



# The Buzz

from the Thistle Bee Quilt Shoppe

[www.thistlebeequiltshoppe.com](http://www.thistlebeequiltshoppe.com)  
919-778-2277

April - June 2007

## Spring and Newness In the Air

Spring is my favorite season. I love all the blossoms and new blooms. It seems like the whole world is coming alive! I also like having the extra daylight hours.

Here at the shop we have new patterns, books and fabrics arriving. We are thrilled with Moda's Charms and Jellyrolls. The Charm packs have been around for a while, but now designers have come up with a wealth of different patterns for these five inch squares. It is amazing what they have done with these squares. We even have Beverly teaching a class using the Charm packs this quarter. Check the class schedule to see when the class is slated. This will be a great opportunity to learn how to use these handy charm packs. The shop is also carrying patterns for the Jellyrolls. Stop by and see what can be done with two and a half inch by width of fabric strips!



With spring upon us it is a great time to learn something new. Jeannie will be teaching a series of classes for those of you who have always wanted to make a quilt. She will also have a class that is geared for those of you who think you would like to quilt, but are not quite sure and would like to just see what quilting is about. This will be a great introduction to quilting without spending so much money all up front before you know whether or not you would like to pursue this great craft. See the class schedule and call the Shoppe to book a class.

If you already know how to piece a quilt top but do not know how to quilt the quilt, we are offering both a machine quilting class taught by Jean and a hand quilting taught by Mary Ellen this quarter.

Want to try something different? What about Chenille? Beverly will be teaching a class on how to make chenille out of cotton fabric and you will be able to have an oh, so soft pillow in the end!

Would you like to do a traditional quilt with modern day techniques? Come to Jean's Bear Paw class. She will be teaching you how to do half square triangles the easy way with Triangles on a Roll. I resist new gadgets and techniques, but I am hooked on these convenient tools. It is so much easier than having to cut out all those triangles!

Beverly will be teaching a class on paper piecing technique, but she is not going to stop there. She is also going to include with the class a quilt-as-you-go method and a reversible quilt technique that she has come up with. She will show you an easy way to make the back of your quilt look as good as the front of your quilt. You can end up with two different quilts!



## New Redwork Block of the Month Starts!

This year our redwork block of the month is featuring seasonal birds. There is only one pattern to buy this year, which has all the months blocks included. You will have a choice of three settings when you have completed your redwork. We are setting aside the second Tuesday of each month to get together and stitch on our blocks. Hope to see you there!

## Hour Change

We will be closing one hour earlier on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will open a half hour earlier for you shopping convenience. Our hours for those two days will be 9:30am-4pm



## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars:

March birthday celebration- free gift with every purchase while supply lasts!

March 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> - Spring cleaning sale! 50% off selected bolts of fabric. What better way to celebrate the start of our third year and national quilting day!

April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>- Easter Egg Surprise, what will be in your Easter egg. Spend \$30 pre tax and find out!

May 19<sup>th</sup>- Armed Forces Day. 10% off fabric purchase with military ID. Thank you for your service.



## Christmas in July

Fabrics are ordered! We will be offering at least four different lines of Christmas fabrics this year. Keep Saturday, July 21<sup>st</sup> open on your calendar for our unveiling of the Christmas lines for this year. It is never too early to get started on our Christmas sewing!



## Quilt Sampler

Do not forget that we are carrying the *Quilt Sampler!* We should be able to get the magazines out earlier than bookstores and other news stands.



## Shoppe Bees

Don't forget our Shoppe Bees. We have three which we hope will fit into your schedule: the Lunch bee on the first Thursday of every month from 11am-1pm, the Morning bee on the first Friday of every month from 10am-12pm, and the Afternoon bee on the second Friday of every month from 12:30am- 2:30pm. These bees are free of charge and are a great time to come and work on projects and share ideas or get inspired.

## Calling Cross Stitcher, Knitters and Other Crafters

If you are interested in a place for a group meeting we may have a room available. If we do not have a class scheduled you may use the classroom. Call the shop for more details, 778-2277.

## UFO Tuesday

Tired of your unfinished projects lying around your house? Come to our UFO Tuesdays, which will be on the last Tuesday of the month. The classroom will be open for your use to work on whatever you like. Here you can have time where you are not distracted with things at home. There will be someone around to help answer any questions you have or offer suggestions.



## Quiltpink Quilts

Congratulations go out to Sara and Jeannie for winning the shop drawing for customer and teacher. We hope you enjoy your bag of goodies. A big thanks goes out to all of you who participated in this endeavor.



Technique class quilt:  
New Dawn

The finished quilts have been sent to *American Patchwork & Quilting* magazine and they will auction the quilts online to raise money for the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer foundation.

For more information see [www.quiltpink.com](http://www.quiltpink.com).

We will send an e-mail to let you know when our quilts are being auctioned off!



Shoppe Quilt: Chain  
of Hope

## Check Out Our 50% Off Corner!



We now have a small corner of 50% off fabric. This is next to our clearance bolt case. Check back as these areas will change as fabric goes. If you like it you better get it as there will not be any more of these ordered.

## Students' responsibilities to make their class a success:

- Cell phones turned off or on vibrate. The teacher does not have the responsibility to catch you up if you receive a call.
- In consideration to classmates, no children, unless the child is enrolled as a paid participant.
- Come to class prepared with the class list completed (unless item is listed as optional) before the start of class.
- Be in class ready to begin at the stated time as classes will begin promptly.

## Tips

- If you have a sewing machine that is unable to drop its feed dogs you can still do free motion quilting by taping a business card or one of those annoying fake credit cards you receive in the mail over the feed dogs which will prevent the feed dogs from gripping your fabric while you sew. Be sure to make a hole in the card for your needle to go through!
- When you press your fabric pieces for your quilt blocks let them rest on the ironing surface until cooled. This will help to prevent distortion especially when working with bias edges.
- If you can not decide what color thread to quilt your top with, practice your quilting with the different color thread on quilt sandwiches made from leftover fabric from your quilt top. If you don't like the color choice experiment with a different shade or even a different color. No ripping out this way and in the long run it saves time.
- If you have bought and used the Cutting Edge Strips here at the Shoppe and love them the way I do, you will find that eventually they don't want to stick to your ruler. This is because there is oil and grime buildup on them. Simply swish them in a dishpan of dish liquid, dry, and enjoy using them again.