

# The NIMBLE THIMBLE

Narragansett Bay Quilters' Association

## President's Message

Welcome all new guild members and welcome back all old members! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. I had my basement wall moisture-proofed, painted the floor and moved all my fabric to the basement. I use to have my fabric in one bedroom and my books and Juki sewing machine on the dining room table, but I needed the space, the grandchildren needed bedrooms and I needed to stop my dog from eating my fabric and sewing notions. So.... I will now be sewing in my new room in the basement! (Dog is afraid to come down the stairs).

It looks like it will be an exciting year. You might want to bring money or a check to the first meeting to sign up for classes or the bus trip. You will need to pay before your name can go on the attendance list. The classes will be on the third Thursday of the month. There is a list of classes further on in this newsletter. We also have a new bus trip lady, Lynda Puglia. (Big thanks to Natalie and Noreen for outstanding jobs in the past). If you haven't taken a bus trip, you are really missing out on a treat – no husbands, kids, dogs etc., just other like-minded ladies to socialize with to and from wherever we are going. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet other guild members. Lots of friendships have been formed on these bus rides. In talking to guild members, most people make friends by taking our workshops. If you can't get the time out of work, join us at our charity quilt-a-thon on Saturday, October 28, 2006 or by volunteering to help on one of the committees. Please don't wait for a chairperson to contact you. If you want to participate, just ask the chairperson what you can do to help.

Pat Cole

## For the September 21, 7:00 PM Meeting, Please Bring:

- Juvenile prints: 8" squares or long strips of 2 ½ " for the Comfort Quilts
- Cotton batting donations for Comfort Quilts
- Your Name Tag
- Show & Tell Items
- Summer Challenge
- Library Books due
- Money for Workshops
- Block of the Month
- Refreshments (if you volunteered)

*Folk Art Quilts*

*Quilting fabrics and supplies  
Books, patterns & notions*

*Hours: Tues-Sat 10:00-5:00*

*344 Main St.  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
(401) 789-5985*

*folkartquilts@cox.net*

*Owners  
Evie Chermis & Mary Loftes*

### NBQA Field Trip

Take the NBQA bus trip with us to “A Quilter’s Gathering” in Nashua, NH on Saturday, November 4, 2006.

The bus will leave the Warwick Park & Ride on Rt 117 at 8:00 AM. If time permits, the bus will make a stop at The Quilted Crow in Box borough, MA on the way home.

Cost for the trip is \$36.00 which includes the bus, admission to the show and a tip for the driver.

Please send you check, made payable to NBQA, and send or give to Lynda Puglia.

There will be an opportunity to sign up for this trip at the September NBQA Meeting.



### Newcomer’s Corner

Welcome to the NBQA! If you were not able to attend the orientation meeting, please visit the membership table at the first meeting to pick up a membership booklet, name pin blank, library and membership cards and list of 2006-2007 workshops. If you are unable to attend the first meeting and would like these items mailed to you, please send your request and \$1.00 to:

Betty Pashkovsky

Check your information as printed in the membership booklet and contact Betty with any corrections.

Please make your NBQA muslin logo into a nametag as soon as possible and wear it to all meetings.

## Narragansett Bay Quilters Workshop Information

- ▶ Workshops are held at the Mason Hall on Division Street unless otherwise noted.
- ▶ Plan your arrival at the workshop for 9:30 AM. This will give you ample time to get set up for the 10:00AM workshop start time. For your comfort, you might want to dress in layers and bring a seat cushion.
- ▶ Coffee and tea will be provided. You are welcome to bring a snack for yourself and/or a snack to share with other workshop participants.
- ▶ The guild has 4 irons, boards and extension cords for your use. You might want to bring a power strip and a light.
- ▶ There will be a lunch break around noon. You may bring a bag lunch including a beverage or go out to get your lunch at local fast foods.
- ▶ The workshop will end around 3:30. Help setting up for the general meeting will be greatly appreciated, as many hands make light work.
- ▶ A group including the workshop leader will be going out to dinner at 5:00 at a local restaurant. Let the program leaders know if you plan to join the group so that a dinner reservation can be made.
- ▶ Please make every effort to gather **all** the supplies on the supply list.
- ▶ Also, please remember to turn your cell phone ring off at the workshop so that you do not disturb other participants.

