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May-June 2026

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The Country Register of North & South Carolina and Tennessee

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Current Issue

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The Original Carolina Shop Hop 2026 Great Quilt Heist!

Are you ready for an adventure this summer? Join the fun for the **Great Quilt Heist!** Shop Hop happening July 16th-25th.

Get your passport stamped at each shop you visit and be entered to win thousands in prizes! Look for clues as you hop to all the different shops and you just might solve the mystery of “Who Dun It” in the **Great Quilt Heist!** All those that have guessed correctly will be entered into a drawing for a Prize Basket!!!

The **Original Carolina Shop Hop** group was formed in 2001 with six shops located in North and South Carolina. Through the years the group has grown and membership has changed, but their commitment to the Quilting and Sewing community has remained our priority.

The group hosts a multi-day Shop Hop each summer. Each participating shop designs a block, a series of blocks or a project which aligns with the theme of the Shop Hop. Individual shops then create a quilted item from each shop’s blocks. Participating shops offer Shop Hop kits, featured notions and other useful quilting finds! We are certain each shop you visit will offer something to make your quilting experience better!

Visit the website at www.carolinashophop.com for a list of participating shops, “Eat, Sleep & Play” Ideas and How to Hop. Also be sure to like and follow their Facebook for all the latest updates at www.facebook.com/carolinashophop.



Creating Beau-TEA-ful Floral Bouquets

by Lydia E. Harris

“Your table looks lovely,” my friend said as she admired the bouquet I had arranged for our teatime. My favorite part of serving tea is creating a lovely setting. If possible, I like to include fresh flowers on the table along with the pretty teacups, linens, and tasty tidbits. Whether tea parties are simple or sumptuous, fresh flowers create a fragrant and beau-TEA-ful welcome.

Would you like to try your hand at arranging a floral centerpiece? If so, here are some tips to get started.

Quick and Easy Arrangements

1. Select flowers and greenery from a local market or your garden. Choose mixed bouquets to complement your dishes and table linens for a spring garden feel. Or pick a single accent color for a more striking look. If possible, arrange the centerpiece the day before so you can focus on preparing food on the party day. Set the bouquet in the coolest part of your home overnight so flowers won’t open and wilt.



2. Use an upright vase that fans out at the top and allows flowers to spread naturally rather than stand at attention. A neutral or clear vase will complement rather than compete with the arrangement. Fill the vase about three-fourths full of water. Keep the flowers in water until you are ready to arrange them.

3. Arrange the flowers in your hand, adding one flower stem at a time until the head of the bouquet looks attractive and is the size you wish. Hold the bouquet next to the vase to determine the proper height. Then use a sharp knife rather than scissors to cut the stems diagonally to the correct length. Scissors pinch the stems shut so they cannot drink water. Remove the leaves below the water line to eliminate decay and to extend flower life.

4. Place the flowers in the vase and let them fan out. Then trim the stems of the outer flowers slightly shorter. Be sure the bouquet is low enough so guests can see one another across the table. For added color, tie a ribbon around the mouth of the vase to coordinate with the napkins. Add more water as needed and enjoy your lovely bouquet.



5. For a spur-of-the-moment tea time or when you do not have time to arrange flowers, simply float blossoms and leaves in a glass bowl. Flowers like camellias and hydrangeas work well for this.

Creativi-TEA

Glass vases or bowls aren’t the only option to use for containers. Anything that holds water will work. To make a small bouquet for a card table, use a cup and saucer, a small cream pitcher or even a gravy boat.



For a larger table, consider a teapot. One of my favorite containers is a cracked floral teapot I bought at a rummage sale for a nickel. I place a small jar inside to hold water and arrange the bouquet so ivy trails over the sides to hide the crack. Select any container with personali-TEA.

Fresh flowers perk up not only your table but your guests as well. The welcoming beauty and fragrance of flowers cheerfully announce that “It’s Time for Tea!”

To add a special touch, you could serve flowering tea at your teatime. (See Lydia’s Idea File for more information.)

After teatime, I sometimes send the flowers home with guests so the beauty and fragrance of our time together can linger.

I’m ready to plan a beau-TEA-ful teatime.

Quiltfest is Coming!

September 17 to 19, 2026



Enter your quilts now, and give your pieced project a chance at winning a cash prize up to \$300, receiving recognition from the judge, or being on display. **Quilt registration is from April 1 to July 30 with quilts due the first week in September.**

Discounted bus and group rates are available. See details on the Quiltfest website.



