

  
Around the **Block**  
**QUILT SHOP**

## 2022 Block of the Month from Banyon Batiks

Now taking orders from the Illusions Sampler BOM from Banyon Batiks/Northcott.

We are now taking orders!  
Cost for the top only, without borders, binding and backing: \$300/\$25 mth

With binding, borders and **exclusive backing--only available through the BOM**: \$480/\$40 mth.



To reserve your BOM, you need to pay me \$25 (\$40) by June 15. Then, I will set up your account with a valid cc, and on the 5th of each month starting in September I will begin charging your card for each additional month. (If you want to change the month in which I start charging, just let me know).

In January, the fabric will arrive and we will start cutting the kits. We will provide some support for the blocks, but we won't be actively teaching each block. Stay tuned for more info about that.

As an added incentive to buy this beautiful quilt kit, we will give you a

**DISCOUNT DISCOUNT DISCOUNT** (just in case you didn't read this far) on the entire quilt: Top only \$255 Complete quilt \$410.

**But you must pay up front no later than June 15.**

May 7, 2021

There is a trick to planting grass seed.....and I don't know what it is. I know you need seed, sun, water and warmth. And I know you don't need rabbits and birds. And I know I can control none of that.

Now, before you send me emails explaining what you're supposed to do with grass seed in order to create a spectacular lawn, you need to know a couple of things.

First - I've read all about it on the internet. What did we do when we couldn't look stuff up and had to always go to the library to check out a book on the subject. I know you are supposed to aerate the land and I do have one of those tools. And you are supposed to kill all the weeds, but not use a product that will either kill the grass you are about to grow or kill you.

And you should plant grass seed before Labor Day in September to guarantee a good lawn in the spring - that same article did not tell me when to plant in the spring and since September is a long way away at this point, I decided not to wait and instead just take my chances. And you are also supposed to spread the seed evenly, and then rake it into the ground, which you have already prepared. And then sprinkle gently.

That's a lot of work.

I tried that once.

So this time, I bought two different grass seeds, one for one side of the lawn and one for the other. The one in the orange sack I put on the north side of the sidewalk and it was just seed. The other side I decided to use a seed that came with its own fertilizer. I didn't rake, I didn't aerate, I didn't prepare the soil in any way, although I did wait until after it stopped raining, so the ground was a little damp.

I stuck my hand in the bag, started walking and I sewed my seed-actually that is sowed my seed, but I'm a quilter so what do I know. I essentially

dumped the entire bag onto the ground. And then I waited for it to rain. Silly me.

So, or is that sew (don't you just love the English language), when I went outside this morning to check on things - I know, it's only been a couple of days and I'm not expecting miracles....actually I'm not expecting anything-- I checked to see how the seed was laying. Or is that lying. I laid the seed down a couple of days ago, so I guess it is now lying on the ground. So, I checked to see how the seed was lying. Like I said, isn't English great!

And I didn't see quite as much seed as there was a day ago.

And I don't think it's because the seed has germinated and is getting ready to sprout.

I think it's because of the other two uncontrollables (and that's a made up word) in this scenario. Rabbits and birds. I have a very fat rabbit that wanders around in the back yard where I put down the seed. Or, to keep using correct English, where I laid the seed down. I also have very fat robins getting ready to nest.

Now, I think I have to wait at least 6 weeks before I will see any results, but I have my suspicions of what will likely happen.

And that's why it's a lot of work to prepare the lawn for grass seed, only to have the same results when you don't prepare the lawn. The rabbits, birds, sun, rain and warmth will do what they want regardless of what I want.

Now I do have other solutions: I could hire a lawn care company to come out weekly to create and maintain my lawn. I could put down new sod, install a sprinkler system, and keep my fingers crossed. I could also stretch chicken wire all over the lawn to keep out animals.

