

Bennett, Mary Jane

2. Bennett instructing students (02:24)

<Video shows still frames of photographer taking pictures of Mary Jane Bennett>

Photographer: Kind of, be facing this way when you pick your stuff.

M.J. Bennett: All right-

Photographer:-Ok?

M.J. Bennett: All right.

<Camera begins to roll with M.J. Bennett picking sweetgrass>

M.J. Bennett: Aw...sho

Narrator: Is this pretty good grass?

M.J. Bennett: It's nice grass. It's very nice grass. Nice and [round] and [coarse]. If I could just get my husband back here to help me pull some. I'm [much ?????].

<Camera fades to black and fades back in showing a young boy in a palmetto tree>

M.J. Bennett: Yeah, that's the longest one? Wait, do you see one with a stem?

Unknown Woman 1: That's the longest one.

M.J. Bennett: You-you got-yeah. Don't fall. Bend way down on it.

Unknown Woman 2: Bring me a coconut. *<They laugh>*

Unknown Woman 1: Listen honey, you got [????].

M.J. Bennett: It's breaking?

Young Boy in the Tree: Yes mam.

M.J. Bennett: You think you get it without the knife?

<Camera switches to side view of M.J. Bennett>

M.J. Bennett: *<To herself>* No, you can get it. *<To the boy>* Just wring it round.

Unknown Woman 2: Yay.

M.J. Bennett: Drop it. Drop it.

<Camera pans to the right to show fallen palmetto limb>

M.J. Bennett: That's it. You got two.

<Camera fades to black and fades back in showing M.J. Bennett helping several students learn to weave>

M.J. Bennett: Now, see how you gotta hold it? This hand-

Female Student: Oh, down that way.

M.J. Bennett: Yeah, on the back here.

Female Student: Yeah.

M.J. Bennett: Now you take your nail and stick it right back-

Female Student: -Through there?

M.J. Bennett: That's right.

<Camera fades out again and reappears with M.J. Bennett helping another student>

M.J. Bennett: Now, see um, you kinda notice your problem. You see how wide is it.

Male Student: Um hum.

M.J. Bennett: Now you-you'll break it right about here so you can, you know, average about the same width. This is just a little narrower down towards the bottom. Now you pull it all the way through and leave about this much hanging.

Male Student: Ok.

M.J. Bennett: All right.

<Camera fades again and comes back showing another female student weaving>

M.J. Bennett: We want to try keep it going. And we can get the sweetgrass. That's why they're scarce to get. Because we don't have no place to get it otherwise go on someone else property.

<Camera fades out again and comes back with still shots of M.J. Bennett>

M.J. Bennett: On the beach there is posted now, you can go there and get the materials, so that's why the-the big problem now: getting the sweetgrass.