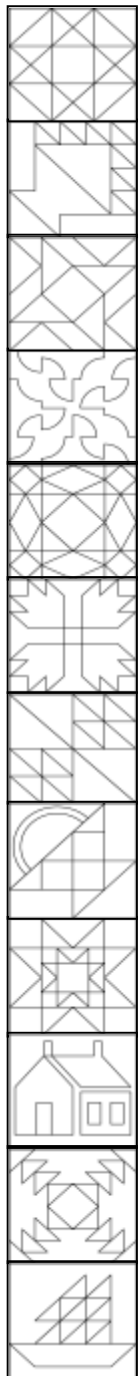


Marys River Quilt Guild **Album**

July/August 2004
Volume 15, No. 4

JULY 29TH DON'T MISS THIS PROGRAM!



Author and designer Pamela Mostek will be doing a presentation on her newly released book, *English Cottage Quilts*. You will find yourself swept away to the charm of a rural English Village setting. Complete with lush Rose Gardens & Storybook Cottages, quilts from the book are sure to inspire in this delightful setting!

Pam has just returned from England & will have books & patterns available for purchase such as **That Patchwork Place, Just Can't Cut It, Quilts from Larkspur Farms, & Blossoms in Winter**. To learn more about Pam & her creative talents please check out her Web site~
<http://www.makinglemonadedesigns.com/>

AUGUST 26TH: CHALLENGE QUILT SHOW— HAVE YOU STARTED YOURS YET?

This is the chance for guild members to see what everyone has been making with the hand dyed fabrics we received last fall. Bring your finished projects, (or projects in process) – or good excuses for unfinished projects. Sometimes the stories are better than the final product! Our evening should be interesting and informative.

HOW I LEARNED TO DYE FABRIC IN BRAZIL

Late winter 2004, I agreed to accompany my husband on a ten-day river trip aboard a boat on the Rio Negro, a major tributary of the Amazon River, in Brazil. The purpose was to assist a long-time friend in fish data collection.

From TV documentaries and long ago school assignments, I knew enough about the Amazon rainforest to realize I had a problem—several of them.

I don't *do* snakes, equatorial heat, crocodiles, high humidity, or piranhas. I don't understand Portuguese. I prefer to avoid mosquitoes and papaya. But more importantly, I don't handle fish.

Attempting to allay my fears, I asked the spouse of the fish expert to describe a typical day aboard the boat. I learned that the tannins in rainforest foliage give the Rio Negro its name—Dark River. Next, she began describing the different colors of the side streams: yellow, orange, red, black. Black? Red? Further inquiry revealed that fallen foliage in side streams determine its colors. Colored water?

What would happen if fabric were put into those streams? What if I collected plant matter and purposely dyed fabric? My concerns for comfort and safety dashed. Only one problem remained—I'd never dyed fabric before. With help from MRQG member, Karen Miller, I acquired 20 yards of 100% cotton fabric and instructions about something called 'alum' to be used as a 'mordant' and which could probably be found in the pickling section of a grocery store.

Armed with my pre-treated fabric (pre-cut into one yard lengths) and dozens of gallon-sized, reseal-able plastic bags, I accompanied my husband and the other 'fish hunters' aboard the *Victoria Amazonica* in Manaus, Brazil.

Continued on page 2



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 Tues & Thurs 9:30a-9:00p

Admit One
 ...or many!

How I learned to dye continued.....

Each shore party tried to out-do the previous one in gathering bark, leaves, fruits, petals, etc. for me to extract plant pigments. The task of extraction began with hand-shredding or machete-chopping the vegetative finds. Depending on the material, I next soaked the pieces of vegetative matter in ethyl alcohol to create a water-soluble extract. At least that's what the handful of chemists on our cruise suggested that I do. I'd then put this extract into an unused, reseal-able plastic bag and add enough water to fully saturate the yard of fabric.

Colorful liquids in full, plastic bags donned my stateroom. Each time I hung a yard to dry from the open, top deck, the 'fish hunters' would gather and offer their caipirinha-influenced approval. Nineteen yards later, I had taught the crew, the captain, and myself a thing or two about dyeing fabric in the wilds of Brazil's Rio Negro rainforest.

