

*April Lee Stone*

P.O. Box 218 Odanah, WI. 54861  
715.292.2760  
[aprilstonedahl@gmail.com](mailto:aprilstonedahl@gmail.com)

## **BIOGRAPHY**

Born in Chicago on January 26, 1971 and moved to the Bad River Indian reservation in northern WI. in June of the same year. Spent most of my youth visiting the reservation and living in the nearby border town of Ashland, attending all of the public schools. Married a local fella and started a family in 1996. Raised all 4 children in our house we built on the very southeast corner of the reservation...and I'm still there. I enjoy learning and making useful items with my hands and was introduced to black ash basketry in 1998. I then spent a full year studying photos of baskets, reading books and weaving before sharing my skills with every interested community both far and wide - to present.

## **EDUCATION**

- Northland College, Ashland, WI. 1991 - 1994  
Received a 2 - YR Certificate in Natural Resources Management
- Wisconsin Indianhead Technical Institute, Ashland, WI. - Fall Semester 1994  
Attended Workshop Training for TQM - Total Quality Management
- Ashland High School, Ashland, WI., received High School Diploma, June 1989

## **AWARDS/HONORS/GRANTS**

- Recipient of the NDN Collective Radical Imagination Grant Award - designed to recognize positive change in the world, [ndncollective.org](http://ndncollective.org) 2023-2025
- Recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Woodland Indian Arts grant, phase 2, 2023
- Recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Woodland Indian Arts grant, designed to promote and develop a foundation of cultural and economic support for traditional and contemporary Native American arts in Wisconsin, [artsboard@wisconsin.gov](mailto:artsboard@wisconsin.gov) 2022
- Recipient of the First Nations Development Institute and the Henry Luce Foundation Honorable Mention Award - recognizing the work and dedication to creating and disseminating Indigenous knowledge in Native communities [www.firstnations.org](http://www.firstnations.org) December 2021
- Recipient of the Mentorship Award from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, March 2020 [www.nativeartsandcultures.org](http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org)
- Recipient of the Minnesota Historical Society Native American Artist in Residence Award, designed to help revitalize traditional forms of Native American art, St. Paul, MN. May 2017
- Recipient of Regional Arts Fellowship Award from the Native Arts and Cultures Foundation, October 2015, [www.nativeartsandcultures.org](http://www.nativeartsandcultures.org)
- Artist in Residence, Madeline Island Museum, La Pointe, WI., July 2014 & July 2015
- Recipient of the Karen Danielson Award, an award given annually through the Superior Rivers Watershed Association to an outstanding volunteer steward, 2014
- Recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Folk Art Apprenticeship grant 2011
- "Best in Show" Award from the Goods from the Woods 'Up North' Marketplace & Green Living Celebration Juried Exhibition, Grand Rapids, MN. 2009
- Recipient of the Wisconsin Arts Board Folk Art Apprenticeship grant 2009