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Georgia Event

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Old Knoxville Courthouse

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Lunch and Learn on May 15th noon

For more information email: robertacrawfordcoc@gmail.com

Won’t you join me?

Lydia E. Harris enjoys serving tea to family and friends. Her books for grandparents are: *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*, *In the Kitchen with Grandma*, and *GRAND Moments: Devotions Inspired by Grandkids*. All are available at amazon.com or can be ordered through local bookstores.

Lydia’s Idea File: Flowering Tea Balls

April showers bring May flowers and sometimes they even bloom in teapots. You can purchase flowering tea balls to brew tea. The tea balls are made by hand-stitching tea leaves and flowers together in various shapes before drying them. When you brew a blooming tea ball in glass cups or teapots you can watch them unfurl before your eyes, creating delicious tea along with a beautiful display. Adding them to a menu is like serving champagne or caviar—it seems elegant and a bit extravagant.

Local tea merchants or tearooms may sell flowering teas. Or check the internet for other sources. Many can be found on Etsy, including organic ones. Flowering tea adds a special delight to teatimes. They also make popular gifts, especially for occasions like Mother’s Day.





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Piecing Life Together

Learning

by Barbara Polston

I had the great good fortune of beginning 2026 by attending a week-long creative seminar. I enrolled in this course for several reasons. Having admired the instructor's work for many years, I was excited to learn her techniques. She works mostly by hand in wool and cotton fabrics, embellished by beautiful embroidery stitches using a great variety of threads. I was excited to learn more about hand embroidery and how stitch patterns and threads are chosen to work together for such intricate and beautiful results.

There was no pattern to follow – we were instructed to do our own thing and appreciate the Zen of hand stitching. We spent the first two days building the background upon which we would ultimately embroider. All our background elements were to be applique stitched in place sewing by hand. I love doing applique work, but all mine is done by machine. With a few words of explanation from the instructor, I jumped in and stitched for hours to finish that part of the process. By day three, we were beginning to sample embroidery stitches and threads – but not, as I had hoped to learn, surrounding our applique shapes. All our stitches were to create texture in the background. Finally, on day four, we began highlighting our applique elements with stitches. There was little instruction other than demonstrations of different stitches or products to consider employing. We were encouraged to just give things a try.

I was happy with the progress on my learning piece, but I still didn't think that I was getting what I thought I signed up for. That is, until the last day of class. Everyone stitched the morning away until midday. At that time, each of us laid our work at our place. All the students wandered the room, looking at everyone else's work, taking inspirational pictures of things we wanted to try at home. It was eye-opening! Every work was delightful, completely original, and different. I am so glad that I trusted the process, even more so when the instructor complimented my progress.

While I didn't necessarily get what I thought I signed up for, I learned so much! I learned that, despite not doing hand applique, that I can do it, and do it well. I learned that I know more embroidery stitches than I believed I did. I can look at illustrated directions for how to complete a stitch and do so successfully. I learned that I could create work without a specific plan and find satisfaction in the result. I learned that I am willing to give something a try – and remove it if dissatisfied. I learned that slow stitching by hand is indeed Zen.

My sample work is far from finished. This is a project that can go on and on as new ideas to try present themselves. Did I get what I thought I was signing up for? No, I got so much more.

©Barbara Polston, February 2026. Barbara is the author of *Quilting with Doilies: Inspiration, Techniques, and Projects* (Schiffer Press, 2015) and a series of children's books inviting young children to share in *The Adventures of Puppy Brian* (www.puppybrian.com). Barbara lives in Tucson, Arizona where she has failed at retirement, but is getting more time for sewing in a variety of forms. Contact Barbara at barbarapolstonquilter@gmail.com.



Become Inspired

Soulful Spaces

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

As spring comes into full bloom, our yards become abundant with life. Our landscape becomes filled with green more and more each day. Our lawns are transformed and vibrant. The trees that line our country property are showing signs of increased vitality. Our perennial gardens seem to beckon us to enjoy some time getting back to a task we love – nurturing the herbs and flowers that have become a soulful part of what we call home.

With temperatures gently warming and daylight hours stretching out before us, this time of year is indeed a blessing. Spring is the ideal time to tackle some of the tasks we have planned all winter long. Whether it is mending our Williamsburg-style fence or putting a fresh coat of paint on our batten doors, spring often affords us both the weather and the motivation to bring our ideas to life. And at the end of the day, after all of the hard work, the satisfaction felt as you look upon the fresh improvements will be a sweet, welcomed reward to be enjoyed all season long.

