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Complimentary NORTH & SOUTH CAROLINA AND TENNESSEE July-August 2026

**Your guide to
specialty shopping
& events in
North & South Carolina
and Tennessee**



**Find
Tennessee
Shops & Events
starting on page 8**



The Country Register of North & South Carolina and Tennessee

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Durham Orange Quilters' Quilt Show

"The Thread That Binds Us"

September 25-27, 2026

Durham Orange Quilters' Guild (DOQ) proudly presents it judged show, **"The Thread That Binds Us,"** on September 25, 26 and 27, 2026 at the Mebane Arts and Community Center, 633 Corregidor Street, Mebane, NC. The show will have a special exhibit of "Alamance Plaids" presented by Lynn Lancaster Georges. Quilt show hours are Friday and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Daily admission is \$10, children under 12 are free and family admission is \$25. Parking is free.

The **DOQ** show will have 200 quilts on display. Quilts will be judged by Scott Murkin from a variety of show categories and ribbons awarded for these categories. Quilt show attendees will have an opportunity to vote for "Viewer's Choice." The show will feature a Children's Donation Challenge Exhibit with quilts made from a selected theme fabric. These quilts will be donated to the many organizations that **DOQ** supports. In addition, the show will have a junior quilt show exhibit. There will be a Silent Auction of small quilts that attendees may bid on and 100% of the Silent Auction proceeds will go to CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance) who provide nutritious foods to families in the County facing food insecurity.

The Show will feature 17 vendors offering a variety of quilting themed items. There will be special hands-on activities for children and children at heart to participate in during the show. There will be used quilting, sewing and craft-related books/magazines for sale. The **DOQ** boutique that will offer a wide range of handmade items created by guild members. In addition, there will be vintage items and one-of-a-kind treasures. The boutique will be a great place to find a special gift for a teacher, family or friend, or to take something home for yourself.

The Guild will offer 2 raffle opportunities, the **DOQ** raffle quilt, *"Frozen Fountain,"* a Judy Niemeyer design and many beautiful quilting and non-quilting themed raffle baskets. Raffle tickets can be purchased for \$1 per ticket or \$5 for 6 tickets. Drawing for the raffle baskets will be at the end of the show and the raffle quilt drawing will be in November 2026.

Proceeds from the Quilt Show support local organizations, for example: UNC's Children's Hospital, Pediatric Infectious Disease and Beacon Program, Duke Children's Hospital, Quilts of Valor, Meals on Wheels, Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Little Pink House, several local nursing homes and the Food Bank of NC.

To learn more about **Durham Orange Quilters' Guild** and the quilt show visit their website - www.durhamorangequilters.org.



Wilkes County Quilters Present

"Stars Strips Quilts" Quilt Show, Sept 11-12, 2026

You are invited to the **"Stars Strips Quilts"** Quilt Show, two days of color, creativity and community on Friday and Saturday, September 11–12, 2026, at The Stone Center in North Wilkesboro, NC. Hosted by the **Wilkes County Quilters**, this judged show features quilts made by guild members in a variety of styles, techniques and categories.

Stroll the displays for inspiration and vote for your Favorite Quilts. Be sure to visit the guild's Shoppers Boutique for handmade items, assorted crafts, useful household items and silent auction treasures.

In honor of our country's 250th anniversary, the show will feature red, white and blue quilts, with some available for sale. The *"Quilter from Far Far Away"* returns to read to children of all ages about a king who desperately wanted one of her quilts and what he is willing to do to get one. At each reading, one child will receive a unique quilt to take home. Readings are Friday at 4:00 p.m. and Saturday at 1:00 p.m. Students of all ages can see artistry, color, design, geometry and history through quilts.

Enjoy "Bed Turnings" both days to see and hear about quilts made long ago, some are 100 years old. Friday bed turnings are at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon, 2:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. On Saturday, they are at 10:00 a.m., 12:00 noon and 2:00 p.m.

Prizes and giveaways add to the fun. Hourly door prizes will be awarded throughout both days (you must be present to win). The grand prize is a brand-new Janome sewing machine donated by Ashe Sewing Center. For each \$10 spent with the show vendors or in the Boutique, you will receive an entry ticket for the grand prize. There will be lots of gifts and bargains in the Guild's Boutique. Vendors will have fabric, quilting tools, books and bolts, handmade wooden items, barn quilt canvas', rope bowls, beaded jewelry, pottery and more. There will also be a large selection of quilts for sale.

Show hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Friday and 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Saturday. Admission is \$5.00; children 12 and under are free.

This year's raffle quilt, *Jeweled Medallion*, was made by many hands and quilted by Linda Costello. Raffle tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and the drawing will be held in December. The Guild will arrange delivery to the lucky winner. Proceeds support the many quilting contributions made by Wilkes County Quilters.

Founded in 1998, the **Wilkes County Quilters** is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting and preserving the art of quilting while giving back locally. Members create and donate charitable quilts throughout Wilkes County for babies, children, veterans and other community needs. New members are always welcome. This show is the guild's largest fundraiser and helps purchase fabrics used to make charity quilts.

Make a weekend of it: North Wilkesboro, often called the gateway to the Blue Ridge Mountains, offers plenty to explore, including the beloved Barn Quilt Trail with sixteen locations. Learn more about Wilkes County's attractions and other barn quilt trails in Western North Carolina at www.wilkescountytourism.com.

