

## Class Information for VF 2025 Conference

	Thursday Apr 24	Friday Apr 25	Saturday Apr 26	Sunday Apr 27
8:30 am		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9:00 am		Announcements	Announcements	Announcements & Class Photos
Morning Session	Arrival and Registration 10 am to 12 am	Beginning Rug Braiding: Continuous Circle Chair Pad – Hibbard (1/3)	Beginning Rug Braiding: Continuous Circle Chair Pad – Hibbard (2/3)	Beginning Rug Braiding: Continuous Circle Chair Pad – Hibbard (3/3)
9:30 am - 11:30 am		Braided Heart on Wire – Mahler (1/3)	Braided Heart on Wire – Mahler (2/3)	Braided Heart on Wire – Mahler (3/3)
		Rita's Star Basket II – Manges (1/3)	Rita's Star Basket II – Manges (2/3)	Rita's Star Basket II – Manges (3/3)
11:45 am			PHOTO	
Noon	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	(Please be out of your room by 10 am so staff can start cleaning).  <i>So long Farewell Auf wiedersehen Adieu</i>
Early Afternoon	Pincushion Jar – Watts (1/2)	Two-Braid Tote – Watts (1/2)	Two-Braid Tote -- Watts	
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Making Waves Chair Pad – Robertson-Smith (1/3)	Making Waves Chair Pad – Robertson-Smith (2/3)	Making Waves Chair Pad – Robertson-Smith (3/3)	
	Turkey Treat Basket – Winship (1/3)	Turkey Treat Basket – Winship (2/3)	Turkey Treat Basket – Winship (3/3)	
	Zigzag Chair Pad – Manges (1/3)	Zigzag Chair Pad – Manges (2/3)	Zigzag Chair Pad – Manges (3/3)	
Late Afternoon	Braiding with Denim – Tobias (1/2)	Pincushion Jar – Watts (2/2)	Braiding with Denim – Tobias (2/2)	
3:15 pm - 5:15 pm	LO Butting Workshop – Manges (1/1)	Linking Circles: Tetracuspoid and Triangle – Manges (1/2)	Linking Circles: Tetracuspoid and Triangle – Manges (2/2)	
5:30 pm	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
7:00 pm	Showing the Tea Cup Auction	Show and Tell Rug Challenge	Tea Cup Auction	

## Beginning Rug Braiding: Continuous Circle Chair Pad

--Friday, Saturday, & Sunday mornings--

**Teacher:** Mary Hibbard

**Email:** [mhibbard@frontiernet.net](mailto:mhibbard@frontiernet.net)

**Description:** Participants will learn the basics of continuous rug braiding. We'll talk about wool preparation, learn how to start braiding the chair pad, lace the braid to the growing rug to create a nicely shaped 13-15" circle, and how to end the rug with a taper. We'll also talk about wool preparation and color changes.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60 (+ additional \$15 wool kit)

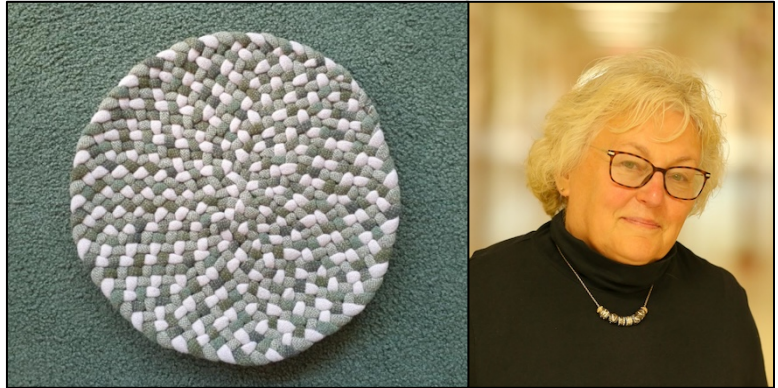
**Prerequisite skills:** None

**Kit:** Wool kit \$15

**Finish?** Most participants will finish the chair pad in class.

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Teacher Bio:** Mary took her first braiding class 12 years ago at New England Braids in Methuen, MA. Since that time, she has attended many braiding events and taken classes to advance her skills. Mary has been teaching beginning rug braiding via zoom and at the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Conferences for several years.



## Pincushion Jar

--Thurs early pm & Friday late pm--

**Teacher:** PeggyAnn Watts

**Email:** [pwatts@stny.rr.com](mailto:pwatts@stny.rr.com)

**Description:** A useful 2-Braid circle to make a pincushion... or the start of a butted round rug or basket. We will make this one into a pincushion atop a jar for pins or other small storage.

