

Exciting news!

We are launching a new web page! This is a soft launch.

<https://sites.google.com/view/aroundtheblockquiltshop/home>



February 14, 2025

Someone once told me it was better to live in a cold climate than a warm one. If you got cold you could always add layers to stay warm, but if you got too hot, there is only so much you can take off before the neighbors start to complain. Clearly she (that someone) had never read Jack London's *To Build A Fire*. No matter how many layers that man put on, without the ability to build a fire, the man was going to die. And the ability to build the fire required having dry matches-every Boy and Girl Scout learns this-which this guy didn't have. The story is a bit more complicated than that, but the upshot of the story is that even this man's dog abandoned him to go find a smarter human.

Which brings me to my dogs. That's a segue, by the way. Neat trick, huh? You can connect two different kinds of ideas with this little literary trick.

Anyway, it's been so cold that - notice that I'm now joining dogs + cold to get to the point. I went to school to learn this. Anyway, it's been so cold that the snow is not melting around my house, which poses problems. First, the dogs can't be out in the front yard because the drifts are still over five feet high and the dogs can simply walk

over the fence. Second, I am using more propane to stay warm, and because of the snow, the propane guy can't get to my tank to refill it.

Usually, we don't have embarrassing amounts of snow to contend with before January. The ground freezes by November, allowing the big propane truck to drive through the shelter belt, reach my propane tank and top it off for the rest of the winter. I'm usually good to go, then, until April or May, when the snow has melted, the ground thawed and dried out, and the driver can get his truck to my tank.

But not this year. The propane guy called me to inform me I had about 45% propane left in my tank, possibly a month's worth, maybe two. Winter lasts another 4 months, if we're lucky. He thought he might be able to reach my tank by parking behind my garage and snaking the hose through the back yard, and out the back gate. But I would need to do two things. 1) corral the dogs and 2) shovel out the back gate. I'll get to the dogs in a minute.

After surveying the amount of snow behind my back gate, I concluded that I would kill myself trying to "shovel" it out. It's an iceberg that stretches from the back of the fence to the corral, about 20-30 feet, at least. And the snow pack is not in inches but feet. I have the equivalent of a glacier behind my fence.

So after consulting with a friend, the only way to get the truck close enough to my tank is to take down part of the barbed wire fence out back and have him drive around the pasture, skirting most of the drifts, and park right by where my glacier begins. That's the plan, at least. If it doesn't work, I'm going to be like the guy in *To Build A Fire*. Screwed and with no dogs, because they will have abandoned me in search of a smarter human.

But speaking of my dogs (another segue), I do not hold out much hope for their intelligence, either. Remember, they know how to walk over the fence in the front yard. Consequently, I've been keeping them in my back yard, which is surrounded by a cedar fence. Cassidy, however, likes to test the strength of that fence, much like the

Velociraptor Rapter in Jurassic Park that hunted for weak spots in the electric fence. Cassidy finds rotted boards and punches through them.

And she found a weak spot in the gate, punched a dog sized hole in it and escaped, with Becca in tow. This was last Sunday. So when I got ready to come to the shop, I discovered I had no dogs in the backyard. I got in my car, started down the driveway, hollering for them, and I looked over to my right....and there they were. In the front yard. The silly beasts broke out of the backyard in order to leap over the fence to get into the front yard. And they wouldn't come back over the fence when I called them. So I had to go back into the house, let them into the house and back into the backyard. Sigh.

And then, by the time I got home that day, they had gotten loose again. And I had barricaded the hole in the fence pretty well, I thought: Wheelbarrow placed in front of the hole with an old bucket inside to make it heavier, and then on the other side of the fence, I put a big plastic trash can, a shovel, a wire gate (from an old plastic kennel) and a shovel. Since Sunday I have added a cement block, an old bicycle tire, several boxes, a watering can/flower pot, and several other flower pots. So far it hasn't worked. Today, Richard helped me place a wooden pallet in front of the hole and we rearranged all of the other assorted implements. I'm betting they escaped in about 2 hours.

So I have learned from all of this that in order to keep the dogs in the front yard, you let them escape from the back yard so that they'll go around to the front yard and jump over the fence. And stay there. But if I put them in the front yard they will jump out of the front yard and go around back to get into the back yard. It's a no win situation for me.

My optimal solution to both of my problems (getting more propane and keeping the dogs corralled) is found in the sage advice offered by Roy Scheider in the movie Jaws when he says "You're gonna need a bigger boat." I'm going to need a bigger tank and a bigger, or better, fence. After the snow melts. Sometime in July. Just before it snows again.