For more information, go to Wilkesquilters.org or scan the QR code in the show ad. The **Wilkes County Quilters** invite you to meet the makers, shop at the Boutique and enjoy an inspiring weekend of quilts.

Wilkes County Quilters, Inc.

2026 Quilt Show

"Stars Stripes" Quilts

September 11-12, 2026

Friday, 9am-6pm, Saturday, 9am-4pm

The Stone Family Center

613 Cherry St, N Wilkesboro, NC 28659

Admission \$5

For more information visit: wilkesquilters.org



2026 Raffle Quilt
"Jeweled Medallion"

Judge Quilt Show
Viewer's Choice Award
Vendors
Grand Prize & Daily Door Prizes
WCQ Boutique
Storytime for Children:
Friday 4 pm • Saturday 1 pm

SEPTEMBER 25-27, 2026

OPEN: FRI. & SAT. 9:00AM -5:00PM SUN. 10:00AM -3:00PM

Mebane Arts & Community Center - 633 Corregidor St, Mebane, NC 27302

Admission is \$10 per Day, 12 & Under FREE - Maximum \$25 per Family per Day



2026 Raffle Quilt "Frozen Fountain"

Judged Quilt Show by Scott Murkin

17+ Vendors on Site!

FREE Children's Hands-On Activities

Silent Auction of Small Quilts

Raffle Baskets for Charity

Special Exhibit "Alamance Plaids"

FREE Parking

See our website for more details! www.durhamorangequilters.org

Sharing the Joy of Quilting since 1978

America 250 Exhibit Tour - Quilts of Valor

The America 250 Exhibit made its debut at the American Quilter's Society QuiltWeek event in Daytona Beach, FL in February 2026. The exhibit features 25 quilts, including 12 new quilts showcased in the All Star Quilts of Valor: 2nd Edition book and 12 exclusive designs created with the Northcott/Quilts of Valor Foundation Semiquincentennial Quilt Panel. Together, these quilts represent a heartfelt, national "thank you" to those who have served.

This special traveling exhibit will continue its journey, appearing at all remaining AQS QuiltWeek shows across the country through 2026. Following its Paducah appearance in April, the exhibit will be showcased at the remaining stops nationwide:

- Grand Rapids, MI (August 19–22)
- Columbus, OH (September 23–26)

During each American Quilter's Society QuiltWeek event, the Quilts of Valor Foundation honors Service Members and Veterans by awarding them with Quilts of Valor—recognizing their service, sacrifice, and dedication to our nation.

To learn more about the Quilts of Valor Foundation, including how to nominate a Veteran, become a member, make a Quilt of Valor, or shop to support QOVF, visit: <https://www.qovf.org>



Photo credit: Robin Koehler, Quilts of Valor Foundation Board Member.

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Upcoming North Carolina Event

Nolting Effect Tour — Free Educational & Sales Event
Who: Anyone curious about longarm quilting — beginners, upgraders or future business owners **What:** A hands on Nolting longarm demo event with education, machine comparisons and expert guidance
When: July 11th, 1 PM–4 PM
Where: Dreams of Seams, 256 The Blvd Lot A, Eden, NC
Cost: Free to attend but need to RSPV at Nolting Effect Tour!!!! – Dreams of Seams or call Dreams of Seams at 336 627-3010

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Make it a Sewing Outing!

After visiting us, head over to Mr. Lee's at the Vacuum & Sewing Center – 226 The Blvd for even more beautiful finds and sewing inspiration!

256A The Blvd,

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336 627-3010

www.dreamsofseams.com

Loving Stitches Quilt Shop Celebrates 30th Anniversary

The Country Register sends huge congratulations to **Loving Stitches Quilt Shop** in Fayetteville, NC, owners Carol and John Watkins and staff on their upcoming 30th Anniversary! We are delighted when a long-time advertising shop reaches a special milestone and we wish them many more successful years to come! Be sure to check out their ad on this page so you do not miss the Anniversary Celebration on Wednesday, July 8th.

30 years ago, **Loving Stitches Quilt Shop** started out in a modest 1,200 square foot storefront, but as the business experience rapid growth, they expanded and are now in a custom designed 10,000 square foot store making them one of the largest quilt shops in the U.S. The shop serves as a community hub for sewists and quilters, fostering creativity and the joy of crafting. Today **Loving Stitches** stands as a creative sanctuary for individuals from all walks of life..

From the beginner's Quilt Basic 101 class you will learn how to choose the right supplies and notions to piecing and finishing techniques. From there you can move on to more intermediate and advance classes and will find one that sparks your creative interest(s). There are many classes to choose from and this store has everything you need to make your project the best it can be. From patterns and notions to over 7,000 bolts of beautiful quality fabric, it is a one stop shop for all your quilting and sewing needs.

Known for their excellence in education and customer service, **Loving Stitches** offers a full schedule of classes that also includes sewing machine class, sewing machine repair class, embroidery, sewing and embroidery, Serger class, long-arm machine operation and repair and computerized quilting mastery class. All with hands-on guidance and support.

Loving Stitches is an authorized BERNINA® dealer and is the recipient of BERNINA®'s prestigious Presidential Award. The staff is ready to assist you in choosing a new or used sewing machine and the store offers financing options. They even will schedule a test drive so you can be sure the machine you choose is a right fit.

