

The Running Stitch

stitches bind us together

Newsletter of the Withlacoochee Quilters Guild Volume 38 Issue 8



From Our President, Chris Summers

Greetings Quilters!

The last month has been very eventful for me. Getting finishing touches on the quilts for our quilt show and the same for the Quilts of Valor presentation last meeting.

I want to thank everyone that helped with the quilt hanging at the Art Center and most especially Joy Bass, who worked so hard getting the 80 (+/-) quilts into the space allotted. It must be like working a jigsaw puzzle! Our show is amazing this year and I hope everyone has taken a minute to go and admire it with friends and family. We are so lucky to have this venue, and the Art Center folks seem to be equally satisfied with the partnership.

I thought the QOV presentation went very well. The recipients seem to be very appreciative of the quilts and the recognition. Barb did a great job as master of ceremonies. A big thank you to Mary Ann McGee and Joyce Herrin for all the help with their nominees.

We had the idea to incorporate a Quilt of Valor presentation with the opening ceremony of the quilt show in 2025. Something to explore.

I would like to end my missive by encouraging everyone to consider taking an active role in our guild next year. A slate of officers must be presented to guild members by the October business meeting and voted on in November. If you feel this is something you might be interested in, please contact Barb Linares (sewquiltingbarb@gmail.com) or Pat Hall (patfrompavo@gmail.com). If you don't feel ready to be an officer and would like to start small, there are many other jobs available throughout the coming year.

We have been floundering a bit since COVID shut us down two years ago. We have been slowly adding new members. I know it's hard to be a newbie and raise your hand before you get the lay of the land, but we need new blood with new ideas and new enthusiasm!

- Chris Summers, President

August 2023



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Withlacoochee Quilters Guild Meeting Minutes — August 14, 2023

The meeting of the Withlacoochee Quilter's Guild was called to order by President, Chris Summers, 7:10pm.

Quilts of Valor Presentation

The evening's activities began the presentation of quilts to honor service members. Barb Linares, a former service member herself, made the presentation as the guild awarded four Quilts of Valor to the following service members:

Janice Logue
 Donald Logue
 Richard Cutforth
 Joseph (Joey) Williams

As always, it was an honor and a privilege to say "thank you for your service" via a quilt.



See more photos from QofV on pg.4

August Birthday wishes were sent to Elsie Crane, Pat Hitchcock, Barbara Lindner, Rhonda Strand, & Elaine Taylor.

Minutes: Vicki F. moved to accept the minutes. Pat Hall seconded the motion. The motion was carried.

Committee Reports:

Treasurers Report: Joy Bass presented the treasurer's report as provided herein.

Withlacoochee Quilters Guild	
Treasurer's Report	
July 2023	
Balance Forward as of 6-30-2023	1840.00
Income	
Membership	30.00
Total Income	30.00
Expenses	
Misc. Expense	27.41
Total Expenses	27.41
Balance as of 7-31-2023	1842.59

Respectfully submitted,
 Joy Bass

Refreshments: Refreshments were wonderfully provided by Diane K. and Mary Ann M. The recipe for the delicious Strawberry Fluff can be found on the last page.

Hospitality: 21 members were present: Patti McGuffin, Jerry McGuffin, Judie Loveless, Barbara Lindner, Chris Summers, Pat Hall, Barb Linares, Ann Bussey, Ann Hoover, Joyce Herrin, Patricia Hawkins, Damaris Lane, Sue Johnson, Joy Bass, Dianne Melendez, Vicki Fenstermaker, Diane Kelley, Kathy Wynn, Teresa Smith, Elaine Southall, Elsie Crane. We had 6 guests.

The door prize winners were Damaris L. & Barbara Lindner



Joyce showed her completed Women of the Bible quilt! The new owner of the "Round To It" is Sue Johnson.

Membership: No Report.

Community Projects:

Not Forgotten Initiative — No more tote bags are needed, but small quilts are still requested.

Victory Children's Outreach — Many thanks for your generous contributions! We have collected over **200** handmade reusable sanitary hygiene products for the young women of Jinga Uganda. This will ensure they can continue to attend classes each month and enjoy a cleaner, healthier transition into maturity.

