

# *The Country Register*®

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

Your Statewide Guide to Premier Shopping and Events

**FREE-Take One** More than Country, Much More May & June 2026  
Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island



*Annual Gardening Edition*

# The Country Register

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada  
Your Statewide Guide to Premier Shopping and Events

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### Just A Note...

Welcome to sunny May and June. We hope you enjoy getting out to visit the shops advertising in this issue or shop with them online.

The May/June time-frame seems to be full of gift giving events: Mother's Day, Father's Day, graduations, weddings, teacher gifts, and the list goes on. Please remember to visit the shops advertising in this issue so the shop owners can help you find that perfect gift for your special someone (and don't forget a gift for yourself – while you are shopping). Or if you can't decide what to give, most of the advertising shops offer gift cards. So spread the news of your favorite shop by giving a gift card.

Remember that the businesses advertising with us this issue and every issue need your support! Whether it's shopping in person or online ordering – please shop local and let them know you read about them in our publication please. Our publication exists because the shop owners have placed ads. We want to thank you, our readers, for being loyal readers and shoppers. We also want to thank our advertisers who continue to make this paper possible.

If you know of a great shop that isn't advertising with us, but should be, please email [pauline@theregisterweb.com](mailto:pauline@theregisterweb.com) with that shop's name, phone number and address so we can send them a copy of the paper. Also please visit our Facebook page and become a fan! We frequently post updates on shops and other tidbits of information.

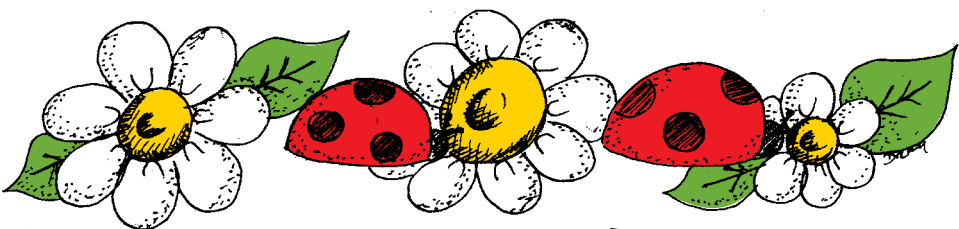
Rachel has made several trips home over the last couple of months (it has been fun to have her here). She stays very busy with work but has a great flexible schedule so she gets to travel often. Grace will be finishing her junior year at UGA! Can't believe she will be a senior this Fall. She has a summer internship lined up at a PR firm in Atlanta and several summer trips planned as well.

Thank you for reading this issue. Feel free to pick up a second copy and share it with a friend. Our July/August issue will be out in late June/early July – just in time for you to take that issue with you visiting shops throughout the summer.

Happy May & June to you and enjoy using our publication as your guide to the best shopping and events. Enjoy Shopping!



David, Rachel, Grace and Amy

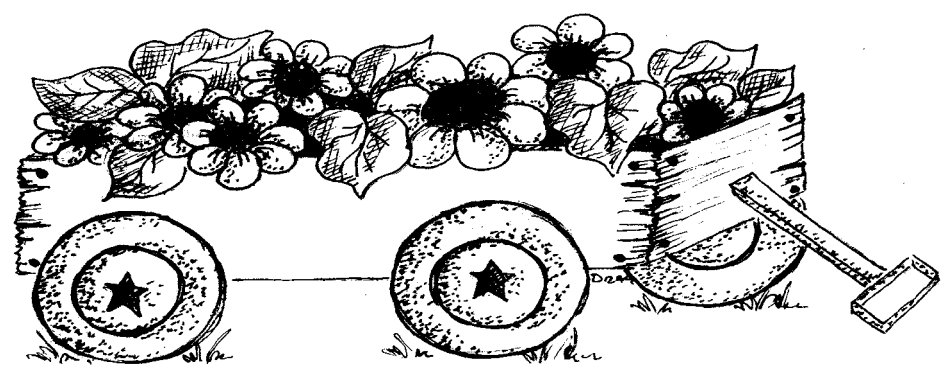


## Shows & Events

### July/August events due by June 1

Mail a check for \$25 with your event info to the address at the top of page 2.

