

Marion Bogden April 2024 Newsletter Bio

(Peggy) Are you from Arkansas originally?

Nope - I snatched me a US Army soldier stationed in Germany and married him in 1989; in 1992 we moved to Oregon. I love a man in uniform - he knows how to take orders. Huh? Did I just say that out loud???????

If not, how did you get here?

United Airlines to Oregon in 1992; a truck, travel trailer and a big U-Haul to Arkansas 5 years ago. What? Wrong answer? Well, y'all didn't expect me to swim or walk, did ya? We're still somewhat mystified as to WHY Arkansas, but we've always had an affinity for The South. It all fell into place within the last few years when we found out that my husband, Michael, is a direct descendant of the (more or less) famous pirate Jean Lafitte of New Orleans, and several Confederate Cajun Soldiers. We are now **officially** allowed to say "Y'ALL" !!!!!!!!!!!

Give a bit about your family (husband, kids) and career path.

My mother apprenticed as a Women's Tailor and both my grandmothers worked in spinning mills, so I decided on a degree in textile engineering/production. I completed one of my mandatory college internships at the mill my paternal grandmother had worked, and some old timers there still remembered her. Sadly, that mill closed down shortly after I graduated. I learned more during my internships than during time spent in class. I have always been a hands-on person.

A distinct lack of textile industry in Oregon didn't help my career, but I was pretty busy with two boys, a disabled husband (Gulf War) and a small chicken/egg farm anyway.

The original plan was to move to Arkansas to take it easy, but Michael's health has declined in the last two years, and I'm his unofficial (aka 'unpaid') caregiver, and especially chauffeur. We did accomplish one of our "it'll never happen" dreams, though, which was a geodesic dome - with a big loft for all my sewing stuff.

I'm usually up between 5 and 6 in the morning. I'm not an early riser, but our two dogs are..... (grumble).

Our older son Lukas is in graduate school at the University of Dayton, OH, to be a PA (Physician's Associate), and our younger son Gavin is working towards an MBA at Dallas Baptist University, TX.

YES! I do have other hobbies! Besides collecting fabric (ongoing), I also used to collect yarn.....especially sock and wool yarn. I currently have 25 pairs of socks started - obsessive? Who? Me? NEVER!!! It's just that I get creatively bored after one sock, so I thought if I finish the other 24 'first socks', it'll be all new again when I start the second sock for pair one.....short term memory loss helps, too.

During the cooler months, I also have an outside hobby of cutting and splitting firewood; as a teenager I pulled logs with our neighbor's draft horse. After a near fatal accident (my own really stupid fault!) in 2016 I now leave the felling of trees to our sons.....because I do not need *another* hole in my head.....

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When did you start sewing/quilting?

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away.....on my mother's treadle machine when I was about six years old. Oh, how I wish she'd not thrown that machine out when she bought her first electric one.....it was seafoam green.....

I used to make my own patterns and elastic-waist pants from old bedsheets and dye them - until one day I saw a pair in a store that looked exactly like mine! How dare they!!!

Since there was no such thing as a 'quilt' (or any decent cotton fabric!) in Germany in the 90's, I made my first *'patchwork blanket'* some time before 1992, and a few rather ugly/plain ones after moving to the US.

I sewed our boys' cloth diapers (all hail the serger!), and after selling some of the diaper covers (called 'wool soakers') I had made from repurposed sweaters, I spent about ten years making wool diaper covers and selling them online.

Early in 2016, our then teenage boys were arguing about who should get the tattered, old, raggedy, but oh-so-soft 'quilt' I had made before they were born. Trying to put an end to their squabble, I told them I'd make each of them their own blanket.....leading to a two-hour discussion at the fabric store with Lukas as to the difference between what he *wanted* and what I was actually *able* to sew.....I've completed 63 quilts since then, taking off two full years for moving here and getting everything settled, and picking up another hobby of refinishing furniture..... I am currently trying not to panic (yeah, fat chance!) while working on a wedding quilt for Lukas, who's getting married to Chloe in July.

Who were your teachers?

I don't recall my mother ever really 'teaching' me - I just watched when she was sewing and then started to try on my own. Not that I'd *ever* come close to what she can do! I've been known to fly to Germany, for a visit, with an old pair of pants and a new zipper in my luggage so that Mom can put the new zipper in.....

We also had mandatory home-ec in school; I remember having to make a skirt in 6th grade.....mine was red with little flowers, and I hated having to sew it!

How did you hear about our guild and how long have you been a member?

What I really wanted were those 100 or so spools of embroidery thread that were available at that auction one Saturday in October 2023, but just as I was about to leave for it, I found out it had been cancelled. Having decided to take the day off anyway, I remembered there was a quilt show in Mountain Home, so why not go there instead?

I had some questions about the way I make my quilts, and was invited to the next guild meeting; I joined in January 2024.

Maybe it was that free lunch at the Christmas meeting in December, who knows.....?

What has been your experience thus far?

