Friends School, West Chester, PA; 33 feet by 6 feet.
- 8 2007. Dome at the Susquehanna School, Binghamton, NY; 8 feet by 8 feet.
- 9 2007. Living Cairn at private residence, Litchfield, CT; 13 feet by 9 feet.
- 10 2007. Installation at the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier, Erie, PA with multi height interconnected components designed around the "LEAF" motive. Involves sculpture, arches, fedges and pathways. Funded by an Artistand-Communities grant from MAAF; 50 feet by 30 feet. (Details to follow overleaf)









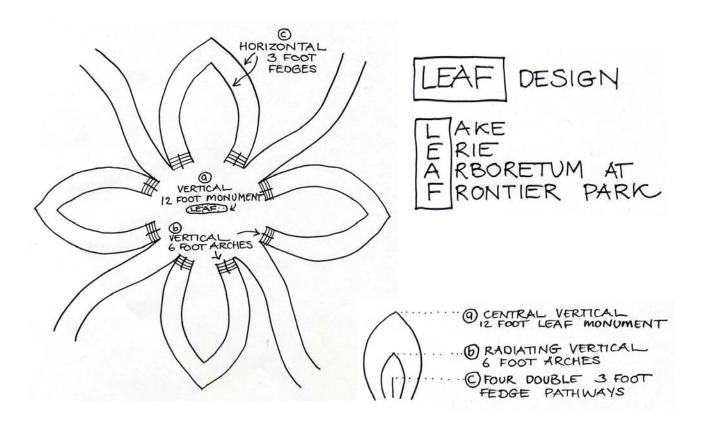






Erie Installation 2007

In 2007, I was awarded a Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation "Artist and Communities" grant to engage in a large scale community living willow installation, in conjunction with the Arts Council of Erie and the Lake Erie Arboretum at Frontier Park, Pennsylvania. Community groups were defined and a series of public meetings followed where the design of the installation was created. The design uses the "leaf" shape which is also the logo of the Lake Erie Arboretum, a partnering agency, where the installation is located. The design involves three heights of "leaf/leaves"; a central 12 foot sculptural monument, around which are a series of radiating 6 foot arches in the leaf shape. These arches open into 3 foot high double leaf walkways. There are also radiating curved pathways to the exterior of the installation which mirror the curve of the nearby stream and the "Mother Willow Tree" which is a central anchor in the park. The original conceptual design was 50 feet square, but after "real life" considerations, the installation size was reduced to 50 feet by 30 feet. The community then laid out and built the installation with live willow rods. There was an unveiling ceremony in July. A community pruning maintenance session occurred in September 2007.















Guandu International Outdoor Sculpture Festival 2008

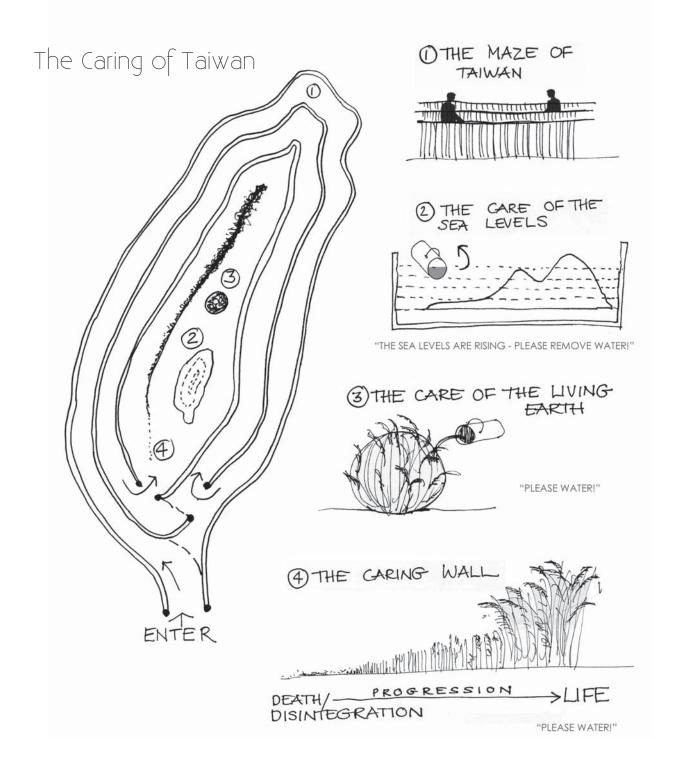
Proposal for an installation on the "Global Warming" theme by Bonnie Gale

DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION: "The Caring of Taiwan"

Global warming is a worldwide phenomenon of the effects of human industrial abuse on the natural ecosystems (plants and animals are threatened as their habitats are destroyed or they are hunted to extinction), which has now developed into the potential destruction of human ecosystems (climate change with droughts, rising sea levels, limited resources). In order to save and protect all forms of life, human intervention for the caring and protection of the planet is necessary, at all levels. Humans need to develop adaptability for change of the status quo and not to be held back from individually acting for the common good. My installation, entitled "The Caring of Taiwan" invites the public to actively participate in the making of good choices for the caring of the environment in Taiwan.

As an installation artist, I engage in the creation of defined and contained space around a theme of relaxation, play, movement, shelter, art, boundary or interest. In this installation, I want the public to understand the significance of their own country, Taiwan, and the caring of their home. The starting point for the installation is the building of a series of defined parallel pathways that are the outline of the island of Taiwan. This structure is entitled The Maze of Taiwan and the fences are 3 feet tall made of bundles of phragmites. The public will need to enter and walk along these defined pathways (and hence walk the shape of their country twice) in order to enter the center of the installation. In the center of the installation, will be a series of three interactive exhibits: The Care of the Sea Levels; The Care of the Living Earth and The Caring Wall. Care of the Sea Levels is a typographic model of Taiwan made with shaved phragmites in a container with the ability to have fluctuating levels of water representing changes in sea level. The public will be invited to remove some of the water from this exhibit in order that the human population on the island is not threatened, metaphorically. The water removed can then need to be added to the second exhibit: Care of the Living Earth. This exhibit is a living globe of phragmites that will need watering to be kept alive. Thirdly, The Caring Wall is a long wall of phragmites showing the whole span of death/disintegration at one end to life at the other end. One end of the Wall will start with loose and scattered stems of phragmites; as the wall progresses, it will increase in thickness with upright reed and at the far end the dead phragmites will be overtaken with live plants. The public will view this progression and be asked to water the live reed, in order to keep it alive.

In this installation, I aim to show the choice inherent in global warming: death/disintegration or life. The elements of water and phragmites in this installation have been chosen with purpose and are good metaphors for the issues on our planet. Water is needed for the living phragmites but it is also a major issue with rising sea levels. Phragmites australis, abundant at the Nature Park, has had great value for many native cultures in the form of food, jewelry, weapons, weaving material, boats and musical instruments. But nowadays, it is often considered to be invasive as it grows well in areas of disturbance and environmental stresses. Yet, it is now being found that it has potential for bioremediation and wetland stabilization and rehabilitation. I plan to use phragmites, in combination with water, as a live medium in this installation. The issue of balanced use is inherent in both of these materials.





Recent Publications

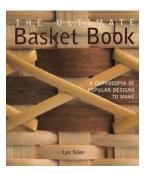
I HOUSE AND GARDEN MAGAZINE

March 2006 | One Gardener's Almanac, "Slender Reeds, Sturdy Shots" by Tom Christopher | pages 70, 72, 160 | Article on the living structures of Bonnie Gale



2 VOGUE LIVING MAGAZINE

Fall/Winter 2006 | "The Chronicles of Carolina" | pages 192-197 | Article with full 2 page color spread of Outdoor Living Room installation by Bonnie Gale



3 THE ULTIMATE BASKET BOOK

2006 | Book by Lyn Siler. Lark Books | "Willow Field Basket" chapter written by Bonnie Gale | pages 85-90



4 WILLOW SEGMENT

in the PBS Cultivating Life Series, Spring 2008, will feature the work of Bonnie Gale $\,$

portfolio index

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