- May**
- 1-June 30 .....USA 250th Birthday Sale at The Rustic Country Barn in New Milford, CT (pg. 12)
- 13-17 .....Celebration of Needlework in Nashua, NH (pg. 7)
- 16..... Southford Falls Quilters' Auction at Immanuel Lutheran Church Hall in Oxford, CT (pg. 12)
- 19-30 .....25th Anniversary Bag Sale at Village Wool in S. Glastonbury, CT (pg. 10)
- June**
- 6.....Cash & Carry Tent Sale at Bittersweet Hollow in Uxbridge, MA (pg. 5)
- 6.....Swansea Quilt Show in Swansea, MA (pg. 8)
- 18-20 .....Vermont Quilt Show at Doubletree Expo Center in S. Burlington, VT (pg. 7)
- 20.....Antiques & Primitive Goods Show at Walker Homestead in Brookfield, MA (pg. 4)
- July**
- 18..... Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival at Look Park in Northampton, MA (pg. 3)
- 29-31 ..... Bayberry Quilters Quilt Show at Cape Cod Tech School in Harwich, MA (pg. 8)
- August**
- 8-9 ..... Arts & Crafts Festival at the Plymouth Public Library in Plymouth, MA (pg. 8)
- September**
- 26.... Antique Show & Artisan Craft Show on the Historical Lebanon Green in Lebanon, CT (pg. 10)



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## Glasgow Lands Scottish Festival

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## By the Yard

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**Reader Shares! Finished Project!**

My wife is an excellent quilter. My hobby is Mosaics. I liked one of my wife's quilts so much I decided to make it out of glass. Here is a picture of her quilt and another picture of the glass version.

Since then I have completed a couple more Glass Quilts (one pictured below). The glass work took around 120 hours to complete, and is approximately 50 X 70 inches. The glass is 3/4" Vitreous Mosaic Glass. We thought this might be an interesting twist on a traditional quilt for your publication.

Shared by readers Ken and Barbara of Hubbardston, MA

## A friend listens with their heart

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Pictured in the magnifying glass is a small portion of one of our ads. Can you find the ad that it came from?

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## Spinning Wheels for Freedom

by Janet M. Bair

As the 250th anniversary of our country draws near, I have been contemplating freedom's cost. Freedom is not free.

When the American colonies decided to boycott British imports of tea and cloth, the American women did their part. By the 1750's, a great deal of cloth was imported from Britain.

We read these facts today, but it doesn't register what extra work this would mean for the average mother of a large household.

Making cloth involved many time-consuming tasks such as spinning thread from wool or flax and then slowly weaving the threads on a loom. The Patriot leaders called upon American women to create cloth locally so that the colonies were no longer dependent upon Britain to survive.

Wearing homespun became the patriotic thing to do. Just as women became creative in brewing teas made from native plants such as sage, raspberry and strawberry, they grew flax and sheared their sheep. Various plants were used to dye thread as well as onion skins, nut shells, and bark.

In the late 1760's and early 1770's, women got together for spinning bees for the cause of freedom. Each woman would load her spinning wheel into the back of a wagon and go to the appointed gathering spot, usually the minister's home. The women would sit and spin for a whole (farmer's) day, from dawn to dusk. The gatherings often numbered 100 women from all economic backgrounds. Freedom from Britain was their united goal.

It's no surprise then to know that every scrap of fabric was cherished and re-used and re-worked until it became only small pieces, which were then patched into a quilt. The artistry and creativity of colonial women is to be admired. It makes me wonder what American women would do today to help the cause of freedom.

© Janet M. Bair of Ansonia, CT. You may contact her at [librarybair@hotmail.com](mailto:librarybair@hotmail.com)

**Strawberry Shortcake**

1/2 cup of butter  
1 cup of sugar  
1 cup of milk  
Juice of 1/2 a lemon

3 eggs  
3 t. baking powder  
1 cup of flour

Cream together butter and sugar. Add beaten eggs and lemon juice. Mix the flour with baking powder and add to wet ingredients.

Bake in greased cake pan at 350° for 20 minutes.

Mix sliced strawberries and sugar to serve with the shortcake. Cover with whipped cream.

Enjoy!

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Find more ideas for creating a garden without spending a bundle at <http://www.elivngtoday.com> Source: Family Features.com

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## Wit & Wisdom

### Retired and Tired

by Cheryl Potts

Since I've retired, I'm busier now than when I was working full-time! I guess that's a familiar saying among us retirees, or as we are lovingly called, "elderberries."

Not only do we get to enjoy our leisure and try new creative endeavors but we can join groups such as "Senior Stretch-n-go", "Slow-mo Quilting", and "Scrapbooking Senility", as well as going out to lunch once or twice a week with senior friends.

