



The Buzz

from the Thistle Bee Quilt Shoppe

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919-778-2277

January - March 2012

We're Off Into Another Year

Last year went by quickly. There were so many things happening here and so many deadlines. It all seems a blur! I do hope that this year I'll have some breathing room. As always there are so many projects and quilts that I'd love to make, I just can't get to them all. How about you? Did you get your goals from last year met? It's time once again to sit down and try to get ourselves organized and our works in progress sorted out for another year. This year marks our seventh anniversary. It is hard to believe. We thank you all for your support throughout the years. Mark your calendars for our anniversary celebration this March.

Fabric Lines Scheduled to Come In January:



Easy Ways To Stay In the Know

Our newsletter only comes out once a quarter, four times a year. If you would like to really stay up to date Like the Shoppe on Facebook. Or follow our blog on our website. <http://www.thistlebeequiltshoppe.com/blog/>. We can get things up at those two spots quickly.

Charity Update



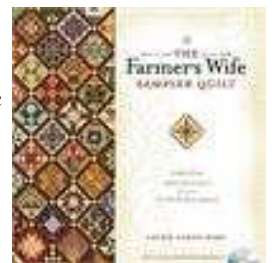
We delivered 37 pet beds to the animal shelter last quarter. The lady there is excited to receive the beds. Thanks for all the donations of time and scraps.

Midnight Madness

Returning for a second session!!! Would you like six hours of uninterrupted sewing? How about dinner that you don't have to cook? Our first session was such a hit so we decided to return! Bring your projects big or small and settle in for a FUN night of sewing. Come ready to sew, enjoy great food and have some fun. We will have plenty of surprises and lots and lots of fun. Mary Ellen and Joe will have the Shoppe open just for you.

Farmer's Wife Club

This club is going to meet twice a quarter (check the calendar for meeting times) on the first Saturday of the month for two hours. There will be quarterly sign up for this club. Come and join Jean as you work on blocks from this book. I have already heard of some of the members plans and I think this will be an exciting club!



Inclement Weather

In case of bad weather please call the shop before you come to see if we are here . Or check <http://member.merchantcircle.com/thistlebee> . Or check our Facebook status. 919-778-2277.



General's Wives Block of the Month

April 12, 2011 marked the 150th anniversary of the firing of cannons on Fort Sumter, South Carolina, marking the opening day of the Civil War; a war that would divide families, friends, and a country and ultimately take the lives of over 618,000 soldiers, about 2% of the population of our country at that time.

The generals who served during this time had been friends, classmates and sometimes, even roommates at West Point prior to the war. Theirs was now the task to destroy that friend to support the cause in which they believed. This was not an easy decision. The wives of these generals had to support her husband as he wrestled with those decisions. She had to keep the home fires burning and keep the children and families together at a time that was extremely dangerous for her. The wives of Confederate generals also had the concern that the actual battlefield could be in her town or on her property. Most of the women on the Southern side lost all their possessions and homes. These were extremely brave and strong women who deserve all the recognition that can be afforded them.

Nancy Gere has designed General's Wives, her proudest civil war fabric collection, and Jerry Stube's quilt design by the same name is created to honor these brave women, and truly, the wives of all soldiers who fight to preserve our cause, our country.

In this Block of the Month program, the histories of these women will be offered along with the pattern each month in hope that the quilter will enjoy learning a bit more about these brave women.

The center block is a representation of the rank insignia of General of the Army, a five star general. A few of the generals who served during the Civil War were recognized as General of the Army. However, there was not a five star rank at that time. The rank itself did not appear until much later.

There is a \$25 non-refundable sign-up fee and then \$24.95 each month for 12 months. The quilt finishes at 102" square. We only have room for 10 participants. Remember when you sign up a BOM is a commitment for the entire time that BOM is running.

This program got a late start as there were supply issues with patterns, fabrics and the Shoppe kit. I am just now trying to get the Shoppe kit made. I'm loving the fabrics. For most of you who know me, you know I love small pieces. This pattern isn't so. I had to cut out a 6 1/2" piece for the first block. It nearly killed me cutting something that "big"!



Most of the blocks I make at the very most finish that size if not smaller! This was just the center piece of the block. I made it through that block and am now getting accustomed to the larger size pieces. I am enjoying this BOM. I am currently working on a block that the designer says may be challenging, but if you take it one piece at a time it really isn't and comes together just fine. Here are two pictures of blocks I've actually put together.



Our Second Friday Bee

It has been brought to my attention that since we have so many new people coming to the Shoppe, not everyone knows what our Bee is about. It is easy for me to forget such things as they have been here almost as long as we've been open.

Our Second Friday Bee is a time when the classroom is open for you to come sew on whatever project you are working on. It is a time to get to know other people who love the fiber arts. We welcome you if you would like to come. It is suppose to start at 12:30, but the regulars come and leave whenever it best suits them. Since our room is small and if interest picks up we may have to start another bee at another time. However for now you are welcome to stop by and join us.



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The art of quilting is rich in history. There are women, in untold numbers, who blazed the trail before us, leaving us with quilts and remnants of both fabrics and stories of how they lived, and what quilts meant to them. While the techniques of quilting for today's quilter can be very different from those of yesteryear, why we quilt and what quilting means to us is very much the same.

We make quilts for basic warmth on the bed in which we sleep, for family and friends, to mark special occasions, perhaps to raise money for a cause dear to our hearts, or for the pure joy of it. Like our quilting ancestors, we also come together, as women in kindred spirit, to sew and share, and tell of our lives, giving support to one another.

You are invited to join a unique, monthly club that will take you on a journey back in time. Gather together as the Prairie Women did, and hear anecdotal stories about their quilt making, and what daily life was like for those who traveled by wagon train on the Oregon Trail, to the lives of quilter's during the Civil War, and the years of women's suffrage for equal rights. Not only will you learn how our quilting ancestors created quilts by "Making- Do" with what they had, you will be invited to do so yourself!

At each monthly gathering of the Prairie Women's Sewing Circle, you will receive a small reproduction quilt project pattern that will allow you the option to share in their unique "Make-Do" quilting experience with fellow club members. Monthly patterns and other surprises will be offered exclusively to PWSC club members only!

Sign up today to attend the next gathering of the Prairie Women's Sewing Circle and ...Journey the threads of time!

Our **second offering** of this club will begin **Saturday, January 21!** It will meet the **third Saturday** of each month. The club is for six months with a one time sign-up fee of \$40 for all six meetings. Come and join the fun!



Those who started last quarter are enjoying this Journey!

Counted Cross Stitchers Unite! Anita Jones

As you know the Thistle Bee has opened its doors for cross stitchers to get together the fourth Saturday of the month. Thanks, Mary Ellen for letting us use the space to gather and share our craft. I don't know about you, but I love to see what other stitchers are working on. So grab that project you have been working on or the one you just haven't had the time to get back to and come on down, spend the day or an hour, take a little "me time" and relax and have some fun! .