.Spring Challenge



Click on the link for the pattern:

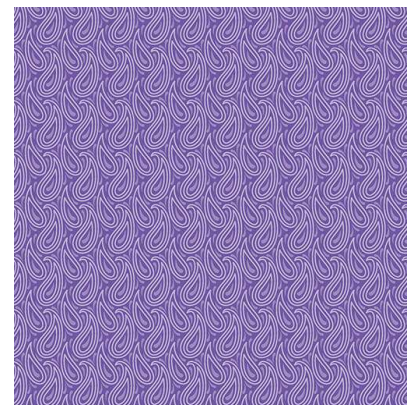
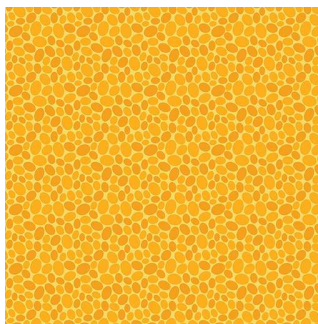
[Spring mystery 2025](#)

BINGO!

We're starting another game. The bingo challenge is to encourage you to finish projects, learn new things, take classes and buy a little product from ATB.

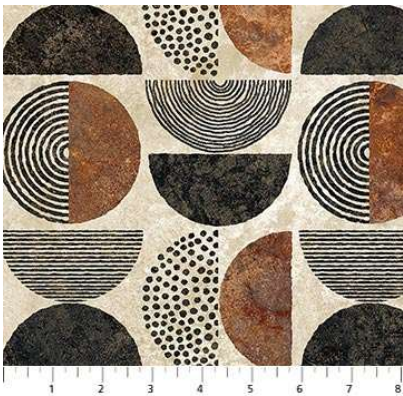
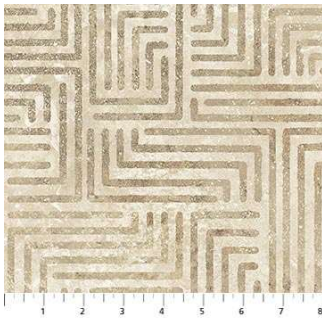
I have also provided a link to the information. [Bingo Game](#)

New Fabric



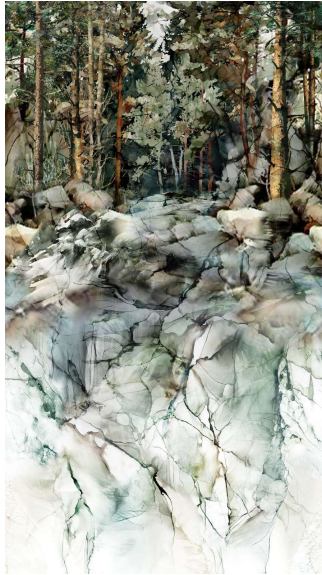
From Benartex, the first
image are 10" squares, 42
pieces

"



Northcott



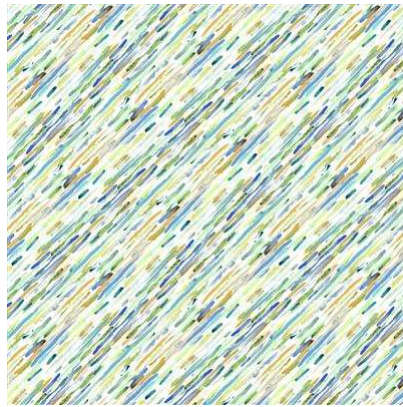


From Northcott (second image is also in wideback)

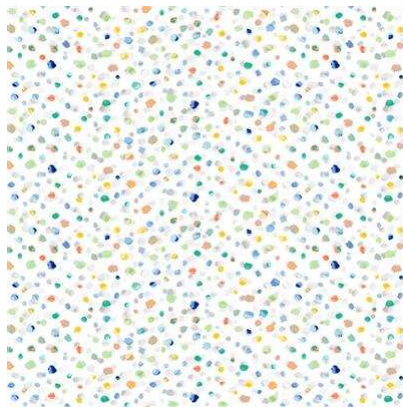


From Marcus Bros and Timeless





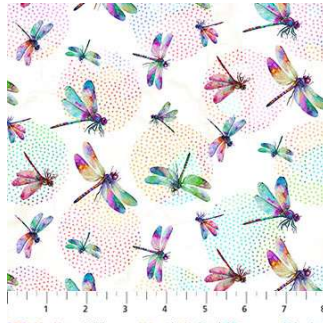
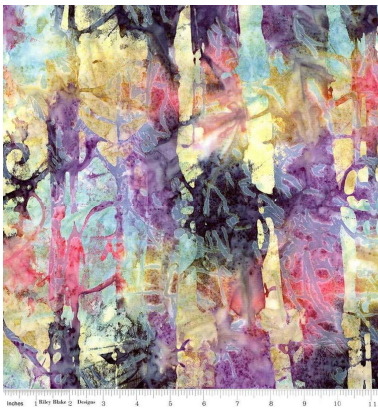
From Clothworks