- “Best in Show” Award, Bayfield Festival of the Arts, Bayfield, WI., July 2009

## **VIRTUAL OR NEWS RELATED**

- “Weaving Passion with Tradition in Bad River, April Stone, The Art of Basket-Weaving” Uniquely Wisconsin, November 2024
- A Ho-chunk curator describes an exhibit at the Museum of Wisconsin Art in West Bend highlighting Wisconsin tribes’ tradition of weaving baskets from black ash tree bark. And a basket maker from the Bad River Tribe explains what makes the basket unique. NPR’s *Wisconsin Today!* Original air date: October 18, 2024
- Invasive emerald ash borer endangers cultural keystone tree species, online news article by Gaby Vinick, May 13, 2024 8:45 AM [abcnews.go.com](https://abcnews.go.com)
- LOVE WISCONSIN - a program of WISCONSIN HUMANITIES “The Last Black Ash Weaver of Bad River”, May 2023
- “Reviving a Lost Tradition Before It’s Too Late: April Stone, Black Ash Basket Weaver”, featured article by Abbey Thompson, Native Max Magazine, EXPANDING INDIGENOUS WOMANHOOD ISSUE, March 2022
- “A Deeper Weave”, alumni feature piece by Julie Buckles with photographs by Bob Gross, Northland College Magazine, Fall 2021
- Reconnecting: Reviving Black Ash Basketry in Northern Wisconsin - A NAVC Fall Gathering From Home, an on-line Zoom presentation for the North American Voyageur Council, November 6-7, 2021
- “Carrying the Harvest”, a photo essay of April Stone’s basket work by Bob Gross for Intangible - A Voice for Wildness and Wonder, a Sigurd Olson Environmental Institute publication through Northland College [northland.edu/soei](https://northland.edu/soei) Fall 2021
- Four The Water - “Our Water”, A documentary film about four friends who kayaked around Lake Superior in search for like-minded individuals who love and live for the Great Lakes, visit and interview on the Bad River Reservation for Lake Superior Traditional Ways Gathering, [www.fourthewater.com](https://www.fourthewater.com) August 2021
- The Cripescast Podcast with Charlie Berens - Episode 58 - April Stone joins Charlie to discuss the cultural significance of her craft, Indigenous life in northern WI, and the environmental threats that may upend her passion, July 22, 2021
- April Stone “Keeping the Black Ash Traditions Alive” by Gail Tremblay, basketry+ National Basketry Organization (NBO) [nationalbasketry.org](https://nationalbasketry.org) Summer 2021
- “Artist restoring a lost tradition to her people”, an article by Tom Laventure (in conjunction with the Emberlight Festival) published in the Ironwood’s Daily Globe newspaper [yourdailyglobe.com](https://yourdailyglobe.com) July 27 & 28, 2021
- Emberlight Festival “Discovering Artists in Nature” themed Performance Infusion where people can see or hear or experience art in the making, Miners Park, Ironwood, MI. July 2021
- Indian Country Today “Ojibwe basket weaver works to save tradition and the environment” by Mary Annette Pember, [indiancountrytoday.com](https://indiancountrytoday.com) July 21, 2021
- National Basketry Organization (NBO) promotes awareness, inspires creativity and fosters appreciation for the heritage and artistry of basketry through their EXPOSURE feature in Surface Design (a magazine dedicated to innovation in fiber, art, and design), features “A Spotlight on Ash and Birch”, Volume 45, Magazine Number 1, Spring 2021
- American Craft Council (ACC) CRAFT LABS - Circle of Knowledge - 3 Ojibwe artists share their knowledge and mentor each other to evolve their practices (session held August 2020), published in American Craft, Spring 2021

- WATER WEEK “Superior Makers: A Celebration of Regional Arts and Water Appreciation”, <https://www.superiorrivers.org/wisconsin-water-week> March 8-12, 2021, published in Lake Superior Magazine, March 2021
- “Weaving Her Own Story”, a story featuring the rediscovery of the lost art of black ash basket-making, by Peter J. Wasson, Ashland Daily Press, Ashland, WI. March 12, 2021
- Milwaukee Magazine, A Tradition in Peril: The Last Black Ash Basket Weaver of Bad River, by Everett Eaton, February 12, 2021 (article reprinted in several magazines and newspapers throughout WI.)
- Wisconsin Tribal Conservation Advisory Council (WTCAC) Forestry Committee’s Emerald Ash Borer Web Series, “Working together to Preserve History” and “The Basket Making Traditions”, Jan 21 - 25, 2021
- Cut the Craft Podcast - Episode 008 - April Stone shares stories and guides us through the entire process of all things related to Black Ash Basketry, recorded April 30, 2020
- ELEMENTS of Craft Podcast - Episode 7 Black Ash, in conjunction with North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN. October 2018
- Basketmakers Association Newsletter No. 156 “Making European Ash splint baskets with April Stone Dahl” [www.basketmakersassociation.org.uk](http://www.basketmakersassociation.org.uk) February 2016
- Traditional Basket Weaving with April Stone Dahl, a 162 minute “how-to” video through Popular Woodworking [videos.PopularWoodworking.com](https://www.popularwoodworking.com) February 2016
- WXPR (Wausau, WI.) Radio Interview at 4-H workshop in Crandon, WI., July 17, 2014
- International Wood Culture Society (IWCS) youtube video showcasing our home business - WOODSPIRIT, filmed at our home <https://youtu.be/Q2PoBf9yxuE> October 2011
- Black Ash Basketry by Emily Umentum, VISTA member serving the Woodland Indian Art Center in Lad du Flambeau, WI. and guest contributor for Portal Wisconsin blog - [wordpress.com](http://wordpress.com) [www.portalwisconsin.org](http://www.portalwisconsin.org) August 2011
- THE DAILY PRESS\* Ashland, WI., June 2010 - present  
\*newspaper articles highlighting the apprenticeship program, along with several other articles over the years, including stories about the Traditional Ways Gathering, Odanah, WI.
- Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) newspaper “MAZINA’IGAN” located in Odanah, WI., showcasing the life and times of the Anishinaabeg, included several articles on baskets, invasive species, etc. (2001 - present, no specific dates)
- Discover Wisconsin Travel Collection, “Grounds for Improvement - Terrestrial Invasive Species”, DISCOVER mediaworks 2007 (video)
- National Park Service, “On the Edge of Gitchee Gami”, 2004 (video)
- Bad River Reservation newspaper “News from the Sloughs” showcasing tribal members, stories and community events (including workshop offerings & basket related articles/photos)