But I don't have a real interest in spending a ton of money every year to create a lawn that will die sometime in July because I don't want to waste water trying to keep the backyard green while we are in the middle of a drought. Honestly, I would waste some water on the lawn, but if I don't have an automatic watering system, I'll forget to water on a very crucial day, and the lawn will burn up in the time it takes me to get home and remember to water. I know other people who can figure all of this out and have beautiful green lawns, but like I said at the beginning, there is a trick to planting grass seed and I don't know what that is.

Besides, I do reap one benefit out of a no grass, weed only back yard: It does stay green for awhile and I usually only have to mow once or twice during the entire summer.

Which reminds me, I need to call a guy about getting my riding lawn mower serviced. The pasture grass will start growing soon. Why that grass grows and not my backyard is another mystery. It gets the same sun, rain, warmth, birds and rabbits. Like I said, there is a trick involved in all of this.



## Quilt Challenge!

We're doing another quilt challenge, this one is called May Day! You will have to buy a panel of tulips (we have it in the store), then create a quilt (minimum size 40" X 60") incorporating, in any way you like, certain themes: 1) Put a bird in your quilt; 2) incorporate a gardening theme in some way; 3) add some new born animals (and remember, we're animals, too); 4) add a little sunshine; and 5) make sure you put in your favorite color.

Now all of these elements, plus the tulip panel, need to be recognizable

in your quilt. You can interpret the themes anyway you like: sunshine can simply be yellow fabric, or it can be a pieced sun, or a yellow circle, or a sun button - yes embellishments are acceptable, so is embroidery, yo yos, rick rack, etc.

The challenge officially starts May 1 (but you can get started any time you want) and it will end on June 21 (first day of summer is June 20 at 9:32 p.m. MST). You must have your quilt top (does not need to be quilted) turned in by June 21, closing time at the store. Winners will receive prizes. We may have more than one winner, who knows? Staff will pick the winners and the quilts will hang around the store for display.

So put your thinking caps on, come get your tulip fabric, and get in the spirit of spring even if it looks like winter outside!

## WHAT'S NEW!!

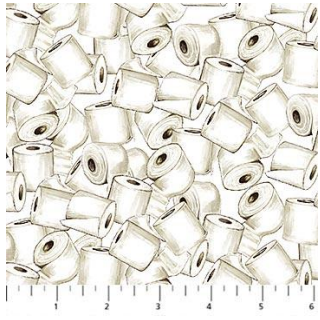
From Alexander Henry:





flannel

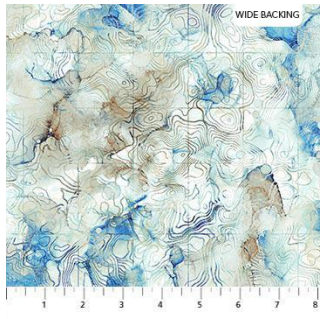
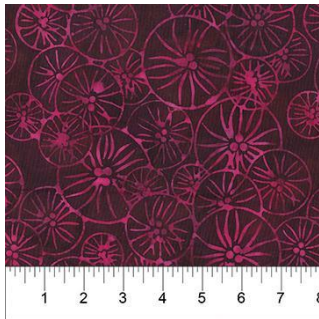
From Northcott:



Do you see a theme here?

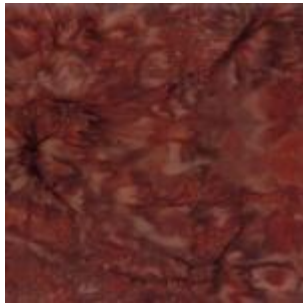
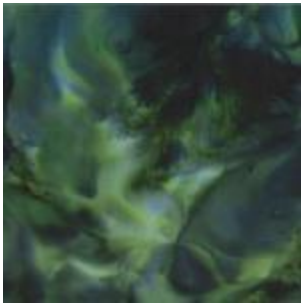


other reading material



overwide

From Hoffman:



From Michale Miller -- all pre cuts:



