

## Quilt Competition Judge

**Valerie Boman**

Chandler, Arizona

**V**alerie was raised in western Montana, then spent 10 years in Florida, after which she moved to Arizona. Her home for the last twenty-two years has been in Chandler, Arizona.



Valerie owns two quilting-related businesses. One is a Longarm machine-quilting business (started in 1994) and the other is Cotton Pickin' Designs, a pattern company that includes pieced and embroidered quilts, "Block-of-the Month" patterns and embroidered quilt designs. Cotton Pickin' Designs also has had four books that have been published, with more on the way.

Valerie teaches and lectures on various topics related to quilting, and is an NQA certified quilt judge. Aside from quilting, her hobbies include gardening, home decorating, genealogy, camping, home canning, birding and Geo-caching. She also belongs to several local groups that play MahJongg, Canasta and Pinochle.

Valerie loves being busy, and is always curious and interested in exploring and learning new things. She has traveled often over the years. Favorite trips have included exploring old cemeteries and courthouses in the Midwest as part of her search for her family history. She has always felt that there are never enough hours in a day.

## Quilt Competition Judge

**Diane Leclair**

San Antonio, Texas

**D**iane (De) is a self-taught appliqué artist who has been crafting quilts since 1981. Her quilts feature the colors of nature and showcase her love for appliqué. Her work has appeared and won awards at regional and national quilt competitions including 2006 NQA Best of Show Award. She is the recipient of the distinguished Masterpiece Quilt Award given by the National Quilt Association for Coeur du Vigne in June 2006.



For De, judging is a serious process and she feels that each quilt she sees deserves her full attention and affords her the opportunity to share with the maker a written critique. "I love every aspect of quilting and I am continually amazed at the innovative ways quilters construct and express their design ideas. Most of all I love the art of quilting and the closeness it fosters in all of us. Serving as a judge is an honor and a privilege and I thank each entrant for sharing their work for others to enjoy."

De is a member of several quilt organizations and guilds including the Greater San Antonio Quilt Guild. She has served as a volunteer and staff member at NQA shows since 1999. She obtained her National Quilting Association Judging Certification in 2002 and was qualified to judge masterpiece quilts in 2005.

## Garment Judge

**Sue Moats**

Silver Spring, Maryland

**S**ue Moats will be judging the garment category in the HMQS competition along with Gayle Wallace. Sue took her first quilting class in 1987



and now, over 21 years later, she is still having fun making "wearables" and teaching classes to encourage other quilters to "Wear You Work & Advertise Your Business." Sue's garments have been in juried wearable art shows and have won awards in local, regional and national quilt shows.

Sue assisted several years as a scribe, fanner and helper in the Judging Room at national quilt shows, and served as co-coordinator of the holding rooms during judging. She was a judge at the Maryland State Fair. One of the handouts for Sue's garment classes is a set of tips called "What Judges Look For."

In addition to being a longarm quilting artist and teacher, Sue is a Freelance Educator representing Sulky of America. She loves traveling to teach how to use specialty threads on both longarm and DSM (domestic sewing machines). Since Sue has 21+ years worth of wearable art garments, she presents a fun trunk show called "You've Come a Long Way Baby". In 2007 Sue was an HMQS Featured Teacher with a display of her garments.

Sue lives in Silver Spring, Maryland and has a retirement cabin in West Virginia, which is her home state.

## Garment Judge



**Gayle Wallace** is the Quilt Challenge & Auction judge as well as a judge of the garment categories in the quilt competition. See page 13 for her bio.