



Pine Needle Quilters

Newsletter for February, 2004

Officers:

President: Diana Napier
Vice-President: Carol Renteria
Secretary: Joyce Mahlik
Treasurer: Deanna Tachick

Committee Chairmen:

Block of Month: Joann Saffran
Communications: Rita Shores
Community Service: Kathleen Tokarczyk, Norene Piontek
Education: Diana Napier
Historian: Debra Budd
Hospitality: Sheila Hixon
Membership: Deanna Tachick; Laurie Schoenebeck
Program: Carol Renteria
Publicity: Terri Harris
Ways and Means: Laurie Schoenebeck

Mentors: MaLea Flynn; Leah Giese; Aletha Mittelstaedt; Diana Napier; Karan Verhagen

Regular Meeting:

3rd Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at Riverview Town Hall

Dues: \$15/year, payable in June.

Block of the Month for February:

12-inch Buckeye Beauty

Birthday Squares for February:

Sheila Hixon: assorted colors
Carol Renteria: light green, yellow
Deanna Tachick: burgundy, forest green

Birthday Block (10-inch) for February:

Sheila Hixon: assorted colors

Special Activities:

February 16 7:00 p.m. – **regular meeting** Featured speaker Cordy Wescott.

March 1 3:30 p.m. – Work on **Beginner Sampler Quilt** with Diana Napier. Work on **Shadow Chenille Jacket** with Aletha Mittelstaedt. Or come to work on Charity Quilts.

Introducing Donna Limberg: My husband Erv and I lived in Marinette first 9 years of married life. We then resided in Green Bay for 30 years. I retired from my school secretary's job in fall of 1995 when we moved "up north". Erv retired in 1998 and we love living on the lake. We have 3 adult children and five grandchildren, 3 of whom are in college!

We love our church, St. John's in Townsend, like to play bridge & sheephead, walk, read, cross-country ski, boat and quilt.

I used to sew mainly clothing, making my daughter's formals and bridesmaid's dresses. I got interested in quilting through a friend. I'm a beginner, but love all phases of quilting. I need the experience and inspiration of this group.

Introducing Lois Nusberger: Moved here from Sussex, Wi. I have lived at Crooked Lake for twenty-five years. I learned to hand quilt from my mother at an early age as she made all three of us children and eleven grandchildren each a keepsake quilt. I made my first child an appliqué quilt for his crib but used it for all four of my children and haven't done any more quilting until recently.

I enjoy reading, playing keyboard, and embroidery [mostly kitchen towels]. I also crocheted many items and afghans.

I have four married children and nine grandchildren. My oldest grandson is in West Africa for four months with a Youth Encounter Group. Since my husband passed away two plus years, I have gone back to work full time at Nicolet Bottling Water right here at Crooked Lake.

The first years we lived here I played drums in our family Country Band. My husband played guitar and my daughter played bass guitar. I love being with people and really enjoy all the nice ladies in our Pine Needle Quilters group. I have many UFO's and need this group for support, patience, and short cuts so I can get them finished.

Introducing: Sheila Hixon: My love for sewing started as a young girl sitting on my mothers knee as she sewed for our family. I started with making clothes for my doll, and made my first dress for myself when I was in fourth grade. That is when it all started.

I was born and raised in Green Bay, worked in banking for fourteen years after which time I attended NWTC and graduated with associate degree in computer operations then started working

at the college in registration. But my life wasn't all work. I was a single parent with two wonderful daughters and my love for sewing was expanded to include knitting, crocheting, tole painting and woodworking, making folkdolls, and my latest love for quilting.

In 1984 I married a wonderful man, Jim. We now have six children and eight grandchildren combined. We moved to Lakewood and Jim went to work for Suminski Funeral Home. I quit my job and stayed home crafting; I wanted to sell my things so I opened Hixon Creations and sixteen years later I'm still quilting and operating my shop to keep my creative talents satisfied. Jim is retired and so we spend the winters in Florida, while I leave the shop in the very capable hands of my sister Joan, and sister-in-law Myra. I thank my Lord Jesus Christ for my family, friends, talents, and His many blessings.

Introducing Leah Giese: I am what I call a self-taught quilter. About 20 years ago I saw a sampler quilt I thought I could do real fast. After I had it started (maybe not doing it as fast as I thought) I told my family my goal was to get it done in five years or thereabouts! In that time we went from a double bed to a queen size, so that took more time and more fabric to hunt for. Eventually I finished the top and hand quilted it. I've used it as a bedspread ever since.

Of course I did get other projects finished in this time also. I was very fortunate to take part in the fabulous "Quilt for a Day" at Gillett for several years; I met many quilters there. Now a day without sewing is like a day without sunshine and I have many "quilt plums" in my head.

