

# Rug Braiders International Conference

## Class Schedule 2026

	Thursday April 30	Friday May 1	Saturday May 2	Sunday May 3
		Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
9-11:30 am		Oval Mat for Beginners, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)	Oval Mat for Beginners, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)	Oval Mat for Beginners, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)
		Braided Corn with Sandy Busby - (Int)	Braided Corn with Sandy Busby - (Int)	
		Pentagon w Chevron Border, Cathy Winship (Int)	Pentagon w Chevron Border, Cathy Winship (Int)	Pentagon w Chevron Border, Cathy Winship (Int)
		Wide Butted Multistrand Tote Bag, Manges/ Levendusky - (Adv)	Wide Butted Multistrand Tote Bag, Manges/ Levendusky - (Adv)	Wide Butted Multistrand Tote Bag, Manges/ Levendusky - - (Adv)
		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
			Group Photo after lunch	
1-3:30 pm		Braided Leaf, Rose Robertson-Smith - (Int)	Braided Leaf, Rose Robertson-Smith - (Int)	
		Continuous Circle, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)	Continuous Circle, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)	Continuous Circle, Mary Hibbard - (Beg)
		Continuous Tool Basket, Patsy Simon - (Confident Beginner)	Continuous Tool Basket, Patsy Simon - (Confident Beginner)	
		MS Strip Rug, Manges/ Levendusky - (Int)	MS Strip Rug, Manges/ Levendusky - (Int)	MS Strip Rug, Manges/ Levendusky - (Int)
4:00 - 5 pm	Arriving	Triangle Butt, Manges/ Levendusky - (Int)	Annie's Fanny Butt, Manges/Levendusky (Int)	So Long... Farewell... auf Wiedersehen... Adieu....
		Local Adventure/Outing with Hank & Sherry	Local Adventure/Outing with Hank & Sherry	
	Dinner	Dinner	Dinner	
	Welcome	Panel Discussions/ Demos	Show & Tell	
	Intro- ductions	Raffle: Scholarship Committee Rug	Rug Challenge: Braided Garden/ Mixed Media	

Demos/Panels being considered (*we will survey registrants prior to the conference*)

- Reverse T-Ends
- Tapering
- Planning an Art Rug
- Equipment for Dyeing Wool
- Braid with wire
- Use Overhead Camera
- Taking on a Role in the Guild: Opportunities

## Morning Classes

### 1. Continuous Oval Mat

**Teacher:** Mary Hibbard

**Email:**

mhibbard@frontiernet.net

**Brief Description:** In this class participants will braid and lace a 12x18" table mat. The skills learned in the making of this mat will allow you to make any sized oval rug!

**Braid Level:** Beginner

**Sessions:** Three

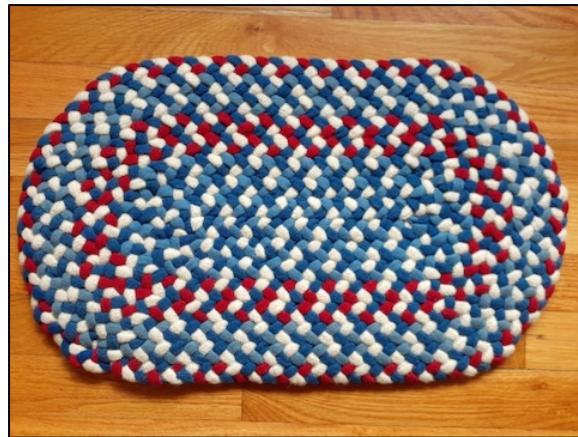
**Prerequisite Skills:** None

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** Wool Kit \$20

**Max/Min** Number Students: --

**Teacher Bio:** Mary took her first braiding class 13 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. She has taught Beginning Rug Braiding via Zoom and at Rug Braiding Conferences for several years.



### 2. Braiding Traditional, Ornamental, Colorful Indian Corn Cobs

**Teacher:** Sandy Busby

**Email:** beex6@aol.com

**Brief Description:** Learn how to braid colorful ornamental corn cobs that are a reasonable facsimile of real Indian Corn—husks and all. Learn how to braid a cylinder to a literal point and finish. Choose your own variety of corn, color, size and finishing touches.

