



News
August 2008

A Word from Debora – Let's Collaborate

One of the biggest joys for me since opening the shop is the pleasure that comes from working with others on quilt projects. You all often allow me to assist you with color and fabric selection, yardage calculations, and design choices. You know how to take me outside my comfort zone and sometimes let me take you outside of yours. It is so satisfying to see a concept transform as more ideas are put into the pot and stirred.

Going beyond the design phase, Deb and I have had some fun with sewing collaboration, too. Once the idea is in place, we can take a divide and conquer approach to a project. "I'll measure and cut while you sew", or "I'll do the nine-patches while you do the half-square triangles". Sewing together takes on a whole new feel when you are sewing on the same project. Holley Downs introduced us to a book, Collaborative Quilting, that expresses all of this in a very entertaining way. Look for the book review later in the newsletter.

If you've spent the majority of your life as a solo quilter, think about giving collaboration a try. It will give you a whole new perspective on quilt making.

Happy Quilting,
Debora

Get Off the Gas Roller Coaster – Gas Rebates Here



It seems like gas prices are part of every conversation these days. Are they going up, down...should I fill up now or wait? It's just crazy and it doesn't seem like it is going to settle down anytime too soon. Forget all those negative thoughts. Next time you're at the pump, imagine that fabric, books, patterns, and supplies are filling your back seat while you're filling the tank. Be sure to get your receipt. Then, one time during the month of August, bring it to us and we'll take 10% of your gas receipt and apply it to your purchases. It's fun to find even a little relief at the pump.

Calling All Cat Lovers – the Avacato Challenge is Here!



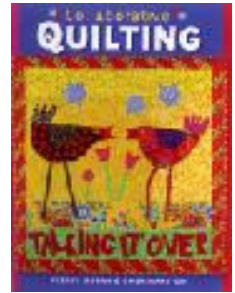
We found this darling little pattern which features a wide eyed, fat and jolly kitty who looks remarkably like an avocado! We thought it would be fun to issue a challenge based on this little guy so we are having a contest. The pattern which is called "Avacato" is available in the shop. It is for an 18" X 18" block which may be used in anyway you like - as a pillow or small wall quilt or as part of a larger quilt. The pattern is an easy fused appliqué of the

fat kitty. To participate in the contest, all you need to do is come in and purchase the pattern and sign up for the contest any time in August. We will put the finished quilt tops (that's right – only the top needs to be done to enter the contest) on display starting September 13. The Avacato who receives the most viewers' choice votes over the next week will win the contest and receive a \$25 gift certificate to Dragonfly Quilt Shop. Avacato is jolly piece very suitable for embellishments of all kinds. Our sample will be on display starting August 7 so drop in and pick up a pattern for yourself! We can't wait to see what you will come up with for your Avacato kitty!

Book Review: Collaborative Quilting by Freddy Moran & Gwen Marston

Please allow me to sum up this book in one word: DELIGHTFUL!!

This is a 250 page book chalked full of color photos of quilts of all kinds and it is only \$19.95. It is by far the best quilt book bargain I have seen in a long time. Freddy Moran and Gwen Marston – both of whom are world renowned quilters – have been designing collaborative quilts since 2002. Between them they have 40 years of quilting experience.



If you have ever chatted with me about quilt books you know I love them but I usually only look at the pictures – I rarely read them! I actually read this book!! It is fun and charming and full of ideas.

The book starts off with Gwen's story, her home, her growth and inspirations as a quilter, her ideas about design. Then we get to see several of Gwen's quilts. Next is Freddy's story, her life, her views on color, her wild studio. Then some of Freddy's quilts. (I gotta confess: Freddy seems to like dots almost as much as I do – gotta love it!). Next is the chapter "A Collaborative Effort". The how-to chapters cover the next 75 pages. The final chapter shows us many of the spectacular quilts these two women have created together.

The quilts in this book are not for everyone. The quilts pictured are – for the most part – bright, colorful, wonky and just plain wild. However, the stories behind the women and the color and design guidelines they share are creative and provide a solid inspiration for anyone.

I cannot resist leaving you with a quote from the book: "I cannot pretend to be impartial about colors. I rejoice with the brilliant ones and am genuinely sorry for the poor browns." – Winston Churchill.