Contrary to popular belief, I am actually a rather introverted person ("I don't like people!!!!"); having found that there are other fabric-crazy people out there is very comforting. I also really appreciate the support and encouragement, especially since I had been told several years ago (in

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Oregon) that what I'm making are not quilts and therefore could never be in a show. Not that I really cared, but when I showed one of my 'quilts' at a guild meeting, I was told to go ahead and show them anyway. I'm glad I did, since one of them received a totally unexpected second place at the Marshall quilt show in April this year. This could never have happened had it not been for the reassurance of y'all.

I also figured out why quilters give away or use new quilts only every two years.....after they've been in all the shows.....because hand-sewing a sleeve to a quilt *once* is enough and not everybody's favorite activity.....

Do you have goals for joining committees?

Yes and no. I'd love to help out as much as I can, but due to my husband's medical issues we're at one appointment or another several times a week. Or not at all - you never know. It can change from no appointments one week to three or four the next. Or one tomorrow. Anywhere from Harrison to Fayetteville or Springfield, MO. Well, at least there's a Sam's Club and Costco in Springfield.....

Planning ahead is somewhat difficult, but I am determined to help with the 2025 quilt show. Oh yeah, I got ideas, ladies and gentlemen.....[maybe insert evil laughter here?]

I am also working with Peggy to maybe create and organize the printing of a guild shirt - after the July *panie* wedding.....

What are your quilting goals?

I'm not sure I have any "real" quilting goals!

- * One quilt per month - getting close! Either that, or realizing that the world will not end if I don't finish one per month.....
- * Trying to use at least one stash before buying new fabric - yeah, right! Dream on.....
- * Using my brightly-hand-dyed fabric in the next quilt - I got the Amish Black contrast fabric ready!
- * WRITING DOWN EXACTLY WHAT I AM DOING before I put a PhD away.....I can never remember what I was thinking when I pick it up again later.....or maybe NOT putting it away but finishing it right then and there.....good luck with that !!!
- * Finally admitting that after 50 years of sewing and wearing out several machines, I have to take a class and learn how to properly use my new "Thank-goodness-for-no-interest-financing-Bernina". Sigh! I admit defeat, but reluctantly!!!
- * Organizing my sewing loft[insert never-ending laugh track here.....]
- * Oddly enough, having to hand-sew sleeves for the quilt show sort of made me want to actually *hand sew* an art quilt in the near future, but I'm sure there's medication for it if that urge won't go away on its own.

While I understand that many quilters strive for perfecting one technique or another, I'm actually quite comfortable with what and how I sew, now that I have discovered that safety pins are very handy for holding three layers together.....'nuf said!

What would you tell a beginner to whet their appetite for quilting?

THERE IS NO QUILT POLICE!!!

Run with it! There is more than one way to approach things! Listen to what people say, and then don't listen! Be a sponge, absorb everything, then do your own!

Depending on your temperament, you might want to go by the book and do exactly as a pattern requires it, or you might even start with a kit that has everything cut and ready. You can attend classes and learn new things, go to lectures, etc.....

Your goal might be to achieve that 'best of show' quilt that will eventually hang in the museum at Paducah. Go for it!

Or, you can just wing it and figure it out on your own, learning and doing as you go. If it makes you happy, do it!

If at first you don't succeed, ~~skydiving is not for you....~~ well, you know.....

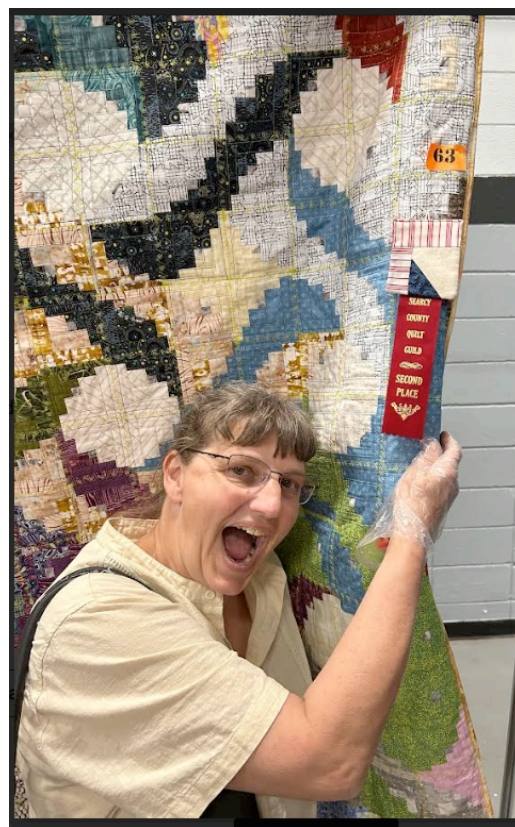
Whatever new quilting or sewing technique gets developed comes from one or more people NOT going by the book and figuring out their own way of doing it.

The ultimate compliment in my book is not what a show-judge says about your quilt, but how the recipient of that quilt cherishes it.

JUST PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T USE POLYESTER FABRIC !!!!!!!

Favorite quote justification (also the license plate holder on my 1969 Beetle): "Creative Minds are rarely tidy"

What? It's a good enough excuse for me !!!!



Picture: Me being happy and totally astonished at the Marshall quilt show