Creating Interest and Delight

Preparing and decorating our outdoor spaces is time well spent. As we sip our early morning coffee on our stone patio on one of the first warm mornings, we may come up with special country touches that will add interest and delight to our outdoor spaces. Woven bee skeps are a signature country motif that can be put on a large, seasoned stump or tall post as a focal point to enjoy. Country accents like tall, colorful birdhouses can be hung against the backdrop of a primitive fence to add color amongst the growing herbs. A sundial can be mounted on a hand-hewn post to become a central image in the kitchen clipping garden.

When it comes time to harvest our first batches of tender herbs, there is nothing like bringing out our sturdy, splint gathering buckets to assist in this joyful country task. As we gather, bind, and hang our first bundles of sage, sweet marjoram, and lemon balm, we are easily inspired, for this is only the beginning. Our gardens, whether culinary, medicinal, or decorative will serve us well with our generous care. And in exchange for our efforts our reward will be a feeling of true peace that comes with deep connection.

Honoring True Beauty

This season take time to savor the simple yet significant gifts of spring. Delight in being surrounded by true moments of beauty – like the unexpected return of your first hummingbird, or the vibrant first blooms of the lilac bush that graced your front stepstone for generations. Take comfort in knowing that these reminders will always be around us if we take the time to honor them.

Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com





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“Celebration of Quilts” Returns July 17 & 18 in Anderson, SC

The Prickly Fingers and Electric City Quilters Guilds of Anderson, SC are proud to announce the return of the “Celebration of Quilts” Biennial Quilt Show on Friday, July 17 and Saturday, July 18, 2026.

This highly anticipated event will showcase the incredible talent of Anderson quilters and features vendors, demonstrations and special shopping opportunities for art enthusiasts of all kinds. Located at The Civic Center of Anderson in the Anderson Sports and Entertainment Center, 3027 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. in Anderson, SC. Show times are Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7.00 per person daily, plus applicable taxes and fees.

Attendees will be treated to a spectacular display of over 200 quilts entered into 18 different categories. Everyone will enjoy a stunning collection of quilting excellence by past years winners and antique quilts from private collections, as well as the quilts available for raffle. A favorite feature of the show is the popular Viewers’ Choice Awards, which allows entrants to cast a ballot for their favorite piece in each category. A highlight of the show is the Junior Showcase, a special non-voting category, which shines a light on the works created by talented quilters under the age of 17. Visitors are invited to see the exciting creations of the region’s future fiber artists.

In addition, there will be 15 regional vendors offering a wide variety of quilting and sewing supplies. For a good bargain, check out the Book Nook for used quilting magazines and sewing books and the Second-Hand Shop for great deals on new and gently used quilting and sewing notions. At the Boutique, guests will find unique, handmade items crafted by guild members. You will also have an opportunity to get your sewing machine cleaned and scissors sharpened. Representatives from the Upstate Heritage Quilt Trail will be there, too.

Themed Raffle Baskets (\$1 tickets) and a Silent Auction featuring a variety of beautiful creations, Auction will close every two hours to make bidding easier. Each guild has a full-size quilt to be raffled. Tickets for these quilts will be sold at the door and the winners will be drawn at the end of the show (winners need not be present). Photos of the quilts are available online at andersonsquilters.org.

The Prickly Fingers and Electric City Quilters Guilds are deeply committed to philanthropic efforts by making quilts, pillowcases, bags and Christmas stockings for those in need in the Anderson area. The show will feature booths from two key philanthropy partners: Quilts of Valor, which creates quilts for veterans, and Project Linus, which makes quilts for children. The Guilds extend their sincere thanks to All About Fabrics in Williamston for their continued support, along with all sponsors. The show is supported by ATAX Funding provided by the City of Anderson and Anderson County to promote tourism and economic development.

The Civic Center of Anderson is conveniently located off I-85 at exit 19A, Clemson Blvd. Hotel rooms are available at a courtesy discount rate for out-of-town visitors. Please mention the Anderson Area Quilt Show when making reservations. Information is on the quilt show website.

The Prickly Fingers Guild meets the second Wednesday of the month at 9:30 a.m. at the Jo Brown Senior Center, 105 S. Fant Street in Anderson, SC. The Electric City Guild meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at Pleasant View Baptist Church, 2511 Dobbins Bridge Road in Anderson, SC. For more information on the show, vendor opportunities, sponsorships or the quilt guilds, please visit andersonsquilters.org.



