

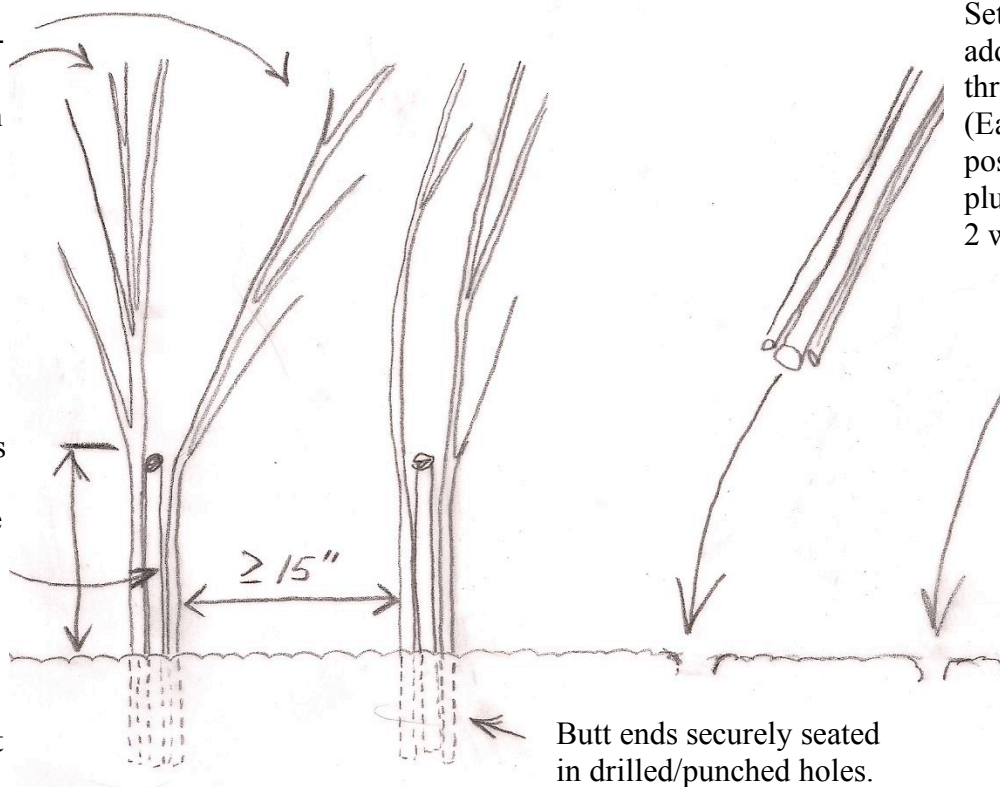
Weaving Wattle Fences at Tollgate MSU Farm and Education Center

It may not be new to the world and history but it's our own design and new to this place and these weavers. So we can name it: The Tollgate Twist!

