



4500 Shores Dr., Ste 103
 Metairie LA 70006
 504-888-2458

Shop hours
 Tues-Fri 10 til 5 ♦ Sat 10 til 3
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I've been trying to compose an update for the last 1-1/2 weeks and just couldn't get the words to flow. On Sunday Angela, Janet & I drove to the Greenwell Springs area to help a customer move her needlework from her flooded home. We had an idea what to expect because the shop took on water during Katrina and we had to move everything out at that time. But this was worse. We brought home a van full of messy, dirty and foul smelling fabric and fibers to clean. Before we could clean them, though, we had to clean the bags that they were in. The small plastic bin at left contained hundreds of threads. You can see many spread out drying in my laundry room.

Seems overwhelming doesn't it. If you flooded and are facing the same daunting task, I'm going to share what I've learned from stitchers.

1. Be patient. You don't have to accomplish the final end result in one week or even one month.
2. Don't toss everything even if you think it's hopeless, because it probably isn't. Our emotions cloud our judgment. If you have an area where you can spread out and dry the items you would really like to keep (no matter the condition) do it. When the items are dry you can begin to clean them.
3. For the fabrics, I threw them all in the washing machine on the regular cycle using cold water and a little Tide. After the first washing, I washed them a second time, adding a little more Tide than the first time. (Angela had to do a little more washings because the fabric she had was from kits and the other items in the kit discolored the fabrics.) My thought was "what do we have to lose". We'll just call it own home overdyed fabric named River Water!
4. For the fibers (which were mostly stored in Floss-a-way bags) I spread the bags in my bathtub and ran cold water to cover them and swished them around. Then I let the water out of the tub and repeated the process 4 or 5 times until I felt like I had gotten all of the grime off the outside of the bags. The next step was to squeeze water out of the floss bags. [I learned that plastic bags apparently can have lots of pin holes that you don't see, but that allow water to get in.] Then you need to put the threads where they can dry for an extended period of time. When dry you can wash & rinse each thread individually. Here's the problem, though. Those paper labels on the overdyed floss don't stay intact in water so you will need to keep (or write) the name of the thread nearby as it is drying. You will find that some colors bleed a lot and change but others are almost like you bought them. If you have time & patience you can save a lot of fibers.
5. So far I haven't gotten to any of the completed stitching that was finished as a stand-up or hanging ornament, etc. They will have to be taken apart and cleaned and probably finished in a different manner.

I also learned that I need to change how I store my stash. All of my threads will be in Floss-a-way bags (many are already stored that way) and the bags will zipped closed and then be kept in plastic bins with lids that lock onto the bin. All of my fabrics will be serged (they usually are since we do that as a customer service at Accents and they didn't unravel when washed) and placed into zip bags and zipped closed. Not sure how I will store my accessories and such, but I know that they, too, are impacted upon contact with water so I'm guessing I'll have lots of plastic in my storage area. Also can't yet figure out what to do with my charts. I do know that I will definitely look for something waterproof to store the local books that I do not want to lose. When I find something that I think is awesome, I will share it with you. And if you have already found something awesome, I'd love to hear from you. - *gayle*



Fred's Kinkadee event was this past weekend. Stop in to see how beautiful the illuminated pieces turned out.

The Saints will be 50 on November 1st. The design below commemorates the occasion. It's attached to this email so feel free to print it out for your stitching pleasure. Use your own choice of gold.



2016 National Exhibit
FREE Open to the Public
 The American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.
 Hyatt Regency
 601 Loyola Avenue
 New Orleans, LA 70113
 Sunday, August 28 noon - 5:00pm
 Monday, Aug. 29, Thursday, Sept. 1, 10:00am - 5:00pm
 Friday, September 2, 2016 9:00am - noon

The American Needlepoint Guild invites you to a free national award winning exhibit! Come see exemplary pieces of hand created art worked with needle and thread. Cast a ballot for your favorite piece.

For more information on needlepoint - visit us during our 44th Annual Seminar where we have instruction and shopping opportunities. online at www.needlepoint.org, a local director or a needleart shop near you.



A reminder: the Am. Ndlpt Guild seminar is in NOLA. The exhibit is free and open to the public at the Hyatt Regency hotel. Call a friend and make a fieldtrip to visit it. I am hoping to go on Sunday afternoon, but don't have firm plans yet. Maybe I'll see you there! - *gayle*

WALK THROUGH ACCENTS VIA GOOGLE. . .A video was created of Accents' interior for Google maps. You can see it by searching for our address: 4500 Shores Dr. Metairie LA 70002 on GOOGLE. (& only on Google). When you see the Google map and the image of our building, click on the building and then on our door and the video will open. You can then use the arrows to "walk through" the inside of the shop. We will have this video on our website just as soon as we can figure out the instructions telling us how to upload it.