

March 12, 2016

Instructor: Donna Mather

Prairie Star

It's a Great Place to Be Retreat House ~ Reedsburg, WI

These comments are from a Student Survey the class attendees receive when the class is completed.

One of the questions listed on the survey:

Is there anything special that the certified instructor did that you believe goes above and beyond what you expected from the workshop that you would like to point out or commend them for?

“When some mistakes were made she voluntarily “unsewed” them so the student could keep on working.”

“I appreciated the demos and the hands on assistance Donna provided.”

“Donna didn't hesitate to help during our “off hours” – during the evenings as we were sewing and strictly not in class.”

“Donna is a very skilled and knowledgeable quilter and teacher. She was extremely helpful and applied clear and concise instructions for the Prairie Star quilt that included several new techniques. She included excellent hands on demos each step of the way so we could apply them during our class time as well as other tips she has learned for making our paper piecing even more precise.”

“I learned so much from Donna. I had purchased the Prairie Star pattern for my daughter who wanted it as her wedding quilt. I am a fairly competent quilter, but this was above and beyond anything I had ever attempted. Donna was very knowledgeable and extremely patient. She made suggestions about things we might do differently without making any of us feel foolish. That's a real trick as I've been in quilt classes where the teachers were not so graceful. At one point, I made a big mistake on the Lone Star blocks. Donna assured me it could be fixed and then patiently used her seam ripper to pick apart the “bad” sections. The class was very enjoyable and I hope Donna had as much fun as I did.”

“Donna is a natural to teaching Niemeyer patterns and it's obvious in her teaching about her love and respect for Niemeyer patterns and techniques. My suggestion is to ensure that all

instructors have this natural ability and love of Niemeyer techniques that reflect in their teaching. I've taken classes where the instructor is experienced, but not the love and respect.

I was in her class for the Bali Wedding Star and knew some Niemeyer techniques and I was shocked at how much I learned in this class. I feel that your continuing education for newer techniques is the key to success. Just look at how the 'smart corners' have improved in the process."

"Donna met our group two months in prior to the start of the retreat and instructed on cutting techniques. At this session she also gave advice on fabric color selections. This allowed us to have ample time to have all cut before the class actually began.

Donna kept an informal feeling to the class work, even though we were in a structured environment. Her 'light' attitude and ability to keep the work fun, eliminated stress and learning new techniques.

The one-on-one help was great. I didn't think gluing the seam allowance could be difficult, but had glue on the wrong side of the seam allowance. Donna advised while I glued with the results being successful. This is the only one example of one-on-one help and may seem trivial; however, she helped me with anything I asked about and left no questions unanswered.

I trimmed one side of a unit twice, making it 1/4 inch short. Donna told me how to correct without starting over on the entire unit and not just instructed, but ripped out the unit and re sewed it for me.

I was originally looking for a subtle color combination in my fabrics, but after starting to put units together I found I didn't have enough variance in color value. Donna did not make me feel inadequate and didn't advise to start over, but has encouraged me to move forward to complete the project."

"She set up a cutting (templates and fabric) demo in advance of the classes so we could prepare better ahead of time, at no extra charge! It was greatly appreciated."