My husband, Herb, and I retired 6 years ago after farming for 42 years. What a relief! We now live on the outskirts of Gillett. Our family consists of 5 children, 10 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

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**At the January Meeting:**

Sheila Hixon won 20 Ribbon Quilt BOM's.  
Pat Schreck won the raffle of Fat Quarters.

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February Meeting: Will have the usual raffle of fat quarters, BOM, and birthday club exchanges.

The featured speaker will be Cordy Wescott of *My Favorite Quilt Shop* in Green Bay. Her demo will be on **Kaffe Fassett Handerchief Quilts**. She will bring several quilts to show and kits will be available to purchase.

Vote on By Laws: We will be voting on our by-laws at the February general meeting. Changes to the proposed by-law copy that you have in your possession are as follows:

Article III: Elected Officials

Section 5. Procedure for removal of an Officer shall be as follows: A written motion for removal must be presented with due cause for removal, then seconded at a regularly scheduled general meeting.

Article X: Quorum

Section 1. A quorum constitutes a majority (more than half) of all its members. For voting purposes, a majority of the members present will be considered sufficient to conduct business.

Article XV: Amendment to by-Laws

Section 3. Approval of the amendments and/or by-laws requires a quorum of the membership to be present at the regularly scheduled meeting at which these proposals are presented.

In making a decision about what a quorum is, Robert's Rules of Order was consulted and used. The decision to base our quorum as stated above was determined by the fact that we have members who are here only part of the year and also on the fact that we did not qualify to have a 2/3 quorum at our last meeting.

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**Block of the Month (BOM):** The directions for February's 12-inch Buckeye Beauty block were given to you at the January meeting. All fabrics used must be pre-washed! Sew the block and bring it to the February meeting. The name of each person who stitches and brings the BOM will be placed in a hat; the name drawn receives all blocks stitched that month. The BOM's will all be 12-inches finished, in case you would like to make a second BOM to keep for your self, or to give for charity quilts. [If you missed the meeting you may log on to the Internet at [www.quilterscache.com](http://www.quilterscache.com); go to the Patterns, select the "Buckeye Beauty" block and print out the instructions.] Or call me and I will email the directions to you as a PDF file.

**QuiltersCache** - Have you also been having trouble getting to their patterns? They changed their website. Try this:

Go to [www.quilterscache.com](http://www.quilterscache.com)

Go to the Little Store.

At the bottom of that screen, go to the Patterns. Now grouped as A-F, G-L, M-R, and S-Z.

[Email Rita with any such problems.]

**Birthday Mini-Clubs:** These groups started in June and run through May, 2004. Coordinator is Rita Shores. If you miss a meeting, you may mail your block or squares to Rita or to the person celebrating a birthday that month. You were given a list for the full year so that you may plan ahead. A reminder of birthdays for that month will be listed in the newsletter. Remember, all fabrics used must be pre-washed!

**Raffle:** The fat quarter raffle for February is a nice collection of coordinating florals, stripes and plaids, pretty enough to be a lovely Valentine for the lucky winner. As you know, the profit from this fundraiser is going to the Riverview Fire Dept. Just to keep you updated, so far we have made a profit of about \$240 on this fundraiser. At the end of our fiscal year we will present the fire dept. with our donation. As you can see, all of your dollars are adding up and we are having a little fun with it as well.

**UFO Club:** A newly formed club within our guild will help you finish up those pesky UFOs this year! The UFO Club runs from January 2004 through January 2005. As a fee for membership to this club, you must bring a fat-quarter of nice fabric every other month. So the months that fat quarters are due are February, April, June, August, October and December. You must bring your fat quarters to remain eligible for the UFO Club benefits.

You decide what your UFO commitment is. It could be one small quilt to finish up or maybe three large quilts; it's up to you, your UFO collection and your time limit. You also decide how far to take your UFOs. You can finish a quilt top and use that as a fulfillment to your goal or you can take a top and quilt and bind it as a fulfillment to your goal. Remember, these are your goals for the year.

As you finish up each goal, bring it to Pine Needle Quilter's Show and Tell; make sure you say it's one of your UFO goals and get it marked off your list. If you mark everything off your personal list by the end of the year, you will be eligible for the drawing for the Fat Quarter Dues. That should be quite a nice stash by then! Remember, bring your fat quarters on the proper month and keep up your goals. Let's finish up those projects with some encouragement from our friends.

Sign up sheet available from Diana Napier. Please bring your completed sheet to February meeting and I will make a copy of it and get it back to you. Also, February is the first fat-quarter month too.

