



## **Deb Heatherly- Bio for Quilt Fest**

Deb Heatherly is a former freelance writer and designer for Quilt magazine and has been quilting for 42 years. Her first introduction to sewing was at age 3 when her mother, an accomplished seamstress, and former fabric shop owner, stacked Sears Roebuck catalogs under the machine's foot pedal so that she could reach it. Deb soon learned to make doll clothes and eventually her own clothes, proudly wearing one of her creative on her first day in high school.

Although no one in her family had ever quilted, in 1982 she took the plunge and has not stopped since. While her mother does not understand why anyone would cut up good fabric and sew it back together, she is one of her biggest fans.

Although originally from Charleston, SC, Deb has called the beautiful mountains of Franklin NC her home for the past 22 years.

Upon moving to Franklin, Deb opened a quilt shop named "Deb's Cats N Quilts." The shop got its name from an article that she wrote for QUILT magazine entitled "All I know about quilting I learned from my cats." The article had such a huge response that it was inevitable that her shop she would play upon that theme. Samples and vignettes throughout shop left no doubt that she is truly a lover of both cats and quilts.

The shop was honored to be featured in SAMPLER magazine in 2016 and although she loved being a shop owner, Deb sold the shop soon after that article so that she could design for Creative Grids® full time. The shop was renamed when it was sold and Deb still publishes under the name Deb's Cats N Quilts. She also has a website by this name [www.debscatsnquilts.com](http://www.debscatsnquilts.com)

To date she has designed 8 specialty tools for Creative Grids®, The Cat's Cradle and Cats Cradle XL, The Strippy Stars Tool, Turbo 4-Patch, The Ultimate Flying Geese Tool, The Kitty Cornered Tool, The Half Rectangle Trim Tool, and The Hunter's Stars Trim Tool. She is also the author of 8 books and hundreds of patterns that use these tools. Her greatest joy comes from developing techniques and tools that help even a beginner have success. Although she loves all fabric, her love of reproduction fabrics and primitives is reflected in many of her designs.

Deb is the creator of an online Facebook group called 'Grids Girls' which had over 14,500 members from all over the world. She designs two special mystery quilts for the group each year that are highly anticipated by the group members.

Deb is married to her husband Phil and they currently have 5 spoiled kitties: Max, Monroe, Timmy, Little, and Loo Loo. She has one daughter and one grandson. She also has a sister who has discovered quilting in just the past year. Her family members each claim to be her biggest fan.

Deb is now limiting her traveling schedule, (to spend more time with her husband and the furry kids), but still hosts 2 annual retreat and teaches zoom classes almost monthly.