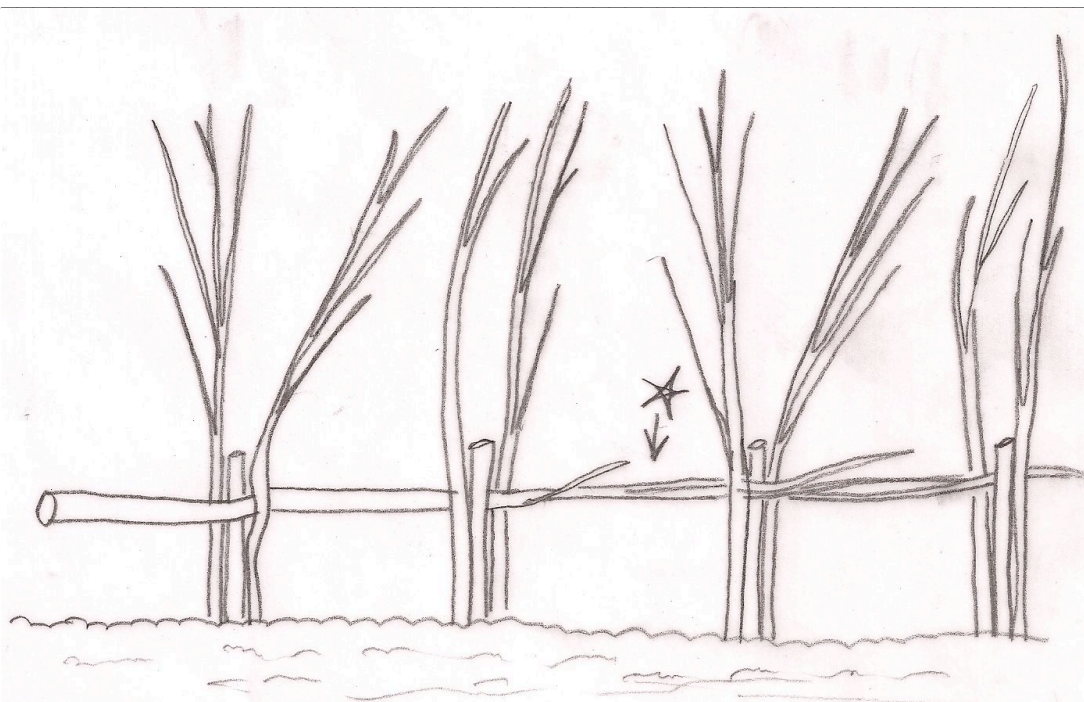
1) Place three-posts at 15" intervals. Each three-post is:

- 2 "weaving wands", $\geq 48"$ and flexible above the bottom 18". May have side branches but then wand plus twigs is handled as one bundled unit.

- One stout post, its top at the desired finished height of the fence.

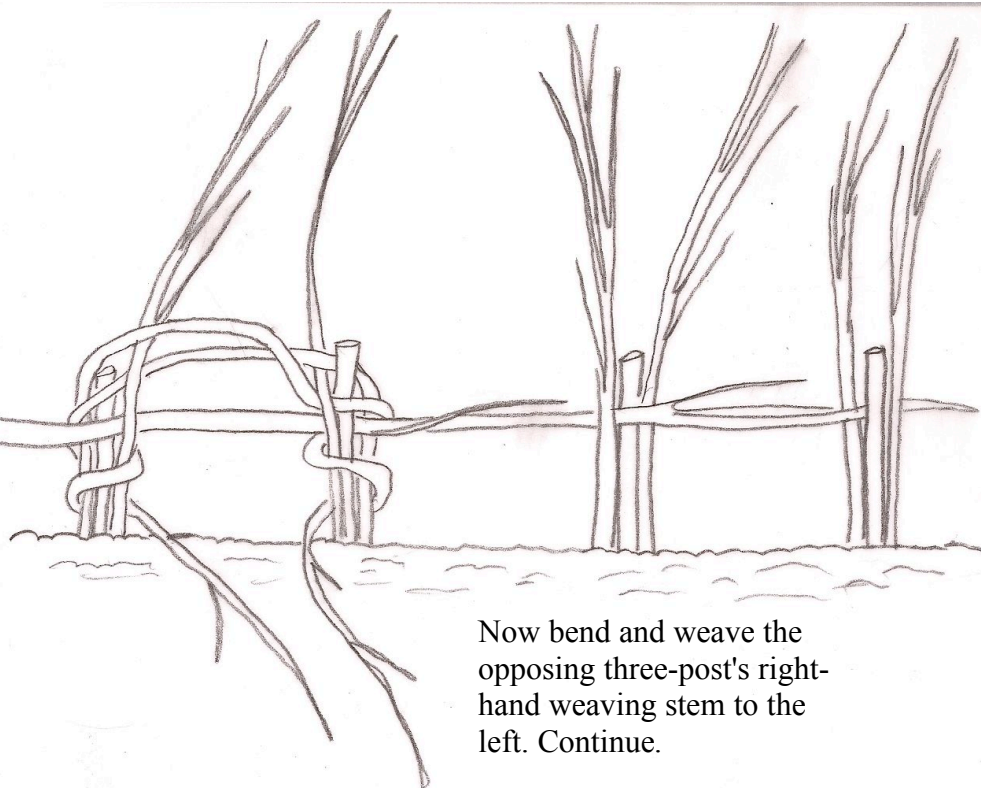


Set 3 to 4 additional three-posts (Each three-post is 1 post plus 2 weavers).