**Finished Is Better Than Perfect:** I, for one, am very excited about the formation of our new UFO club, as I have quite a collection of them building around the house. I was discussing the UFO club with my son, who jokingly asked me, "This doesn't have anything to do with Roswell, New Mexico, Area 51, or little green men does it? Well, I assured him that I had not totally lost my mind, although that has also been debated. Comments like, "why would you take a perfectly good piece of fabric, cut it up, only to sew it all back together again?" Some people just don't understand.

I was fumbling through a catalog the other day and I saw a little quote that might be a perfect motto for the UFO club: "Finished Is Better Than Perfect." As a member of the club, my encouragement to you, as you start to tackle your pile of UFO's is to relax and have fun with your quilting, don't get caught up by trying to make it all so perfect. After all, perfect doesn't really exist, not in us humans anyway! There is such a sense of enjoyment and feeling of accomplishment to just finally finish up a project that has been "hovering" (no alien pun intended) over you for a long time!

Laurie Schoenebeck

**Contact information:**

|        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|
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| Deanna | 920-842-2057           |
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| Joyce  | 715-276-6885           |
|        |                        |
| Rita   | 715-276-7709           |
|        | ritashores@hotmail.com |

**Rebate:** The Pine Needle Quilters is registered in *Quilts & Other Comforts* Guild Rebate Program. Our guild can earn valuable rebates by participating in their new guild rebate program. We will earn 10% of each and every dollar that our members spend through their catalog, website or store. This can be applied to merchandise for our guild such as books or fabrics for charitable quilts. They will be sending us copies of their nice catalog to be distributed if you don't already have one and we have been issued a rebate number which is WI118 (that is letters WI followed by numbers 118). You must use this with your order for our group to receive the rebate.

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Quilt Tip for You: Improve your pressing by "setting your seams". First press each seam with a dry iron before opening the patch, pressing, and then sewing the next intersecting seam. Always lift open the top layer of your patch to press open, and thereby making the seam allowance in the direction of the patch you just opened. Steam and finger pressing tends to distort and stretch fabrics, which can cause problems with piecing.

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**Calendar:** These are the sewing dates (3:30pm) and Regular Meeting dates (7:00pm) for the remainder of the year. Please mark your calendars.

|     | Sew | Reg |
|-----|-----|-----|
| Mar | 1   | 15  |
| Apr | 5   | 19  |
| May | 3   | 17  |
| Jun | 7   | 21  |
| Jul | 5   | 19  |
| Aug | 2   | 16  |
| Sep | n/a | 20  |
| Oct | 4   | 18  |
| Nov | 1   | 15  |
| Dec | n/a | 6   |

**Quilt Shows:**

**Kenosha** ~ Anderson Art Center, 121 66th St, will be hosting "The Art and Sound of Quilting," through March 28. For more info contact Kay Sorensen at: kaysorensen@kempercenter.com

**Milwaukee** ~ The Milwaukee County Historical Society will showcase thirty 19th and 20th century quilts from its permanent collection in an exhibition entitled Quilts and Community, which will run through March 14. The Society is open to the public seven days a week, from 9:30->5pm Monday thru Friday, 10->5 Saturday, and 1->5 Sunday. Admission is free. www.milwaukeecountyhistoc.org

**Sun Prairie** ~ 30th Annual Prairie Heritage Quilt Show, March 21, 22, 23 in Sun Prairie at St. Alberts Center, 2420 St. Albert the Great Drive. 200 competition quilts plus challenge wallquilts. Sunday 12->4pm; Monday 9am->8pm; Tuesday 9am->4pm. Admission \$4.

**Green Bay** ~ Evergreen Quilt Guild will hold its 11th Biennial Quilt Festival, "Timeless Endeavors," April 17 & 18, 2004 at Ashwaubenon High School, 2391 Ridge Road, Green Bay. Admission \$4. Saturday lectures: 1pm- Linda Halpin "Tools of the Trade"; 2:30pm Kay Sorensen" Queen of the Rainbow". www.geocities.com/evergreenguild

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Top Ways to Smuggle Fabric into the House:

1. Wait until he's asleep.
 2. Pack it into grocery bags (this works better with paper than plastic).
 3. Send him to the store to pick up some milk.
 4. Wrap it around yourself under your coat (this works best in winter).
 5. Tell him you're leaving him, stomp out of the house carrying a suitcase, load it up, and come back and tell him you forgive him (he'll be so relieved, he won't think to check your sewing room for contraband).
 6. Borrow a friend's baby car-seat, cover the fabric with a blanket, and say you're babysitting. (Don't forget to rave about how quiet and well-behaved the baby is).
 7. Get a dog. Then get him to agree to walk the dog every evening. That's your window of opportunity every day.
 8. Claim you've joined a gym and leave home with a gym bag. You can cram a lot of fabric into one of those things.
 9. Tell him you're in the mood for a romantic evening, and while he's taking a shower, you'll fix the two of you a little snack (this won't work if he asks you to shower with him, but then you probably won't be thinking about fabric anyway).
 10. Who's got the best method? Let us know.
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Free Online Class: You can take quilting workshops online with some of the biggest names in the business. Just go to www.quiltuniversity.com and look over their site. They do have a free class that you can try out. It's called Border Crossings and it is about all the wonderful things you can do with a quilt border. Your border shouldn't just be an afterthought. The class does not require fabric, it just has a lot of information to try out on your next design project before you buy or cut your fabric! Really nice.

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**Nominating Committee:** A three person nominating committee has been appointed to organize our officer election which is scheduled for our general meeting in April. Co-Chairpersons are **Kathy Turk** and **Rita Shores** with **Marge Kasten** the third member of this ad hoc committee. These ladies will be taking the names of person interested in becoming officers for our upcoming year. We have the rest of February and March to compile a list of interested and willing people so please give it thought to guide our group! Your participation is what will keep our group so diverse and so much fun. Once our ballot is set up, the nominating committee will attend to the voting and vote count. Please contact the nominating committee to get your name on ballot. Elections will be done at our general meeting in April with new board to take over the May meeting.

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Notice to All Committee Chairpersons and Officers: To help all incoming officers and new committee chairs or members, please take the time to make a list of what your duties actually ended up being, how you handled them, what worked well for you, what didn't work well, contacts or phone numbers of people who could be of assistance to our group, etc. Please include anything that would help the person following in your footsteps. This does not need to be a fancy list, just a written list is fine if you don't have access to computer or keyboard. Thank you very much.

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**National Quilting Day:** National Quilting Day is Saturday, March 20th and as one of our goals is to keep the public aware of our art, this is a wonderful opportunity to present quilting to the public. Here are some ideas that are being addressed and very much in keeping with the spirit of our group:

We would like to contact our local hospitals and arrange to give a baby quilt to the first baby born on National Quilting Day.

We would like to set up a small display and/or demo in our public libraries on that Saturday. The Lakewood Library has already been approached and was very, very receptive to that idea. These two ideas will be discussed at our meeting and hopefully some small groups can form to handle the baby quilts and cover the area libraries.

Any other ideas will be appreciated.

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Message from the President: I used to be a "closet quilter". I was truly a quilter but you did not

hear me shouting from the rafters about it. Acquaintances would ask me about my hobbies and I'd mumble something about making quilts. They would raise an eyebrow, look at me and say, "You make blankets?" Visions of polyester, pilled nightmares from K-Mart swirled through my head when I looked them in the eye and I knew they just didn't get it. For many years, I kept my quilts and quilting to myself and a group of family members. Quite regularly I'd slip a baby quilt to a friend or far off relative but I didn't know if they really wanted it or knew what a quilt could really mean. My quilting was done just to please my own need to create.

In recent years, I somehow slipped out of the "quilt closet". Not sure how it happened as I did not throw open the door and shout, "I'm a quilter and what are you gonna do about it!" But slowly and surely I accumulated a group of quilting buddies who were ready to try almost anything and go almost anywhere if there is a quilt involved. It has changed a lot of things about my life, I can hardly go to a quilt show or shop without seeing someone I know and we even speak the same "quilt language". I no longer mumble about my quilts, I'll show them off to anybody who even knows what a quilt is. I now take great joy in sharing my ideas and occasionally completing an entire quilt. It has been terrific to come out of the "quilt closet" and into a world where there is now a *National Quilting Day*. Let's all enjoy and celebrate our mutual passion!

Diana Napier

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**Embroidered Shirts:** Some members have expressed an interest in having shirts embroidered with our guild logo. We could wear our shirts to quilting events and thus declare our affiliation with a great group of quilters!! To that end, Karan Verhagen and Rita Shores visited Top Notch Promotions (on hwy 32 in Mountain) about having such work done. The owner called Rita last Friday. There is an initial fee of \$50 (for groups) to have the design digitized (prepared for the embroidery machine.) The guild would pay for this charge. After the design has been digitized, we will be given a quote for having a large design done (such as the back of a denim shirt) or a small design above the breast pocket (or a hat/visor). The owner has good-quality denim shirts for sale in her shop. (Her shirt prices are much less than Green Bay quilt shops.) If you bring your own garment, there were be an additional charge. Rita will get a price quote soon.

Rita Shores