## EXHIBITION

Fiber Art Variations exhibit, focusing on the many beautiful forms of fiber art, including wearable, functional and decorative, Washburn Cultural Center & Museum, Washburn, WI 2023 - present

AREA OF CONCERN, introducing new ways of knowing the Emerald Ash Borer while expressing shared realities of degradation, Crosby Farm Regional Park, Sept 10 - October 9, 2022

Bates Art Gallery, highlighting local artisans from around the Chequamegon Bay and featuring reproduction style ash splint baskets from the early 1800’s, Bayfield WI., summer 2021

North Country Seasons 2021- an art show, performances and workshops celebrating Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter (and a project of the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council) at the Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center ([nglvc.org](http://nglvc.org)) Ashland, WI. June 2021- May 2022

Our Home, Native Minnesota: View historic and contemporary photographs, maps, and artifacts and learn how Minnesota's Native communities have retained cultural practices, teachings and values, and an essential connection to home. Burial Basket project on display starting December 2019

Begin Continue exhibit, a collection of reflections on works in the context of traditional craft and personal, creative evolutions, in conjunction with North House Folk School's 20th Anniversary celebrations, at the Johnson Heritage Post in Grand Marais, MN. December 2017

Living Traditions: The Handwork of Plymouth CRAFT, Brockton, MA., extraordinary artisans showcasing works which overlap the Greenwood Fest in Plymouth, MA. March - June 2017

"No Reservations" Native American art exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center, in conjunction with the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council and Northland College, May 2016

PENOKEE - Explore the Iron Hills (traveling exhibit) held at: Mercer Library in Mercer, WI., North Lakeland Discovery Center in Manitowish Waters, WI., Northern Great Lakes Visitor Center in Ashland, WI., Urban Ecology Center in Milwaukee, WI., Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwe Community College in Hayward, WI. April 2013 - November 2013

"Vital Skills" exhibit at the James Watrous Gallery in Madison, WI. March 2013 - May 2013

"Wisconsin Folks! Masters of Tradition" in the Art Court at the Dane County Regional Airport, Madison, WI. October 2012 - March 2013

"No Reservations" Native American art exhibit at the Washburn Cultural Center, in conjunction with the Chequamegon Bay Arts Council, Washburn, WI. May, 2012

"A Passion for Baskets" exhibit at the Drummond Public Library in Drummond, WI. (with fellow weaver Connie Ryks) August 12 - September 6, 2010

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- Partnered with Biboon Gabeshiwin (Winter Camp) providing day-long demos and instructions to the public, with focus on school age children, Red Cliff, WI February 2025
- Museum of Wisconsin Art "Weaving a Legacy" at the Paine presents Native basketmaking in Wisconsin, with works by Ho-Chunk makers from the mid-1800's to present, West Bend, WI. November 2024
- Moved STUDIO for year #2 in conjunction with NDN Collective grant to 612 Beaser Ave, Suite 7, Ashland, WI 54806, October 2024
- Presentation for art students in Art 216 - Intro to Art Sculpture with Steven Lemke, Associate Director and Environmental Artist-in-Residence, Saint John's University, St. Joseph, MN September 2024
- Presentation for art history students in Art Moves II 1400-1850, focusing on Indigenous art in contemporary times with Carol Brash, Associate Professor, Saint John's University, St. Joseph, MN. September 2024
- Presentation for future art educators in elementary classrooms with Alicia Peters, Art Education Professor, College of Saint Benedict, St. Joseph, MN September 2024
- Collaborated with the Warren Kramer family, providing a private, week long learning event with live harvest, material procurement and weaving lessons, Glidden, WI. August 2024
- Collaborated with the National Park Service at Little Sand Bay, providing public programming for park attendees and hands-on basket weaving, July 2024

