

## Introducing our February speaker and Workshop Teacher: Linda Thielfoldt by Cyndi McChesney

My name is Linda Thielfoldt and I am a longarm quilter, quilt designer and quilting instructor from Troy, Michigan. My quilting passion started over 35 years ago when my sister was having her first child - I decided to make her a baby quilt and that first quilt started it all. Not too long after making that baby quilt the celebration of the bicentennial of our country was in full swing and quilting was thrust back into the limelight. As people all over the country looked for ways to celebrate 200 years of our heritage, quilts came back into vogue and all the ladies and home magazines were showcasing patterns for quilts you could make. I joined in the fun and got hooked on the whole quiltmaking process.

As the 70's turned into the 80's I made more and more quilts, hand quilted a good share of them and machine quilted many more of them on my regular home sewing machine. As you may know, the time it took to make the top was a lot less than it took to quilt them, so my pile of UFO (unfinished objects) steadily grew. As my skill at machine quilting progressed I started to look into the idea of a longarm quilting machine mainly to complete my own ever-growing stack of quilt tops. Over a decade ago, I purchased a longarm machine and The Quilted Goose was born.

Since starting my longarm machine quilting service, I have helped hundreds of quilt top makers complete their quilts and the thing I love most about quilting for other people is all the great stories that surround each quilt and the quilt top makers I get to meet - it is the best part about what I do. I often think about all the stories we will leave behind with our quilts for future generations to ponder over as they find our quilts at tag sales and antique stores a hundred years from now!

CQC asked Linda:

1. *Where does the inspiration for your designs come from?* I am always drawing and messing around with designs and when it comes to quilting the actual quilt I often take my

clues from the fabrics or the "look" of the top. I love looking at old quilts and sometimes you find the most interesting designs and often they are a jumping off point for me. I have hundreds of sketches and love to spend time drawing quilting patterns and often do so for a specific quilt.

2. *Who or what has been most influential in shaping the focus of your work?* Well I don't think there has been one person but I can say that I am most influenced by antique quilts. I love the look of an old quilt and some of the quilting is just breathtaking. I think I was drawn to feathers the first time I ever saw one quilted - I even named my company because of feathers.



3. *What do you see for the future of quilting in general in the next 10 years?* Oh, I think it is growing at a frantic pace. I think some of the more modern fabrics are drawing a younger audience and that is a good thing when you consider the average age of most quilters. I think you will see more and more crossover - that is, quilting fabrics being used for garments - I see that all the time on Pinterest and I think that is a good thing. *For you personally?* Well, I am working on a couple of new pattern series and more articles for publication and I don't see that changing - I love being involved with that and I also love sharing what I have learned over the past 37 or so years. I hope to

have a book published and be working on a follow up at the 10 year mark - I am thinking big here -LOL! I am going to spend the next couple of years working on competition things. I have been competing since 2002 and have not had as much time the past two years to really focus on that so I am taking the year off and not doing any shows in order to have the time to create. I am excited and have some fun things planned.

4. *While you are visiting CQC here in Colorado, what would you most like to see or do?* It has been about 20 years since I was in Denver so I guess I am open to just about anything. I am easy, I can be entertained or just left to my own devices - either way is good.