

# Stitchers Hideaway!

## 2004 Eden Prairie, MN Fun Report

with

### Jeannette Douglas of Jeannette Douglas Designs

We were absolutely thrilled with the Northwest Sampler -- our retreat project designed by Jeannette Douglas of [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#) for the Eden Prairie, MN stitchers. It was far more beautiful and detailed than photos were able to capture. Jeannette has a wonderful way of adding dimension to her designs through a variety of stitches. I'm still marveling over the raspberries made from beads -- they look good enough to eat!

But let's start at the beginning.

First, Jeannette was the one who picked *me* up from the airport. She had driven from Canada with her friend Nancy. Since we had never met, Jeannette told me I should wear my Minnie Mouse hat -- which I did -- but we had no problem recognizing each other after exchanging some very silly photos of ourselves by email. We immediately drove to the Minnetonka General Store where we had a DELICIOUS lunch and then spent about 3 hours shopping. The store was filled with unique gift items. Oh, my. We definitely lightened our wallets there! Then we drove Nancy back to the airport so she could hop a flight to Des Moines to visit her son.



After checking in at our hotel, Jeannette and I paid a visit to [Stitchville USA](#) in Minnetonka. WHAT AN AWESOME SHOP!! If you're ever in the area, you've just *got* to stop in! They have an extensive selection of linens and fibers, *lots* of models on display, all the newest designs - a stitcher's paradise. Jeannette and I lightened our wallets once again and enjoyed every second of it.

That night we ate at Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que in Minnetonka. We can report that the barbequed ribs are outstanding enough to truly be famous! We were there quite late enjoying our meal and chatting. Soon we realized we'd better get back to the hotel for a good night's sleep before the retreat began.

There is always a lot of excitement and anticipation as each retreat begins -- not only for the stitchers, but for the instructor and me as well. We could hardly wait for everyone to arrive! We set up the room as quickly as possible, and Deb (right) from [Stitchville USA](#) set up a mini-shop.

Suddenly it was time! The stitchers began to arrive -- from Wisconsin, California, and Minnesota. Everyone received their Fun Packs, played in their stash, and shopped for more stash! (We did a LOT of that - ha-ha!!). I told Debbie she was the Evil Enabler because she had so many wonderful things that none of us could resist them!!





Emily (left) from California won the prize for being the stitcher who traveled the farthest. Oh, she was a happy girl! And her prize prompted a stitcher to ask longingly, "Is there one for the stitcher that traveled the least?" That had us all laughing!

After a bit we all settled down for our first class. I LOVE opening a brand-new kit and seeing a brand-new design!! We had a generous cut of Zweigart Flax Linen, Jupiter

Inc! charms, Mill Hill beads, Just Another Button Company buttons, along with threads from Weeks Dye Works, Gentle Art Sampler Threads, Simply Shaker Threads, Needle Necessities, Gloriana Silk, and The Thread Gatherer Silk 'n Colours. It was such an interesting assortment -- but not surprising after we began working on our project and learned how particular Jeannette is in her selection of colors, fibers, and stitches to capture the details of her design. And what a design! It began with a lodge among pine trees and then continued with bands depicting history and scenery of Minnesota. There were loons (state bird), butterflies, Lady Slipper (State flower), moccasins, lakes, canoes, oars, wheat sheaf, beaded raspberries, pine cones, fish, a moose, flag, scampering deer, and even mosquitoes! What a wonderful remembrance of Minnesota! And written in with her instructions for each band was information about Minnesota. Her instructions were so easy to understand, and there were new stitches for us all to try.



As we began working on the sampler, we learned a bit about Jeannette and her travel adventures. It was quite a story and we gave her a lot of ribbing about it throughout the retreat.



After lunch we shopped and played in the Fun Pack stash. There were items from Brightneedle, Finger Works, [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#), Just Nan, [Rosewood Manor](#), [KreiniK](#), Mill Hill, monsterbubbles, Nordic Needle, Sue Hillis Designs, The MonkeyWorks, [The Victoria Sampler](#), The Prairie Schooler, [Udder Cream](#), [With My Needle](#), and [Weeks Dye Works](#). It was great! Thank you, DONORS!