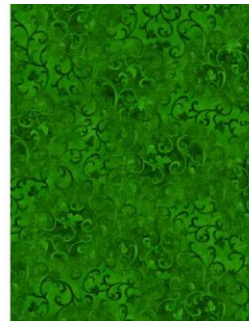
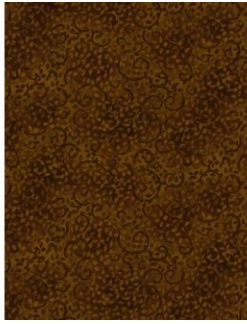


From Wilmington:





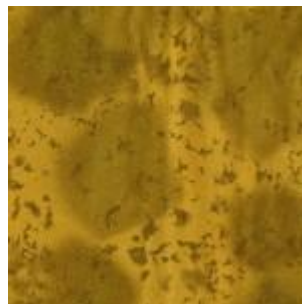
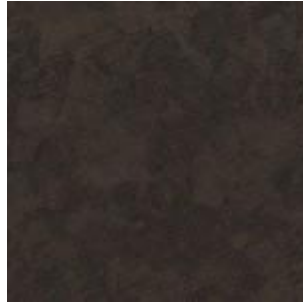




From Robert Kaufman:



From Michael Miller:

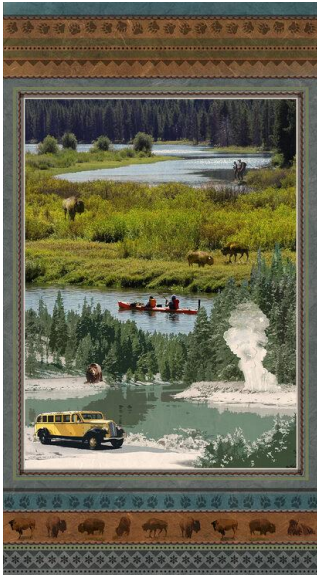


From Hoffman:



We got another bolt of the animals, but the trees are gone for now.

From Henry Glass:

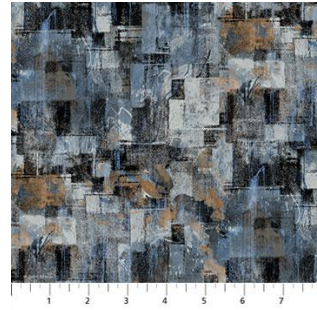
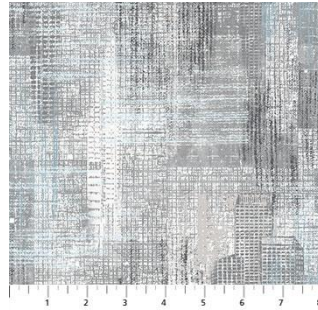


From Windham

from Hoffman:



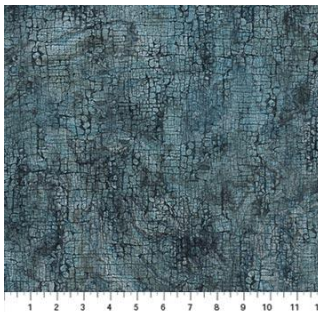
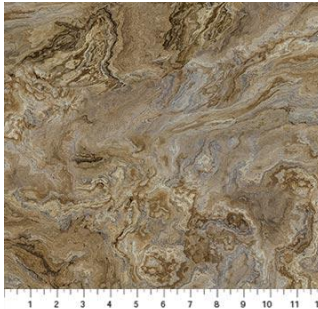
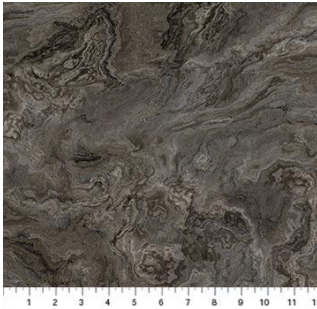
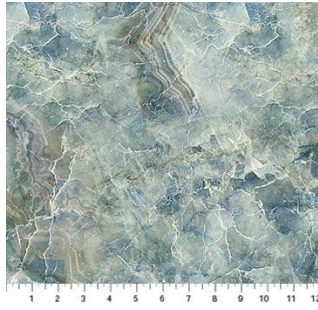
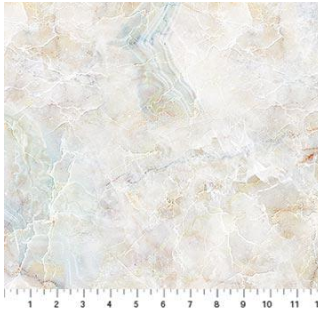
From Northcott:



From Northcott:



This line is selling out.  
Come see the elephant  
quilt we just got done.



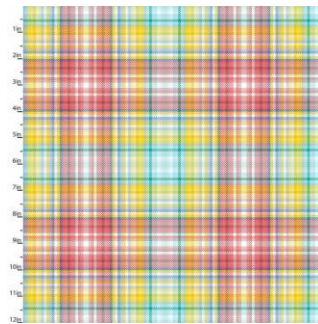
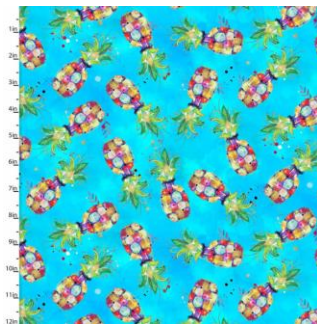


wide back

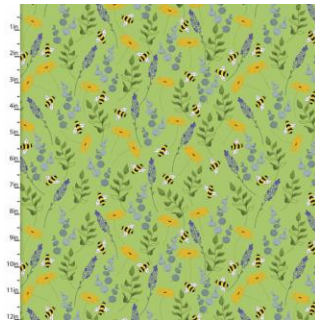
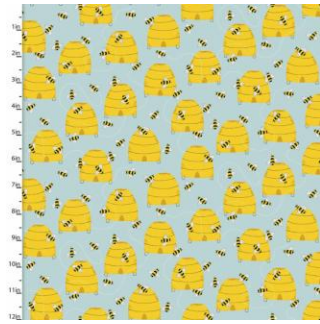
From 3 Wishes:



We've done a cute BQ quilt with this fabric. We have not kitted it yet.



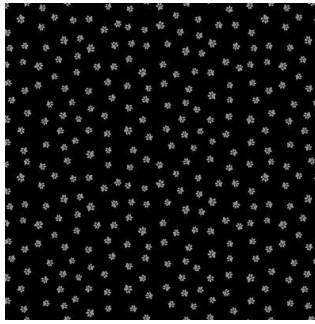
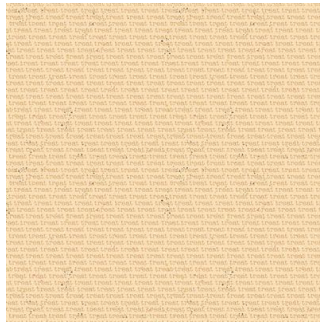
We've done a cut Take 5 with this fabric. Kits are coming. At least one.



Clothworks:



Snarky Cats



Come see our quilt in progress!