In honor of 30 years, **Loving Stitches** has the entire store (excluding BERNINA®) on sale at 30% off! Join them on July 8th for a hot dog lunch, games, prizes drawings, photo

Owner Carol Watkins

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Giveaway Winners from May - June

We have one giveaway winner from our last issue. We love giving away prizes! Karen Gordyan from Fuquay-Varina, NC will receive a \$25 Gift Certificate to spend at her favorite Country Register advertiser, **Sew There! Quilts and More** in Angier, NC. Karen told us this is her favorite shop because, “It’s close to home and they have a great selection of everything quilting!” 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 summer!

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Celebrating Mountain Quilts at the Cruso Friendship Club Quilt Show, July 24-25

The **Cruso Friendship Club** is excited to hold their 37th Annual Quilt Show “*Celebrating Mountain Quilts*” on July 24th and 25th at the Bethel Middle School Gym, 630 Sonoma Road in Waynesville, NC. Approximately 200 beautifully crafted quilts will be on display and many will be for sale. The show will also include their popular and special, Antique Bed Turning, which will be featured twice daily along with quilting technique demonstrations. A full schedule of events can be found at www.crusonc.org/quiltshow.

The 2026 Donation Quilt “*Serenity Star*” is a gorgeous, king-sized (104x104). Soft shades of lavender, violet and emerald radiate from a central star, creating a design that reflects balance, peace and quiet beauty. The intricate piecing draws the eye outward while maintaining a sense of calm, making this quilt a celebration of serenity in both color and form. The drawing will be held on Saturday at the quilt show. Tickets are 6 for \$5 or \$1 each and can be purchased at the show from any club member or online: <https://crusofriendshipclub.square.site/>.

The show will feature the Cruso “*Light it Up*” Challenge Quilts and viewers will be invited to vote for their favorites. Viewer’s Choice Awards will be presented for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places. The goal of the challenge was to make a quilt showcasing light using one of the challenge packs of 6 yellow fat quarters. The packs were sold over the past year by the show’s vendor, Twisted Sisters Quilt Shop and are now out of stock. However, if you did get a challenge pack you still have time to make it or perfect it if you’ve already quilted your quilt.

The Club is also excited to introduce a show-wide viewer’s choice this year and they need everyone’s help to pick your favorite!

Back again this year, the Twisted Sisters Quilt Shop from Alcoa, TN, will be vending at the quilt show.

You’ll want to be ready to shop for all the wonderful goodies they will have available. Food trucks will be on site each day for your enjoyment.

Proceeds from the Show and the Donation Quilt will provide assistance to the Cruso Community and scholarships for 2 high school seniors each year.

The **Cruso Friendship Club** was established in the mid-1980s as an extension of the County Homemakers Clubs. When the Homemakers dissolved, the **Cruso Friendship Club** was born. Members host community fundraising events such as the quilt show to support the Club’s mission to provide scholarships, needs-based assistance and community awareness in the Cruso/Bethel area. The Club advocates for the Cruso community and to preserve and promote community-based programs and relations.

Cruso is a small community on Pisgah Mountain between Asheville and Waynesville. Visitors to the area might enjoy these nearby points of interest: the Biltmore House and Gardens, Carl Sandburg Home, Great Smoky Mountain Railway, Great Smoky Mountain National Park, Blue Ridge Parkway and the Shining Rock Wilderness Area.

For more information about the **Cruso Friendship Club Quilt Show** and the Quilt Challenge, visit: www.crusonc.org.

“Stitching History” 42nd Annual Asheville Quilt Show

For three days this August, the Davis Event Center at the WNC Agricultural Center will be transformed into a vibrant tapestry of color, craft and patriotism as the **Asheville Quilt Guild** presents its 2026 Quilt Show, a special exhibition commemorating the United States’ 250th anniversary.

Running Thursday, August 13 through Saturday, August 15, the annual show invites the public to experience more than 300 quilts crafted by local, regional and national quilt makers, each piece reflecting the Guild’s mission to preserve and advance the tradition and art of quilting. With America’s Semi quincennial as its inspiration, this year’s show promises to be a particularly meaningful celebration of heritage and handmade artistry.

“Members have created quilts specifically to commemorate this historic occasion,” said Susan Sweeney, show publicity chair. The works will be evaluated by professional judges across an array of quilting styles and designs, with \$13,000 in prize money awarded to winning entries.

Beyond the main exhibition, visitors will find a rich assortment of activities and attractions. Free demonstrations throughout the weekend offer something for every skill level, covering techniques such as paper piecing, precision cutting, preparing quilts for long-arming, creative block designs including flying geese, fabric yo-yos, Dresden plates and the Round and Round quilt block. On Saturday at noon, quilting meets friendly competition with Moda Bingo, featuring prizes donated by Moda Fabrics.

Two special exhibits add depth to the show. Scott Murkin will display his celebrated collection of miniature quilts, while “The Judy Girls” present “The Wonder of the Pineapple,” interpreting the iconic pattern in six distinctive ways using piecing techniques developed by Judy Niemeyer of Quiltworx.

For younger visitors, the Kids’ Sewing booth introduces children ages 4 through 12 — as well as brand-new quilters of any age — to the joys of quilting. Participants select their own fabric and backing to create a one-of-a-kind pillow to take home, planting seeds for the next generation of textile artists.