We went back to class and accomplished quite a bit that afternoon. We went over the mosaic stitch, long arm cross stitch, half rhodes and tied oblong stitches, and the pinched cross. The pinched cross was new to a lot of us, and was pretty cool!

We had a lot of fun getting to know each other throughout the retreat. Many of us made a point to sit with different people at each mealtime just to get to know each other. Gee, it seemed like we were doing a lot of eating! Ha-ha!

That evening we had Show 'n Tell and it was great! We saw a variety of stitched designs and techniques used. Kenne, who stitches models for Stitchville USA, just amazed us. She had stitched the same design in about 12 different color schemes. When we looked at them one after the other, they all seemed so different it was hard to believe it was the same design! Kenne just about stitches at the speed of light. A week after the retreat she already had her sampler being framed at Stitchville USA! Kenne even stitches standing up! See?



We saw some wonderful stitched pieces -- even some quilting. So many of us are multi-talented! We had some sisters among us, and some sisters-in-law. It's so nice to have a family member to share your addiction with!



I told everyone about my husband paying a visit at the first Stitcher's Hideaway in Mystic. He stuck his head in the room and had the strangest look on his face. I thought something was wrong! I stepped out into the hall with him and said, "Honey, what's the matter?" He glanced back into the classroom a couple more times and then said, "They...they...they look like aliens!" I looked in and cracked up! The stitchers had a variety of magnification devices on top of their heads and attached to their eyeglasses! He was right! Ha-ha!! And when I received the photos back from the MN retreat and saw this shot of Mary, I knew I had proof that stitchers are at least another breed!!



Some of us had some common sense and went to bed at a decent hour, but as usual, I had no common sense. I'm so thrilled to have time to just sit and stitch that I never want to stop once I start. Eventually butt paralysis and blurry vision took over and those who had remained finally admitted they needed to sleep.

The next day after a hearty breakfast, we gathered once again in the classroom. Every time we returned to the classroom, we found more freebies and surprises waiting for us! And there were some wonderful and generous doorprizes from Stitchville USA, too!



Vicki & Loretta

We continued with our sampler, learning to make mosquitoes, moccasins, trees, pinecones and Lady Slippers. We learned the firefly stitch, sprat's head, windmill, off set woven stitch, and feather stitch. We quickly learned that Jeannette has her own way of *modifying* just about every stitch you could think of! And she just loves to *compensate* her bands! This led to our giving her a lot of ribbing about it, of course. And we LOVED her modifications and compensations!!

We proclaimed LuAnn (right) our Class Clown. She continually livened up class time and was a real delight. What a stitch! (pun very much intended!)



After lunch and yet more freebies, we learned many more delightful *modified* stitches: herringbone, wave stitch, and butterfly stitch. Then, oh joy! We learned to make raspberries with Mill Hill beads. They came out so nice!!

Next, we tackled the three-sided stitch, and some one-over-one stitching, the star stitch, medieval stitch, and long arm cross stitch.



Kelly and sisters Diane & Janet

Before we knew it, our stitching was actually really looking like something! Jeannette managed to get us through all the stitches painlessly! And you know what? We really did a great job!! We were so impressed with ourselves!! Even though we were working right on the sampler itself, it was a generous cut of fabric and some of us tried out the new stitches on a side so we could learn with the class while going at our own pace on the sampler itself.



That night after dinner we went right back to stash enhancing (after all, you never know when there might suddenly be a needlework famine). And then we had a great time receiving wonderful door prizes!! They were donated by Brightneedle, Calico Crossroads, Charles Craft, Glory Bee, Just One More, Nordic Needle, Rosewood Manor, Stitcher's Hideaway, Stitchy Kitty, The MonkeyWorks, The Victoria Sampler, and Wichelt Imports, Inc. And all this was on top of the ones from Stitchville USA. There were some VERY, VERY happy stitchers!! It was so much fun to see Kenne receive the door prize from The Victoria Sampler because she had told me just that morning that Thea Dueck was her favorite designer.