However, squeezed into my creative groups and lunch dates are many important outings a few times a month. I've met some very interesting people in my travels to the "Oligists" and "Scopies". For example, last week I met with my cardiologist to make sure my heart was pumping properly and saw my blips on a screen. Of course, I sat in a massage chair, reading a four-year-old magazine, waiting a half an hour, while the nurse consulted the radiologist for my test results. The massage was wonderful. I ordered one on my phone while waiting.

Next week, I go to my dermatologist to get my skin tags, age spots, lumps and bumps examined. For this one, I have to completely disrobe while trying not to make eye contact with the doctor! Thank goodness, the office staff are all females!

Next month, I go to the ophthalmologist for my yearly exam. There's nothing worse than that "puffer" machine! It makes you blink excessively, mentally trying to avoid the puff of air into your eye, which makes you endure it five more times before getting a successful reading! Then I'm blinking uncontrollably for the rest of the eye exam. Whoever came up with that test should be scrutinized!

Part of my yearly visitations is the dentist (new word- why not). Got to keep up with my teeth cleanings and scheduled x-rays to keep the pearly-whites gleaming. That's probably the most relaxing of all the doctor visitations.

However, the worst has got to be the colonoscopy! You might be scheduled every 3-5 years, depending what they find up your...body part. In the old days, doctors would ask if you wanted to watch the exam on the TV screen. At least if I fainted, I'd be on the table already. Who in their right mind would want to watch that disgusting movie? I don't even watch medical shows on regular TV!

Suffice it to say, elderberries have no life of their own after retirement, because of the many necessary, monthly doctor appointments. I'm busy enough with my regularly scheduled lunch dates, social groups and grandchildren visitations there's barely time for doctor appointments. Sometimes there's 2-3 activities in one day! My children come home, look at my calendar and my full schedule and ask me, "Mom, why did you retire?" I say, "I guess after teaching for 30 years I wanted to try something different."

"Retirement is that marvelous time of life when the sun rises and you don't."

"Retirement is when you get out of the shower and you're glad the mirror is fogged up." Isaiah 40:31 says, "but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint." Thank you, Lord.

*In the early 1990's four Christian friends, with a shared interest in writing, began meeting once a month to learn the writing trade. The four were each active in their various churches. As part of an outreach ministry, they decided to write an inspirational newspaper column as a way to reach a wider, and perhaps mostly secular, audience. Contact the authors at: [witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com](mailto:witandwisdomwriters@gmail.com)*

## Frugal Gardening Tips and Tricks

Gardening can be a simple way to beautify your yard, relieve stress and save money on your grocery bill, but like any hobby, you can get carried away buying necessary equipment.

Fun, frugal and environmentally friendly, these tricks can help you create a cost-effective garden:

- Use a yardstick and permanent marker to mark inches and feet on the handle of your rake, shovel or hoe. The next time you plant, simply lay the marked handle along the row to create perfectly spaced holes for seeds.
- Line the bottom of a clay pot with a coffee filter to keep soil from leaking out the bottom.
- Use empty plastic water bottles or clear milk jugs to fill the bottom of large pots. They reduce the weight of the pot and require less soil to fill.
- To test your seeds to see if they are still viable for this planting season, place a wet paper towel inside a zip-top bag, drop in 3-4 seeds and wait a week to see if anything grows.
- One way to help prevent weeds is lining your garden with a layer of newspaper. Just top two or three sheets of newspaper with a layer of pine needles, grass clippings or dried leaves for an eco-friendly and inexpensive weed barrier.
- Keep gardening twine handy. Nail a funnel to your potting bench with the spout pointing downward, feed the twine through and your string will never go missing. For a more portable solution, place a ball of twine inside a canning jar, make a hole in the lid and feed the end of the twine through the hole. Now, you can take twine anywhere, tangle-free.
- There is no need to buy expensive potting systems for starting seedlings. Place several cardboard toilet paper rolls inside a clean plastic clamshell, like those used for pre-made salads. Fill each cardboard tube with potting soil and plant. Once your seedlings grow too tall for the clamshell, simply tear off the top lid.

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### Sewing On-the-Go

#### Batting Breakdown: Choosing the Right Batting for Longevity, Drape and Warmth

By Steve Baker

Batting is the quiet backbone of every quilt - rarely seen, often overlooked and yet responsible for how a quilt feels, moves and survives over time.

Two quilts made with the same pattern and fabrics can age very differently. One may soften beautifully with use, draping like a well-loved garment. Another may feel stiff, lose warmth or break down sooner than expected. When this happens, the difference may not be just the fabric or the stitching, it's the batting.

