Senator's Summer Harvest Wheat Weaving

Photograph: Linda Downs (CA)

Instructor
Marian Vavra (KS)

Designers
Morgyn Owens-Celli/
Marian Vavra

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1996, 2021 A variation of Marian's Autumn Harvest Favour in Spring 1996 Gleanings. The Autumn Harvest Favour is a variation of Morgyn Owen-Celli's Falmouth Favour.

Instructor's Comments

In June 2020, I harvested a Kansas wheat variety named Bob Dole from Matthew Voth's farm near Goessel, Kansas. It was beautiful production wheat! In June 2021, I plaited some favours for the National Bread Festival Bake-off winners mentioning that the wheat was the Bob Dole variety. A few weeks later, I was asked if I would make a special art piece to give to Senator Robert Dole and Mrs. Elizabeth Dole as a token of the wheat which bears his name. The Senator is a native Kansan and a former Presidential candidate. I created this Senator's Summer Harvest Wheat Weaving! This piece is a pure joy to plait as it uses four different plaits making seven separate lengths. By tying them together and carefully pinning them out, the finished piece is a lovely harvest favour!

Finished Size
H 12" x W 9" x D 3"

Skill Level

An intermediate and advanced plaiter can get this piece done in class. The beginner cannot but can learn the four different plaits. A new beginner will have a hard time with this project, and I don't recommend they try.

Straws Needed

◈ 40 (37+3 extra) straws with matched heads. The straw needs to be soaked with water till the stems are soft and pliable before class starts.

* Good plaiting straw with well-matched heads. Marian uses Kansas hard red winter wheat and North Dakota black beard durum spring wheat.

Other Supplies Needed

◈ Thread – button and craft or topstitching weight

◈ Pins and pin board

Class Kit:
   NONE

What will be taught in class:
- Diamond plait – A variation of the 7-straw flat ribbon plait – *Marian's instructions*
- 9-straw group link - *NAWW Plait Directory*
- Catfoot plait - *NAWW Plait Directory*
- Compass plait - *NAWW Plait Directory*

Students should know:
- Basic plaiting experience

Pre-class work:
- None