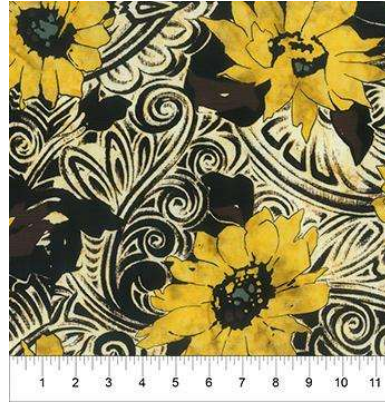
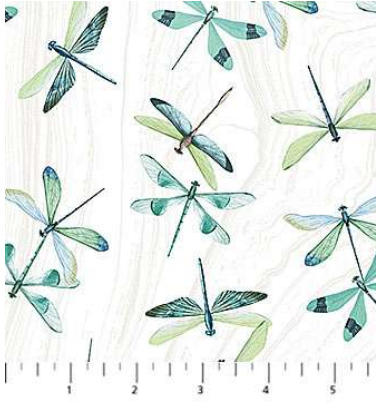
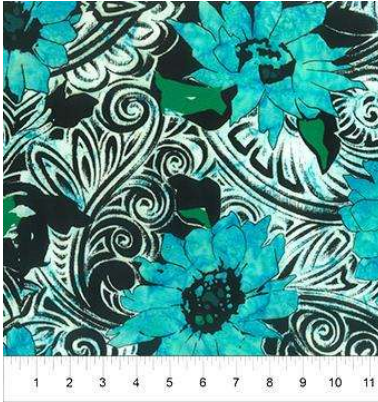


From Michael Miller



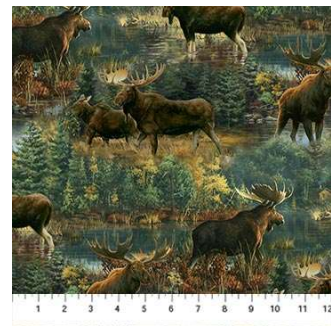
From Northcott



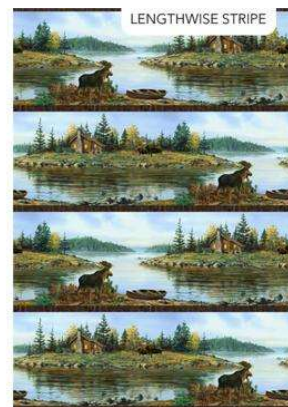


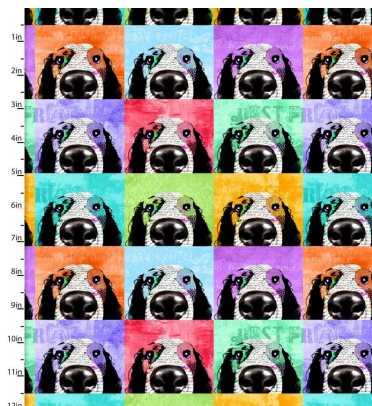


From Quilting Treasures

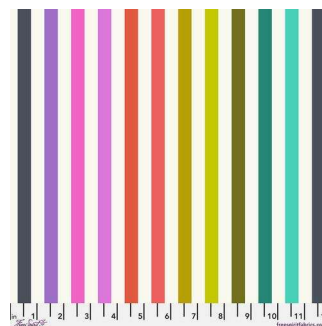
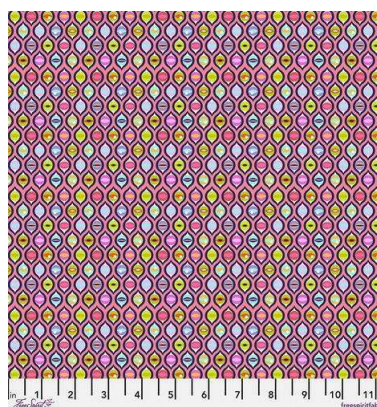
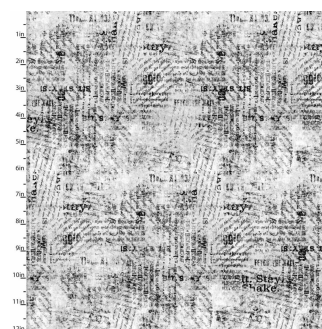
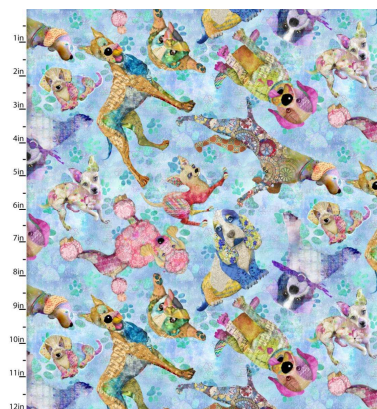


