

Donna Crispin to teach weaving workshop

CANNON BEACH — Donna Crispin wove her first basket from pine needles. She did so while stationed at the Grand Canyon, working for the Forest Service.

That was 30 years ago. And while her techniques have evolved, Crispin's sourcing remains the same.

"I like to go out and collect my own materials," she says. "To me that's a really important part of making your basket. You develop a better appreciation of what it takes to make a basket. You also become more

aware of the plants, trees and the flora that's around you."

A teacher almost as long as she's been a weaver, Crispin will share decades of experience at a workshop Sunday, April 17 at Tolovana Hall, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. All skill levels will take home a basket or bird house of their own creation — even those who've never woven a single thread.

"You'll learn a couple basic techniques," Crispin says, including weaving and twining.

"You'll also learn how to work with natural materials,"

she says. "I'll be bringing different materials I've gathered. I'll also talk about how to gather wisely and prepare what you've gathered."

And, if you've got some prospective plants of your own, bring them and Crispin will help you sort the "dos" from the "don't bothers."

Cat tails, which are found readily throughout the North Coast, will be featured at the class. So too will yellow water iris, an invasive species that grows in ditches.

Students will begin weav-



Submitted photo by Lanny Severson
Donna Crispin will teach a weaving workshop April 17 at Tolovana Hall.

ing a similar base and foundation. With Crispin's guidance

they will reach a crossroads and choose whether to complete a basket or bird house.

"It will be based on a French bird house," Crispin says, "probably made out of willow."

For Crispin, weaving's allure goes beyond the connections to nature. "I tried crocheting and knitting and other things, but they didn't work for me," Crispin says. "But I wanted to do something with my hands. Weaving worked for me."

After the first pine needle basket, Crispin began weaving more seriously some decades ago at a drop-in workshop in Manzanita. Her tight, complex and organic pieces employ

Pacific Northwest indigenous techniques and draw from Japanese aesthetics.

Crispin has taught dozens of classes all over the western United States, from New Mexico to Hawaii, with her baskets in galleries along the way.

"I love teaching," Crispin says. "I love passing on the information that I know."

Tolovana Hall is located at 3779 S. Hemlock St. Tickets are \$65 (materials provided, though attendees should bring a snack). For more information visit www.tolovanaarts-colony.org, email tolovanaartscolony@gmail.com, or call 541-215-4445.

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