**Sessions:** 2

**Cost:** \$40 (plus \$20 kit, see below)

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must be able to braid, lace, and count loops.

**Kit:** \$20 includes mason jar, wool, template & booklet

**Level:** Confident Beginner

**Max Students:** 12

**Min Students:** 2

**Complete Project in Class:** most likely

**Teacher Folds:** RO

**Class Folds:** LO & RO

**Butting:** 2-Bracelet Butt

**Teacher Bio:** PeggyAnn is a rug braider, hooker of rugs, and a weaver. She is the owner and teacher of the Belfast Braiders Studio in Belfast, NY. She has taught at both the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild's Conferences and New England Braids in Methuen, MA. She is a member of the Southern Tier Fiber Artisans of New York and the Weaving Guild of Bradford, PA.



## Making Waves Chair Pad

--Thurs, Fri, & Sat early afternoons--

**Teacher:** Rose Robertson-Smith

**Email:** [idlewildwool@gmail.com](mailto:idlewildwool@gmail.com)

**Description:** Spiral chair pad with scalloping curves. Learn to make and align double- and triple-corners; how to insert a second T-Start braid to create a new row. Finish with enclosed ends for blunt endings. Optional: use a hit-or-miss strand to create interest.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60 (plus kit fee of \$30)

**Kit:** \$30 includes all fabric needed for chair pad: 1. Dark solid strips for the inserted row. 2. Mix of textured and solid strips for center of mat.

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided one rug before.

**Level:** Confident Beginner / Intermediate

**Max Students:** 10

**Min Students:** 4

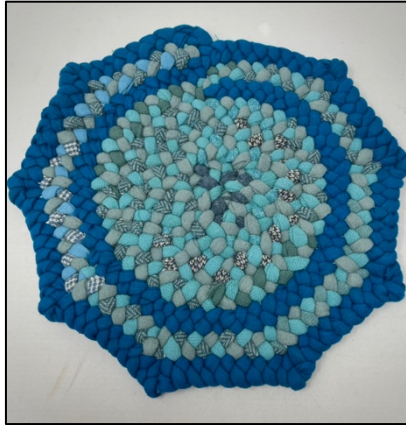
**Finish:** Yes!

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO

**Butting in Class:** None

**Teacher Bio:** Rose learned to braid from classes at Dorr Mill in 2006. Since then, she has taught rug braiding locally in her home, at community centers, and at braiding conferences. She has an Etsy shop, Idlewild Wool, where she sells recycled wool from used clothing. In addition to braiding, Rose is a seamstress, doll-maker, gardener, and enjoys smocking. She runs a bed and breakfast – Lucinda’s House -- from her historic property near Nashville.



## Turkey Treat Basket

--Thurs, Fri, & Sat early afternoons--

**Teacher:** Cathy Winship

**Email:** [ctwinship@gmail.com](mailto:ctwinship@gmail.com)

**Description:** Students will learn to make a basket using the flip-flop technique. Other interesting techniques will be combined to create the turkey. Following the class, the flip-flop skill can be applied to braiding a rug. Turkey Treat Basket Dimensions: 7.5” bottom, 11” feather height, holds a 2-cup container.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60

**Kit:** None. Teacher will send a list of supplies needed.

**Prerequisite Skills:** T-Start, 9-Loop Center, butting 18- & 27-loop rows by a method with which the student is confident and comfortable.

**Level:** Intermediate

**Max Students:** 8    **Min Students:** 4

**Complete Project in Class:** Yes... hopefully!

**Teacher Folds:** RO or LO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO



--Turkey Treat Basket, continued--

**Butting in Class:** Yes; any method can be used; students should be comfortable with their chosen method.

**Teacher Bio:** Cathy Winship has been braiding for 10 years and teaching for 5 years. She developed a love for combining traditional and contemporary designs in her rugs. Teaching, creating, and collaborating on projects keep her very busy – always learning!

## Zigzag Chairpad

--Thurs, Fri, & Sat early afternoons--

**Teacher:** Christine Manges

**Email:** [ccmanges@gmail.com](mailto:ccmanges@gmail.com)

**Description:** This dramatic chair pad has rows upon rows of zigzag patterns. Created using a combination of careful lacing and double corners treated as straight braids, this chair pad starts with the double-star center found in the Killer II Chair Pad, and continues the zigzags.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60