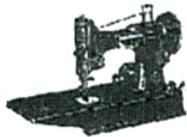
**Guild Policy states that if you are unable to attend the workshop, the workshop fee will be refunded only if your spot is filled two weeks previous to the workshop.**

Program Co-Chairs: Pat Harrison & Sandy Barron

Bring payment in cash or check (to NBQA) to the meeting for sign up prior to class. Your name cannot be added to the list without payment.



**Ocean Waves Quilting Company**  
Professional LongArm Machine Quilting  
Guild Power Point Lectures  
LongArm Skill Lessons  
*Pat Harrison*  
Exeter, Rhode Island  
oceanwavesqc@cox.net  
401.667.0214



**FEATHERWEIGHTS**  
BY  
BOB

Featherweights for Sale  
Cleaning, Repair & Parts Services  
Bob Harrison  
59 Reuben Brown Lane, Exeter, Rhode Island 02822  
401.667.0214      franklin32@cox.net

### NBQA Workshops 2006-2007 Season

Workshops are scheduled during the daytime on meeting dates. Cost of the workshops is \$30.00. For more workshop information, please refer to your membership booklet.

Date	Workshop	Evening Program
9/21/06	<p><b>Pat Ferguson - <u>Quilters Tote</u></b>            The "<u>Quilter's Tool Tote</u>" is a wonderfully large and sturdy tote that Pat designed after watching students stumble into quilting classes with boxes, paper bags, pillowcases and all kinds of odd size totes. Pat decided that they deserved something better that would hold all of their supplies while keeping their hands free to carry sewing machines. The "Quilter's Tool Tote" has 2 large outer pockets that are great for storing books, patterns and your large square acrylic rulers. Inner pockets hold all of your smaller sewing notions and are customized to suit your needs. The tote's inner chamber holds your 18" x 24" cutting mat, 24" acrylic ruler and all of the fabrics needed for your project. Hundreds of students have made the "Quilter's Tool Tote" in Pat's classes and just love the freedom and organization that it gives them. Pat is a member of the NBQA and lives in CT  <a href="http://www.patfergusonquilts.com/">http://www.patfergusonquilts.com/</a></p>	None
10/19/06	<p><b>Mary Will Sussman - <u>Stained Glass Stack &amp; Slash</u></b>            This session will be a 1 hour talk with mini class. We will explore "Fabric Driven Design" using Mary's own art quilts. Mary is the Studio Art Quilt Associate representative for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. She lives in Webster, NH on a 91 acre farm.  <a href="http://marywillsussman.com/lectWs.php">http://marywillsussman.com/lectWs.php</a></p>	Fabric, Why I Love It
11/16/06	<p><b>Nancy Halpern - <u>Monet's Puzzle</u></b>            The enigmatic Japanese Puzzle Block, a simple diamond which forms visually mesmerizing secondary patterns, is ideally suited to interpret the interplay of color and light sought by Impressionist painters. Monet's gardens, landscapes and water lilies suggest possibilities for fabric choices, while other Impressionist painters, both European and American, widen our range of opportunities. Come with a print of a painting, fabrics in its colors, and create an impression of an impression. Nancy Halpern has a BA from the University of California, Berkeley, and has studied at Radcliffe and the Boston Architectural Center. She has taught quilting for over twenty years, from Warsaw, Poland to Kyoto, Japan. Her prizewinning contemporary quilts have been exhibited nationally and internationally in both solo and group shows, and published in numerous books and magazines. Her "Archipelago" was the first work commissioned by the New England Quilters' Guild for its museum. Nancy lives in Natick, Mass  <a href="http://www.sheinstein.addr.com/Nancy.html">http://www.sheinstein.addr.com/Nancy.html</a></p>	Trunk Show
01/08/07	<p><b>Beth Gutierrez - <u>Black Line Appliqué Seagulls</u></b>            Beth is a member of the NBQA and lives in Peacedale, RI</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Pot Luck</li> <li>▶ Show and Tell</li> <li>▶ UFO Auction</li> </ul>
02/15/07	<p><b>Linda Cantrell - <u>Still Life Appliqué</u></b>            Linda teaches coast to coast. "One thing I can say for my classes is we do have fun, and I hope the people taking my classes learn a little something along the way." Appliqué is her specialty and just another characteristic of this former painter turned quilter. Her workshops usually involve learning a fast and easy method of appliqué using freezer paper and no needle turning. Linda Cantrell was a painter before she was a quilter, made her first quilt in 1980, and before long she was thinking of pictorial quilts. Appliqué was a natural choice with fabrics and embroidery thread becoming her paints and brushes. She is self-taught in appliqué and quilting. Her award winning quilts</p>	Appliqué, I did it my way.