New Business:

Retreats:

The fall retreat dates are October 13-15, 2023. You can find a retreat form on page 7.

The spring retreat will be April 18-20, 2024.

The fall retreat next year is tentatively set for October 11-13, 2024.

Guild Quilt Show: The show is this year from August 3 thru September 16. Thank you to everyone who helped hang quilts. It was done in record time! Please see article on page 6 for information on the last week to see the show and how to collect your quilt on Saturday, September 16th.

Name Tags: Don't forget to wear your name tags. If you don't remember, add a quarter (or two), to the bucket.

Program of the Evening:

Quilt of Valor awards

September program — how to prepare your quilt for your longarm

October program — to be determined

Show and Tell: The following members showed their work: Mary Ann M., Dianne Melendez, Damaris L, and Diane Kelley. Please see the Showed and Told photos on the next page.

The meeting was adjourned by President Chris Summers at 7:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted — Barb Linares, Secretary

How to Be An Excellent (merit badge worthy) Guild Member

Please volunteer to help, if you are capable. Without someone to volunteer their time, resources, money, or skills, the guild will flounder. Decide if the guild is worth it to you and when an opportunity for an easy job comes up, stick your hand in the air. Ask what you can do to help, you may be surprised. Holding up quilts for the guest speaker, or helping gather trash are really important jobs.

Talk to people. If you meet someone new, you may learn a new technique, or find a new friend. Avoid being clique-ish by sitting in a different spot each meeting. And talk to new people each time! But...

Respect the meeting. Meetings are great if you haven't seen quilting buddies in a month and you need to catch up. But please respect the "business" portion of the meeting. Someone next to you may not hear that volunteer opportunity, and the guild suffers. Or the room's acoustics may be poor and side conversations make hearing the program more difficult.

If the guild doesn't offer you what you want, ask for it. Wish the guild would bring in your favorite author, or teacher? Ask for it! How else will they know? But if you ask for something, be prepared to offer to assist in making it become a reality. Even a little help goes a long way.

Don't use the business meeting time to publicly voice your concerns. Bring your issues to the board members before or after meetings, and ask to attend the next board meeting to address it. The board can then decide to air this during a meeting if the situation warrants it, and not risk embarrass the guild during the meeting in front of your guests.

Assess your membership often. Members need to have an idea of why they are joining the group in the first place. If, after attending a few meetings, you realize that you are not being fulfilled in the area you decided to join under, you have options. Consider discussing with the Board if there is an opportunity to bring what interests you to the guild, and consider volunteering to help, recruit some friends to assist! The guild should be a living organism, changing and adapting as members do, so don't be afraid to promote new ideas that interest you. Your interests have changed over the years, so the guild's should too!

Edit your comments. Inevitably, there will be a meeting whose subject or lecture is not to your particular tastes. This is not the time to announce loudly to your seatmates that you "could do better than that", or tell everyone how boring this talk is. Someone spent a great deal of time and effort and it is their interest. See the tip above if this happens consistently.

Basic Rules – Some of the basics make good reminders: Don't bring your food or drinks near other people's quilts. Ask before you touch any quilt, especially a speakers' quilts! Turn off your cellphones before the meeting starts. Have fun. Keep an open mind about new tips, techniques, projects, and programs... you might find inspiration in them! Make friends!

content abbreviated from an article by Cheryl Slebod

quilting merit badges sourced from here:

<https://grownups.quiltcadets.com/collections>



Quilts of Valor Program



SHOWED *and* TOLD



Setting a round-to-it

Joyce Herrin completed her Women of the Bible Quilt!



What Goes Up, Must Come Down (details submitted by Joy Bass)

Last Week to View the Quilt Show

The 2023 WQG Quilt is coming to an end. The last day to view the show is this coming Friday, September 15 at the Turner Center for the Arts located at 527 N Patterson St, in Valdosta. The Turner Center's hours are Tuesday through Thursday 10am-6pm and Friday 10am-4pm.