Preferably, bring your own wool (1" pre-folded strips in one to three colors of Dorr weight solid, textured, plaid, or hit-or-miss; two full-width strips of each of your three choices - for example, six, 60" long, one-inch strips for one ear of corn.) Other wool choices will be available if needed. Also available will be ribbons, cords, twine, and samples for finishing ideas at low cost (donation to RBI only)

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

**Sessions:** Two

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided a round rug or chair pad before; some hand-sewing experience helpful.

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** --

**Max/Min** Number Students: 10 max; 1 minimum.

**Teacher Bio:** Sandy has braided for almost 20 years. She has a Bachelor's degree in Journalism with an emphasis in Photojournalism. Related Background skills: braiding, knitting, spinning, plying, dyeing, needlepoint, cross stitch, floral, photography. She has taught rug braiding in Oregon, Canada, and Montana.



### 3. Pentagon Star Mat with Chevron Border

**Teacher:** Cathy Winship

**Email:** ctwinship@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn how to make this all-butted pentagon star mat with a chevron border. From a 5-loop center, arrange colors and double corners to create the star design. Learn to lace stacked double corners. Finish with braiding and butting a cornered chevron border.

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

**Sessions:** 3

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must know how to butt by Triangle method.

**Folds:** Teacher is RO or LO and students can be RO or LO

**Kit:** --

**Max/Min Number Students:** -- 8/2

**Teacher Bio:** Cathy Winship has been braiding for 13 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!



### 4. Wide Butted Multistrand Tote Bag

**Teacher:** Christine Manges/Karen Levendusky

**Email:** ccmanges@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn how to braid and butt a wide multistrand, and then braid a tote bottom and handles to fit around the butted MS braid. Although photo shows 31 strands, we will work with 25 in class. Learn the tips and tricks for working with many strands!

**Braid Level:** Advanced

**Sessions:** 3

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must be comfortable with butting 3-strand braids before learning to butt multistrands. Some experience with smaller multistrands would be helpful.

**Folds:** Left Opening or Right Opening

**Kit:** None

**Note:** Multistrand Table Clamps will be available for purchase.

**Max/Min Number Students:** 12 maximum, 2 minimum

**Teacher Bio:** Christine Manges has been braiding since 2006. She loves teaching and has taught in person and online for years. She co-authored the book *Combining Rug*



Hooking and Braiding with Kris McDermet and Dianne Tobias, and is currently the Education Chair of the guild.

Karen Levendusky learned to braid in 2006 and is active in RBI as well as her local braiding guild, Bay State Braiders. She loves being a part of the rug braiding community! Currently, she is serving as Secretary of RBI.

## Afternoon Classes

### 5. Braided Leaf

**Teacher:** Rose Robertson-Smith

**Email:** RRobertsonSmith@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn to braid and taper a leaf shape to add to your Braided Garden Challenge Rug! The shape is created by using a twisted center; later rows stack double corners to create the leaf point. Finish with a taper.

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

**Sessions:** Two

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided and laced a rug before.

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** \$20 kit includes recycled green wools to braid the leaf and dyed green lacing cord. A more expensive kit of hand-dyed green wools will be available for purchase at the conference.

**Max/Min Number Students:** 8/2

**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.



### 6. Beginning Rug Braiding – Continuous Circle

**Teacher:** Mary Hibbard

**Email:** mhibbard@frontiernet.net

**Brief Description:** In this class participants will braid and lace a 13" chair pad. The skills learned in the making of this chair pad will allow you to make any sized circle rug!

**Braid Level:** Beginner

**Sessions:** Three

**Prerequisite Skills:** None

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** Wool Kit \$20

**Max/Min Number Students:** --

**Teacher Bio:** Mary took her first braiding class 13 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. She has taught Beginning Rug Braiding via Zoom and at Rug Braiding Conferences for several years.



