

## **Jane Westbrook**

I have lived in Richmond (Henrico County) all of my life and I am a retired Henrico County teacher. I am married and have a son, daughter and son-in-law. We have 3 grandchildren, 3 granddogs, 2 parakeets and lots of fish. In addition to sewing, I like to read and refinish furniture. After 30 years of teaching biology and earth science, I joined the staff at Bernina of Richmond in 2006 to teach machine guide classes. In addition to machine guide classes, I have taught some embroidery classes, software classes and quilting classes.

I started sewing when I was very small. My mother would be sewing dresses for me on her Singer, and I would be making "clothes" and blankets for my dolls on my little Singer. When I was old enough to use her machine, my mother taught me how to read patterns and construct garments. During high school, college and my early teaching years, I made my own clothes. After I had my children, I made many of their clothes too. I also cross-stitched, smocked & did hand embroidery.

When the flag fad hit, I wanted flags, but I did not want to pay the high prices for something that I could make myself. This led to what I call my "flag-making frenzy" and my first Bernina. I loved the beautiful satin stitch on the 1230. I still have my 1230, and it sews just as beautifully now as it did when I first bought it.

About 15 years ago I became interested in machine embroidery and taught myself how to use the Deco. Since that time I have embroidered shirts, towels, quilts, purses, children's clothing, a silk mat for a wedding invitation, and Miss Garnett's floor runner. I use an updated 200 and my new 830 for embroidery and BSR work. I like to have several projects going, and I REALLY like to have both machines embroidering at the same time. What can I say? I just love machines and all kinds of tools!