Here is also a link to the photo gallery of the show done by the Valdosta Daily Times in their August 5th online edition:

https://www.valdostadailytimes.com/multimedia/turner-center-little-collection-and-quilt-guild/collection_9a004668-32bc-11ee-a0ad-0b7a9ead09e6.html



Taking Down the Show

We will take the quilts down at 9am, Saturday, September 16. Please come help if you can. You may take your quilts then or ask someone else to pick up your quilts. Any quilts left at the Turner Center after 10 am will be placed in Joy's car and you can arrange to get them from her.

Thank you so much for sharing your beautiful creations. Joy looks forward to our next show in 2025.

Fall Isn't in the Air, But It Can Be Under Your Needle (pattern by Julie Cefalu)

<https://thecraftyquilter.com/2022/09/free-scrappy-leaf-block-pattern/>

Everyone needs a really good leaf pattern in their quilting repertoire, especially one that is colorful and allows you to utilize bits and bobs of your favorite fabrics. This is featured in fall fabrics, but would be adorable in shades of green, colorful batiks, or your favorite coordinating tropical prints. For those who like scrappy, this is just for you. For those who need quick gift (mug rug and a coffee gift card) or a piece of fall décor, this will also be a fun afternoon project.

Add a setting of scrappy border blocks and make a whole quilt!

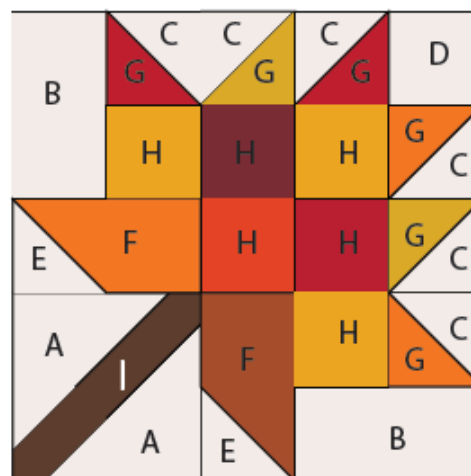
Or group four together, then set with your favorite coordinating fabric and make a different pattern for a whole quilt. Will you turn stems in, out or rotate around? Such a simply block allows for a surprising amount of variety when used in multiples... let your creativity run wild. Turn your AC up (now that Idalia is gone and we have power again) and pretend it is Fall!



Cutting Chart for one block

Select one finished block size and cut from that column

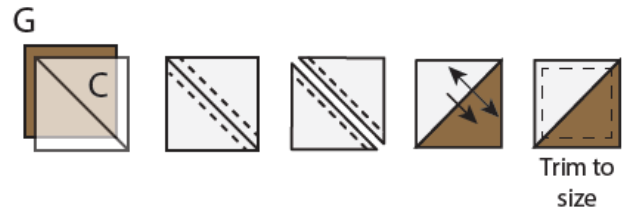
Color	Qty	Piece	5" size	7.5" size	10" size
background	1	A	3" square	4" square	5" square
↓	2	B	1.5" x 2.5" rectangle	2" x 3.5" rectangle	2.5" x 4.5" rectangle
	3	C	2" square	2.5" square	3" square
	1	D	1.5" square	2" square	2.5" square
	2	E	1.5" square	2" square	2.5" square
	2	F	1.5" x 2.5" rectangle	2" x 3.5" rectangle	2.5" x 4.5" rectangle
	3	G	2" square	2.5" square	3" square
	6	H	1.5" square	2" square	2.5" square
	1	I	3/4" x 4.5" rectangle	1" x 5.5" rectangle	1" x 7" rectangle



NOTE: Instructions are written for the 5" block size. Other sizes follow in (.). For example, 1.5" (2", 2.5")

Piecing

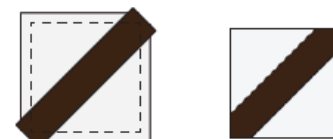
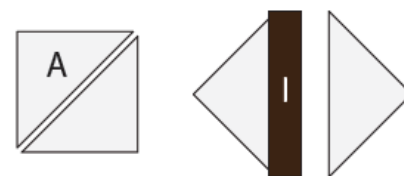
1. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of each background (C) square.
2. Place marked (C) square RST with a colored (G) square. Stitch on each side of the diagonal line.
3. Cut apart on the diagonal line and press open or towards the dark.
4. Trim HST unit to 1.5" (2", 2.5").
5. Make 6 HST units in a variety of colors.