Shoppers will find plenty to explore, from the Gift Shop and Quilt Gallery brimming with handcrafted quilted items, to the Silent Auction featuring more than 90 home décor pieces, holiday items, stuffed animals, fabric boxes and book covers. The “What’s Old is New Again” booth offers gently used sewing and quilting supplies, fabrics and books at bargain prices. And for just one dollar, attendees can take a chance on “Incandescence,” this year’s stunning Opportunity Quilt alive with brilliant colors and star designs. The winner will be announced on Saturday at 2:30 p.m. and participants need not be present to win.



Opportunity Quilt
“Incandescence”

Continued on page 9...

Cruso 1989-2026 Quilt Show

CELEBRATING MOUNTAIN QUILTS

37th Annual

Fri, July 24, 2026, 10a-6p
Sat, July 25, 2026, 10a-4p

Bethel Middle School Gym
630 Sonoma Road, Waynesville, NC 28786

www.crusonc.org/quiltshow

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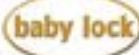
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Loving Stitches, continued from page 4...

booth and a quilt competition. Enter your quilt by July 1st to enter for a chance to win a \$100 gift card!

DeeDee Forbes, store manager, shared with us about what it means to work at **Loving Stitches** “As an employee, I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to work in such a creative environment. Over the years, I have witnessed countless miracles here. Each quilt crafted within these walls represents a tangible expression of love and grace, enveloped in heartfelt prayers. Some carry tears, while others hold cherished memories. Regardless of their purpose, one constant remains: LOVE. This is what **Loving Stitches** signifies to so many. So here is to **Loving Stitches** and many, MANY more years. Thank you, our friends, our family and our amazing people. We couldn’t be here without you! Dee Dee.”

Loving Stitches Quilt Shop is located at 7076 Ramsey St in Fayetteville, NC. Open Monday – Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information call 910-630-3912 or visit the website www.lovingstitches.net.



Avoiding ‘Cat’-astrophe

by Deb Heatherly

Let’s face it, cats are as drawn to quilting do-dads as much as we are. A game of bat the spool across the floor and under the furniture can keep the most curious feline amused for quite some time. Thimbles can be used for the same type of feline hockey game. Jelly roll strips can be dragged from room to room with the pride of capture in a game of ‘kill the snake,’ while expensive cat toys sit idle. If your fur babies are anything like mine, a simple cardboard box and a few dropped supplies create imaginative play and contentment like nothing else.

Which brings me to this true story.

At my previous studio it became obvious that our Max loved fabric strips. So much so, that if I was working with strips, I got in the habit of giving him his own strip to play with. If I did not, he would wait until I was not looking, jump on the cutting table, and then drag my strips, one by one, up the stairs. They were always deposited near his toy box for “safe keeping” and easy to retrieve later, albeit a little worse for wear with teeth and claw marks.

Because I was used to his obsession, I thought nothing of his continued habit a few years later when we moved. Much to his delight, during this particular project, I cut an extra black strip just for him.

“Here you go,” I said to him. “A snake just for you.”

He happily grabbed my offering and began to carry it around. I swear I could see him smile.

For days he carried it up and down the steps. For some reason, this black strip held his attention longer than others ever had. The black strip was never left near his toybox, because he seemed to always be dragging it somewhere. Maybe deep down, because of the fabric color, his primate instincts had kicked in and to him it really was a snake. This went on for over a week.

Having gotten used to finding it on the steps, I simply stepped over it and left his toy where I knew he would find it a bit later. On this particular day, I was in the process of stepping over the strip, when much to my surprise, the strip began to wiggle and move. I am sure I walked on air and gasped for air when I realized that this particular strip was indeed a black snake and not a strip at all.

“Snake! Come quick!” I called to my husband

He thought I was joking at first because he too had been stepping over Max’s pretend snake for days, but he soon realized that something in my tone needed further investigation. Minutes later a broom, a dustpan, and a bit of maneuvering to keep Max from grabbing this ‘strip that moved’ and the snake, who was probably as scared as I was, was safely taken out to the woods and released.

For days I wondered...had the snake just found its way inside or had I actually been stepping over what I thought was a black strip for several days? I glad that I will never know for sure.

In the meantime, no more black strips for Max. Hot pink and neon orange seem like a much better choice from here on out.



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/770429649800457/>. 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.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM



God makes everything BEAUTIFUL in its time.

Ecclesiastes 3:11

Summer is the time to see Nature in full bloom!

The sky is more blue, the green leaves are in their full glory!
The brightness lifts our spirits and gives us more energy.
Sunlight triggers the release of hormones in our brain.
Those hormones boost our mood and helps a person feel calm and focused.
Have you ever noticed that when you walk in nature you seem to notice the birds and other nature sounds more clearly? Slowing down to enjoy our neighbor’s beautiful flowers is secretly lowering our blood pressure too.
Beauty is often only thought of as external, like a person, a landscape, a moment of grace, but it is clearly connected to the mind, heart, and spirit.

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:

True beauty goes beyond what we see because it shines through in our actions, and our kindness. Let that smile come into full expression the next time you “feel” a thing of Beauty!