Choosing the right batting isn't about finding a universal "best." It's about understanding how batting affects longevity, drape, warmth and even how a quilt performs under the bright lights of a show or competition. When you understand these factors, you can choose batting with intention, and that intention shows years later.

Batting lives between the quilt top and backing, doing work that is both structural and sensory. It influences how a quilt ages, how it responds to washing, how it hangs on a wall and how it feels when wrapped around a body. Many quilters choose batting out of habit, and while familiarity has its place, thoughtful batting choices turn a quilt into something that truly lasts.

Four key factors should guide batting selection: longevity, drape, warmth and show performance. Longevity reflects how well a quilt withstands time, use and washing. Drape describes how fluidly a quilt folds and moves, an important consideration for bed quilts, lap quilts and show quilts alike. Warmth depends not just on thickness, but on insulation and breathability. And, for quilts destined for competition, batting plays a major role in stitch definition, visual depth and how the quilt hangs under strong lighting.

Cotton batting is a traditional favorite, known for breathability and a classic crinkled look that develops over time. It offers excellent stitch definition and works well for heirloom, wall and traditional quilts. Polyester batting provides lightweight loft and strong warmth, making it ideal for comforters and cold-climate quilts, though it can feel stiffer and less breathable over time. Wool batting strikes a beautiful balance, offering natural loft, graceful drape, temperature regulation and long-term resilience - making it a favorite for bed quilts.

Specialty batts such as bamboo, silk and blends bring additional options. Bamboo offers exceptional softness and drape, silk provides luxury with minimal bulk and blended batts balance durability and feel. These choices shine when matched thoughtfully to a quilt's purpose.

Before buying batting, it helps to ask one simple question: How do I want this quilt to feel ten years from now? That answer often clarifies priorities better than any label.

There is no universally "best" batting, only the batting that best serves the quilt you are making. Chosen with intention, batting helps quilts age gracefully, remaining beautiful, functional and meaningful for years to come.

Steve Baker is the Director of Marketing at SewEndipitous located at 1093A Albright Road in Rock Hill, South Carolina. Visit [www.SewEndipitous.com](http://www.SewEndipitous.com) for more information.

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Summer Hours begin June 1st: Wed-Sat 10am to 4pm

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## Attract Backyard Birds with the Right Seeds

(Family Features) While almost all bird seed may look pretty much the same to you, it doesn't to the birds you're feeding. Knowing what kinds of seeds different birds like can help you attract a variety of fine feathered friends to your feeders.

Consider these popular seed types and the common backyard birds they attract:

**Sunflower** - Black sunflower seeds attract blue jays, goldfinches, woodpeckers, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and nuthatches. Striped sunflower seeds appeal to chickadees, doves, grosbeaks, northern cardinals, nuthatches, titmice and woodpeckers. Sunflower hearts (also known as "hulled sunflower" and "sunflower chips") attract chickadees, common redpolls, juncos, doves, finches, goldfinches, grosbeaks, nuthatches, pine siskins, titmice and woodpeckers.

**Nyjer** - These lightweight, tiny seeds are a favorite of goldfinches. Put nyjer seeds in a hanging feeder with tiny holes so the small seeds won't get blown away. Nyjer also attracts redpolls, juncos, doves, indigo bunting and pine siskin.

**Safflower** - These white seeds are slightly smaller than black sunflower seeds. Because they are bitter, grackles, blue jays, starlings - and squirrels - don't like them. However, they do attract doves, purple finches, chickadees, titmice and downy woodpeckers.

**White millet** - Good for scattering on the ground, white millet attracts ground feeders such as juncos, sparrows, indigo buntings, towhees and mourning doves.

**Cracked corn** - Popular with ground feeders, cracked corn appeals to doves, crows, jays, sparrows, juncos and towhees. Avoid getting finely cracked corn as it's vulnerable to rot and can quickly turn to mush.

When choosing a bird seed mix, pay attention to the ingredients list on the package. Bird seed is required by law to list ingredients in order of content. Some cheaper mixes have filler seeds such as wheat, red milo, red millet or "assorted grain products." Most backyard birds won't eat those, and your seed mix could end up wasted on the ground.

Learn more about making your backyard an oasis for birds of all kinds at [elivngtoday.com](http://elivngtoday.com)  
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Emily Dickinson

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Hope is the combination of the desire for something and the expectation of receiving it. When Ms. Dickinson connects the concept with nature it gives us a visual and sensual experience. I can just hear that little sparrow singing a song about flying to her babes still within the shell of her eggs.