- Partnered with the Bad River Band of Chippewa, Natural Resources Department (NRD) regarding Emerald Ash Borer and species preservation efforts, July 2024
- Portland Museum of Art, Jeremy Frey “WOVEN” exhibit visit, Portland, ME. June 2024
- Abbe Museum exhibit visit, Barr Harbor, ME. June 2024
- “Magwintegwak - A Legacy of Penobscot Basketry” exhibit visit at the Farnsworth Art Museum, Rockland, ME. June 2024
- Chamber of Commerce Visitor Guide, showcasing the History and Culture section for the Washburn Cultural Center, page 19 [www.washburnchamber.com](http://www.washburnchamber.com) Washburn WI 2024
- Opened STUDIO for one year in conjunction with NDN Collective grant at 309 Main Street East, Ashland, WI 54806, October 2023
- Provided week-long basketry instruction at Touchstone Center for Crafts, Farmington, PA. [touchstonecrafts.org](http://touchstonecrafts.org) July-Aug 2023
- Partnered with Waadookodaading Middle School, providing staff training in basket making, Lac Courte Orielles reservation, WI, July 2023 & June 2024
- Wisconsin’s Climate Stories, a series of events featuring personal stories surrounding climate change, with the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts & Letters, Minocqua, WI. [www.wisconsinacademy.org](http://www.wisconsinacademy.org) June 2023
- Provided basket making instruction and demonstration for staff of Arts Midwest at the Wild Rice Retreat center, Bayfield, WI. [artsmidwest.org](http://artsmidwest.org) May 2023
- 1st Annual Woodlands Art Expo, Fond du Lac Tribal and Community College, March 2023
- Attended a week long course in river cane basketry with Cherokee basket maker Mary Thompson, Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN. [info@arrowmont.org](mailto:info@arrowmont.org) October 2022
- Collaborated and co-taught with previous apprentice, providing instruction in Black Ash basketry on the Indigenous Arts Campus in the Fiber Arts Studio at Evergreen State College, Olympia, WA. September 2022
- Basket Week at North House Folk School, celebrating all things baskets at North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN. [info@northhouse.org](mailto:info@northhouse.org) October 4-11, 2022 to present
- Provided week-long basketry instruction at Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts, Gatlinburg, TN. [www.arrowmont.org](http://www.arrowmont.org) July 2022
- Provided tactile, local materials programming surrounding local culture and history through the Summer School program at the Oulu Heritage Center, Oulu, WI. July 2022
- Field Museum of Chicago Collections visit, December 2021
- *Biomaterials Workshop* w/ April Stone, a drop in weaving time and discussion about reciprocal practices of caring for and harvesting resources, and building community through repair practice, presented by KUSSKE DESIGN INITIATIVE & Dare to Repair! at the HGA Gallery in Rapson Hall, U of M, Minneapolis [z.umn.edu/april-stone](http://z.umn.edu/april-stone) October 2021
- Partnered with the Oneida Basket Guild and the White Corn growers for on-site log processing to procure raw splint material followed by a traditional corn washing basket workshop, August and November, respectively, 2021 & April 2025
- Collaborated with Where There Be Dragons, an immersive travel abroad program cultivating meaningful connections, providing a 4-week summer youth program titled “Lake Superior - the good life” [wheretherebedragons.com](http://wheretherebedragons.com) July 2021 to present
- Partnered with Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) and Iron County Forestry Department to permit a tribal member, for the first time in Bad River tribal history, in the harvest of 5 living Black Ash trees, July 7, 2021
- Partnered with AKII-GIKINOO’AMAADING Charter School, an innovative project based learning program for grades 6-12 with a foundation in Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) providing programming for staff and students including Black Ash tree identification, live harvest, log pounding and raw material processing, basket making and supply building, Lac Courte Orielles (LCO), June 2021 & May 2024