Joy & Blessings, Jody

Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.
Color files of this writing and artwork are available: www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com



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2 c. pine nuts	1/3 c. green bell pepper
2 Tbsp. butter	1/3 c. red bell pepper
1/2 lb. orzo pasta	1/4 c. fresh lemon juice
1 c. black olives, sliced	1/4 c. olive oil
1/2 c. parsley, minced	freshly ground pepper
1/2 c. green onion, minced	Parmesan cheese, to taste

In a large skillet, lightly toast the pine nuts in the butter; drain on paper towels & cool. Cook the orzo in boiling water; drain & rinse in cold water. (Be extra careful not to overcook the pasta.) Very gently, mix together all ingredients; cover & chill. ♥

From The Summer Book, by Susan Branch, with Love ♥ www.susanbranch.com



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East Tennessee Quilt Shop Hop Color Pop! July 13-August 1

Come join the summer fun during the 2026 **East Tennessee Quilt Shop Hop** from July 13th to August 1st. Nine fabulous Quilt Shops in East Tennessee will show the latest and greatest patterns, tools and fabrics.

This year's fabric selection *Wildflowers of East Tennessee* is exclusive to the shop hop from Windham. This fabric will be available for purchase on July 13, the first day of the Shop Hop.

Now through the Shop Hop, purchase a passport for \$5 at one of the participating quilt shops. Then visit as many shops as possible during the designated dates and get a free Quilt Block Pattern at each shop you visit. Block fabric kits will also be available for \$7 each.

Participants must present her/his own Passport in person at each store to be stamped. Please, no stamping for friends. Limit one Passport per person. Participants must be 12 years old or older.

Participants with all 9 stamps are eligible for the Grand, Second and Third prizes. Participants with 8 - 9 stamps are eligible for the Fourth, Fifth and Sixth prizes.

Additionally, each shop will have a drawing for participants turning in Passports at that shop. Drawings will be held on August 3, 2026, and will be announced on the **East Tennessee Quilt Shop Hop** Facebook page. You do not have to be present to win.

- Prizes include:
- Grand Prize: \$100 gift certificate to each shop - \$1000
 - Second Prize: \$50 gift certificate to each shop - \$500
 - Third Prize: \$25 gift certificate to each shop - \$250
 - Fourth Prize: A collection of each shop's featured item
 - Fifth Prize: Fabulous basket of items donated from vendors
 - Sixth Prize: 50 Fat Quarters.

Contact each participating shop for additional directions and times the shop will be open during the Shop Hop. When you are out visiting these wonderful quilt shops, don't forget to enjoy the beautiful East Tennessee scenery!

For the latest updates, follow the Shop Hop on **Facebook @EastTennesseeShopHop**. Participating shops are listed in the **East Tennessee Quilt Shop Hop** ad in this issue of The Country Register.

The
East Tennessee
QUILT
SHOP HOP

The Date is Set!
July 13th - August 1st

Visit all the shops, collect great prizes,
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 Gina's Bernina Sewing Center 865-966-5941 10816 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, TN 37934	 Iva's & Company Studio, LLC 865-428-8008 1020 Old Knoxville HWY, Sevierville, TN 37862
 Beckie's Sewing Center 423-626-5337 2030 Old HWY 25E, Tazewell, TN 37879	 The Cherry Pit 865-453-4062 115 Bruce Street, Sevierville, TN 37862
 Tennessee Quilts 423-753-6644 114 Boone Street, Jonesborough, TN 37659	 Bernina in Stitches 423-283-0456 805 Sunset Drive Suite 3, Johnson City, TN 37604
 The Quilted Square 865-804-5611 870 Highway 92 South, Dandridge, TN 37725	 Visit all the shops, collect great prizes, and celebrate <i>all things quilting!</i>

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Asheville QS, continued from page 5...

Admission to the show is \$10, with discounts available for groups of ten or more. Parking is free and plentiful. While no food will be available on-site, visitors will receive a list of nearby dining options. The show is open Thursday and Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Made possible through the generous support of sponsors including Moda Fabrics and Aurifil Threads — and the dedication of Guild volunteers who set up, operate, and dismantle the show — the event underscores Asheville's reputation as a city renowned for artistic and cultural excellence. For more information, visit https://www.ashevillequiltguild.org/quilt_show or follow their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AshevilleQuiltShow>.



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Entry Deadline is August 1, 2026

(Names are not sold, given away or used for any other purpose.)

Drawing Entry Form

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Please tell us about a local North or South Carolina or E. Tennessee Bazaar/Festival, Craft Show, Tea Room, etc that you would like to see advertising in the next issue of in The Country Register:

We welcome your comments and/or suggestions about The Country Register. Include a note with your drawing entry, send us an email or give us a call at 1-888-942-8950. We enjoy hearing from our readers!



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Weeding the Summer Garden

by Kerri Habben Bosman

I weeded our garden this summer morning before the swelter of the day snuck in. I worked beneath a nicely overcast sky, surrounded by a quiet breeze with the slightest hint of rain in it. I migrated from garden bed to garden bed, welcoming each arriving thought as I listened to the world breathe.

I talked to the tomatoes and smiled at the watermelon. I checked the cucumber plants, happy to see that more were growing after yesterday’s harvest. I shook my head at the plethora of mint, swiping my hand across it to bring forth its aroma. I pondered the tiny purple flowers on the thyme. I transplanted seven pepper plants to a better spot, silently apologizing as I uprooted them. I secured them gently but firmly into their new place and watered them right away with a promise to come back soon.