Life - to be Continued

by Wayne M. Bosman

Last year was a momentous and chaotic one for our little family with the passing of both my daughter and my mother, but life continues on. With spring’s annual rebirth going on all around us comes an inspiration to see what life has in store for us in this new season of life. While I am still slowly opening my eyes and heart to the joy of life, Kerri has already started exploring hers.

For her, the place to start was to revisit things that she has enjoyed in the past. She has always loved local history and been an avid seamstress. She has spent the last few years teaching preschool to indulge her love of young children. A natural meeting point of these things fell into place for her this spring.

When we moved to the North Carolina coast a couple of years ago, a new local history opened up. Because life can be busy, we never had time to explore the history of the region. We had passed right by the History Museum of Carteret County many times, always vowing to stop in. We have time now. What we found was an opportunity for her to pursue three of her loves.

The museum started a program aimed at opening up fourth graders to how their area was settled and grew to what it is now. Kerri fit right in. Over the years she made a number of true to period dresses that she wore giving tours at historical sites. Most of them still fit, although some apparently shrank or something....

She augmented them with new dresses and aprons that she spent enjoyable evenings creating. One of her characters that she got to portray for the Museum program was a locally well-known woman who was a Civil War era spy for the Confederacy. Miss Emeline spent the war smuggling supplies to Confederate soldiers across Union lines. The voluminous skirts of the era coupled with a lady’s personal modesty gave her plenty of hiding places. Kerri stitched together a slip with pockets capable of holding a pair of boots, two pairs of pants, bandages, sewing articles and an entire ham without looking out of place. She put her hair up in a way common to the era and hid notes in her hair that she gave to the fourth graders during their field trips.

The children loved it all. Opening a window for them to a time when there was no internet, no television or even radio. Telephones were not yet invented, much less cell phones. Cars? No. Malls? No. For most families, a trip to town was a major undertaking to sell what they produced or to buy what they couldn’t. Kerri would come home from the museum excited and enchanted by the questions the children asked, and how some children’s eyes lit up when something caught their imagination.

Kerri, for her part, started sewing things by hand whenever she could, to try to make everything as true to life as possible. No more zippers, which weren’t invented yet. Elastic, invented in 1820, was technically okay, but the likelihood of it being available here was small. Buttons, hooks and ties were the order of the day. Dyeing by hand was common, especially with indigo as a local cash crop. She hasn’t tried that yet.

For Kerri, Spring has sprung. For me, the first tentative shoots are emerging from my fallow soil. I hear the birds more now, insistently calling out their springtime message. I look over my unfinished projects and actually finishing some! I look out at the ocean, waiting for the schools of fish to migrate through, following a rhythm that only they understand. I stay still, grateful that I have a life to be continued.

Wayne M. Bosman is a retired auto mechanic living in Cape Carteret, NC. His email is wbosman1@gmail.com.





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Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee Host 45th Annual Quilt Show

More than 200 stunning quilts will be on display June 19-20, 2026, in the Knoxville Expo Center at 5441 Clinton Highway (at Merchant Drive) in Knoxville, TN. Hosted by the **Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee (SMQ)**, the show will take place from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. on Friday and from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Saturday.

"We are excited to welcome everyone in the community to come and enjoy these wonderful creations and all the fun activities the show has to offer," said Jennifer Wilkerson, SMQ Show Co-Chair.

The show will feature a special opportunity for attendees to bring their own quilts—historic or contemporary—and preserve their story during a free three-minute video recording session. Their video will be archived by the Quilt Alliance through their "Go Tell It!" project. The Quilt Alliance is a non-profit organization dedicated to documenting, preserving and sharing our quilt heritage.

Another highlight of the show is an antique quilt turning and quilt history discussion by Merikay Waldvogel, a well-known quilt historian, author and 2009 Quilters Hall of Fame inductee. She will be assisted by Cindy Stuart, a certified quilt appraiser. The event will take place at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Friday, June 19. Other special attractions include the SMQ Boutique, which offers a unique selection of items handcrafted by guild members and a scavenger hunt for the young ones. Throughout the show, attendees also may shop vendors. Cindy Stuart will offer quilt appraisals by appointment. To schedule an appraisal, call 865-386-0940.

The show is known for drawing high quality entries and this year the guild is offering \$7,800 in prize money. "These quilts are beautiful works of art," said Candy Stanton, SMQ Show Co-Chair. "You will be treated to a creative display of color, texture and design, proudly exhibited by many talented quilters."

