

# Ply-Splitting: Braids, Baskets & Beyond

## One, Two, or Three-Day Workshop

### Description for publicity:

Ply-split braiding is a technique found in northwest India. Its traditional use is for making girths, sturdy straps, bags, and other accessories for camels. Ply-splitting captivates weavers, braiders, basket makers and other fiber enthusiasts alike. Instead of elements moving over and under each other, in ply-splitting four-ply cords move *through* each other. In this workshop you will learn the basics of ply-split braiding with an eye toward creating one-of-a-kind necklaces. Then go beyond traditional ply-split bands and learn how to make a basic mat which can be the foundation for three-dimensional forms such as baskets. See several contemporary adaptations, and explore ways to incorporate embellishments, make closures, and finish ends.

### Day One:

- I. Lecture introduction, background, necessary tools, examples
- II. Hands-on braiding

### Day Two:

- I. Making a basic mat
- II. Forming a vessel

### Day Three:

- I. Finishing the vessel
- II. Summary and suggestions for future projects

**Level of expertise:** beginner

**Materials fee:** at least \$60, includes kit with cords and handouts. Materials fee depends on number of days.

**Note:** Each person must purchase a gripfid (the necessary ply-splitting tool) in time for the workshop. Contact Barbara for sources.

**Maximum number of participants:** 12

**Room requirements:** a room with very good light

**Each student needs:** plenty of table space for a work area, a comfortable chair, good light

**Teacher needs:** two banquet-size tables for displaying many examples, chalk board and chalk or white board and markers