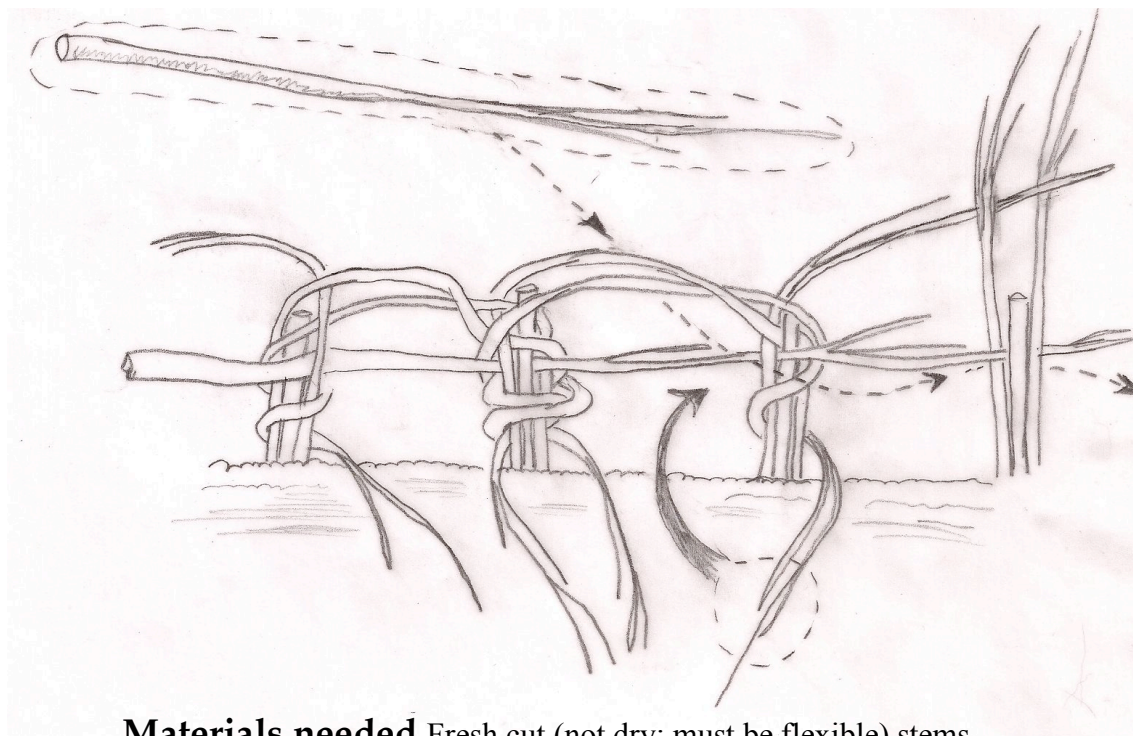


2) Weave a 3-5' stem in-out of 3 - 4 posts. If stem has side branches, treat it as one bundled unit. Pass alternately behind/in front of three-posts, and between the post and one if its weavers. Another horizontal stem will overlap this first (step 4) by $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{3}$ its length, starting at the area marked with a star *).

3) Grasp weaving stem at the left of a three-post group. Bend it to meet the next three-post to the right. Bend wand across its own post, then insert it between the left weaving stem and the next three-post. Wrap it down and around that next three post plus the horizontal stem. Leave wand's tip trailing on the ground. Wand may crack but don't let it break, or replace it if it does.



Now bend and weave the opposing three-post's right-hand weaving stem to the left. Continue.



4) Weave to connect four or five three-posts and then insert a second horizontal stem, in-out between those posts. Oppose the weave of the other horizontal stem there.

5) Bend excess tips of weaving stems up and run them with horizontal stem. Tie with twine at intervals as necessary, or snug tips into portions already woven.

Materials needed Fresh cut (not dry; must be flexible) stems of dogwood, willow, *Kerria*, spirea, etc. in 4-5' lengths. A hammer or mallet and sturdy stake or pipe to punch post holes. Biodegradable twine.