

## Free Motion Machine Quilting—Focus on Feathers

Sue Nickels

Friday, March 8, 2019

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Intermediate - 1 Day (students should have basic free-motion quilting experience)

Learn to free motion quilt beautiful feather designs on the home sewing machine. Sue has used the feather design successfully on many of her quilts. The feather is the ideal design for free motion quilting and is easier than you think. First, practice the techniques used to achieve beautiful, consistent and smooth stitches. Next, work on practice pieces to learn all about feathers starting with the basic feather and then moving on to motif feathers and whole cloth type feathers. Finish with fillers that add dimension to the feather. Fall in love with feathers. Sue will have many quilts that feature feathers to show for inspiration! Please note: Students will work on pre-printed practice squares that Sue provides.

**Kit fee: \$10** (Kit includes six marked practice squares)

### Supply List

Sewing Machine (bring instruction manual, extension bar or table and all accessories)

**Don't forget foot pedal and power cord!**

Darning foot—a must for free-motion quilting

(Sue prefers an open toe darning foot- #24 for Bernina)

Straight stitch throat plate (optional, bring if you have)

Seven 12" squares muslin (one extra square for practicing marking feathers)

Six 12" squares cotton, cotton blend or wool batting

50 safety pins- size 1 (I use size 1)

Sewing machine needles- 80/12 & 70/10 sharp (Schmetz brand called microtex sharp)

Cotton thread- off white and slightly contrasting colors such as gold, gray or tan. I use these weights and brands: Superior Masterpiece 50/3, Aurifil 50/2, Mettler 50/3 and Mettler 60/2. Bring a few different choices in weights and colors for practice. 100 weight silk can also be used for feathers- Superior Kimono silk and YLI silk are good choices.

Rubber Gloves- kitchen dishwashing gloves, good quality (I use the fingertips for control in free-motion quilting)

Basic sewing supplies- scissors or snips

Optional, but a good idea—small cushion for extra height

Sue's book "Fabulous Feathers and Fillers: Design and Machine Quilting Techniques" covers the details used to create beautiful feathers; not required.