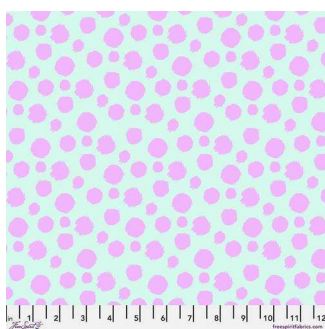
From Northcott





From 3 wishes





From Tula Pink



Full Moon Days: January 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday
NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday) NOTE: These did not get onto
the calendar

January 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		CLOSED	1 CLOSED	2	3	4 10:30 BOM <u>Pillow Case</u> Party! 1-4
Pi5 CLOSED	6	7 Hand Sewing club 2-5	8 Knit Pickers 2-5	9	10	11 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Flannel Snowballs 1-5
12 CLOSED	13	14 Hand Sewing club 2-5	15	16	17	18 Delectable Mountains 10:30-4
19 CLOSED	20	21 Hand Sewing club 2-5	22 Knit Pickers 2-5	23	24	25
26 CLOSED	27	28 Hand Sewing club 2-5	29	30	31	

February 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Machine Binding 1-4
2 CLOSED	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon
9 CLOSED	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 Counterpoint Part 1 10:30-4
16 CLOSED	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 6 Quilts, One Book 10:30-4
23 CLOSED	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	

March 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 10:30 BOM Tennessee Waltz Part 1 1-5
2 Beginning Quilting 1-4	3	4 Hand Sewing club 2-5	5	6	7	8 Free Embroider Club 10-noon Merry Snowmen 1-4
9 Beginning Quilting 1-4	10	11 Hand Sewing club 2-5	12 Knit Pickers 2-5	13	14	15 NATIONAL QUILT DAY
16 Beginning Quilting 1-4	17	18 Hand Sewing club 2-5	19	20	21	22 Counterpoint Part 2 10:30-4
23 Beginning Quilting 1-4	24	25 Hand Sewing club 2-5	26 Knit Pickers 2-5	27	28	29 Cats in PJs 10:30-4
30 Beginning Quilting 1-4	31					

Ongoing Classes & Clubs

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

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 ... come in January and find out!

Hand Embroidery Club 2nd Sat. of the month, 10-noon FREE Kathy Sconce

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, which is Modern Herbal Block of the Month by Sewn Wyoming.

Knit Pickers' Club 2nd and 4th Wed of each month, 2-5 Carol Moler

Come join our Knit Pickers= Club. We knit 2 days a month every second and fourth Wednesday, from 2-5. The Club is open to all skill levels and, despite the name, includes crocheters as well. 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. We can even help you get started—teach you the basics.

Hand Sewing Club every Tuesday afternoon 2-5

This club is open to everyone. Bring your hand sewing (embroidery, binding, knitting, crochet, etc) and sit & stitch.

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 13 (Monday), February 12 (Tuesday), March 15 (Saturday NOTE: observed), April 12 (Saturday), May 12 (Monday)

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 and Book of the Month

January dogs and cats; February red; March green; April blue; May flowers

January classes

Delectable Mountains Sat Jan 18 \$45 Barb Boyer

From the book Scrappy & Happy Quilts, Limited Palette, Tons of Fun by Kate Hendersen. The book is out of print, but you can find it on used books sites, like Amazon. To make the mountains, you will also need the Creative Grid Ruler, 2 Peaks in One, and a special ruler for the largest mountain will be provided in class. The mountain block is a form of a "kite" construction. You will learn how to use the templates to create perfect mountains.

