

NEWS RELEASE

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Woven in Winter Selected as the League of NH Craftsmen's 2013 Annual Ornament

CONCORD, NH – The League of NH Craftsmen's annual ornament for 2013 is *Woven in Winter*, a miniature, woven black ash basket with a white oak handle and rim made by Alice Ogden (Salisbury, NH). The ornament is embellished with a shimmery sage-colored ribbon on the front, and has a golden thread for hanging on a tree or wreath. Its open weave allows the decorative lights of a Christmas tree to shine through it. *Woven in Winter* ornaments are sold exclusively by the League of NH Craftsmen Retail Galleries (see locations at end of release), the League's online store (www.nhcrafts.org) and at the League of NH Craftsmen's Fair, August 3-11, 2013. Each ornament is numbered as one of a limited edition. The ornament comes beautifully gift-boxed and sells for \$24.50.



About the Maker

A juried member of the League since 1980, **Alice Ogden** has been making baskets of all sizes for more than 30 years. “Every year, for the past 16 years, I create a collection of basket ornaments, called *From My Tree to Yours*,” said Alice. “I am excited to have created this one for the League's annual ornament program.” She is known for her signature hand-whittled oak rims and handles, and harvests all the natural materials with the help of her husband Brad, who is a logger. “I do not use store bought materials. My husband and I go out in the woods to find the trees (primarily black ash and white oak) and he cuts them down. Then I peel off the splints, and use them to make my baskets,” said Alice. “I like the control that I have when I make baskets using materials I've collected and prepared myself. It's very spiritual – you take something as rough as a tree and make something beautiful and functional.”

As a young girl, Alice would watch her mother cane chairs for antique dealers and museums. “In a way, it came naturally to me to make baskets,” said Alice. “When I turned 18, I was fortunate to be able to buy a one-room schoolhouse, and that become my basketmaking studio.” She then joined the League, and shortly thereafter, received a scholarship from the League to pursue further training for her craft. Since then she has been making and selling her baskets and teaching workshops in her studio and throughout

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the US. Alice is active in the Arts in Education Program with the NH State Council on the Arts and has taught children's workshops at the Annual League of NH Craftsmen's Fair. (She will have a craft booth at the Fair this year). "Basketmaking still fascinates me after all these years," she says. "I love nature and living in the woods, so basketmaking fits into my lifestyle."

Some of Alice's baskets will be on display at the Smithsonian Museum from October 4 through January 12, 2014 in an exhibition called *A Measure of Earth: The Cole-Ware Collection of American Baskets* that presents the role basketry has played in the everyday life of Americans. Her work is also featured in *Baskets – A Book for Makers and Collectors* and is collected by basket lovers around the world. One collector is renowned sculptor Martin Puryear, "One of the biggest baskets I ever created was for Martin," said Alice. "It was the size of a piece of furniture. He sent me the rims and handles and I had to create a basket to fit. Usually I create the basket first. It took me a year to make – it was truly a unique piece."

The League's annual ornament selection, now in its 26th year, is open to all juried League craftspeople. The ornament is selected by the managers of the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Retail Galleries, located in Center Sandwich, Concord, Hanover, Littleton, Meredith, Nashua, and North Conway. Major credit cards are accepted for ordering the ornament by telephone from any Retail Gallery.

League of NH Craftsmen Retail Galleries:

Center Sandwich, 32 Main St., 603-284-6831

Concord, 36 North Main St., 603-228-8171

Hanover, 13 Lebanon St., 603-643-5050

Littleton, 81 Main Street, 603-444-1099

Meredith, 279 Daniel Webster Hwy., Rte. 3, 603-279-7920

Nashua, 98 Main St., 603-595-8233

North Conway, 2526 White Mountain Hwy., Rte. 16/302, 603-356-2441

About the League of NH Craftsmen

The League of NH Craftsmen is a non-profit, craft education organization. Its mission is to encourage, nurture and promote the creation, use and preservation of fine contemporary and traditional craft through the inspiration and education of artists and the broader community. The League represents the *signature of excellence* in fine craft, through the work of its juried members, and its rigorous standards for self expression, vision, and quality craftsmanship.

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For more information about the Annual Ornament or the League of NH Craftsmen, call 603-224-3375, email nhleague@nhcrafts.org, or visit the League's website at www.nhcrafts.org.

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