

# **'HOW-TO' BARN QUILT CLASS: BASICS FROM INSPIRATION TO INSTALLATION**

Presented by Town of Colton Tourism & Beautification Committee  
(Ruth McWilliams, Coordinator and Presenter)

## **ANNOUNCEMENT FOR CLASS AT COLTON-PIERREPONT CENTRAL SCHOOL**

**WHEN?      APRIL 16-18, 2019**

**DAY 1 / APRIL 16 (9am – 5pm): SET UP**

All first-time barn quilt painters will create 2x2 foot barn quilts in the class; and only designs with straight lines can be done by first-timers. There are thousands of traditional quilt block patterns and Ruth McWilliams will have books and other materials available for participants to select designs. Participants, however, are encouraged to consult with Ruth in advance ([ruth@catamountlodge.com](mailto:ruth@catamountlodge.com)) about their interests and possible designs. Participants can depart on Day 1 after completing set up which usually takes 5-6 hours to select and graph the design, select colors, sand and prime the board, and draw the design on the board. Actual painting of the design begins on Day 2.

**DAY 2 / APRIL 17 (9am – 5pm): BASICS INFORMATION AND PAINTING**

All participants will receive a packet of information and begin painting projects while being coached and assisted as needed. Participants should plan to stay for the entire 8 hours which includes a 1-hour presentation from 9-10am, leaving plenty of time for painting and taking breaks for lunch and otherwise.

**DAY 3 / APRIL 18 (9am – 5pm): PAINTING AND TOUCH-UPS**

Participants must plan to attend Day 3 in order to complete their projects. Often participants finish in 4-6 hours on the third day. A photo of each participant with his/her completed project will be taken before departure.

**WHERE?      SCHOOL ART ROOM / ROOM 133**

The class is being held in the school which is the home base for the town-school 'Art Around Town' project which features barn quilts. The school is located at 4921 State Highway 56 near the hamlet of Colton; and the Art Room is a short walk from the south entrance of the school toward the hamlet of Colton. There is ample parking near the south entrance. The class is on the first floor with bathrooms nearby.

**HOW MANY? 10 OR SO PROJECTS**

There is room for about ten projects, mostly 2x2 footers for first timers attending the class and/or a few larger projects measuring up to 4x4 feet for returning, experienced painters. Only returning, experienced painters can take on larger projects during the 3-day class. First timers will be given priority; and space will be allocated on a first come, first reserve basis. Participants must plan to attend all 3 days to complete projects.

**PURPOSE:** Overall goal is to introduce participants to barn quilts and to build confidence to paint barn quilts for selves and/or others. Participants will be informed about the history of barn quilts; and will learn the basics of creating a barn quilt (as outlined below) through the presentation of information and hands-on activities. All participants will leave with completed projects.

Overview—Learn about the following through presentations and discussions:

- ✓ History of barn quilts in the United States, St. Lawrence County, and Town of Colton
- ✓ Basic steps from inspiration to installation
- ✓ Painting guidelines and other hints
- ✓ Supplies
- ✓ Installation insights

Hands-on Activities—Learn about the following by working on actual barn quilt projects:

- ✓ Sanding and priming medium density overlay (MDO) plywood (also known as sign board)
- ✓ Drawing design on graph paper, then on primed board
- ✓ Taping design for painting
- ✓ Painting design and doing touch-ups

**REGISTRATION:** All participants must register with Ruth McWilliams ([ruth@catamountlodge.com](mailto:ruth@catamountlodge.com)) and pay at least the registration fee to the Town of Colton (explained below). Barn quilts measuring 2x2 feet can easily be done by one person. Two-person teams are allowed for larger projects measuring up to 4x4 feet but both participants must pay the registration fee. Participants will be approved on a first come, first reserve basis.

**FEES:** The fees to attend include two costs—registration fee and materials fee.

- (1) **Registration Fee**—The registration fee is \$15, payable to the ‘Town of Colton.’ It covers the cost of information and training plus it supports the town-school ‘Art Around Town’ project. If the owner of a barn quilt brings an assistant, then the assistant also must pay \$15.
- (2) **Materials Fee**—Owners of barn quilts being painted during the class must pay for their materials (board, primer, paint, and tape) to be supplied by the Town of Colton Tourism & Beautification Committee, including the Benjamin Moore Aura Waterborne Exterior Paints (Low Lustre) from the Affinity Colors palette. Participants will be able to choose from about 80 paint colors in the palette. The fee for materials does not include use of other supplies which will be available free of charge (e.g., rulers, graph paper, brushes, rollers, and more). The cost of a 2x2 foot barn quilt painted with 3 colors is \$50 unless the cost of the sign board and/or other supplies goes up. There is an additional \$5 charge if 4 or more paint colors are used. The cost of materials for boards of other sizes painted during the class will be itemized.

Note...if a participant needs extra assistance above and beyond the norm in order to complete a project in three days, then a \$15 helper fee may be charged. Paints and other supplies will not be loaned out following the class for participants to complete projects.

The total fee for the owner of a 2x2 foot barn quilt could be \$65 (\$15 to register + \$50 for materials) which is quite a bit less than the \$125 (plus or minus) price tag to purchase one measuring 2x2 feet, depending on complexity, painted by the Tourism & Beautification Committee or others.

Each participant will receive an invoice covering both the Registration and Materials Fees on Day 3 from Ruth McWilliams on behalf of the Town of Colton Tourism & Beautification Committee. Payment is due on Day 3. Only cash or checks made out to ‘Town of Colton’ will be accepted.

**FOOD AND DRINKS:** Participants must bring their own drinks, snacks, and meals. Since there is no refrigerator in the room food should be brought and stored in coolers.

**FINAL NOTE:** During the three days participants should wear clothes for painting; and must be able to stand for several hours at a time and be able to bend over tables to prime and paint boards.