May

2021

Watch the May schedule--I may take a couple of Sundays off.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <b>BOM</b> <b>10:30</b> Lone Star 1-4
2 <b>CLOSED</b>	3	4 <b>Hand work</b> <b>Club 2-4</b>	5	6 <b>Long Arm</b> <b>Rental</b> <b>Day</b>	7	8 Embroidery Club 10- noon Lone Star 1-4
9 Moms' Day <b>Closed</b>	10	11 <b>Hand work</b> <b>Club 2-4</b>	12 <b>Knit</b> <b>Pickers'</b> <b>Club 2-4</b>	13 <b>Long Arm</b> <b>Rental</b> <b>Day</b>	14	15 Lone Star 1-4
16	17	18 <b>Hand work</b> <b>Club 2-4</b>	19	20 <b>Long Arm</b> <b>Rental</b> <b>Day</b>	21	22
23	24	25 <b>Hand work</b> <b>Club 2-4</b>	26 <b>Knit</b> <b>Pickers'</b> <b>Club 2-4</b> <b>Full moon</b>	27 <b>Long Arm</b> <b>Rental</b> <b>Day</b>	28	29 Charm meeting 10:30-11:30
30	31 Memorial Day	<b>Color</b> <b>of the</b> <b>month:</b> <b>whites</b>				

Please look on the calendars above for times and dates.

## Ongoing Classes & Clubs

**Block of the Month** First Sat of month 10:30-11:15 FREE Barb Boyer

**Note: January class will be held on the second Saturday**

Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block. This year the challenge will be houses and seasons. Each row will have houses, trees and other "neighborhood" objects. Each house will have a place for a pieced block. Each "row" will be a season: Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. We'll also have a quilt store, school, "village" shops, church, outhouse, dog house, barn - as many as I can squeeze in!

**Hand Embroidery Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

**Note: January class will be held on the third Saturday**

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing. We will be starting Crabapple Hill's Snow Days. This is an embroidered and pieced block. So we will help you through the piecing, tracing and embroidery.

**Knit Pickers' Club** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

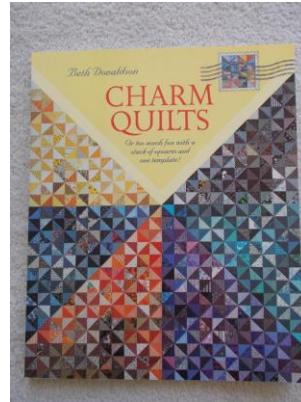
We are changing up the Knit Pickers' Club. We're going to knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, and we'll start earlier in the day at 2 and go to 5. The Club is open to all skill levels. We want to share what we've learned, find new patterns, and simply just sit and knit. We may work on some felting projects, fingerless mittens, mittens, and socks. By summer, we may extend the knitting time into the evening.

**Hand Sewing Club** every Tuesday afternoon 2-4

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch. During covid, we sit 6 feet apart and wear our masks, but at least we can share our projects, get a little stitching done and just enjoy the companionship.

**Charm Quilts, last Saturday of each month (discussion, no sewing) Jan 30 10-noon, then on the other class dates from 10:30-11:30 \$20 Barb Boyer**

Charm quilts date from the 1880s and 1890s. They tend to be one patch quilts (all squares or all triangles) and they use lots and lots of fabrics-999 to be exact. But the catch is, you can only use one fabric per each patch. We need lots of people to sign up for the class - but don't worry about covid. We will do this very carefully. In order to get to 999 different fabrics, we will be exchanging 5" squares of different fabrics, each month exchanging different colors. We won't exchange 999 different fabrics, but we may exchange up to 300-400!



Class one - discussion and set up. Depending on how many people sign up, we will organize into groups for exchanges. We will have 4 different meeting times: 10-10:30, 10:30-11, 11-11:30; 11:30-noon. I know, complicated. If I don't have that many people sign up, I will consolidate the class - remember, it's just a discussion class. I'll talk about charm quilts, explain the rules, and set up what we will be exchanging in the upcoming classes.

Class two - Exchange the first color ways. You will cut Xnumber of squares of the first colors for each person in your group: (example only) red, orange, yellow, blue. 10, 5" squares of each color per each class member. If you have 5 in your group, that's - 50 squares of red, 50 squares of blue, etc.

Now don't panic. I will adjust the number of squares to be exchanged based on how many people sign up. I don't expect you to buy all of the fabric: use your stash. AND the squares you exchange can be different for each person in your group, as long as each person gets 10 different reds, for example.

