



Meet Nancy – Sunflower Hill’s Woman of the Month November (2006)

In 1981, at age 35, Nancy was working as a nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at Maine Medical Center when she noticed blurred vision. Within two weeks she could only see shadows. This was the first symptom of Multiple Sclerosis.

Her immediate reaction was, “I may lose my vision completely so I had better make quilts for my daughters (ages 11 & 12). So goes the story of a woman who would not allow circumstances or a disease to define her. She did make the quilts and while her vision did not come back right away, it did come back.

The disease took its toll on her nerve endings particularly affecting her legs, so the woman who ran every day found herself in a wheel chair. Nancy’s motto is “don’t dwell, move forward” and move forward she did. She took a job as a nurse educator at Togus, Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Maine. Since Nancy is an avid gardener, she had her vegetable gardens turned into raised beds so she could garden first from her wheelchair and then from her motorized scooter with knobby tires. (By the way, when she first got her scooter, she and her husband Bob raced around the yard, he on his lawn tractor and she on her scooter. We are not sure who was the winner – it depends on which one you ask!)

Before her retirement this year, Nancy rose early every morning, rode an exercise bike, went to work, came home, gardened and canned produce in the summer, sewed and started seeds in the winter, baked bread every weekend, went to evening classes for such things as quilting, master gardening etc. She never slowed down and many were tired just watching her.

In retirement, she still rises early, rides the bike, goes to gym three times a week to swims baby sits for 2 of her 5 grandchildren three days a week, gardens, cans, bakes, sews and has a great time with her family. Always smiling and laughing, Nancy is surely a special woman who Sunflower Hill is proud to have as our November Woman of the month.

Nancy’s favorite Sunflower Hill product is the Baby soap