

# Newsletters in April 2012

## [AQS Paducah 2012/Kathy's Tips](#)

April 30, 2012

### **Paducah was a blast!**

30,000 Quilters from all over the world, packed in a little town crackling with energy and joy. We were all having a fantastic time. In my classes I had students from the Netherlands, the UK and Australia. "What is a sharpie marker?" A funny question until you realize that it is an American brand name. My students were great. The week started with the award show. I sat with the other teachers and was thrilled to get two awards. One Honorable Mention for Jelly Snacks and one **1ST PLACE for Audubon's Christmas**. If you watched the award show on web cast, I was the one who twirled and did a little dance across the stage. Bonnie Browning handed me a check and a really beautiful engraved trophy. Thank God I didn't drop getting back to my seat! Best of Show was an unbelievable long arm quilt by Sue McCarty. I also found out that I won the Viewers Choice award. You can see all of the winning quilts on the AQS web site.



Oh dear, what a dilemma. **What does one do with an unexpected wind fall?** They BUY a new BERNINA! My new 820 should arrive next week. If you are ever in the market for a new machine, wait until you are at a show. You get the absolute best deals on the ones they use for demonstration during the week. I am watching the free educational videos that Bernina put on You tube while I wait.

**Did you catch the web cast of my lecture? <http://aqsshows.com/AQSPaducah/webcasts/>**

About a quarter way into my lecture you will hear a scream. They had rigged up some lighting to the ceiling for the webcast and it came crashing down right by my head and started swinging over my computer. The filming director is motioning me to "just keep going" as the technical dude comes flying off his booth and running down the aisle towards me.(It could only happen to me!)

We teachers all stayed about 5 miles from the Convention Center. We went back and forth on unpredictable shuttle buses. The morning I was going to do my lecture I thought, "I should bring my hair brush along, and maybe try to look half way decent if they are filming this". Remember I wore scrubs and a cap on my head for 35 years of nursing, so fashionable is not even in my lexicon. After the lecture I went back to the teacher ready room to organize and put everything away. I blow dry my hair the next morning. ( 5 miles from the convention center). Then I realize that my hair brush is back at the teacher ready room. *Creative thinking is required when you do not have a hair brush, no room mate and the hotel does not have one either.* My tooth brush. I was really looking like a fashionista on the bus the next morning!

**The HOT NEW GADGET!** Everyone was walking around with these sticks in their bags. The stick is designed for selvage to selvage strip piecing or other long seams such as borders and sashings. It keeps your seams from becoming distorted when you are ironing. They have a free video on their web site [www.thestripstick.com](http://www.thestripstick.com). It seemed to be the rage this year, but I did not have room for it in my luggage.

Do you like adding beading to your quilt? **A tip I learned this week from Chris Lynn Kirsch [www.chrisquilts.net](http://www.chrisquilts.net)** Pull off a piece of clear mailing tape. Wrap it around the middle finger of the hand you do not sew with. Pick up a few of those pesky beads on the tape and then proceed to sew them on, literally right on your finger tip. Another one of those " Why didn't I ever think of that" type ideas!.

In my Design class and even at the airport, quilters wanted to talk to me about making a quilt of their pet. **My tip for this month is POSTERIZE.** In photo shop, look for Adjustments in your menu bar. It is the place you go to correct your exposure or color saturation. Scan down till you find posterize. It is really helpful in enhancing shapes for you to trace over. Here is our puppy Maggie posterized.



**Keep creating with the joy and freedom of a small child. Hugs to all, Kathy and Gracyn (18 months old)**



## **April tips/Quilting the Pictorial Quilt**

April 1, 2012

**Thanks to everyone** who wrote with concerns that my web site no longer had images. I had a minor crash two months ago. It has been very frustrating. Out of all the chaos..a NEW and improved web site has been born!

Finally, we are back on track with my monthly tips and news. First off, check out the new look of my site. Still at [www.kathymcneilquilts.com](http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com). New quilts, new students quilts, new FAQs, new workshops.

New Menu item. **Video's. Quilting the Pictorial quilt is my new free video short.** I will be adding new video's from time to time. I hope to have free PDF patterns that you can download in the future too. Quilting the Pictorial quilt, is your April tip of the month. I hope you enjoy it. Send me questions or topics that you would like me to address in the future.

**Online Store-** I have developed 4 new patterns in the last 3 months. Froggie Fantasy includes a 3-D flower made all from thread. These thread embellishments are made on a hoop, off quilt, and then machine tacked in place when the actual quilting is done. That way they don't get in the way of your needle. Dancing Cranes is the first exhibition quilt I have ever turned into a pattern. Extensive instructions are included with this pattern. It is also a brand new workshop for

intermediate applique students. The Vineyard is just lovely! I am teaching for the Nappa Country Quilter's and the Modesto, CA Quilters this summer. In Nappa, they are housing me in a vineyard! I was so excited about this trip, that I sat down to draw out two new patterns. You can see enlarged images of these new quilts in the on line store. The 4th pattern is Alpine Glow. It's in the on line store.



**Student Gallery-** *Please send me pictures* to add to my student work album. I love to show off the great work my students do. Let's see that talent ladies! Congratulations to Judy Main/Powwatka Barn, who won an honorable mention in her regional show.

**My Schedule-** I have been on the road a lot this year. Great teaching trips to shows and quilts. This month I will be teaching at Empty Spools in Asilomar, CA and then off to the AQS Paducah show. I have 4 ladies from the Netherlands in my landscape class. (My 100% Dutch father would be so proud). I'm doing a lecture for AQS, so if you are coming- stop by for my lecture and say hi! If not you can catch it on the AQS podcast. Sign up at this web address. [https://events.americanquilter.com/getdemo.ei?id=95&s=\\_0JSOQEJEU](https://events.americanquilter.com/getdemo.ei?id=95&s=_0JSOQEJEU)

**2 SPOTS left- Kathy's Home Studio 4 day workshop. August 16,17,18,19.** Total of 8 students, with lots of individual help. Do you have a project you need help on? Is there a picture you wish you could turn into a quilt? Each student works on an independent project tailored to their level of experience. \$300 fee. \$150 non-refundable deposit. Who ever contacts me and gets their deposit in first, will be on the list. I will keep a waiting list in case someone has to drop. (If I can replace your spot, then you will get the balance back). Balance due by June 30th. E-mail me at [walrusdesigns@aol.com](mailto:walrusdesigns@aol.com) or from [my contact page on the web site](#).

Did you see my best buddy piecing partner Geri Parkers and my quilt "Going Home" as the **Photo finish in last months Quilter's Newsletter Magazine?** I love that pieced sky. When

Geri finished piecing the sky, there were about 4 triangles towards the middle that did not blend quite as well as I hoped. Who laid out the triangles where they thought they would work? Me of course. Geri only whined for about 30 minutes before she ripped open some seams and replaced them. Sometimes pouting works! This quilt was a gift to her husband Vernon who was diagnosed with Cancer last year. He is currently in remission. We are so grateful to drugs and prayers and his medical team!



Take care everyone, keep in touch and never abstain from fabric.

Kathy