My husband, Wayne, says it is an act of faith to plant a garden. Each winter as our seedlings sit in the front window, we eagerly await each new stage of their development. We plant dormant seeds with prayerful hopes, hoping that our care, their environment and uncontrolled circumstance will support their growth into the best plant they can be. We rejoice from the first tendrils to the last vegetable or flower when autumn is coming upon us. We clear out for the last months of the year and wait to start all over again.

Much of our summer garden began on a winter’s day in January when I brought out all the seeds we’d saved from last year. Zinnias, marigolds, peppers and tomatoes. The beans, carrots, sugar snap peas we had to buy. And of course, I bought plants. Except for spoiling grandchildren, we are frugal. With Scottish and German backgrounds between us, we cannot escape it. However, putting me in a plant nursery in late April with a credit card is possibly more dangerous than sending a shopaholic to the mall. Thankfully, I have a lot of willpower, but often something beautiful and new to me simply jumps into my cart.

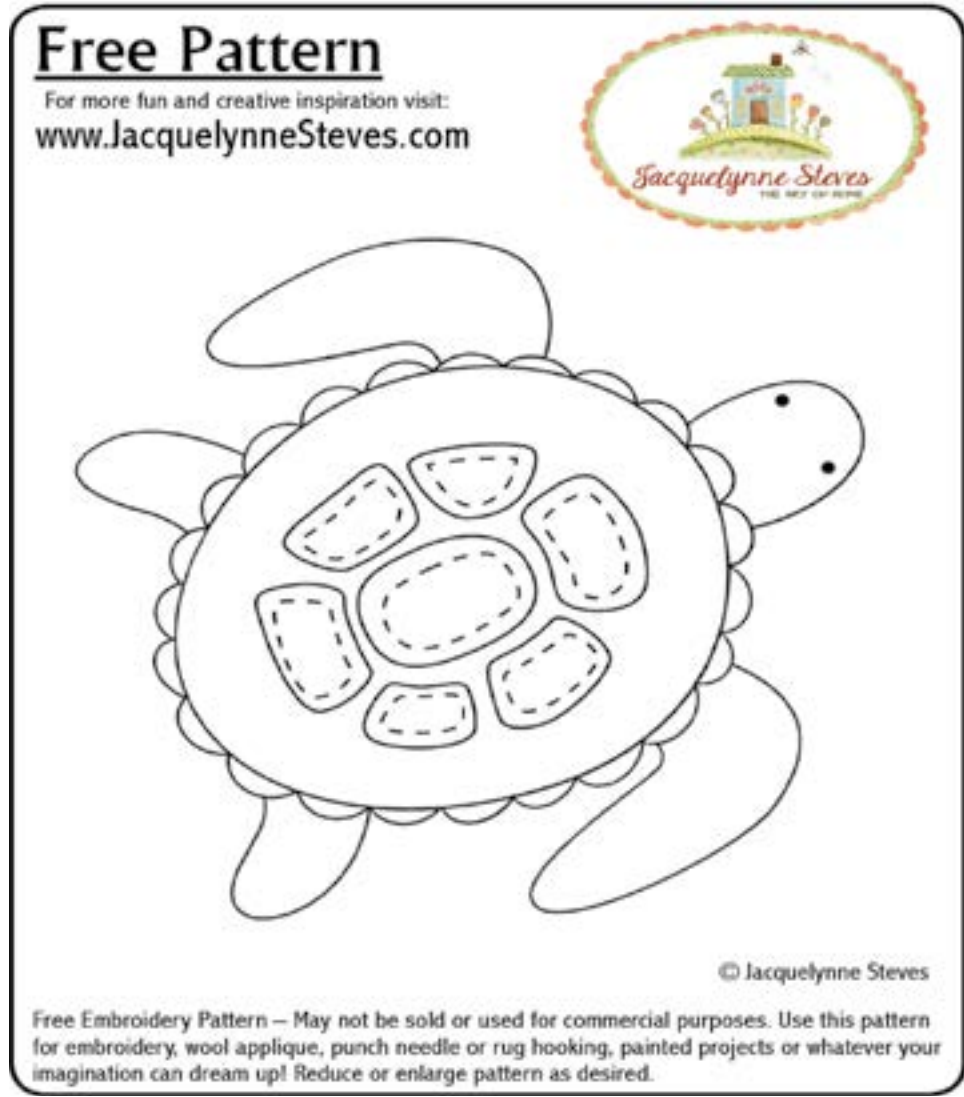
We bought our cucumber plants from our 16 year-old grandson, Hunter. He grew them in his high school horticulture class and then they had a plant sale. Cucumbers don’t always grow well here at the coast. Because he planted the seeds and nurtured them, we especially wanted them to bear fruit. Even if it were just one cucumber, his efforts would be a success. We are grateful to be enjoying many a cucumber salad.

And, like I said at the beginning of this article, I plucked out the ever-tenacious “Pflanzeichwillnichtus.” (This is my very own botanical name for a weed. It is a combination of German and Latin, meaning “plant that I do not want). Along the way, I made mental notes as to how the plants I do want are growing, deadheading as I go. I find a bit of irony in weeding, as I meticulously cull a concentrated area, I am also focusing on the entire garden. I feel the surrounding beauty and the grace of being alive. This creates a precious cohesion, an acceptance of all that is and all that is not.

