*Photo from The Braided Rug Book, by Norma Sturges.  It features a multistrand oval by Maxine Ward.*

<u>Class</u>:  Butted Multistrand Oval à la Maxine Ward
<u>Instructor</u>:  Christine Manges
<u>Dates</u>:  Apr 3, 10, 17, 24, 2026
<u>Time</u>:  4 Fridays at 3 pm EST                      <u>Cost</u>:  $90
<u>Level</u>:  Advanced                                 <u>Folds</u>:  LO or RO

This class is a tribute to Maxine Ward: a rug braider from Arkansas who made butted multistrand rugs.  While we're not going to make as large a rug as shown above... we'll learn the principles that will enable you to make one!

<u>Fabric</u>:  Enough for a 2.5-foot by 4-foot rug:  approximately 8-9 yards of mixed-colors of wool.

<u>Supplies</u>:  Multistrand Stand or Clamp (instructor will send directions)
        Braid-Aids for each strand OR pre-press or pre-sew strands
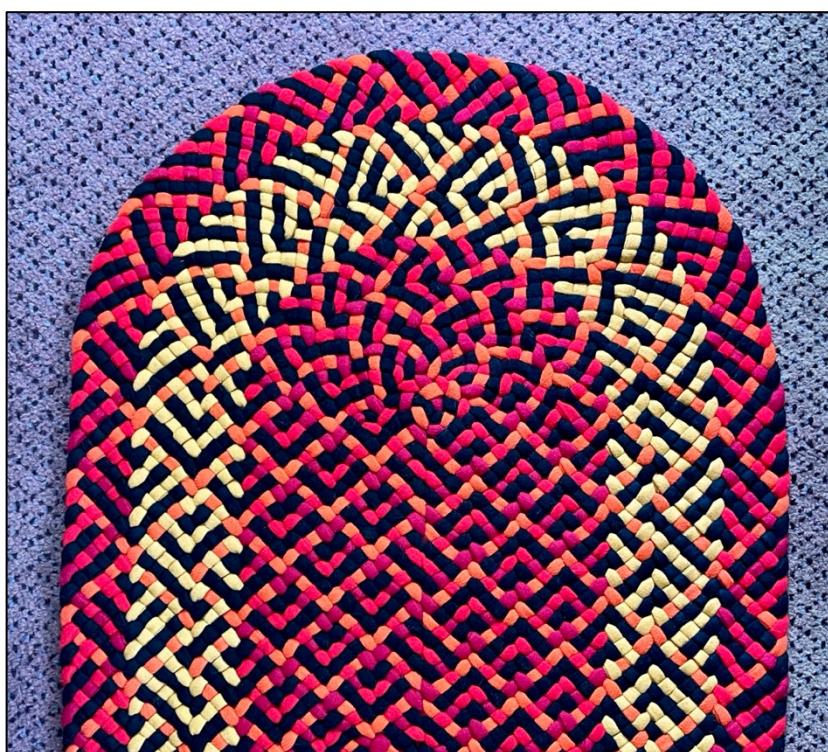        5" toothed metal beak clips
        Hemostat (5- or 6-inch)
        Usual braiding supplies

<u>Folds</u>:  Both RO and LO braiders are welcome.  All demonstrations will be Left Opening, with lacing from the front.  While handouts are provided with instructions and diagrams for Right Opening braiders, these will also be from the FRONT.

**Plan for Class:**

| Week | Skills Covered | Homework |
|------|----------------|----------|
| 1 | Multistrand Equipment<br>Choosing Patterns<br>Pinned Start:  5 Strands<br>Braiding vs Weaving<br>Tightening Up; Braid Mantra<br>MS "Double Corners" | Braid Row 1 with 5 strands and "MS double corners."  Tighten up the braids and check your pattern with a braid mantra. |
| 2 | Butting an Odd MS<br>Shoe-lacing<br>Even vs Odd MS<br>Stacked Patterns vs Inserting 3-Strand Rows | Braid Row 2 with an odd number of strands |
| 3 | Lacing on Row 2<br>Calculating increases around curves<br>Spacing MS Repeats<br>Stretching the Braid's Outer Edge around Curved<br>    Portions Only<br>Pinned Start:  Even number of Strands | Braid and Lace Row 3 with an Even (or Odd) number of Strands; leave room for the butt. |
| 4 | Butting an Even MS<br>Tips for Braiding a Really Big Multistrand<br>Finishing Techniques | Finish the rug and send your teacher a photo! |



A portion of a multistrand rug made by Christine Manges.  On the straight sides, notice how the stacked rows interact with each other to form diamonds.

Inner rows:  5 strands
Outer 2 rows:  7 strands