Admission is \$10; for a two-day pass, \$15 and free for children under age 12. The Expo Center has free parking and is accessible to the disabled.

For more information about the show and the guild, please visit www.smokymtnquilters.com, email info@smokymtnquilters.com or find us on Facebook and Instagram: **Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee**.

About Smoky Mountain Quilters

The **Smoky Mountain Quilters of Tennessee** is a nonprofit 501c3 organization. Guild meetings are typically on the first Tuesday of each month at Messiah Lutheran Church, at the intersection of Papermill Drive and Kingston Pike in Knoxville. A social time 6:30 p.m. precedes the formal meeting, which begins at 7 p.m. Please check the SMQ website, as dates and locations may vary.

SMQ's primary goals are to promote and encourage the knowledge of quilt making as an art and a craft, to study its history as an integral part of our past and to promote friendship through shared activities. Guild activities include workshops, block drawings, exhibits and quilts made for local charities. The guild's more than 100 members are as diverse as the quilts they love - traditional and art quilts, complex and minimalist modern designs, miniatures and bed-sized and hand- or machine-stitched.

KISSed Quilts

Celebrate Earth Day!

by Marlene Oddie

In celebration of Earth Day, I'm sharing two new designs with fabrics shipping June 2026 to a local quilt shop.

I revisited an old friend when using a new Lumin Fabrics/Island Batik collection – Fossil Finesse. I originally designed this 'jewels' quilt in 2009 for a wedding. The version was called Peacock Jewels. With this new collection I used two slightly different background whites so you can see uniquely bordered jewels but also see white stars. The jewel tones and motifs in this fabric collection felt perfect for this quilt pattern. I enjoyed custom quilting it to really show it off!

Earth's Essence is another Lumin Fabrics/Island Batik collection shipping soon. I used a fat quarter bundle of the collection to make this City



Windows pattern. It really maximizes the use of a fat quarter and shows off some of those larger print elements in the collection.

Ask at your local quilt shop that carries Island Batik fabrics for these fabrics and patterns.

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA at her quilt shop, **KISSed Quilts**. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and



templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts>



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Taurus the Bull, Tea and Me

by Barbara Kalkis

I am not a believer in astrology or horoscopes, but I learned that some traits of my April birthday sign, Taurus the Bull, hit uncomfortably close to home. It is true that I am logical and goal oriented. I like to think I'm dependable, loyal and a hard worker, but sometimes stubborn and slow to accept change. (Finally! An excuse for why I've not remodeled my kitchen!). However, if I dwell too long on the longer list of a bull's "earth signs," I visualize myself on an 1800s farm, stolidly plowing a field or dragging a covered wagon from St. Joe, MO, to Sacramento, CA gold country. Not a pretty picture.

One source states that Taureans love good food and great meals. Right! Supposedly, we are great cooks. Wrong. Unless you want 10 different ways to make canned tuna fish. My favorite meals are those with easy-to-be-with friends. One such group is my cardmaking group. Every month we meet for breakfast in a cozy mom-and-pop café. My go-to breakfast there is two poached eggs, potatoes and rye toast with coffee. Yes, I know I'm supposed to be talking about the wonders of tea, but it's important to understand that there's always an exception to the rule. Part of it is a matter of taste. Somehow, coffee and eggs cooked in any style just go together in terms of flavors. The other part is that I've never really found a restaurant that makes good hot tea.

This insight occurred to me one morning as we gathered. We all ordered coffee, except for Denice. She had ordered tea. While we were drinking hot coffee, I observed that her tea bag was floating aimlessly around in her cup, like a goldfish in bowl. The water was just too cool for the tea's flavor and color to be released. That's when I reconfirmed my restaurant rule to drink coffee or iced tea "out" and hot tea "in."

My kitchen may be light on exotic herbs and spices, unless you count sea salt as "exotic," but I have a plethora of tea varieties, ranging from white tea to green tea to black tea to herbals, from fruited teas to florals and fermented brews. Coffee aficionados can rave about the merits of Columbian versus Ethiopian coffee beans, but those comparisons fade against tea. You cannot put a rose or chrysanthemum, ginger or peppermint in coffee unless it's the froth on top of a drink that isn't really coffee. If you have a cold, drink tea with lemon. An upset stomach? Tea with ginger. Stressed? Chamomile. Celebrating summer? Peach tea. Crave a standby at lunch? Jasmine works fine. Need a sweetener? Use honey. Tea easily adapts to flavors. Consider Genmaicha tea combines roasted rice with Matcha tea for a smoky, tasty exotic flavor. Try putting rice in coffee and see what that gets you.