- Partnered with Great Lakes Inter Tribal Council (GLITC), Lac Du Flambeau, WI., and Buffalo Nickel Creative, an Oklahoma/Los Angeles- based Media Production Company, producing a basket weaving series for e-learning modules, June 2021
- Participant in panel discussion for the Midwest Regional Fall Conference “Listening to Indigenous Voices: What Do We Need To Hear?” October 8 - 11, 2020. A time for listening to indigenous women, addressing the relationship between art and culture, history and meaning
- Partnered with American Craft Council, Minneapolis-St.Paul, learning from and collaborating with 2 other native artists, working to create unique pieces for a public viewing, Aug - Nov 2020
- Partnered with Fond du Lac and Leech Lake bands of Ojibwe in northern MN, providing programming through their Natural Resources Dept. and College, respectively, July 2019
- S.P.A.R.K.S, Student Pathways to Adventure, Resilience and Knowledge, part of the after school and summer school programs, Ashland, WI., serving 6 - 10 graders, July 2019
- Mille Lacs Indian Museum Collections visit, June 2019
- Northland College, Ashland, WI., Distinguished Instructor of Basketry - Adjunct for Native American Arts and Cultures (NAS 231) winter semester coursework, 2018 - 2025
- Artist in Residence at Salmagundi Gallery, Ashland, WI, a month long engagement with the community, weaving and working in the public eye. September 2018
- Women’s Woodshop, Minneapolis, MN., school for women and non-binary makers of color, offering workshops and instruction in black ash basketry, 2018 - 2020
- Wisconsin Historical Society Archives visit, Madison WI., May 2018
- Milwaukee Public Museum Anthropology Collections and Research visit, Milwaukee, WI. March 2018
- Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Collections visit, March 2018
- Grand Portage National Monument Collections visit, Grand Portage, MN., February 2018
- Madeline Island Museum Collections visit, La Pointe, WI., February 2018
- Lauren E. Soergel, UWSP student, collaboration on senior project “The Effects of Emerald Ash Borer on Traditional Great Lakes Ojibwe Tribe Black Ash Basket Weaving” December 2018
- Bad River Education Department, Chief Blackbird Center, Odanah, WI., providing programming for youth and adults in various venues, on reservation, 2017 - present
- Minnesota Historical Society Collections visit, Fall 2017
- Community weaving of “The Burial Basket Project”, held in studio at 200 Main Street West, Ashland, WI., funded by the MHS Artist in Residence Award, July 2017
- Prentice House for Boys, providing programming through hands-on workshops in Native American art and craft for at risk and troubled youth, Ashland, WI., November 2016 - 2020
- North House Folk School, Grand Marais, MN., providing courses in Black Ash basketry and serving residencies in the public school in Grand Marais and the immersion charter school, Oshki-Ogameg in Grand Portage, MN. 2016 - present
- Boston Children’s Museum Collections visit (tool focused), Boston, MA., June 2016
- Peabody Museum Collections visit at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA., June 2016
- Greenwood Fest, exploring green wood working traditions by world class instructors, held in Plymouth, MA, June 2016
- Ethnology Collections visit at the Historical Society, Albany, NY., May 2016
- Rochester Museum and Science Center Collections visit, Rochester, NY., May 2016
- Traditional Ecological Interview (TEK) with GLIFWC staffer Melonee Montano, 2016
- 3-day Ash Splint Basketry course, weaving free-form handbag baskets with folks from the UK (post Spoonfest) while highlighting the use of Fraxinus excelsior (English Ash), Edale, United Kingdom, August 2015
- NBO - National Basketry Organization, located in Gloucester MA, one of twelve master basket makers providing instruction at the Tradition and Innovation VIII conference at Macalester College, St. Paul, MN, July 14 - 19, 2015

- Collaborated with the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) on a publication funded by Environmental Regulatory Grant #90NR0280, regarding EAB and uses of Ash, Odanah, WI, summer 2015
- Collaborated in a 15 month long project in a joint effort through the Runestone Museum in Alexandria, MN., providing woven panels for a 4'x6' frame with the finished life sized painting titled "The Last Farewell?" Unveiled on March 25, 2015
- Red Cliff Language Immersion Camp, providing teachings/demonstrations, Red Cliff, WI., June 2014, July 2015, July 2022
- Artist of the Month @ the Vaughn Public Library, Ashland, WI., August 2013 & July 2015
- Lac Courte Orielles Ojibwe Community College (LCOOCC), Adjunct, Fall Semester 2012 and Fall Semester 2013
- Ashland Middle School After School Program, Ashland, WI., provided 2 to 3 hour projects for 6th - 8th graders. Fall Semester 2013
- Early Childhood Center (ECC), Red Cliff, WI., provided instruction for the following:  
Summer Gatherings for youth & families, June 2011, 2012 and 2013  
Employee Retreat workshops, April - May 2013
- Northland College, Ashland, WI., provided workshops for the Native American Studies Program, 2007 - 2010, and the Wellness Program, May 2011 and September 2011
- Driftless Folk School, Virocqua, WI., 2007 and 2022
- Porcupine Mountain Folk School, Silver City/Ontonagon, MI. 2004 - 2006 & 2024 to present
- Clear Water Folk School, Washburn, WI., Fall 2000 - Spring 2005
- Traditional Ways Gathering, tribal liaison and co-director for over fifty workshops at this earth based skills gathering held on the shores of Lake Superior on the Bad River Indian Reservation every August, 2003 - present [www.traditionalways.org](http://www.traditionalways.org)