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Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®.  
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*Writing From Life*

by Jeanette Lukowski

Road Trip Season



This might make me sound silly, but while many people were spending the grey and somewhat gloomy days of January and February packing up and putting away the remains of their December holidays, I'm was thinking about where to travel during the upcoming summer months.

Perhaps this pattern began when I was a child, when my mother would drive us the five-hundred-plus miles to visit her parents, siblings, and a variety of cousins. If we were lucky, we made the drive two times a year—for winter holiday weekends, and the week-long summer vacation—but while the winter drives included my father, summers were most often reserved for my older sister, my mother, and I.

When my sister was in high school, there were additional drives to explore out-of-state colleges added; after my sister headed off to college, the summer drives naturally shifted more to just me and my mother in the car. Life sure looked different in the front seat than it had all of those years in the back!

Then, the magical year of holding a driver's permit arrived. What glorious adventures those five-hundred-plus miles became! The open road of interstate highways when my mother would drift off into a light nap in the passenger seat...I had never felt such freedom. Were those the moments when the passion for summer road trips was ignited?

Choosing a career as a teacher was decided by life's circumstances rather than the summer months of "unemployment," but I quickly learned to appreciate them. I began by planning little day trips the kids and I could take to places like zoos or historical farms which provided educational experiences for visitors; as the children got older, I planned other scenic drives which included a night or two in hotels, adding evening swims in the hotel pool to our trips focused on dinosaur digs and Girl Scout badge checklists. After my mother retired, she would join us as we headed to destinations such as Mount Rushmore—or job interviews I was offered in other states—but the drive my kids and I took to the Grand Canyon was part of a weekend birthday-gift-to-myself trek.

It's impossible for me to calculate all of the miles I've driven a car because, for me, the "prize" has been the scenery I've seen along the way. Last month, for instance, as my now grown son drove me in his car's passenger seat to my mother's burial (she purchased the plot years before her retirement—and subsequent move to be closer to her grandchildren), what did I spy on the interstate as we neared Madison, Wisconsin? None other than the Oscar Meyer Wienermobile! No kidding.

Reaching the Spring Equinox in March, my thoughts naturally turned towards summer road-tripping season. Where might I go? I admit to feeling a bit more apprehensive about driving by myself the older I get, but to stay home all summer?

© Jeanette Lukowski 2026. Jeanette is a mother, grandmother, teacher, and author who lives in Alesandria, MN. She is inspired by the lives of strong women. Her email address is: [writingfromlife@yahoo.com](mailto:writingfromlife@yahoo.com)

**New Hampshire and Vermont**

**Become Inspired**  
Decorating, Entertaining and Living in the Early American Style *by Annice Rockwell*

**Souful Spaces**

As spring comes into full bloom, our yards become abundant with life. Our landscape becomes filled with green more and more each day. Our lawns are transformed and vibrant. The trees that line our country property are showing signs of increased vitality. Our perennial gardens seem to beckon us to enjoy some time getting back to a task we love—nurturing the herbs and flowers that have become a soulful part of what we call home.

With temperatures gently warming and daylight hours stretching out before us, this time of year is indeed a blessing. Spring is the ideal time to tackle some of the tasks we have planned all winter long. Whether it is mending our Williamsburg-style fence or putting a fresh coat of paint on our batten doors, spring often affords us both the weather and the motivation to bring our ideas to life. And at the end of the day, after all of the hard work, the satisfaction felt as you look upon the fresh improvements will be a sweet, welcomed reward to be enjoyed all season long.

**Creating Interest and Delight**

Preparing and decorating our outdoor spaces is time well spent. As we sip our early morning coffee on our stone patio on one of the first warm mornings, we may come up with special country touches that will add interest and delight to our outdoor spaces. Woven bee skeps are a signature country motif that can be put on a large, seasoned stump or tall post as a focal point to enjoy. Country accents like tall, colorful birdhouses can be hung against the backdrop of a primitive fence to add color amongst the growing herbs. A sundial can be mounted on a hand-hewn post to become a central image in the kitchen clipping garden.

When it comes time to harvest our first batches of tender herbs, there is nothing like bringing out our sturdy, splint gathering buckets to assist in this joyful country task. As we gather, bind, and hang our first bundles of sage, sweet marjoram, and lemon balm, we are easily inspired, for this is only the beginning. Our gardens, whether culinary, medicinal, or decorative will serve us well with our generous care. And in exchange for our efforts our reward will be a feeling of true peace that comes with deep connection.