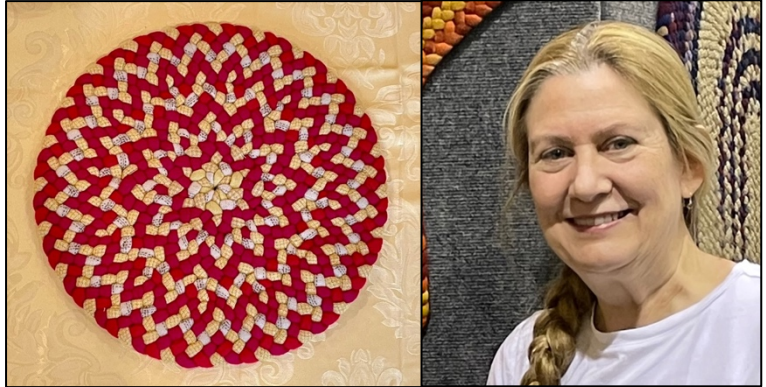
**Kit:** None

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must butt by any method.

**Level:** Intermediate

**Max Students:** 10

**Teacher Bio:** Christine learned to braid rugs in 2006 while fixing a braided rug made by her grandmother. Since then she has co-authored a book on rug braiding and taught a lot of classes, both at conferences and online. She is one of the founding members of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild.



**Min Students:** 2

**Complete Project in Class:** IF you pre-braid rows, yes.

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO

**Butting in Class:** Yes

## Braiding with Denim

--Thursday & Saturday late afternoon--

**Teacher:** Dianne Tobias

**Teacher Email:** [detobias@aol.com](mailto:detobias@aol.com)

**Description:** How about a Braided Denim Round? Have you ever wondered how denim would braid up into a round, a rug or a basket. They make useful trivets with a fringed ending, so no butting, though the brave-hearted may try!

The beautiful blues that we see in denim jeans make for interesting braided projects. Learn how to choose, 'design', cut, and braid with denim. Students will be asked to bring old jeans, but instructor will also provide a supply.

**Sessions:** 2

**Cost:** \$40

**Kit:** None.

**Prerequisite Skills:** Basic braiding skills; butting is optional.

**Level:** Confident Beginner

*Braiding with Denim, continued*

**Max Students:** 10

**Min Students:** 2



--Braiding with Denim, continued--

**Complete Project in Class:** Probably... but could continue making larger after class if desired.

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO

**Butting in Class:** Optional but probably not.

**Teacher Bio:** Dianne has been braiding since about 2008. She has made a number of wool rugs in various shapes and enjoys incorporating braids with rug hooking. Dianne has taught at a number of US and Canadian venues.

She is passionate about dyeing stretch velvet for other fiber artists; she owns and operates The Velvet Hook, a business dyeing custom velvet colors for rug hooking customers.

Dianne especially enjoys exploring using basic braiding skills with fabrics other than wool such as cotton, velvet and denim and inviting braiders to expand their horizons 'beyond wool'.

She is the co-author of "Combining Rug Hooking and Braiding" with Kris McDermet and Christine Manges.



## LO Butting Workshop

--Thurs late afternoon--

**Teacher:** Christine Manges

**Email:** [ccmanges@gmail.com](mailto:ccmanges@gmail.com)

**Description:** Having trouble with butting your braids? We will work on two methods: Annie's Fanny and the 3-Loop Triangle Butt. Meant for the braider who has some experience with butting....but is struggling with the details. Small class size will give everyone individual attention.

**Sessions:** 1

**Cost:** \$20

**Kit:** None

**Prerequisite Skills:** Some frustrating experience with butting!

**Level:** Confident Beginner / Intermediate

**Max Students:** 5

**Min Students:** 2

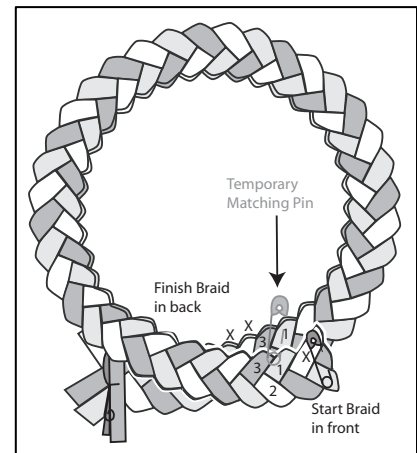
**Complete Project in Class:** Yes!

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO only

**Butting in Class:** Yes

**Teacher Bio:** Christine learned to braid rugs in 2006 while fixing a braided rug made by her grandmother. Since then, she has co-authored a book on rug braiding and taught a lot of classes, both at conferences and online. She is one of the founding members of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild.