Our garden of life these last few years has been partially fertilized by loss and sorrow. They churned up the soil of who we are and these emotions are still breaking down into nutrients that will somehow serve us. Yet, through it all, we resettled our roots, trusting the journey in this strange soil, and we were given enough water and enough light to grow into a new season.

Now, I must go to check the transplanted peppers, smile at the cucumber plants and pause gratefully at the tender, tiny flowers of thyme.

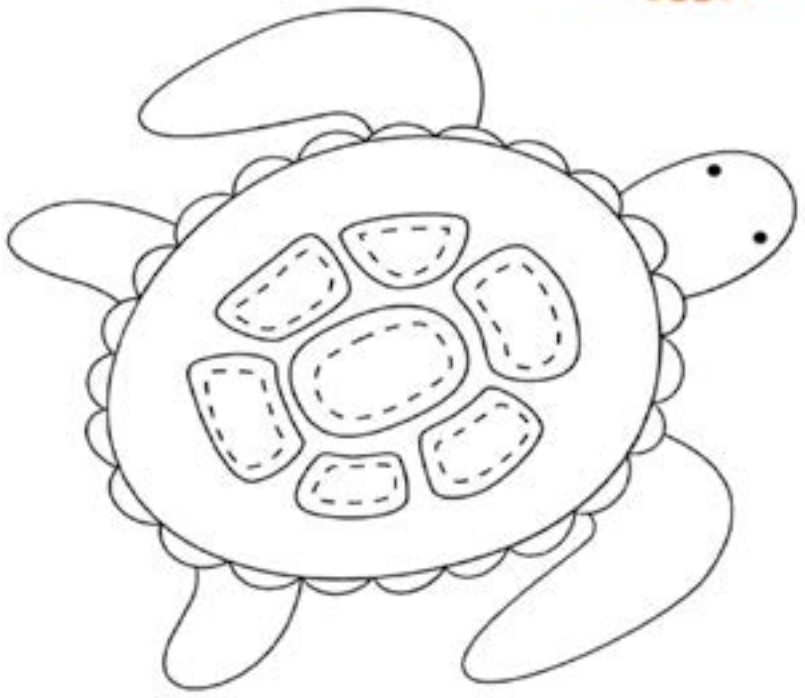
Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer living in Cape Carteret, NC.



Free Pattern

For more fun and creative inspiration visit:
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Free Embroidery Pattern — May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.



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Building Harmony

Look Out For Your Neighbors

It's good to check on your neighbors once in a while and that's what we all do.

One day I decided to visit our neighbors two acreages down. Their names are Roscoe and Mary-Louis Cornwall. A while back they had problems that involved a lightning strike, a burning tree, a henhouse, flaming chickens, a house fire and a dog who to this day still farts smoke. There always seems to be a dark swirling cloud over their house, but they take their challenges in stride. (See episode #79).

On this day I stopped by to find them both sitting on the step in front of their house.

"How are you guys doing?" I asked as I stepped out of my truck and swung the door closed. Something seemed amiss.

"Roscoe locked us out of the house," Mary-Louis said. "The bone head locked the door behind us now we can't get back in."

Roscoe gave her a dirty look. "If'n ya don't lock the doors behind ya, robbers can git in." They shared a look for a moment, then they both looked away.

Offering some constructive advice I asked, "Did you check the back door to see if it's unlocked?"

"We got a back door?" Roscoe demanded. Mary-Louis and I both nodded. Roscoe grumbled, "New-fangled houses. Who ever heard of a back door." He got up and disappeared around the house- muttering to himself.

"We've been sittin' here for two days. I can't believe he locked the door." We quietly watched the clouds go by for a spell. The dog farted a smoke ring. Eventually Roscoe came back and sat down next to Mary-Louis.

"I take it the back door was locked," I asked.

"No, it was open. Who can keep track of all these doors!"

"So, you went in?"

"What fer? No, I locked the door. Don't want robbers to get in." Then he looked at me sideways. "What if they figure out this house has a back door like I did."

"Now no one can get in," I replied.

Roscoe gave me a dirty look. "That's what locks are fer! God, how dense can you get?" I decided maybe giving out advice right now was a bad idea. But I had to ask...

"So, you don't have a spare key hidden somewhere?"

"Yup," Said Mary-Louis. "We keep it under a rock by the door." Now, I should have kept my mouth shut, but I had to know.

"So why don't you use that key to get in?"

"Roscoe wants to use the key pad, but he can't remember the code." Roscoe chimed in...

"I know the code!" he said in a controlled rage. Then he yelled, "It's your birthday! 61-02-01!"

Mary-Louis yelled back, "That's your birthday! Mine is 62-03-03!" They both calmed down and looked at each other for a moment. Then Roscoe got up and unlocked the front door.

"Thank God," said Mary-Louis. "Now I can close all the windows in the house. They're all wide open and it looks like rain." She got up, slid open the balcony door. "I need to go find a bathroom." Then she went inside.

Mary-Louis was right. It started to rain. So, there I was, sitting on their front step thinking about this whole stupid situation and in the end, I just had to laugh.

It's a good practice to look out for your neighbors. If there's something I learned from this situation, it's that you can help the people around you even if they don't appreciate it and that's good. After this interruption Roscoe and Mary-Louis got to go on with their lives. At that point I would have gone home, but I'd locked my keys in the truck.