6. Draw a diagonal line on the wrong side of two background (E) squares.
7. Place one marked (E) square RST on one end of a colored (F) rectangle. Stitch on the line.
8. Trim seam allowance and press towards the background fabric.
9. Make a MIRROR image of the pieced rectangle from above by repeating steps 6-8, making sure the diagonal line is going in the opposite direction.



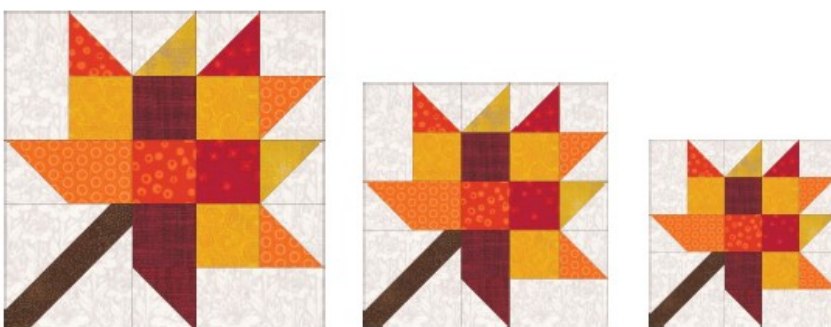
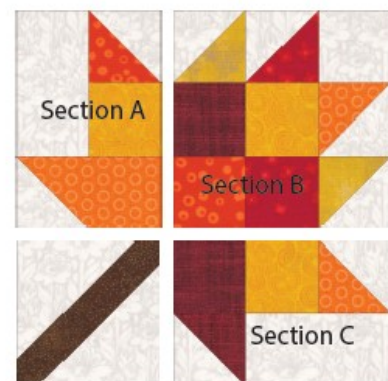
10. Cut the background (A) square in half diagonally to create two triangles.
11. With RST, place the (I) rectangle on the long side of one triangle, matching centers. Stitch.
12. Repeat using the other triangle.
13. Press seams open OR toward the background fabric.
14. Trim Stem Unit to 2.5" (3.5", 4.5") square.



Trim to size

Assembly

15. Arrange the B rectangles, HST's, pieced rectangles, H squares and stem unit as shown on the cover image.
16. Assemble the pieces into sections as shown. Press all seams open.
17. Use the table below-right to see what each section should measure.
18. Sew the sections together to create a leaf block.



Finished block sz.	5"	7.5"	10"
Section A	2.5" x 3.5"	3.5" x 5"	4.5" x 6.5"
Section B	3.5" x 3.5"	5" x 5"	6.5" x 6.5"
Section C	3.5" x 2.5"	5" x 3.5"	6.5" x 4.5"

Strawberry Fluff (Diane Kelley — served at August Business Meeting)

- 1 cup crushed pretzels
- ½ cup chopped pecans
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- ¾ cup melted butter
- 2 cups diced strawberries
- 8 oz. softened cream cheese
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 8 oz. whipped topping



Preheat oven to 400F

Mix together pretzels, pecans, brown sugar and butter.

Spread on a 9" x 13" baking sheet with sides and bake for 7 minutes. Allow the mixture to cool and break into small pieces.

Beat together cream cheese, granulated sugar and vanilla. Fold in whipped topping and strawberries.

Before serving, combine the pretzel crumbs into the cream cheese mixture.

Watch it disappear!

About Our Guild

The Withlacoochee Quilters Guild is a non-profit organization for those interested in quilts and quilting. This guild was organized to preserve and promote the art of quilting. Monthly meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 6:30 pm at Grace Bible Church, 401 East Park Avenue, Valdosta, Georgia. Guests are always welcome!

Dues, renewable by January 1st each year, are \$20 per year for

adults. Youth membership (ages 6-16) is \$10. After June 30th, dues are one half the regular fee for the remainder of the year.

Questions about the Guild?
Please contact a Board Member.

Withlacoochee Quilters' Guild
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2023 WQG OFFICERS

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