## 7. Continuous Braided Tool Basket

**Teacher:** Patsy Simon

**Email:** karlheinzsimon644  
@hotmail.com

**Brief Description:** In this class participants will braid and lace a tool basket.

Beginning with a T-Start, braid double corners to make the round, and then make increases in loop counts to keep the basket bottom flat.

After several rows, stop increasing to make the straight sides. Finishing options will be explored, including a pretty wool flower embellishment!

**Braid Level:** Confident Beginner

**Sessions:** Two

**Prerequisite Skills:** None

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** --

**Max/Min Number Students:** --

**Teacher Bio:** Patsy Simon lives in Washington State and has been braiding rugs for many years. She teaches braiding locally at a senior center and is active in Rug Braiders International's Education Committee.



## 8. Multistrand Strip Rug

**Teacher:** Christine Manges/Karen Levendusky

**Email:** ccmanges@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn to work with 5 to 7 strands at once in a multistrand braid; learn to arrange braids to form additional patterns. Optionally include 3-strand braids between multistrands. Finish the ends with a herringbone-stitch finish using lacing cord. The ends are fringed.

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

**Sessions:** Three

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided and laced a rug before.

**Max/Min Number Students:** 12/2

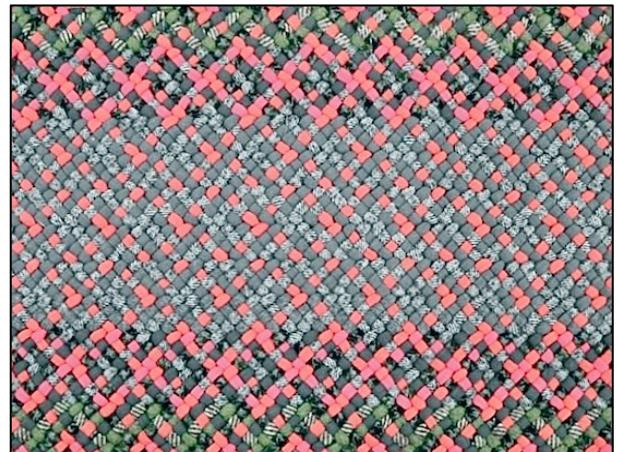
**Folds:** Left Opening or Right Opening

**Kit:** None

**Note:** Multistrand Table Clamps will be available for purchase.

**Teacher Bio:** Christine Manges has been braiding since 2006. She loves teaching and has taught in person and online for years. She co-authored the book Combining Rug Hooking and Braiding with Kris McDermet and Dianne Tobias.

Karen Levendusky learned to braid in 2006 and is active in RBI as well as her local braiding guild, Bay State Braiders. She loves being a part of the rug braiding community! Currently, she is serving as Secretary of RBI.



**9. Triangle Butt**

**Teacher:** Christine Manges/Karen Levendusky

**Email:** ccmanges@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn to butt 3-strand braids using the Triangle Butt.

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

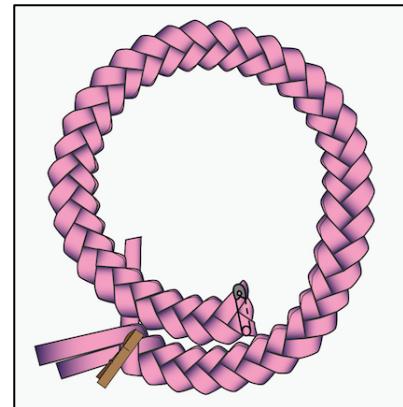
**Sessions:** 1

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided and laced a rug prior to this class.

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Kit:** --

**Max/Min** Number Students: 12/2

**10. Annie's Fanny Butt**

**Teacher:** Christine Manges/Karen Levendusky

**Email:** ccmanges@gmail.com

**Brief Description:** Learn to butt 3-strand braids using the Annie's Fanny Butt Method.

**Braid Level:** Intermediate

**Sessions:** 1

**Prerequisite Skills:** Must have braided and laced a rug prior to this class.

**Folds:** Left Opening

**Max/Min** Number Students: 12/2