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WE'RE OPEN!



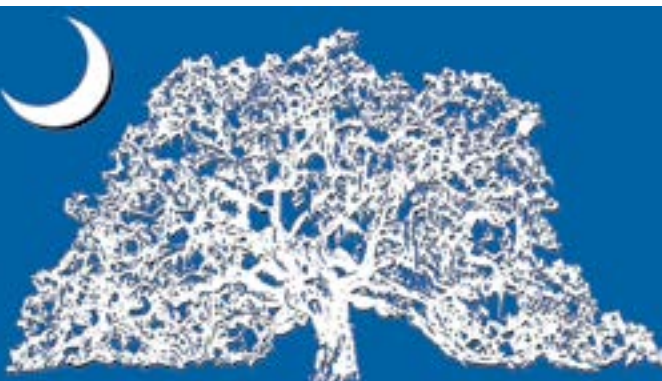
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Patriotic Punch

Enjoy this cool drink on a hot day. Colorful ice cubes create a patriotic splash. My grandkids like this fun idea for a refreshing punch. It's extra special served on the Fourth of July.

Difficulty: 1 spoon • Prep time: 10 minutes
Freezing time: 2 hours • Gluten-free

Gather with Grandma
3 ice cube trays or 3 mini muffin pans
Red beverage, such as Kool-Aid, fruit juice, or punch
Blue beverage, such as PowerAde; or use blue food coloring to tint lemonade, white grape juice, or clear soda
2-liter bottle lemon-lime or other clear soda
Clear drinking glasses
Red straws (optional)

Make with Grandma
1. Fill one ice-cube tray with the red beverage, another with the clear soda, and the third with a blue beverage. Freeze the cubes until solid. Chill the leftover beverages.
2. When you're ready to serve the punch, remove the ice cubes from the freeze and place 1 ice cube of each color in each glass, or place several of each color in a glass pitcher. Place the remaining punch cubes in 3 separate bags and store them in the freezer.
3. Pour clear soda over the ice cubes to cover them. Add a straw to individual glasses and enjoy this refreshing drink!
4. As the ice melt, watch for colored bubbles. Eventually, the punch may change colors.

Serves 4 to 6
Note: As the ice melts, the flavors will mix together. Select beverages that will taste good blended.
Tip: If you make one color ice cubes with a sugared beverage and another color ice cubes with an artificially sweetened beverage, place the heavier cubes (beverage with sugar) on the bottom. Then the colors will layer as the ice melts.



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KISSed Quilts

New Designs for All Southeast and KY/TN Shop Hop Giveaways

by Marlene Oddie

What do you do with those free-bie giveaways during the All Southeast and Kentucky/Tennessee Shop Hops? In 2025 our local one gave out 5” unique to each shop squares of fabric. I put together a couple of designs that could uniquely use them. It was just available in my local shop. This year our give-away was a 9” block pattern. I put a couple of designs together using the new collections. One of the new designs made it into the magazine! Check my website for any remaining kits or fabrics. The design is exclusive to Shop Hop, Inc. and that location for a year. I pitched designs to other state shop hops and some were selected, so find most of these patterns in their respective magazine.

For the 5” squares – consider these concepts:

Angled Shadows* – allows for the backgrounds to change based on each region, thus making a type of map of your hop. Lower right section was sufficiently sized to accommodate finisher blocks. Shown is the souvenir block.

Wandering* – Use coordinating fabric squares and the shop hop squares, if you have just a few, or change the background to a darker fabric and use all shop hop fabric squares.

All new in 2026: If you are receiving unique 5” shop squares at each shop, consider placing them into the mosaic borders. I’ve put our own shop’s block into 3 of the designs below. Can you find it?



l to r: Pacific NW Nights (Apr/May), Flower Fields (5” version-PNW-Apr/May), Iowa Farmlands (Jun/Jul), Hopeful Glory (KY/TN -Jul/Aug)

Notes: *Find this quilt sample at Mountain Creek Quilters in Alcoa, TN. *Find this quilt sample at Elaine’s Attic in Landrum, SC.

If you don’t live in one of these shop hop areas and can’t make it during the event, try finding a shop online that you can purchase the magazine from—which will contain the pattern and consider getting the fabrics from them too.



Magnolia Beauty (SouthEast -Aug/Sept)#, Missouri Stars (Sept/Oct), Pride of Wisconsin (Sept/Oct)

For 9” block patterns, if you’ve got a featured panel or fabric or set of blocks for the center– consider Flower Fields (9” version)*.



Accommodates 22, 52, and 90 patchwork or square blocks respectively. Note the 52 block version only used eight patchwork blocks and the rest are single fabric cut squares. This is very flexible to work with whatever number of block designs you collect.

If you’ve got a panel that won’t work with this size, feel free to ask for a design consult to do the math. Shop owners who may wish to have designs custom written or re-colored with a new collection are welcome to inquire.

Marlene Oddie, of Grand Coulee, WA, is an engineer by training, a project manager by profession, and a quilter by passion. At her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts, she quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus and especially enjoys designing quilts and helping create meaningful keepsakes. Fabrics, patterns, kits, and templates are available at kissedquilts.com. Follow Marlene’s adventures on Facebook and Instagram.

