

10 Questions

for Donna McDade by Shirley Belcher

When did you become interested in quilting?

In 1986 I worked at Midffest and took a break to see the quilt show. A man stepped out from behind a quilt and said he'd made it. That man became my husband, the late Paul McDade.

To whom do you give credit on becoming a professional quilter?

Paul was a quilter and quilt judge. I was friends with quilt teachers, judges, and TV quilt personalities. It was like getting a PhD in textiles to become a certified master quilt judge with the National Quilting Association. I have taught and judged across the USA.

What is the best quilt pattern for a beginner quilter?

The simple 9-patch teaches basic quilting. Joining a quilt guild will help you learn techniques. The Buckeye Blossoms Quilt Guild meets at Central Connections and welcomes everyone from beginners to experts.

What does it require to be a quilter?

Fabric, needle, thread, scissors, a pattern, and eventually quilt batting. I prefer hand quilting.

What have you written?

I wrote 27 books with over 1,300 patterns I've designed. The books are *Quilt by Number. Foundation Pieced Patterns* Books 1 to 27. The Electric Quilt Company holds copyrights for over 800 of my



An award-winning quilter and quilt judge, Donna McDade shares her expertise with the Buckeye Blossoms Quilt Guild that meets at Central Connections on the second Thursday of the month. Donna enjoys our Painting with Purpose class on Wednesday mornings.

patterns and produced "Sew Precise 4," a CD collector item. I did an *American Indian Women's Clothing* booklet.

How did you begin writing quilt books?

I had rotator cuff surgery that left me crippled. Because of the pain, I couldn't hand sew but could use a sewing machine. At a large quilt show, I saw the technique demonstrated and could see how more complex designs could be made.

What quilting awards have you received?

Three pieces—"Cats with Ribbons," "Halloween," and "School Days" from my books—hung in a museum in Kiev, Russia. My crazy quilt was appraised at \$6,000. I have received 31 Best of Shows and have over 600 ribbons from local, state,

and national contests. Recently I received 4 states' first places in the Daughters of the American Revolution fiber contest and a third place in their national contest that qualifies me for a trip to Washington, DC, for their presentation ceremony. I won a second place in their national contest. I have had 2 exhibits of my 150+ miniature quilts. Articles about me or my patterns have appeared in 26 quilt magazines. My husband and I co-chaired the 2003 Bicentennial Quilt Show at the Ohio State Fair.

What organizations do you belong to?

Girl Scouts as a girl and now as leader and trainer (I have the equivalent of the Boy Scout Eagle badge), 4-H as advisor, Society for Creative Anachronism, Cake Mates, Polk Box Button Club, Queen City Lace Makers, International Organization of Lace, Ohio Quilts !!, Buckeye Blossoms Quilt Guild, Oxford Piecemakers, Miami Valley Quilt Guild, Daughters of the American Revolution, etc.

What are your other interests?

Lace and tatting, dolls from other countries, Native American bead work, genealogy, Pinterest, lecturing, all types of sewing, reading, thrift stores, and garage sales.

What programs have you enjoyed at Central Connections?

Spanish, sign language, oil painting, helping with the tatting class, using the library. 🌿