P.S. If you come into the shop, please be sure to check out pages 110-111. These two pages feature "Freddy's Top 10 Color Guidelines" and "Gwen's Top 10 Design Guidelines". They are wonderful guidelines for any quilter and probably outside the bounds of what you may have typically seen before for quilter's guidelines.

73 – The New Magic Number

As you can imagine, we're always on the look out for new fabric, books, patterns, and notions. Sometimes we shop over the internet, sometimes by phone, but the best (and most fun) way to see what's out there is to invite a sales rep to pay us a visit. Recently, one of our favorite reps stopped by and showed his wares. And, of course, being the responsible shop owners that we are, we made a list and set a budget. We were ready. We felt very good about our decisions. The smiling sales rep wrote our order, thanked us and left. Deb went back through our order and summarized everything by category. Later she asked "Did you know we ordered 73 new patterns?" What!?!? No wonder the sales rep was smiling. They're all beautiful patterns. Really. No, they weren't on the list. Yes, we had to have them all. Stop in and see if you agree. While they haven't all arrived yet, there is no shortage of "new" for you to see this month.



New Fixtures, New Fabric

We love new fabric as much as you do. This month we even had to add a couple of new shelving units to the floor to make room for it all. Here are all the fun new fabrics you can see this month:

- Additions to the color wall – We've taken all our color cards and walked up and down the color wall to fill it with a wide range of color and texture. Some have arrived and more will be coming in throughout the month.
- Harvest Moon by Wilmington – The name of this fabric line is perfect. There is a rich pumpkin print, a wonderful panel, and several great smaller prints.
- Angels Watching Over Me by Wilmington – If you love angels, you will love this line. The angels move across the fabric in flowing Victorian gowns. There is a stocking panel as well as stripes, scrolls, and stars to enhance the angel fabric.
- Hoffman Batiks – 24 bolts featuring new color ways and new designs.
- Halloween – Ghosts, bats, and candy corn by Timeless Treasures
- Shine Collection by Carla Miller for Westminster – Great fall color and designs. The mid-scale leaf print is my favorite.
- Midwest Modern Collection by Amy Butler for Westminster – Eight new bolts have been added to our growing collection of Amy Butler fabrics.
- Bountiful Blessings by Laurel Burch for Clothworks – All the bright color and vivid design you have come to expect from all things Laurel Burch.

Welcome to "Strips N Bits" – A New Focus

Jelly Rolls, Charm Squares, Layer Cakes. What's next? "But what do you do with them?" everybody asks! Our new Strips N Bits area is designed to help answer that question. We have spent the summer looking for books and patterns that we think will provide you with lots of fun ideas for what to do with your jelly rolls and charm squares. Please check it out next time you're in the shop. Oh, what about the layer cakes? We think you should just bake one and bring a slice in for us to try!!



Cozy Quilted Christmas Trunk Show

To help kick off our Cozy Quilted Christmas Club, we have a trunk show of quilts scheduled to arrive in the middle of August. The trunk show will include the wall hanging on the cover of the book, as well as the Holly Berry Mini Tree Skirt, the Tall Trees Table Runner, and the Poinsettia Pot Wall Quilt.

Amy Butler Trunk Show

Another trunk show coming to us in mid-August is from Amy Butler Designs. I don't have all the details yet for this one, but if it's Amy Butler, you know it will be fabulous. Look for more details in a weekly email update later in the month.

“And, Sew It Goes” Final Clue Available

Can you believe this is the last clue!?! We have enjoyed seeing all of your color combinations and progress on this project. You can pick up your last clue all through the month of August. It will be fun seeing all of your finished tops at our reveal party in September.



Mystery Reveal Party Saturday, September 13

Mark your calendar and join us for a wonderful afternoon of show and tell. Even if you didn't participate in making the quilt, feel free to drop in and see what this mystery quilt stuff is all about. We're hoping to double the fun. In addition to revealing the quilt tops from the “And, Sew It Goes” mystery quilt, we hope to show and display the results from the “Guess Who's Coming To Dinner” table runner mystery class.

If you are willing, we'd love for you to leave your finished tops with us after the reveal party. We want to set up a gallery in the classroom for a week so everyone can vote on their favorite. At the end of the week, we'll count the votes and award a “Viewer's Choice” prize to the one with the most votes.