If you're interested, more info will be given in class, all questions answered, etc. The book we will use is called Charm Quilts by Beth Donaldson. Buy a used copy on Amazon.

## May Classes

**Lone Star Quilt Saturdays May 1, 8, 15 1-4 \$35 Barb Boyer**

This is the perfect "next" quilt for everyone who has taken the beginning quilt class. You will build on your skills, like learning how to do inset seams. All you need is 6 fabrics plus a background. It will be helpful if you have your fabrics chosen before class, so just come in and I'll help with that. The class has three sessions and by the third session you will be in-setting your squares and triangles, completing the inside of your quilt.

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### CLUBS

#### **HAND EMBROIDERY CLUBFREE!**

If you want to learn to hand embroider or just brush up your technique, join us on the second Saturday of the month from 10 to noon. You can work on your own projects or you can join the project we are doing.

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#### **Hand Work ClubFREE!**

Every Tuesday afternoon from 2-4, join us to just sit & hand stitch, crochet, bind, or knit group. Bring what you're working on, sit up at the table in front by the

window and work on your projects for a while. You can get advice & suggestions from your fellow quilters and share your experiences about your projects.

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**Knit Pickers' Club FREE!**

This is another get-together class to sit & knit, work on our projects, share information and get some help. We will share techniques, suggest patterns, but mainly we'll sit & knit (or pick). We are discussing trying to do a group project meaning everyone does the same pattern. Each month we will learn a different pattern, make it into a square and eventually put all the squares into one project Afghan, scarf, bag, etc.

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**Block of the Month Club FREE!**

First Saturday of the Month, 10:30-11:15. Join at any time. You get a free fat quarter if you come to class with the previous month's completed block.

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**Toad Toters Club**

On full moon days (as noted in the calendar) you will get 20% off all purchases (not otherwise discounted) that you can fit in your bag. You must bring your bag to participate.

Full Moon Days: January 28, February 27, March 28, April 26 and May 26.

**Discount Policy**

We will honor only one discount -- whichever is largest. You can't combine a 10% with a 25% discount to get a 35% discount. On this we can't be bribed.

**Color of the Month**

January purple; February red; March green; April yellow; May whites.

**Normal Shop Hours:  
Monday-Saturday 10-5  
Sunday 1-5  
Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)**

# Nolting Longarm Machines

Nolting has 5 main machines, each with different reaches: from 17" to 30" depending on the machine. They are sold with or without a frame, but after I saw & helped set up one of the steel frames this week, I recommend buying the frame. All machines, except for the Standard-- the most economical machine-- have a stitch regulator. I recommend a stitch regulator. All machines can be equipped with a computer and there are a couple of different ones to choose from. In addition, you can get an extended table base so that you can use rulers, you can get larger bobbins on some of the models and on the frames you can get hydraulic lifts to raise and lower the tables. In the coming weeks, I will print out more information on each model.

The best entry level machine is the Fun Quilter. It comes in 17", 20" & 23" reach. It comes with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The Pro Machine has the Intellistitch Turbo stitch regulator, single stitch option, standard speed control, needle up/down and customizable handles in the front & rear. The Pro Machine comes in 20", 24" and 30" reach with 10-12" of inside height. There are easy dials on the front to set stitch length and other options. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



The NV Machine is the newest in the fleet of Nolting machines. This machine has a touch screen with progra

mmable stitch regulation. You can stitch in 4 different stitch modes plus single stitch and needleup/down. It also has an adjustable brightness LED work light. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.



Nolting also has a commercial machine with the Intellistitch Equalizer stitch regulator, standard speed control, needle up/down, and fixed handles in the front & rear. This machine can also be equipped with a computer.

Join the fun and come feel the difference of quality fabrics.

Happy quilting!

Sincerely, Barbara Boyer  
Around the Block  
307-433-9555  
[www.aroundtheblockquilts.com](http://www.aroundtheblockquilts.com)