## Braided Heart on Wire

--Friday, Saturday, & Sunday mornings--

**Teacher:** Bobbi Mahler

**Email:** [bobbimahler@icloud.com](mailto:bobbimahler@icloud.com)

**Description:** This class is mostly straight braiding but uses triple corners for the points of the heart.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60 plus kit fee of \$3

**Kit:** Heart wire \$3; students bring their own medium-weight wool.

**Prerequisite Skills:** Basic Braiding

**Level:** Beginner - Intermediate

**Max Students:** 8

**Min Students:** 2

**Complete Project in Class:** Yes

**Teacher Folds:** RO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO

**Butting in Class:** Yes; any method can be used. Teacher uses Triangle Butting method.

**Teacher Bio:** Bobbi Mahler lives in Belgrade, Maine. She is a retired Navy Officer with 28 years of service, and a lifetime crafter. She started braiding in 2004, and has braided everything from baskets to pot holders to very large rugs. She presently braids for fun, and both teaches and helps those interested in braiding. Besides many rugs for various friends and her own house, her braiding projects include two 9 X 12 matching rugs braided for friends, pin cushions to be sold by her church, pot holders for personal use, and has provided fun rugs for braiding conference competition. She is a member of the Valley Forge Braiding Guild.



## Rita's Star Basket II

--Friday, Saturday, & Sunday mornings--

**Teacher:** Christine Manges

**Email:** [ccmanges@gmail.com](mailto:ccmanges@gmail.com)

**Description:** With the double-star butted braiding pattern as the bottom of the basket and an 8-strand diagonal stripe multistrand as the sides, this basket is really pretty! Created by my friend Rita. Learn how to arrange the strands to create the pretty star center, then learn how to make an even-numbered multistrand braid and how to butt it. The even MS Diagonal Butt is slightly different from the odd MS Diagonal Butt.

**Sessions:** 3

**Cost:** \$60

**Kit:** None

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must butt by any method.

**Level:** Intermediate

**Max Students:** 10

**Min Students:** 2

**Complete Project in Class:** Yes!

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO

**Butting in Class:** Yes

**Teacher Bio:** Christine learned to braid rugs in 2006 while fixing a braided rug made by her grandmother. Since then, she has co-authored a book on rug braiding and taught a lot of classes, both at conferences and online. She is one of the founding members of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild.



## Two-Braid Tote

--Friday & Saturday early afternoon--

**Teacher:** PeggyAnn Watts

**Email:** [pwatts@stny.rr.com](mailto:pwatts@stny.rr.com)

**Description:** Learn to make a 2-braid spiral tote bag or basket. No butting required.

**Sessions:** 2

**Cost:** \$40

**Prerequisite Skills:** Confident Beginner, able to lace with some assistance.

**Kit:** Optional leather handles for sale OR braid the handles.

**Level:** Confident Beginner to Intermediate

**Max Students:** 12

**Min Students:** 2

**Finish:** possibly

**Teacher Folds:** RO

**Class Folds:** LO & RO

**Butting:** None

**Student Brings:** Lacing cord, lacing needle, prepped wool strips, clamp if needed; routine braid supplies.

**Teacher Bio:** PeggyAnn is a rug braider, hooker of rugs, and a weaver. She is the owner and teacher of the Belfast Braiders Studio in Belfast, NY. She has taught at both the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild's Conferences and New England Braids in Methuen, MA. She is a member of the Southern Tier Fiber Artisans of New York and the Weaving Guild of Bradford, PA.



## Linking Circles: Tetracuspoid and Triangle

--Friday & Saturday late afternoons--

**Teacher:** Christine Manges

**Email:** [ccmanges@gmail.com](mailto:ccmanges@gmail.com)

**Description:** The Rugs=Food=Love Project of 2020 was a pivotal fundraiser uniting the rug hooking and rug braiding worlds to help families during a time of tremendous instability. Hooked and braided 9" circles were donated from all over the US and Canada and joined by 11 rugmakers into beautiful rugs that were raffled off to benefit Food Banks. Key to joining the circles were two shapes: the Tetracuspoid and the Triangle. This class will focus on making these two important shapes. **See the R=F=L**

**Project rugs:** <https://www.valleyforgerugbraidingguild.org/rugs-food-love-project>

**Sessions:** 2

**Cost:** \$40

**Kit:** None

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must butt by any method.

**Level:** Intermediate

**Max Students:** 10

**Min Students:** 2

**Finish:** Yes!

**Teacher Folds:** LO

**Class Folds:** LO or RO

**Butting in Class:** Yes

**Teacher Bio:** Christine learned to braid rugs in 2006 while fixing a braided rug made by her grandmother. Since then, she has co-authored a book on rug braiding and taught a lot of classes, both at conferences and online. She is one of the founding members of the Valley Forge Rug Braiding Guild.