Longarm Quilter Pat Horning Here Saturday, August 16

Longarm Quilter Pat Horning will be visiting Dragonfly Quilt Shop on Saturday, August 16 from 1-5pm. If you are interested in having Pat quilt one of your pieced tops, drop in or call to schedule an appointment with her. We have several shop samples quilted by Pat if you'd like to see some of her work. Most recently, she quilted our Contemporary Crossroads shop sample that features an alternate border to the one featured in the August 2008 issue of American Patchwork & Quilting.

Thank You Debby Kratovil!!

Debby came to Dragonfly to teach the Wheel of Mystery Quilt from her quilt designed for Fabric Trends magazine. As always, Debby imparted a lot of useful tips and tricks and made the class a whole lot of fun for both students and shop folk.

We were particularly pleased to have Debby here on July 26th as it turned out to be her last classroom opportunity before moving to Virginia. There is no doubt that she will be back in Georgia from time to time. She is already scheduled for the Georgia Quilt Show in Gwinnett in October. None the less, she will be missed in Georgia as both a terrific teacher and talented designer.

If you are interested, we still have a few of Debby's perpetual block-a-day calendars and the companion CD. The CD allows you to print out blocks in 2 sizes, piecing and appliqué templates and directions for step-by-step projects from your own computer.

Best wishes to Debby and her husband in their home!

Classes, Classes, and More Classes

Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Mystery Table Runner – Friday, August 15, 10-4pm - \$25

This is the second time we've offered this class, so if you attended the first one...Shhh!...don't give away the mystery. Whether you already enjoy the mystery quilt process or you have never indulged, come get a taste of what it's like to make a mystery quilt in this fun day long class. You'll get to follow the clues to create this wonderful 23" X 64" table runner. The table runner was designed by Debbie Caffrey – one of our favorite teachers! As you work thru the clues, you will also learn some of Debbie's tips and techniques for precise and efficient piecing. You'll choose the five fabrics for this runner following Debbie's guidelines but you won't know what the final outcome will be until you solve the mystery of the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" quilt!! When we purchased the pattern for this class, it was for a limited number of students. Most of those were used in the first class so this round will have limited seating. It was a fun-filled "mysterious" day so sign up soon to make this fabulous table runner.

Value Study Lecture – Friday, August 22, 10-2:30pm - \$25

In this class you will learn how value creates depth, interest and pattern whether in traditional two-color quilt blocks or more contemporary blended quilt blocks. Value provides visual balance and determines the general color of a quilt. In landscape quilts, value is what creates dimension, perspective and season. In this class you will get to see how creative use of value can really make your quilt sing!

Crossover Kimono – Saturday, August 23, 10-4pm - \$35

Asian inspired with a contemporary edge, this asymmetrical buttoned shirt is designed with a slightly oversized fit for comfort. It is offered in mid-hip length with a full $\frac{3}{4}$ kimono sleeve, optional front seaming detail and a variety of button closure options. Pattern also includes a lower hip tunic length with side slits, narrower long kimono sleeve and a trio of loop and toggle closures.

This is an intermediate level class. Students should have some garment sewing experience.



Beginning Table Runner – Wednesday, August 27, 5:30-9pm - \$25

This table runner is a great first project for a new quilter. It is also a quick project for the experienced quilter. In making our samples, we found it a good exercise in choosing a focus fabric and complementary fabrics. You will learn the basics of cutting and piecing in this class.



Coming in September

Humbug Bags

Partridge in a Pear Tree Fusible Appliqué

Needle Turn Appliqué with Pacific Rim Patterns

Colorwash Landscape Quilt

Bargello Basics

Amy Butler's Frenchy Bag

Fused Landscape Quilt

Holiday Paper Piecing

Club Updates

Attitudes Club

The Attitudes Club is going to “Be Smart” in August. Our mini-project for the month is a notebook cover. Your free pattern is called “The Surprise Inside”. It is simple piecing with a subtle optical illusion. We’ll be meeting on Saturday, August 9 or Thursday, August 14 at 10am. You can join this club anytime and enjoy the fun with a little bit of “attitude” this year.

