

SATURDAY APRIL 7TH

10:00am – 4:00pm

WATERSHED FARM

WEAVING A LIVING WILLOW FENCE

INSTRUCTOR MIKE WOLTER

Learn how to make a “fedge” a hedge/fence that will grow over time and continue to delight for years.

Willow is a plant that simply wants to take root and it grows with a vigour that is almost unparalleled in the plant world. This astonishing power to take root makes willow the ideal material for creating a whole range of living willow garden features. A “fedge” is simply a cross between a hedge and a fence and willow is the most supple, sturdy and dependable plant material for constructing this elegant yet rustic garden feature.



This workshop will give participants a hands-on experience as we build a fedge, share tips on choosing the best location and prep for the site, advice about caring for your fedge and different ideas about plaiting, twining, weaving and latticing. We will have time to repair and prune the fence that was created last year and then move on to create a new functional work of art!

Starting at 10:00am, we begin by learning the advantages of working with different varieties of willow. Then we head to the garden where we will roll up our sleeves and dig in, shaping a sinuous curving fedge. Around noon a delicious organic lunch will be served. After lunch we will complete the fedge, learn how to prune and repair older fedges and visit our young willow plantation. Come dressed to be outdoors with boots, hats work gloves, layers of warm clothes and pruning shears if you have some. There will be bundles of willow rods for sale for those interested in taking their newfound skills home and starting their own willow project along with some printed material to give you a head start on ideas and techniques. The workshop ends at 4:00pm. For those interested in accommodation for

the workshop please send us an email and we will send along details.

A longstanding member of the Nova Scotia Basketry Guild, Mike Wolter has been an organic farmer for most of his adult life. Known throughout the South Shore and beyond for their wonderful specialty greens and full range of organic produce, Rumtopf Farm has also been

home to a growing collection of common and rare willow species. The willow is carefully coppiced each year so that Mike can make the sturdy and beautiful baskets that he sells and uses on the farm. Mike's wife, Wanda is often seen at farmer's markets across the South Shore using these attractive baskets to display their luscious produce. Along with baskets, Mike has also been making graceful and functional living willow fences for many years and uses them throughout his farm as windbreaks, trellises, support for other plants and as a visual treat.

Workshop price: \$95.00

organic lunch and snacks. Register online at:

www.pollinationproject.org

For more information contact Camelia Frieberg at
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