

Chair Caning

Brandy Clements

July 11-17, 2021-Legacy Week

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Outline: Warning: you might become a chair nerd. Immerse yourself in the ancient and global craft of chair seat weaving. From ancient Egypt and China to rural Appalachia, the craft is rooted in geometry, botany, physics, world history, economics, and design. In this workshop, you will complete a hand-woven cane chair. Great for beginner or intermediate weavers. Beginning students can learn the basics of the traditional 6-way pattern. Intermediate weavers or ambitious beginners can learn daisy or star patterns.

Before Class: Because there are many shapes, sizes, and construction elements of a hand-woven caned chair, if a student wants to bring their own chair they should email the instructor a photo of the chair. We can then have a conversation about common structural issues that should be addressed before weaving, whether at home or the first day of class. Ideally the chair should have less than 100 holes and no missing bits of wood. Curved panels, round seats, and recessed grooves under the chair are not ideal for a first project, but not impossible.



THESE SHAPES ABOVE ARE GOOD FOR FIRST CHAIR CANING PROJECT
(NOTE: DAISY-BUTTON PATTERN ON RIGHT-HAND CHAIR IS AN INTERMEDIATE PROJECT)

THESE SHAPES/SIZES BELOW ARE NOT GOOD FOR FIRST PROJECT, DOABLE...but you've been warned



CIRCULAR CHAIRS are more tedious and harder to finish in a class.



NO RECESSED HOLES UNDERNEATH



NOT BROKEN THROUGH HOLES



CURVED PANELS only for experienced weavers



Handwoven Chair Caning Class Outline:

- (1) Instruction begins with a brief overview of the Seven Step Method, class handouts and a brief history of cane material and pattern.
- (2) Introduction to tools, workstation setup and working with the material. We suggest working on a worktable while standing, but accommodations can be made for each student individually with ergonomics in mind.
- (3) Discussion of the common structural issues that afflict cane paneled chairs along with the appropriate repair methods. If any of the students missed seeing structural issues that would prevent them from being able to weave their chair, they will be addressed during this time.
- (4) Choosing the proper size of cane material and why it matters. Each student sizes the cane for their chair.
- (5) Students begin the weaving process on their chairs.
- (6) As a student finishes one step, the next step of the process will be demonstrated to the entire class. Everyone works at their own pace and everyone's chairs will be different. The demonstration of each new step will be reinforced by individual instruction as needed. The instructor and assistant try to prevent large weaving issues from happening, but small mistakes are how you learn. Anything is fixable, but momentum adds to the enjoyment of weaving.

(7) A Brief History of Chair Caning Slide Show in Wood Auditorium if there is time. Discussion of weaving other styles of seats includes rush, splint, shaker tape, pressed cane, and Danish cord.

MATERIALS LIST

- Optional Bring Your Own Chair: laced cane chair frame - structurally sound/surface finished, with holes drilled around the perimeter of the seat. (Instructor will provide chairs for the Legacy Program)
- *Padlock for your studio locker, if desired
- *Flash drive (to protect and save data to from Library computers)

All Items marked with an "*" are available for purchase in the Supply Store

COVID-19 UPDATE

In accordance to Arrowmont's COVID-19 policies, Arrowmont recommends that all students bring multiple face coverings in accordance to the CDC guidelines (2-ply, cloth face covering). Along with additional masks, students should consider bringing additional PPE that they may need personally, including but not limited to hand sanitizers and gloves. When asked to bring a respirator or N95 for class, please consider the best option for the supply in your area with health care workers in mind.

In addition to the new operating policies due to COVID-19, Arrowmont is providing additional information to students about materials and tools that will be provided in classrooms. If a student already owns the below items and can travel with them, the student can choose to bring these additional items. Arrowmont will provide these items to students but wants to ensure that all students feel comfortable while on campus as some of these items will be shared amongst a class and are not guaranteed to be one per student.

SUPPLIES

- Hammer/screw drivers
- Steel wool/sandpaper
- Nitrile gloves
- Needle-nose pliers and tweezers
- Graph paper
- Small ruler
- *Please see highlighted items above*

If a student chooses to mail tools and supplies to Arrowmont prior to the class, the packages will be placed in the student's classroom.

Please label packages clearly, including student's name and class week.
Students can mail packages to:

Arrowmont
C/O Student Name and Class Week
556 Parkway
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

Please be advised that above course description and materials list is written and approved by the instructor

If you have any additional questions about this class, below is the contact info for your instructor:

Brandy or Dave at Silver River Center for Chair Caning
SilverRiverChairs@gmail.com
828-707-4553

(if students want to use their own chair, they should text or email photos before class)