Egg Money Club

Thanks for a terrific first meeting! I hope most of you have had a chance to finish your “Christian Cross” block and have settled in on a color scheme and/or design scheme for your quilt. Please know that if you have any questions about the getting started information from last month, we are here to help answer those questions. The vast majority of questions I received were about how much background fabric to buy. Remember when you look at the information in your book that Eleanor gives several different measurements that may all equal YOUR background fabric depending on YOUR quilt: background, lattice, 1st border, and frames might all or part be out of YOUR background fabric. The best single piece of advice I can give is do your best to add all those parts up and then add one more yard “just in case”.

The block we will work with in August is the Road to California block (I prefer “Wild Goose Chase”) which begins on page 40. I chose this block because it still focuses on piecing but it also has Eleanor’s great trick for making four flying geese at a time. This section also features a handsome pillow as its secondary project. See page 49.

Quilt In A Day has allowed us to keep the two Egg Money sampler quilts through August 20th. If you would like one more peak at these before they leave, please drop in soon.

Our date in August is the 19th. We will meet at 1:00 and at 6:00. I know a lot of you have plans to be out of town but I look forward to seeing everyone else and especially to seeing and hearing your show n tell! Keep on stitchin – Deb

Classy Club – Great Response – Contemplating the Addition of a Daytime Session



The first meeting of the Classy Club will be held on Thursday, August 7 at 6pm. At our first meeting we'll be learning to power cut as well as reviewing the importance of accurate seam allowances. Our project is "Barbara's Antique Table Runner". Get ready for six months of great projects using efficient and precise piecing techniques. The response to the Classy Club has been fabulous, so much so that we would like to open up a daytime session for this club. The daytime session would meet on the first Thursday of each month at 1pm. We need five students to join or switch from the night to the day schedule for us to begin a second meeting time for this club. Thank you for the wonderful response.

Amy Butler In Stitches Club

The Amy Butler In Stitches Club will focus on projects for the kitchen this month. Our in class project is a cute, pleated apron. We'll be meeting on Thursday, August 21 from 6-9pm. Join this club and make a variety of projects for all around the house. You can also visit this club for a one time fee of \$10. Call or stop in to sign up for one meeting or all!



Cozy Christmas Club



The Cozy Quilted Christmas club will meet for the first time on Saturday, August 16 at 10am. We'll be learning new techniques and developing some great project ideas. If you've signed up for this club but haven't picked up your book, they are here and available for you.

Earn Some Yummy Yards



You need some "Yummy Yards" and we're going to give them to you. Our yummy yards program lets you earn one yard of fabric for every \$100 in accumulated purchases you make. The computer keeps up with all of the counting so you don't have to. When you've reached \$100, a special message will print on your receipt. We'll remind you that you've earned a yard of fabric, and we'll especially remind you to save that receipt. You don't need to save all your receipts, but the ones with the special message is what you'll need to show us when you are ready to take home your "Yummy Yard".

Extended Thursday Hours

Don't forget our extended Thursday hours. It has been nice to see many of you who couldn't easily stop in any other time. We're open until 7pm every Thursday.

Congratulations – You Could be Next



Congratulations to Pogo Grant for being the winner of our July gift drawing a craft size Quilter's Dream batting. Our August gift is a copy of Amy Butler's Midwest Modern book. You are eligible for the drawing if you are on our mailing list and have not previously won one of our monthly gifts. If you don't pick up your gift within 30 days of winning, it will be offered again in a future month.

Dates to Remember for August

Every Wednesday – Sit n Sew from 2-5pm

Every Wednesday – Damselflies 10-11am

Every Thursday – open until 7pm

Mid-August – Cozy Quilted Christmas Trunk Show

Mid-August – Amy Butler Trunk Show

August 1-31 – Pick up Mystery Quilt Clue #6

August 7 – Classy Club – 6-9pm

August 9 – Attitudes Club – 10am

August 14 – Attitudes Club – 10am

August 15 – Guess Who's Coming to Dinner Mystery Table Runner – 10-4pm

August 16 – Cozy Quilted Christmas Club – 10am

August 16 – Longarm Quilter Pat Horning – 1-5pm

August 19 – Egg Money Club – 1pm or 6pm

August 21 – Amy Butler In Stitches Club – 6-9pm

August 22 – Value Study Lecture – 10-2:30pm

August 23 – Crossover Kimono – 10-4pm

August 27 – Beginning Table Runner – 5:30-9pm



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