Oh, I hated to see the retreat end! I didn't want anyone to leave! Couldn't we just stay and stitch together for the rest of our lives? {sigh} Some of us stayed once again and stitched to an unreasonable hour, but one by one we eventually bid farewell and wandered off to bed.

The next morning Jeannette and I were joined by Vicki and Loretta for a trip to Perkins for breakfast. Afterwards, Jeannette headed off for the Mall of America with her Canadian friend who had returned from Des Moines. Me? I collapsed! No kidding! It was clear to me that I needed to when I noticed a big iron grid over a drain in a sidewalk and thought to myself, "Hmmm...that must be about a 4 count." And when I began noticing the weave on a tablecloth and figured it was about a 40 count, I knew it was time to focus on something else for a while! I took a walk in the hotel courtyard and enjoyed the flowers and cool air. Then back in my hotel room I plopped myself into a comfy chair with ottoman, drank lots of ice water and watched mindless tv for a couple of hours. At some point I realized that the floor lamp next to the ottoman with its built-in tray was just the most perfect stitching nook. Out came the sampler again and I finished up all my beautiful lady slippers! I went back to spacing out again and realized I was sitting there smiling to myself. I was thinking about all the stitchers I'd met and the fun we'd had.

I'm going to miss you, stitchers! But I'll see you at next year's retreat with Thea Dueck as instructor!! YAY!!  
Sue



Mary and Vicki taking a sneak peek at Jeannette's work on the sampler for the Mystic retreat scheduled for November. We saw the ancient stone walls stitched up and they were really neat!



*"I just want to say how much I enjoyed the retreat. I am still working on my piece but I stopped in to Stitchville yesterday and Kenne has already finished hers.*

*I really enjoyed getting to know Jeannette, she was so much fun. I guess if you had to sum up the weekend it would be 'Laughing, stitching, eating, stitching, laughing, eating and stitching some more'. What a great group of stitchers. Thanks so much for organizing it, it was good to finally meet you after reading all your emails and I am looking forward to next year. I am hoping I can go to Mystic in November. I would really enjoy another weekend with Jeannette and her piece for Mystic looks great. Besides, it would be nice to really get away from it all and explore someplace new." ~ Diane*

*"Can't wait to see the "Fun Report"! That was the best time I've had in a long time! I've been able to make some progress on my sampler and have REALLY enjoyed impressing my stitching friends! Thanks for making the whole thing possible! You arrange a great place with terrific rooms, wonderful service and nice meals. You have a wonderful designer - and yes, she IS a REALLY good teacher and her instructions are perfect! You even did most of the work on the thank you notes for us. Thanks again for such a special, relaxing time!" ~Mary*

*"Thank you so much for that wonderful weekend. I had so much fun. Being with a group of stitchers is heavenly.*

*As you have heard, my piece is done. Deb framed it and it is hanging in my living room. It looks wonderful. I can hardly wait until the next Hideaway. If I could sign up now, I would. It will be fun to see you again. Keep stitching - and thanks again." ~ Kenne Jean*

“Thanks again for a great retreat. It was perfect: so well organized, nice facility, terrific door prizes! Jeannette Douglas is a wonderful teacher. Her sampler, a special design for Minnesota, is a joy to stitch. Great time! I'll see you next year at your '05 retreat!” ~ Loretta



*“I had a wonderful time at the Eden Prairie Stitcher's Hideaway. It far exceeded my expectations, and I think much of its success was in its simplicity ... stitch ... eat ... stitch ... eat ... stitch ... eat ... stitch ...eat! I have been lucky enough to have had classes with Jeannette Douglas before, but in a more crowded and rushed venue. Having two full days, and some elbow room, to work on Jeannette's unique versions of "specialty stitches" was a treat. Also, the Minnesota sampler she designed for us was stunning. I knew it would look better than the scan; they always do, but again, this exceeded my expectations. Sue, you did a great job, and I'm also thankful to Stitchville for their part--and happy that some travelers got to visit our amazing LNS as part of the experience!” ~ Virginia*



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