	<p>have been exhibited nationally. Creating quilts of her own designs is her specialty. Her time is spent quilting, teaching quilting or thinking about the next quilt.</p> <p>Linda lives in Fletcher, North Carolina  <a href="http://www.quiltfest.com/files/Cantrell.pdf">http://www.quiltfest.com/files/Cantrell.pdf</a></p>	
03/15/07	<p><b>Beverly Fine – Certified Quilt Judge</b>  <b>Roundtable:</b> bring a finished quilt for discussion &amp; critique  <b>Finishing a quilt:</b> “Let the Judge be your Guide to a Professional Finish”          Beverly lives in Lancaster, MA.</p>	Lecture: Quilt Judging
04/19/07	<p><b>Virginia Walton - Whirlpool Curves</b>          Quilt designer and inventor of the “Creative Curves Quilting System” and the “Creative Curves Kaleidoscope Ruler.”          Virginia lives in Albuquerque, NM  <a href="http://www.creativecurves.com/">http://www.creativecurves.com/</a></p>	Color
05/17/07	<p><b>Nancy Hubbard - Folk Art with Wool and Wool Felt</b>          Nancy’s sewing experience began when she was 12 and her father brought home an old treadle machine. Her quilting experience began in 1980 when she joined a few guilds. Along the way she has taken workshops from Virginia Avery, Carol Doak, Marianne Fons, Georgia Bonesteel and Elly Sienkiewicz. Several of Nancy’s quilts have won awards including Best of Show! She is a member of the teaching staff at Merri Stitches, Inc. in Portsmouth, NH.  <a href="http://www.merristitches.com/">http://www.merristitches.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.merristitches.com/picture_page.htm">http://www.merristitches.com/picture_page.htm</a></p>	Strawberry Social  Election of Officers

### Spotlight on Vendors on Site

***Quilts and More*** is a place for quilters that lives up to its name. Not only is there a wide variety of fabrics to choose from, but there is also a huge selection of quilting books that would make any quilter stop and take a look. Browsing through their selection of books is a pleasant experience, with comfortable chairs to sit in while making a choice.

Classes are offered that are for the beginner as well as the experienced quilter. A seasonal newsletter will keep you informed about classes, sales and special events.

Betty Combs, an NBQA member, is the owner of ***Quilts and More***. She learned to quilt as a young girl by watching her grandmother, who stitched her quilts by hand.

Betty comes from White Plains, Long Island, where she and her husband, a blood bank serologist, lived for many years. Betty has been teaching for most of her life as a professor at Pace University where she was Director of the Early Childhood Development Program. She and her husband retired to Charlestown, RI in 1992 and in 2002, Betty opened ***Quilts and More***.

