

Feedsack Expert, Quilt Historian To Appear At Bird-in-Hand

BIRD-IN-HAND (Lancaster Co.) — "For many women with a rural background, looking at the feedsack exhibit and historical quilts at the Hometowne Heritage Days will be a trip down memory lane. Feedsacks played an integral role in the fabrics of our history as well as in the history of fabric. In fact, they clothed Americans in the early 1900s!"

The quote is from Jane Clark Stapel, a feedsack expert known as the Bag Lady. Stapel, joined by fabric identification expert and quilt historian Gloria Hall, will kick off the Bird-in-Hand Hometowne Heritage Days Celebration during the grand opening ceremony on Sept. 7 at 10 a.m. Joining these "material girls" will be members of the Feedsack Club, the fourth grade class at Hinkletown Mennonite Elementary School, and residents from the Landis Home as they "tie off" the final panels in an "International Feedsack Quilt."

The International Feedsack Quilt, with a theme of "Reaching Into the Past to Preserve the Future," is being made exclusively for a special intergenerational and educational project in cooperation with the Hinkletown Mennonite Elementary and the Landis Home. The commemorative quilt, created from 80 feedsack swatches donated from around the world that are signed with the name and location and date of all participants, will be displayed throughout Hometowne Heritage Days then auctioned off via the Website www.members.aol.com/baglady111. The auction will close at the April 2002 Feedsack Club Annual Conference. The winner will receive the quilt as well as a certificate of authentic-

ty and history of the quilt. To view the progress of the quilt as it is being created, visit the Website at www.members.aol.com/baglady111/kidsblockproject.html.

According to Heritage Days Planning Committee Chairman John Smucker, Stapel and Hall will share the history of fabrics. Stapel will bring her trunk show — a traveling exhibit with colorful dresses, aprons, quilts and bonnets all created from feedsacks — and will recount humorous anecdotes of her association with feedsacks. Hall, who will provide quilt appraisals for a nominal fee, will bring a few of her favorite quilts. Appraisals, available both written or oral, are by appointment only.

"The importance of feedsacks and quilts in our American Heritage complements the theme of this year's Hometowne Heritage Days, "Renewing Old Memories and Creating New," said Smucker."

With that theme in mind, Bird-in-Hand representative Nancy Hess, a feedsack collector herself, has worked with Harriet Douples fourth grade class and the Landis Home to create The Grandpal Project, an intergenerational/educational service project. The students, who will meet their grandpal for the first time at the ceremony, will wear feedsack clothing and tie off the quilt, while the grandpals share memories. The children will later write about the experience. Other projects completed by the students for the program will be on display for the weekend.

With more than 800 members worldwide, the Feedsack Club is devoted to collecting and re-

searching the fabric bags. Stapel publishes a bimonthly newsletter, Switches and Swatches, focusing on the collectible sacks and acting as forum for members who want to buy, sell, and trade the feedsacks. She is currently working with Hess to accumulate stories for a future book. Visitors to Hometowne Heritage Days are encouraged to visit the feedsack booth and share tales for use in the book.

Bird-in-Hand Hometowne Heritage Days will also feature local craftsmen and artisans, a Pennsylvania Dutch Food Fair with hands-on demonstrations of the traditional dishes, and a quilting bee.

Special events scheduled for

the weekend are a free bluegrass concert with the Lykins Valley Bluegrass Band, on Friday at 6 p.m. and Saturday, the Eastern Lancaster County Sertoma Club 28th Annual Country Auction will start at 9 a.m. The Sertoma Club will also have a chicken barbecue on Friday, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, starting at 11 a.m. The club will serve breakfast on Saturday morning at 7 a.m.

Other activities include a cornfield maze, a petting zoo, a performing pig act, horse-drawn wagon rides, and the second annual Bird-in-Hand Open, played at the Waters Edge Mini Golf Course.

The Bird-in-Hand Hometowne Heritage Days is organized by the

Bird-in-Hand Corporation and underwritten by Hometowne Heritage Bank. Other sponsors are Turkey Hill, Sauder's Eggs, and WIOV. The event will be conducted in Bird-in-Hand on Rt. 340 (Old Philadelphia Pike), across from the Bird-in-Hand Family Inn.

The festival is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 7, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 8, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Rt. 340 in Bird-in-Hand in Lancaster County. Sunday evening of festival weekend will conclude with an old-fashioned hymn sing at 7 p.m.

For more information call (717) 768-8272 or visit the Website at www.bird-in-hand.com/events.

Maryland Extension Creates Forest/Wildlife Website

WESTMINSTER, Md. — Have you ever considered developing a forest stewardship plan, harvesting forest products, creating a riparian buffer, becoming a forest wildlife volunteer, taking a forestry correspondence course or managing your property for wildlife?

Well, information about these and many other natural resource activities and topics can be found on a new University of Maryland Cooperative Extension "Forestry and Wildlife Education" Website: <http://www.naturalresources.umd.edu>.

Designed for forest and farm landowners, natural resource professionals, educators, public officials and environmentally concerned citizens, the site contains a wealth of information on managing forest, wildlife and related water resources. Forestry and wildlife training opportunities for youth and adults; a forestry newsletter called Branching Out; a calendar of educational

events; and lists of state foresters, county extension offices and useful publications...and more...are just a 'point and click' away.

"The beauty of this Website is that it combines numerous resources on a variety of forest- and wildlife-related topics in one place," says Jonathan Kays, extension regional natural resources specialist. "Chances are, you'll find a link to the information you're looking for without having to conduct a time-consuming search in many different places."

Sauer's Herbal Cures Book Signing At Ephrata Cloister

EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.) — Colonial Americans seeking relief from aches and pains rarely

turned to doctors. Most medical care was found in the home, or in the home garden to be more precise. Small remedy books offered advice on various herbs and their particular characteristics that could provide everything from a soothing nerve tonic to hair dye.

One of the most popular and influential of these works among the Pennsylvania Germans was the serial publication of German-town printer Christopher Sauer. Now for the first

time in two centuries, the herbal advice offered to Sauer's readers is available in a new English edition as Sauer's Herbal Cures, translated and annotated by noted food historian William Woys Weaver. The Museum Store at Ephrata Cloister is sponsoring a book signing by Weaver on Saturday, Sept. 8 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Ephrata Cloister is located in Ephrata Borough, Lancaster County, on Route 322 at the intersection with Route 272. The historic site is open Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. For more information call (717) 733-6600.

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