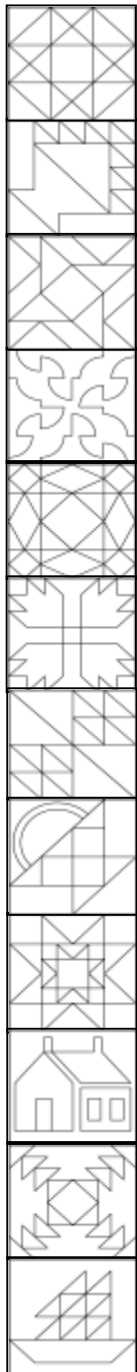
"As luck would have it while still in Brazil but off the river, two days after leaving the boat, I discovered, a book by Eber Lopes Ferreira. He is the Brazilian expert on dyeing fabrics with natural colorants."

"I will return to the Rio Negro in spring 2005 as the leader of a fabric-dyeing expedition. An added bonus: Eber has agreed to join us! If you'd like to join our adventure, send me an e-mail. We can accommodate 20 people but need to have our passenger list by the end of August (next month!)."

Just for the record, we never spotted a snake. The boat's cabins have air conditioning and the top deck is equipped with hammocks to enjoy the breeze. Crocodiles, when spotted, steer clear of motorized boats and camera lenses. We quenched our thirst with iced beverages. Piranhas in the Rio Negro don't eat people. We had plenty of bi-lingual folks onboard. The acidity (pH <4) of the Rio Negro kept mosquitoes away. And there's more than papaya fruit in the tropics.

Sherry Clark sherryc@simpleorganicsolutions.com

SECRET SISTERS NEWS



We had a great time at Colleen's home for our secret sister ice cream social. The weather was wonderful and we had twenty-two people attending out of twenty-five. We shared some ideas and discussed activities coming up. There seems to be interest in a quilt retreat for Sat. and Sun. April 23rd and 24th. Perhaps we could get a mini committee started to look into this. Let Colleen and me know if you would be willing to help with this event.

Our next secret sister meeting will be Tuesday Aug. 17 at Jannilou Creations from 7:00-8:30. Bring a munchy and an ugly fabric exchange and tell us about your first quilt or sewing project.

Looking ahead, we plan on traveling to the Northwest Quilt Expo. on Saturday September 21 for a day trip. More details later.

Debbie Garvin

PLACES TO GO, THINGS TO DO....

July 26-August 4, 2002, High Fiber Diet in conjunction with The Japanese Garden Society of Oregon, presents '**Essence of the East**', an exhibit of fiber art and art quilts inspired by the Japanese aesthetic. The Japanese Garden, Washington Park, 611 SW Kingston, **Portland** Admission: Free entry to the exhibit is included in the entry fees to the Garden.

August 6, 7 and 8th A "**Garden Party**" **QUILTS BY THE SEA's** 14th Annual quilt Fri, Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 Newport Middle School, 825 NE 7th, **Newport** - \$3.00
AUGUST 14th **Mt. Meadow Quilt Guild** - This unique quilt show is held at the Sunriver Mall - the quilts hang outside in front of the shops at **Sunriver**.
August 14 and 15, Rhododendron Quilt Guild Quilt Show "**A WAVE OF QUILTS**" - Siuslaw Middle School, 26th and Oak Streets, **Florence**

SUMMER READING BOOK REVIEW


The Quilts of Gee's Bend

Gee's Bend is located within a wide curl of the Alabama River southwest of Selma. After the Civil War and emancipation, a small, relatively isolated community of mostly African Americans subsisted for generations as tenant farmers on this rural bottomland. Despite overwhelming poverty and difficulties of living in the Bend, the women proved to be very resourceful and made astonishing quilts from any available fabrics, including old denim, cotton-polyester blends, cotton bandanas, jerseys, and corduroy. In "The Quilts of Gee's Bend" the authors, John Beardsley, William and Paul Arnett and Jane Livingston, present the lives of the talented women and the distinctive quilts that were made for their families and homes.