Betty says that quilters today are more interested in quilting as an art form rather than as a necessary skill, as was the case in earlier times. Quilting is no longer confined to making bed coverings and it is no longer confined to women. Quilting has become a way to express artistic design along with painting and sculpture.

Betty’s favorite quilt artist is Patricia Campbell from Dallas, Texas. Pat is a quilt artist, teacher, lecturer and author well known for her Jacobean style appliqué. ([www.patcampbell.com](http://www.patcampbell.com)).

Betty is also a fan of Marianne Fons and Liz Porter from Winterset, Iowa. They host the “Love of Quilting” show on PBS and along with their publisher, Dean Pieters, have created the “Love of Quilting” magazine. ([www.fonsandporter.com](http://www.fonsandporter.com)).

To visit the ***Quilts and More*** website and to learn more about their workshops and products, go to [www.riquilts.com](http://www.riquilts.com).

## Nearby Shows, Workshops & Retreats

<p><b>September 16 and 17 2006</b>  <b>Bennington Quiltfest</b>                  13th annual quilt show. Featured quilter and lecturer Paula Nadelstern. Demonstrations, Raffle quilt, Challenge quilts, Vendors, Food Service, Special Exhibit.                  Bennington, VT USA  <b>Cost:</b> \$5                  Quiet Valley Quilters Guild  <b>Contact Name:</b> Judith Smith  <b>Contact Phone Number:</b> 802-823-4361  <b>Contact Email:</b> <a href="mailto:jsmithvt@together.net">jsmithvt@together.net</a></p>	<p><b>September 23-24, 2006</b>  <b>“Tying up Loose Ends”</b>                  Herring Run Quilt Guild                  Norwell, MA  <b>Cost:</b> \$5  <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:sylvisaidel@aol.com">sylvisaidel@aol.com</a></p>
<p><b>September 12-15 and October 3-6, 2006</b>  <b>“Adventures in Dimension”</b>                  Sponsor: Sunshine Carousel Quilt Shop                  Location: Ascutney Mountain Resort, Brownsville, VT                  Cost: \$540 includes all meals, 3 night’s accommodations, all classes, meeting space, standard amenities, taxes and service charges.                  Instructor: Maria Adams                  Website: <a href="http://www.scqs.com">www.scqs.com</a></p>	<p><b>October 7&amp; 8 2006</b>                  East Haddam, CT  <b>11<sup>th</sup> Annual Quilt &amp; Needle Arts Show</b>                  First Church of Christ  <b>Cost:</b> \$5  <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:rivervujc@sbcglobla.net">rivervujc@sbcglobla.net</a></p>
<p><b>October 14 &amp; 15, 2006</b>                  Saugus, MA  <b>“Twenty Five Years of Quilt Making”</b>                  Hammersmith Guild  <b>Cost \$4</b>   <b>Contact:</b> <a href="mailto:dsberk1@verizon.net">dsberk1@verizon.net</a></p>	<p><b>October 27-29, 2006</b>                  Sponsor: Valley Fabrics                  Ascutney Mountain Resort, Brownsville, VT  <b>Cost:</b> \$400. Includes single bedroom &amp; bath, \$360, shared bedroom.                  Each person will have own 4ft table, covered walls for projects, 3 meals a day (dinner Fri, 3 meals Sat, 2 on Sun)  <b>Contact:</b> Valley Fabrics                  271 Pleasant St.                  Northhampton, MA 01060</p>