**Honoring True Beauty**

This season take time to savor the simple yet significant gifts of spring. Delight in being surrounded by true moments of beauty—like the unexpected return of your first hummingbird, or the vibrant first blooms of the lilac bush that graced your front stepstone for generations. Take comfort in knowing that these reminders will always be around us if we take the time to honor them.

-- © Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*. [NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com](mailto:NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com)



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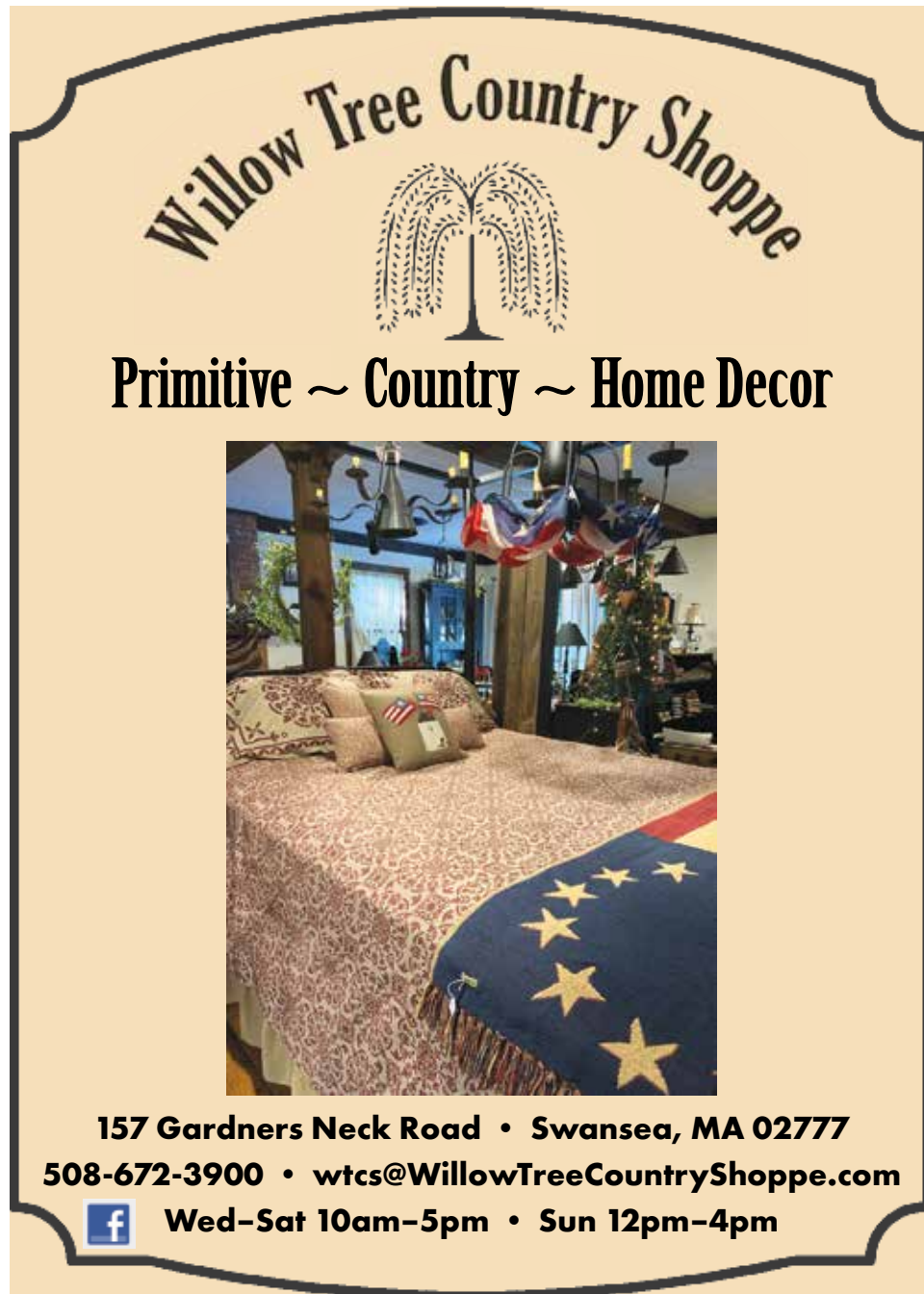
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Amy and Grace celebrating her 21st birthday then we went on a cruise for Grace's Spring Break.