Preparation time is an important difference between tea and coffee. Coffee is fast. Place coffee grounds in a pot or pop a packet in a coffee machine and in moments you have hot coffee. Tea takes time. Boil water. Place a tea bag or an infuser containing tea leaves into the pot. And wait. Wait until the tea diffuses the water with flavor. In shops, coffee drinkers expect their drink to be made and paid for in an instant. With tea, we know that good drinks take time. Tea slows the pace of life to a moment that lets us grapple with whatever emotion we are feeling. Somehow, tea makes everything manageable. Even learning that your astrology sign contrived to hit some of your personality traits right on target.

©Barbara Kalkis, 2026. Barbara loves writing, teaching communications, and consulting on high-tech topics. Her poetry book is Little Ditties for Every Day: A Collection of Thoughts in Rhyme and Rhythm. Contact her at BarbaraKalkis01@gmail.com.

Traveling with Purpose

by Julie Pirtle

I have very fond memories of summer vacations. Looking back from a parent's perspective, it is very clear how much time and effort was spent by my parents to make our vacations fun. With that being said, my Dad was a "get there now with no frivolity" kind of guy. Me on the other hand? I wanted to stop and read historical markers and stop at every roadside wonder.

The saying "It's about the journey, not the destination" rings true with me. The journey can be just as much fun as the destination! Our country is rich with history and whimsy. Taking the time to experience it all adds such a layer of richness to a trip.

Share your route with your children and challenge them to come up with interesting (or crazy) stops they'd like to experience. Being part of the planning can give them ownership in the upcoming adventure. If you have no kids on board, challenge yourself!

Bring an empty tablet or journal and make daily entries. Include funny things that happened, places you visited and people you encountered. Encourage children to do the same.

If you are the kind of person that likes to document your trips with souvenirs, be sure to bring along a storage envelope. Make sure that it is large enough to hold brochures, maps, etc.

The journaling and souvenirs will come in very handy when it's time to make your photo album (whether it's scrapbooked or digital). It's so nice to have everything in one place and to also have written notes when it's time to create.

Be CURIOUS! Stop at the historical markers. They are there for a reason. Take in the information. Look at the scenery and imagine what it was like when history was taking place.

Have FUN! Unlike my Dad, my husband will stop to let me look at anything (bless his heart!). The last time we did this was for a Flintstone roadside attraction in Arizona. It had life size simulations of their cars.

On that same trip, we found ourselves standing on the corner in Winslow, Arizona. Of course, we had to take photo opportunities at both attractions! It still makes me smile whenever I see the pictures.

Don't RUSH! Enjoy the culture, people and geography. It's memory making time.

Packing items to make the trip more convenient is also important. Of course, ample supplies of water and weather appropriate items are a must. However, there are a few

Continued on page 13...



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World Largest Hand-Carved Bowl Takes Center Stage at Mountain Artisan's "Summertime" Show

Visitors to Franklin, NC will have a rare opportunity this summer to experience a true work of craftsmanship. The world's largest hand-carved wooden bowl created by internationally recognized woodcarver Bobby Moore of Greenville, SC will be a feature highlight at the **Mountain Artisans' 35th Annual Summertime Arts and Crafts Show**, June 12-13, 2026.

Carved entirely by hand from a massive pin oak tree, the monumental bowl is not only a feat of artistic vision but also of endurance and skill. According to the Guinness Books of Records, Moore's extraordinary creation holds the title of the World's Largest Hand-carved bowl. The tree itself came from a neighbor's property and was transformed last year into what many consider a once-in-a-lifetime masterpiece. Bobby has been an award-winning woodcarver for years and exhibited at fine art and craft shows all over the southeast. He will be bringing his smaller bowls for collectors to choose from.



The **Mountain Artisan's 35th Annual Summertime Art and Crafts Show** is being held at a NEW location this year - Robert C. Carpenter Activities Center 441 south in Franklin, N.C. on June 12-13, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. Long recognized as a cornerstone of Western North Carolina's art scene, the **Mountain Artisans'** show always features original Art and Crafts at great prices. Attendees can browse and purchase original works in glass, woodcraft, fine art, quilts and sculptures.

Admission to the event is \$5 with children admitted free. Complimentary parking is available and concessions will be offered on-site.