February Classes

Machine Binding Sat Feb 13 1-4 \$45 Jean Korber

This is hands on class. You will need a small project (10" to 40", table runner, small wall hanging, place mat, etc) that is quilted and ready for binding. In class Jean will show you how to cut your binding, press it, and stitch it down (DO NOT CUT YOUR BINDING IN ADVANCE), how to stitch it down & miter the corners and then how to apply decorative stitches to the edge. In class you will cut your binding, stitch it to your project, miter your corners and then stitch it down by machine on the other side, using decorative stitches.

Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

The pattern is by Mountain Peak Creations. The quilt provides large spaces to showcase fabrics. Follow the pattern for fabric amounts. While the quilt has few parts to sew, it is tricky to get things lined up properly. We will show you the easy way to keep the quilt square and perfectly pieced. No special rulers are required.

6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.

6 quilts, 1 book, every other month, 1 price for all 6 classes. (or \$35/class if you pick & choose). This is our third year doing 6 quilts out of one book. This year the book is a

Christmas book, but don't be fooled. Our sample quilts include a Halloween quilt, a dog quilt, a wildlife quilt, an autumn flavored quilt, a star quilt (the Christmas quilt) and a dragon quilt. We want you to learn something new in each class. The book is Simply Modern Christmas by That Patchwork Place. This is another out of print book so look for it on the used sites, like Amazon. The first quilt we will teach is Argyle. 2 is Coming Together, 3 is Joy, 4 is Funky christmas, 5 is Snowball Games, and 6 is Peppermint Float

March Classes

Beginning Quilting 8 weeks \$65 Barb Boyer Starting Sun Mar 2

This comprehensive 8-week course will introduce to you almost everything you need to know about piecing a quilt top. Along the way you will learn about color, batting, thread, machines and various techniques to give you the skills to make almost any quilt.

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

This is a classic quilt design that incorporates the 54-40 of Fight block and a snowball block. The result? The quilt will look curvy, but it's all pieced straight. Pattern will be given out in class. You will need the 2 Peaks in Once ruler by Creative Grid. Yardage needed for a 61" X 70" is app. 2-3 yards of the focus fabric for the center squares, 1 ½ for the stars and 1 yard for the 4-patch squares. Border app. 2 yards.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45

Pattern Merry, Merry Snowmen by Bunny Hill Designs. The applique in the sample quilt is done with wool. We will teach both wool options, traditional needle turn or or finished edge applique, or raw edge applique. Skill level: Confident beginner

NATIONAL QUILT DAY SATURDAY MARCH 15 DEMOS AT NOON

We will have a special sale for National Quilt Day. We will have demos and other activities going on, TBA.

Counterpoint Sat Feb 15, 10:30-4 AND Sat March 22 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber ongoing

Cats in PJs Sat March 29 10:30-4 \$40 Barb Boyer

This is an Elizabeth Hartman Cats in Pajamas pattern. Follow pattern instructions for fabric amounts. And think creatively about fabrics for the cats and for the PJs. Footballs, stripes, dogs, plaids, ballerinas—anything you can think of for cute PJ fabrics. And the cats can be all different colors, and some may have different tail and ear colors, as well.

April Classes

Tennessee Waltz Sat Mar 1 and Sat April 5, 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer ongoing

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Fanfare Sat April 19, 10:30-4 \$45 Jean Korber

Fanfare pattern by Krista Moser required. Follow pattern instructions for fabric requirements. You will also need the Creative Grid 60 degree triangle ruler, 8 1/2" size. Skill level: Intermediate

6 Quilts, One Book Sat Feb 22, April 26, June 28, Aug 30, Oct 25, Nov 22 10:30-4 \$140 for all six classes or \$35 per class. Jean Korber & Barb Boyer will team teach the class.

The second quilt we will teach is Coming Together.

May Classes

T-Shirt Quilt Sat May 3 & 24 1-4 \$45 Barb Boyer

So you've got all these t-shirts and want to turn them into a quilt? It's easy, but you need the right tools. The class is taught in 2 parts: First, preparing your t-shirts, and second, designing your top—which is where I come in, because I can help with all of the math that might be involved.

Merry Snowman Sat Mar 8, April 12, May 10 1:00-4 Cindy Hamann \$45 ongoing

Drip Drop Sat May 17 10:30-4 Barb Boyer \$45

The quilt is in Graphic Quilts book by That Patchwork Place. We have copies. Templates will be provided for the curved pieces. Follow fabric requirements in the book. Skill level: Intermediate



Normal Shop Hours:

Monday-Saturday 10-5:30

Sunday 1-5

Closed first Sunday of month (and some holidays)

New Hours for Winter Time (starting Nov 5-May 22)

Monday-Saturday 10-5, closed Sundays unless a class is scheduled. Then we're open 1-5. Check the schedule.

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