## !!REMINDERS!!

<p><b><u>Summer Challenge: “Birds of a Feather”</u></b>                  This is a special quilting project challenge for over the summer. The project may be any type of quilting project including wearable. The “bird” may be whimsical, realistic, bizarre or a traditional bird block pattern. Finished size must be no smaller than 40” in perimeter (10X10). There is no maximum size. The finished quilted entry must come to the September meeting. Guild members will vote on a favorite and prizes will be awarded!</p>	<p><b><u>Second Annual Quilt-a-Thon</u></b>                  Mark your calendars now! The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Quilt-a-thon will be held on <b>Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup></b>. Come join the fun day of making quilt tops to be donated to area hospitals or other organizations. All material will be provided along with lunch, snacks, fun and door prizes! Sign up as a team of five or six or sign up individually and teams will be assigned. Call Joan Taylor for additional information.</p>
--	--

**Wright’s Factory Outlet**  
**Sturbridge, Mass.**  
 Present a current guild card and a photo ID and receive 15% discount.

## Classroom

### The Science of Piecing

An excellently pieced seam requires skill as well as good components. One of the major components of a good seam is the thread. Most quilters prefer cotton thread for piecing because cotton has a high heat tolerance and is therefore iron-safe. Cotton is also softer and more pliable than most other fibers. Here is what to look for in a quality cotton piecing thread:

1. Twist. The twist should be consistently smooth and quite tight. Hold the thread up to the light. If you see bumps in the thread or inconsistent twisting, it is not high quality. These bumps, or slubs, will get caught in the tension disc and in the needle which will result in lint buildup and a weakened thread as they are snagged. They will also add unwanted bulk to the pieced portions, resulting in not-so-flat seams.
2. Fuzz factor. If you hold the thread up to the light and see no fuzz at all, that's bad. Either the thread isn't cotton or it is a glazed cotton. Glazed threads are for hand quilting, not machine piecing or quilting because the glaze rubs off in the tension disc and other areas and gums up the machine. If you see a lot of fuzz and uneven amounts of fuzz along the strand, it is not a quality thread. If you see a very small amount of fuzz and the thread is consistently smooth, that's a good one.
3. Thread thickness. Cotton thread is almost always either a 2-ply or 3-ply thread. A high quality 2-ply thread can be stronger than a lower quality 3-ply thread due to the fibers and the processing. A thin, smooth thread will make the best seam because it lies flat in the fabric. Therefore, assuming the quality is the same, a 50 wt. cotton thread will make a better seam than a heavier 40 wt. cotton thread. When pressed, the finer thread will make a better seam and the points will match up better.
4. Strength. A non-glazed, fine cotton thread will not win any strength contests by itself. However, because the average stitch length for piecing is 12 stitches per inch, the strength is in the stitching. A high quality 50 wt. 2-ply cotton is the perfect piecing thread.
5. Piecing with matching colors. I saw a beautiful quilt that had what looked like pencil marks next to all the seams. I wondered why the quilter didn't erase them. Upon closer examination, what I was seeing was a gray thread showing through a yellow fabric. Had the quilter pieced with a matching yellow thread, it would have not been noticeable. Although many think that white, cream, and gray threads are the only necessary colors for piecing, matching the piecing thread color to the fabric really does make a big difference.

Reprinted Courtesy of "Mother Superior" aka Uncle Bob of Superior Threads



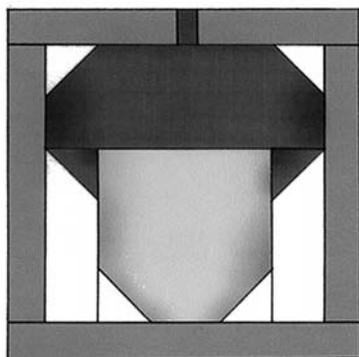
**Pat Ferguson**  
 Ashford, CT 860-429-6999  
 www.patfergusonquilts.com

**Long Arm Quilting**

- ♥ Binding    ♥ Custom Quilts
- ♥ Basting   ♥ House Portraits
- ♥ Classes & Guild Workshops
- ♥ Quilter's Tool Tote Pattern