Quilt making became widely dispersed among the women of Gee's Bend and some unique traditions emerged, especially the use of salvaged materials and a preference for strong, abstract geometric patterns. During the civil rights movement in 1966 about 60 quilters from Wilcox County formed the Freedom Quilting Bee which provided a way for many of the Bend women to market their handmade articles. As their work gained recognition, more orders for quilts arrived, but not without the imposition of new standards of production and new fabrics. For many women this standardization of their improvised patterns was difficult to accept, and some resented making quilts with little bits of fabric, preferring the larger bolder designs that had originated with their ancestors. Today, several of the older women continue to make quilts that reflect the earlier patterns of Gee's Bend and do so for pleasure and peace of mind.

For anyone who struggles to find the "right" piece of fabric for a quilt, this book can provide inspiration and a deep respect for the meaning of thrift. It's hard to look at \$9/yard fabric the same way again.

Harriett Plumley



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SECRET SISTER ROUND ROBIN

July 15th will have come and gone, but we will have had our first look at everyone's initial 12 1/2 inch quilt block or first row in a round robin row quilt. We will have passed on the quilt piece to the next person in our group and have had a chance to talk strategies for the next row and share any problems we encountered.

Next round robin meeting is at Jannilou Creations Tuesday Sept. 21 from 7:00-8:30. Remember we have two months to decide how and what to add to the quilt piece we've been given. Can't wait to see what everyone has done. See you there. If you find you can not attend the meeting, send your quilt with another person or leave it at Jannilou's so we can see the result and pass it on to the next person.

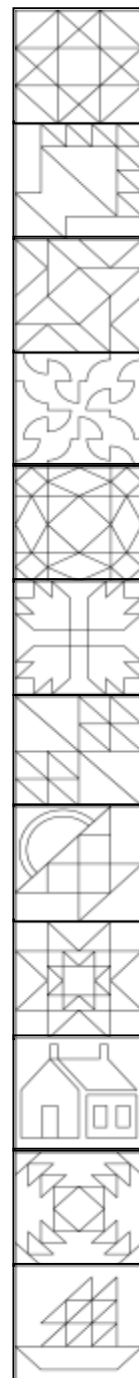
Debbie Garvin

MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

Nancy Bryant received the 2004 Legacy Society Award from the College of Human Ecology at the University of Minnesota. The award recognizes lifetime achievement of individuals who have made positive and lasting contributions to individuals, families, community, the college, or its related professions.

Bryant is the co-author of the textbook "The Business of Fashion" with L.D. Burns. Her work has been featured in 38 international and national juried shows and has earned 17 awards for design excellence.

Other guild members in the news? Send information to newsletter editor Jan Tallis at jantallis1@comcast.net to be included in future newsletters.



SEPTEMBER 2004

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OCTOBER 2004

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FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 30th – **Dyeing to Quilt** – juried & invitation exhibit at Museum – winners speak at Guild Meeting.

October 28th – **Sharyn Craig**, author of “*Setting Solutions*” lecture on Sets Education & workshop, location TBA

IMPORTANT WEBSITE

Please go to the site listed below and click on “donating a mammogram” for free (pink window in middle.) This doesn’t cost you a thing. Their corporate sponsors/advertisers use the number of daily visits to donate mammograms to underprivileged women in exchange for advertising. Pass it along to people you know.

<http://www.thebreastcancersite.com>

www.peak.org/~mrqg/

Meetings begin at 7:15 pm

Social 1/2 hour starts at 6:45 pm

“Show and Tell” happens at every meeting

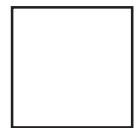
Deadline
Copy and ads for the
Newsletter:
Sept 10, 2004

MRQG members can place an ad in this newsletter for free.
 Please send text to jantallis1@comcast.net
 or mail to Jan Tallis, 3550 Tanager, Corvallis, OR 97330.



Marys River Quilt Guild

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First Class

Our Mission is:

- ◆ To contribute to the knowledge of quilting and the textile arts.
- ◆ To promote the appreciation of fine quilts and quiltmaking.
- ◆ To contribute to the growth and knowledge of the art and the industry through educational meetings and fellowship.