**Summer Vacation!** *by Judy Sharer*

As an adult looking back, I have many fond memories of summer vacations. Once school was out, it meant being free to spend time with neighborhood friends and visiting family.

Our neighborhood had many kids of all ages. We would gather together to play kickball, tag, hide and seek, or ride bikes. When the streetlights came on, it was a race to make it home.

In my family, Summer meant we had additional chores. I worked in the garden planting the vegetables and when the produce was harvested, I'd help with the canning. Dad had a small patch of strawberries, raspberries, and blueberries that we'd pick and make into jam and jelly plus enjoy with shortcakes and cobbler.

My brother was tasked with keeping the lawn mowed. My sisters did additional housework as well as looked after me, the baby of the siblings.

When I was young, I remember visiting my grandparents who lived in a neighboring town. My parents would put me on the bus with my little suitcase. I'd sit right behind the bus driver with instructions not to bother the other passengers. My grandparents would meet the bus at the bottom of the hill from their house. I liked visiting because I had my own room and bed to sleep in. Grandma taught me how to do needlework, knit and crochet. Families tended to live close in those days and mine was no exception. My aunt and uncle lived right up the hill on a farm. I'd spend time with them during the summer too. I'd help feed the beef cows, pigs and chickens with my uncle and my aunt and I would bake sweet treats to put in my uncle's lunchbox. We would often read books together after supper or listen to music on the radio while dancing around the living room.

All of these experiences contributed to making me the strong and capable woman I am today. Bored? We didn't have time to be bored. There was always something interesting to do.

Of course, this was in the 1960s; a time before cell phones, computers, Xboxes, and iPads, before a lot of things today's children have to occupy their time. Parent usually want their children to have more than when they were young, but if I could go back and change time, I wouldn't change a thing. I believe I turned out just fine. What will you be doing with your children or grandchildren this summer vacation? Hopefully, you'll be making some sweet memories.

*Judy Sharer just released her spicy historical romance/family saga titled Secrets in Room Four, the first in her series Love Lessons. She is also the author of a sweet historical romance/family saga series titled A Plains Life. This four-book series also published by The Wild Rose Press is appropriate for the entire family and is available on-line wherever books and eBooks are sold. Visit Judy's website judysharp.com and follow her on Facebook and X.*

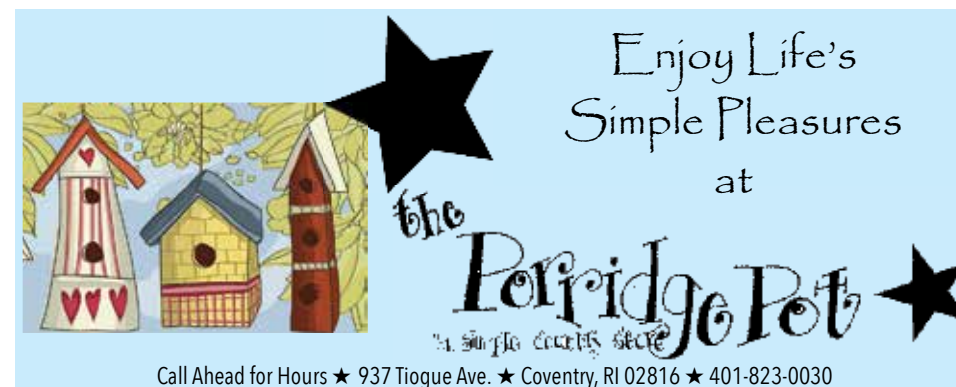
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**7 Garden Growing Basics for Beginners**

Growing your own produce is an all-around smart practice, from the money you'll save at the grocery store to the contributions you can make toward a cleaner planet.

Maintaining a garden takes some effort, but it's a project even a beginner can tackle with ease. Consider these tips to start growing your at-home garden:

- Select a perfect spot.** You'll want to place your garden in an area where you see it often so you're reminded to weed and care for it regularly. Find a flat area you can access easily, where erosion and other pitfalls (including hungry wildlife) won't be a problem.
- Choose between ground and containers.** There are pros and cons to gardening in containers vs. the ground, and there's no universal right choice. Rather, the best garden depends on your goals and preferences. A ground garden usually offers more space and may provide a better growth environment for roots. However, a container garden is often easier to maintain and may be all you need if you wish to grow just a few plants.
- Understand the importance of quality soil.** You may think any dirt will do, but keep in mind the soil you plant in will be the primary source of nutrients for your produce. Not only that, but quality soil provides stability so plants can root firmly and grow healthy and sturdy to support their bounty. Quality soil also allows for ample drainage. Organic matter like compost, leaf mold or aged manure all help improve soil quality.
- Keep water close.** Lugging water can quickly eliminate the pleasure of tending your garden, so be sure you're situated near a hose. You'll know it's time to water when the soil is dry about an inch below the surface.
- Plan for plenty of sun.** A bright, sunny spot is a must, since most vegetables, herbs and fruits depend on six or more hours of sun every day. Remember the sun's path changes throughout the year, and as trees and foliage grow, they may produce more shade with each growing season.
- Consider what you'll grow.** Starting with veggies you know you like is a smart starting point since you'll be pouring sweat equity into making them grow. Over time, you might add new varieties, but early on, keep your focus on foods you know you like so you can see a meaningful return and avoid waste. You'll also need to consider what you can grow to maturity within your area's growing season. If necessary, you might want to start transplants you can nurture indoors before moving them outside when the temperatures allow.
- Plant according to a calendar.** Knowing how long it takes different foods to mature will help you create a planting calendar. You don't want to harvest everything at once, and if you stagger planting and replant what you can, you'll have a garden that produces food for your family for a longer period of time.

Find more helpful tips for managing your home and garden at [elivingtoday.com](http://elivingtoday.com). Photo courtesy of Unsplash



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City Index and Map CONNECTICUT Bolton Page 10, Essex Page 10, Lebanon Page 10, New Milford Page 12, North Franklin Page 10, Oxford Page 12, S. Glastonbury Page 10, Uncasville Page 10, Wallingford Page 12

KATHRYN MYKEL CORNER BOOKMARK PATTERN Supplies: Three scraps - chosen fabric; cut to 3.5" squares... Happy Mother's Day

Mother's Day Quotes by Janet Young We celebrate the many blessings mother's have brought into our life. This year I thought it would be a novel way to share some quotes that people have made about their mother.

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## Back Porch Break

by Nancy Brummett

### Time for 'Yardening'

As we move into summer it's time to think about gardening again. Or is what you do really "yardening" instead? There's a difference, you know.

First, the wardrobe differs drastically. Gardeners wear floppy straw hats, sturdy pants with big pockets and loops for hanging tools, and clogs. Yardeners work in the yard wearing a hat from Disney World, cut-off blue jeans, and the tennis shoes they bought the year they graduated from high school.

Then there are the tools themselves. Gardeners have tools with matching handles. Each tool has a special function—and a special spot in the wooden gardener's bench at the end of the day. Yardeners are more likely to be out digging with an old serving spoon from the kitchen. They just toss it in the kids' sandbox once they have the petunias in the ground.

Gardeners have a master calendar for all their gardening tasks, such as dividing seedlings, rotating rose bushes, whatever it is Martha Stewart finds to fill up her calendar even in the dead of winter. They wouldn't even dream of pulling weeds unless it was on the schedule.

Yardeners, on the other hand, may lapse into their yardening tasks quite spontaneously. I once talked to a freelance artist who explained she had missed her deadline because she went out to get the mail and noticed a few weeds growing by the mailbox. Naturally, she stopped to pull them up, and four hours later she was still out in the yard pulling weeds. I understood completely. That's yardening at its best.

If you see people strolling their grounds, or setting up tents for a garden party, they are probably gardeners. Yardeners are more likely to be seen standing in their front yards on a Saturday morning drinking coffee, contemplating brown spots, and staring down the dandelions. The only grounds on their minds are the ones in the bottom of the coffee mug.

Of course gardeners don't have to deal with dandelions because, you guessed it—they don't have any. The anti-weed substance spread with their lawn fertilizer takes care of them. Yardeners, on the other hand, wield little spray bottles of environmentally friendly "Dandelion DOA," and pop each stubborn dandelion root up with an old screwdriver. (The screwdriver conveniently fits in the back pocket of the cut-off jeans and is equally useful for setting the choke on the lawn mower.)

The aesthetic results differ, too. Gardeners carefully coordinate the shades of green they combine in any given area of the landscape, and are careful to plant flowers which bloom sequentially, clustered in color groups of cool or hot tones. Yardeners, however, are happy whenever anything turns green, and they've been known to water weeds for weeks before realizing they weren't zinnias.

Gardener or yardener? Whichever you are, it's time to get out there. And remember, those dandelions grow while you sleep.



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