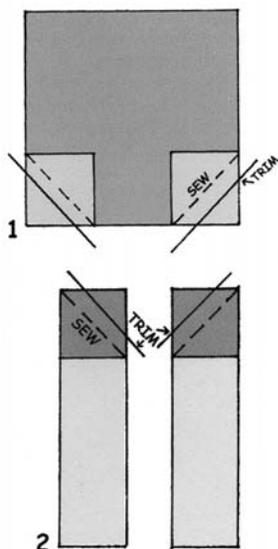
### September Block of the Month



You know Autumn is just starting when you see the acorns falling and the squirrels scurrying to find that perfect hiding place. Acorn Hollow by Nancy Halversen has provided us with a beautiful quick to piece acorn pattern. Have fun! Do several! You never see just one acorn.

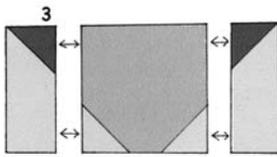
Color: Think of the acorn's smooth bottom, usually a light brown, and its "shingled" cap which should be a darker brown for contrast. The background can be any light color that will show off the acorn well (yellow, peach, pale green, light blue, etc.). Make the sashing a brighter version of the background color (yellow→gold, peach→dark orange, pale green→medium green, etc.) But have fun with the colors. Maybe a purple or orange acorn strikes your fancy today.

Cut: Acorn Bottom:  $5\frac{1}{2}'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$   
 Acorn Cap:  $3\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$   
           two  $2'' \times 2''$   
 Stem:  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 1''$   
 Background: two  $2'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$   
               four  $2'' \times 2''$   
 Sashing: two  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 8\frac{1}{2}''$   
            two  $1\frac{1}{2}'' \times 10\frac{1}{2}''$

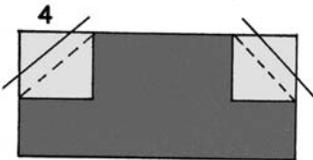


Sew: To the acorn bottom, pin a  $2'' \times 2''$  background square to each bottom corner. Sew diagonally and trim to  $\frac{1}{4}''$  from the sewn line. Press open. ( illustration 1)

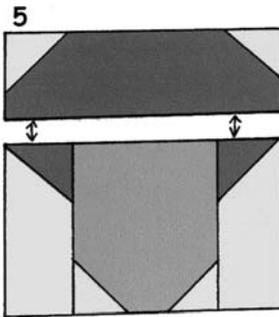
To each  $2'' \times 5\frac{1}{2}''$  background piece, pin a  $2'' \times 2''$  cap color square at the top and sew diagonally - one to the right and one to the left. Trim and press. ( illustration 2 )



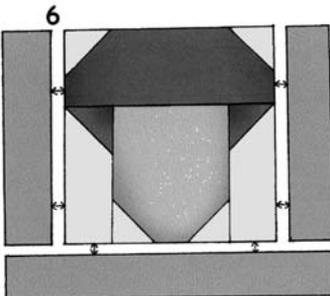
Sew the background strips to each side of the acorn bottom.  
( illustration 3 )



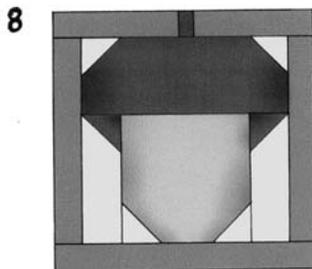
To the acorn cap, pin a 2" x 2" square of background color to each top corner. Sew on diagonally to match the illustration, trim, and press. ( illustration 4 )



Sew the cap to the acorn bottom. ( illustration 5 )



Sew on the two 1 1/2" x 8 1/2" side sashing strips.  
Sew on the 1 1/2" x 10 1/2" bottom sashing strip.  
( illustration 6 )



Cut the remaining 1 1/2" x 10 1/2" sashing strip in half.  
Sew the stem piece in the middle.( illustration 7)  
Attach to the top of the block. ( illustration 8)  
Press the whole block. Block should measure 10 1/2" x 10 1/2"