For more information go to www.mountainartisans.net or contact Doris Hunter at djhunter155@gmail.com, 828-524 3405.

Scraps and Crafts What Could be Better?

by Deb Heatherly

Summer is a great time to pull out your scraps and put them to use! Scraps not only make great scrap quilts but fun crafts as well. Here are a few ideas for scrap projects to make with your grandchildren or other young people in your life. You can also donate scraps to a friend teaching a summer camp or to someone teaching crafts at Bible school.

For the youngest, cut a variety of colorful squares, rectangles and triangles from the scraps. Add paper, crayons or colored pencils, ribbon or twine and a glue stick, and you have everything you need! These items will be like paint to a young artists mind. As an added bonus you will be teaching about shapes. Small rectangles can be the petals and leaves for a flower. Triangles can be the sails of a boat. Small squares can be eyes and a rectangle can be a mouth on a funny face. The ideas are endless.

Older children, with a bit more patience, might enjoy using small snips in a collage. Tiny pieces can be glued to a drawing they create or use a coloring book page as the backdrop. Color the drawing or page first, then glue tiny bits of like colors on the page. Provide tweezers to help them carefully place the small bits and scissors for needed trimming. As a bonus, provide them with a small clear Christmas ornament in which they can place leftover bits. This ornament will memorialize a fun day.

Those old enough to use a rotary cutter and sewing machine (with supervision of course), are sure to love making the popular "hot dog" pillowcases. If you are not familiar with these, just google "hot dog pillowcase" for a tutorial. The term comes from the technique of rolling up the fabric and then pulling it out on one end. When I owned my quilt shop, this was always a favorite project for my kids club. They loved making them for themselves and as gifts. If you have an embroidery machine, let them personalize them! The look of fascination and delight as they watch the machine stitch out their name always made me smile.

Another favorite of my kids club was anything that lets them play with buttons. This mini flag is a perfect project to celebrate our country's 250th. You will need (1) 6 1/2" square of blue, (3) 1 1/2" x 7 1/2" and (2) 1 1/2" x 12 1/2" strips of red, (2) 1 1/2" x 7 1/2" and (2) 1 1/2" x 12 1/2" strips of white. Sew the 1 1/2" x 7 1/2" strips together and add to the right of the blue square. Sew the 12 1/2" strips together and add below. Sew on buttons in the blue square in any formation. (I added some white chenille on the white strips but that is optional). You can make this into a mini quilt or add a back to make it into a pillow.

Summer is for memories and nothing could be better than creating those memories with the younger generation. When you take the time to instill the love of creation, you do more than just use up a few scraps, you plant the seed of creativity that will last a lifetime. Who knows, the craft you teach today could be a craft they will pass on for generations to come.



Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and the author of eight popular pattern books. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration and two free mysteries each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7704296498004571>.

Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for you, "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524>.

Visit Deb's website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com

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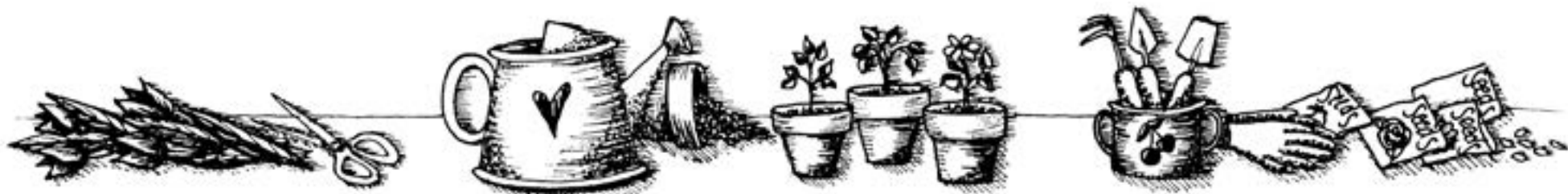
Traveling, continued from page 10...

items that I always include when traveling. Hand sanitizer. A roll of paper towels for spills. Disinfectant spray for hotel rooms. Zip lock bags are great to have on hand for emergency ice packs or the shell collection you found on the beach. Chip clips for snack bags. Anything that will make life easier!

So, get on the road little doggie! Stop and look at that largest ball of string. Take a picture. Preserve the memory. You will be glad you did.

(P.S. Don't forget to strap Grandma to the top of the car before you head out. They do it in the movies, right?!?!?) We've got this vacation thing down. I know we do!

