

SeaHope Bag—The Perfect Mate



I've sewn on many different fabrics, but recycled sails—this was a first! There's not a sailboat docked in my driveway or one moored nearby. The recycled sail fabric was sent to me by [SeaHope Partners](#), a not-for-profit organization that helps mend people's lives who were affected by the 2010 Gulf oil spill. The featured project of [SeaHope Partners](#) is a Messenger Bag. Mostly, bags are made without embellishments, featuring the sailcloth. Blemishes and wear enhance the richness of the bags and reflect the rich nautical history they embody. Some of the bags have some detail—nautical numbers and markings as well as original details of the sails themselves.



I was asked to be part of the Designer Series. The person spearheading this entire project is Margaret Jankowski. You may have seen her on [Sewing With Nancy](#), when she spoke about [The Sewing Machine Project](#) mending communities, one sewing machine at a time. Margaret wasn't satisfied helping just one group of people!

This weekend numerous designer bags will be on display at [Absolutely Art](#). You can look at other designer bags or the plain designer bags online. The bags are roomy and sturdy, the perfect computer travel bag. Margaret is the Messenger Bag model, showing the inside design features.



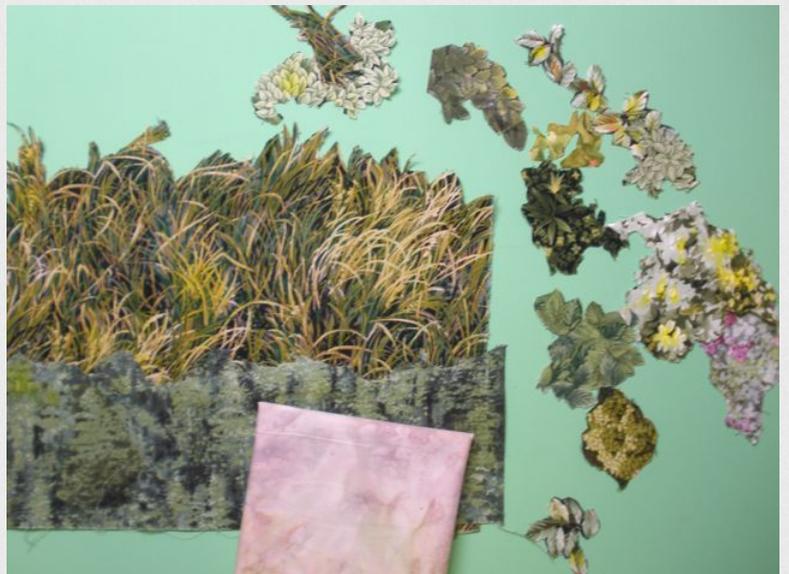
To embellish my SeaHope bag, I used left-over pieces from numerous landscape quilts, I create a scene from [Horicon National Wildlife Preserve](#). It was an enjoyable process. Who said fabric landscapes must become wall hangings?

Here's the process I used to embellish the sail fabric

The recycled sail arrived precut. There were also markings to indicate where the straps and label would be sewn. I had fun as I created the embellishment.



My extra landscape fabric cut-out pieces were gathered. More pieces were fussy and messy cut.



I decided to totally cover the sailcloth. The fabric pieces were positioned with a paper glue stick—my favorite

landscape basting tool.

After positioning the pieces, I stippled. It was easy and the sail fabric was stable so there wasn't any shifting.



It's always great to add highlights with permanent marking pens. A "kiss" of sunshine and an accent of orange gave life to the marsh scene.



I tried to design the scene continuous when the flap was closed or open. This is what the piece looked like when the designing stage was over.



Several weeks later, Margaret sent me photos of the completed bags. I was delighted with the finished look!



If you'd like a SeaHope Partner Messenger Bag, [visit their site](#). You'll enjoy the sturdy and roomy tote and know that the profits will help others!

Please watch the SeaHope Partners segment on Sewing With Nancy when Margaret was my guest during the [Nancy's Corner segment](#).

Bye for now,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background. The signature reads "Nancy Zieman" in a cursive, flowing script. The first name "Nancy" is written in a larger, more prominent hand, and "Zieman" follows in a similar style.

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