

Newsletters in March 2015

[Kathy's newsletter/Free Motion Starts and Stops](#)

March 28, 2015

Greetings everyone,

It is midnight and I am fresh off the plane from my teaching trip to "Empty Spools" in Pacific Grove, CA. Wish I could sleep, but writing to you is the next best thing. *5 day intensive landscape seminars always fill me with terror.* Many of my students come with photos I would never have attempted myself 4 years ago and some with photos I still wouldn't. It's not like you can just drop some information on them and skedaddle. Over 5 days you get really attached to them. They are lovely people. I really, really want to help them make their dream photos come true. These 16-20 independent projects keep me teetering at the edge of my abilities to mentor them into a place they can finish on their own. It's hard to lead the way on something you have never made yourself.

Every original piece of art requires a lot of trial and error. There are hours of wanting to tear your hair out and give up. *Maybe*, if we can just find the right piece of fabric to express that stony, soft, prickly texture, light, shadow, curve of rock, or wind swept Aurora Borealis. Maybe we can't. So maybe we can paint it, add thread work, etc.? Maybe, maybe The nurse in me so desperately wants my students to be comfortable and happy, but birthing is messy, uncomfortable, and fraught with tension. If the passion to create the image is strong enough to 'push through' the hard parts, the rewards can be exhilarating. I am always exhausted but thrilled to be part of helping students develop their own artistic styles and voice.

These are two finished projects from last year's session. This year is going yield some pretty amazing quilts too. Stay tuned!!



[Ribbons and Things](#)

Holey Moley, "Reflections" won Best of Show at Mancuso Savannah. Do you remember when this quilt was totally finished, hanging on my dining room wall? Remember the scale size of *my best rock ever* was bugging me, so I tore all the quilting in that area out,tore the rock off the quilt,..... repaired the water behind it,scaled down and rebuilt the rock,..... hand appliqued it back onto a finished (64 inch across quilt) and then requilted the area? Yeah, that one!! Birthing extremes, pretty darn excited now.



My life's journey - I will be going to **purgatory** for a long time to pay for that time at age ten, when I put a younger kid in our commercial size dryer. Didn't like him much because he broke some of our toys. (Yup, turned it on too). My Mom heard the clunking and came to see what on earth was going on. Anyway the memory of this ribbon and pushing through to a better place is going to keep me steady while I'm there.

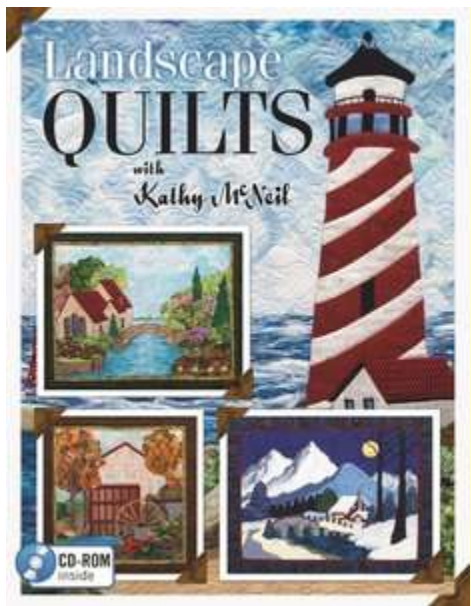
Tips and Tricks

A video to answer the question "How do I start and stop when free motion quilting?"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4vW21jvQJOQ>

The book, the book. \$22.00

Release date is April 15. My shipment should hopefully be here within a week and ready to ship right after that.

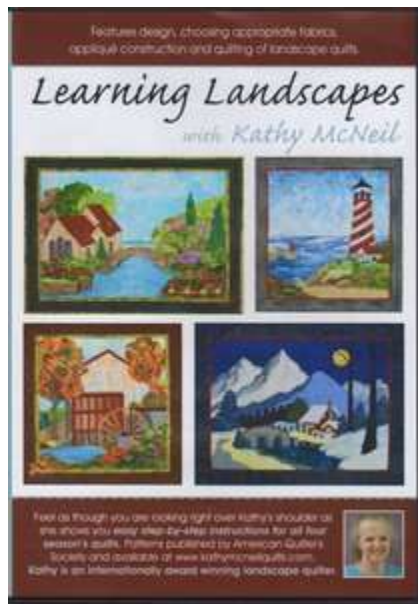


Experience every season with these fabulous landscape quilts! Four lovely full-size patterns include a spring cottage, a fall mill and water wheel, a summer lighthouse, and a winter cabin. Kathy McNeil, an expert in landscape quilting, teaches you how to build a pictorial quilt. Use

your favorite method of applique and learn several techniques to make one or all of these four seasonal designs. Be inspired through every season as you take these designs and make them your own!

Consider the combo sale of the Book plus DVD. \$42.00

For those who wish to watch me build every morsel of this quilt right before your eyes, consider buying the combo pack of book and accompanying 1 hour and 55 minute DVD. Each scene will be broken down step by step. No move will be uncertain. The 4 individual patterns let you practice all the major elements of landscapes while exploring new techniques to build your confidence. When you are done making a couple of these quilts you will be ready to tackle turning your own photos into landscape quilts.



DVD is \$26.00. Buy together for a \$6.00 savings.

Four patterns and a 2 hour over my shoulder workshop. This is a really good deal.

Click below to pre-order the book alone.

\$22.00 <http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/item/learning-landscapes-book/>

Click below to pre-order the combination set.

\$42.00 <http://www.kathymcneilquilts.com/shop/item/learning-landscapes-dvd-and-book-combo/>

My next newsletter will have a link to order my new on line workshops filmed by American Quilters Society: "Audubon's Christmas" a block by block review, and "Photo Inspired make your own Landscapes" workshops. I appreciate each of you so much for being loyal subscribers to my free tips newsletters. *Please order the streamed classes from my web site.* My royalty fee will be higher from my own subscribers. Once you purchase the workshops they are yours for life.

P.S. Yes, my mother did spank me, take away deserts for a week, and assigned me 3 hours of weeding.

Hugs to all, take care of yourselves!

Kathy