Julie Pirtle lives in Eagle Point, Oregon. She is a Professional Organizer and owner/operator of **Clutter Happens**. She also works with clients nationally through video consultations. *The Clutter Challenged* can reach her on Facebook: clutterhappens or email her directly: clutterhappens@yahoo.com





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Giveaway Winners from March-April

We have three giveaway winners from our last issue. As you can tell, we love giving away prizes!

Cindy Carter from Easley, SC will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to spend at her favorite Country Register advertiser, **Asheville Cotton Company** in Asheville, NC. Cindy told us why this is her favorite shop, "Friendly people and the wide variety of fabrics for projects." She also told us that her husband purchased a subscription to *The Country Register* for her but she has picked up copies when traveling from advertising quilt shops and at rest areas.

Stacy Guerin from Fuquay-Varina, NC is the lucky winner of *The Perfect People of ODDly™* book by Steve Baker, SewEndipitous® Quilt Shoppe. Stacy picked up her copy of *The Country Register* at her local quilt guild. She recently moved to North Carolina from northern New York and "was delighted to see *The Country Register* in my new home." Welcome to the Carolinas Stacy!

Threads of the Past by Lanie Tiffenbach will be sent to Bonnie Preslar of Oakboro, NC. Bonnie has a subscription to *The Country Register*, "because I don't want to miss an issue!"

We love to hear from our readers about how they enjoy *The Country Register* and use it to discover great finds and fun events. In this issue, there is another \$25 Gift Certificate so be sure to enter and don't forget to tell us where you pick up the newspaper!

Take a copy with you as you travel in and around the Carolinas and Tennessee this spring and summer!



Building Harmony A Cold and Furry Night

by Jeff Cappis

It was one of those stormy Friday nights. The rain was driving down and lightning was flashing constantly all around, Cathy and I were intrigued by the storm as the thunder rattled our house. Our dog Waldo didn't take it quite so easily though. He either tried to find a place to hide, (like behind a toilet) or huddled close to us when the thunder clapped. We had to keep an eye on him so he didn't piddle on the floor in fear. That was fine with him. He liked to stay close.

Later on that night Cathy grew tired and went to bed but I was still watching the storm. Something about these storms draws me to them. There is a smell to the rain and the sound of it driving down. The flash of light and eventual boom. Wow. I decided to step outside to experience it first hand.



There is a good spot for this just outside the garage door. The eaves protected me (barely) from the rain and I got a good view of nature's fury. The trees on our property were whipping around with the wind. I was in awe. Then I heard the door close behind me and latch.

I was locked out. Drat. I considered ringing the doorbell but this would mean waking up Cathy. After careful consideration I looked for another option.

At least I was mostly protected under that eve for the moment and the show was spectacular. Every time the forrest lit up I could see every leaf and every

blade of grass for just an instant. Between lightening flashes the forrest was mostly dark, except for a small solar light some forty feet away.

Boom! Cool! Flash! Wow! Boom..... This was going on for a while when I noticed something out of the corner of my eye. Something moved in front of that solar light. It cast a silhouette towards me through the mist.

In the brief flashes of light I could see it was close to the ground with spiky wet fur violently shaking off water. Between the flashes it let out a horrible howl. Then the forrest would go dark again.

Still I could tell through that faint shadow in the mist, that it was getting bigger, or closer. I was blinded by another lightening flash. Again, darkness and a sinister howl.

Now I could hear it panting. It even let out an occasional snort. I tried the door. Still locked. I dare not move or make a noise. Perhaps it hadn't seem me. With the rain driving down, the wind a few blinding flashes, the immediate booms and all that howling I was getting pretty unhinged.

Now I could smell what ever it was and it was rank and close by. There were noises all around and I wasn't sure what to trust.

Suddenly it leapt at me... knocking me to the ground hard. I could feel it's weight as it landed on me and even more: it's claws on my chest! It growled and howled. It drooled on my face as it came ever closer.

In the lightening flashes I could see it's spiked wet fur and it's teeth up close. It's breath stank. It gave out one last howl as I prepared to lose my entire face and then...It licked me.

Then it wagged it's tail. What? After a moment my heart settled down. Turns out Waldo had sneaked outside with me and got lost in the rain. He was wet, lost and scared but more than happy to find me. He tried to lick my entire face off. Things went from scary to just kinda gross.

The door stayed locked so we hung out under that eve and watched the storm. Waldo even started to enjoy it. He was soaked, but we had fun.

All of this made me wonder: Why do dogs smell when they get wet?

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