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May & June 2026

Annual Gardening Edition

The Virginia Register

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- California: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, PO Box 74035, Phoenix, AZ 85087, 602-942-8950
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- Indiana: Merle and Gail Taylor, PO Box 320, Meridianville, AL 35759, 888-616-8319
- Iowa: Linda Glendy, P.O. Box 6, Tama, IA, 52339, 641-751-2619
- Kansas: Kelsey Ruzicka, P.O. Box 2015, Belle Fourche, SD 57717, 605-568-0181
- Maine: Robin Levison, 24 Bluebird Lane, Gloversville, NY 12078, 518-752-6399
- Massachusetts: Dave & Amy Carter, PO Box 2419, Cumming, GA 30028, 866-825-9217
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CANADA

- Alberta: Marcy Horswill, Suite 114, 919 Centre St. NW, Calgary, AB T2E 2P6, 587-585-3545
- British Columbia: Marcy Horswill, Suite 114, 919 Centre St. NW, Calgary, AB T2E 2P6, 587-585-3545
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- Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 103-575 Lacolle Way, Orleans, ON K2A 5B6, 613-612-8465

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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.



David, Rachel, Grace and Amy

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.

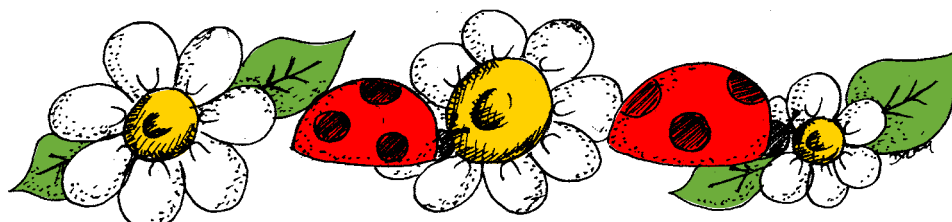
If you know of a great shop that isn't advertising with us, but should be, please email pauline@theregisterweb.com with that shop's name, phone number and address so we can send them a copy of the paper. Also please visit our Facebook page and become a fan! We frequently post updates on shops and other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

Amy & David



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

- 1-31 10 Years in Business Celebration at Crafty Ladies & Friends in Covington (pg. 6)
- 1-31 6th Birthday Celebration at Sunshine Quilt Corner in Newport News (pg. 10)
- 1-June 30 Visit the participating shops during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 3)
- 1-June 30 Visit Patchwork Plus in Dayton during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 4)
- 1-June 30 Visit Cottonwood in Charlottesville during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 5)
- 1-June 30 Visit Sew Biz in Fairlawn during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 6)
- 1-June 30 Visit Quilts on Main in Galax during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 7)
- 1-June 30 Visit Quilted Colors in Stuart during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 7)
- 1-June 30 Visit Quilted Expressions in Lynchburg during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 8)
- 1-June 30 Visit Rose Patch Creations in Crewe during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 8)
- 1-June 30 Visit Lib's Place in Rice during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 8)
- 1-June 30 Visit Sewlovelee in Irvington during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 9)
- 1-June 30 Visit Sunshine Quilt Corner in Newport News during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 10)
- 1-June 30 Visit Loving Stitches in Fayetteville, NC during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 11)
- 1-June 30 Visit Fabric Shoppe in Suffolk during the All Blue Ridge Shop Hop (pg. 12)
- 22-24 Bodacious Bazaar at Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton (pg. 10)
- 29 Bernina 990 Event at Loving Stitches in Fayetteville, NC (pg. 11)
- 29-30 16th Anniversary Storewide Sale at Lib's Place in Rice (pg. 8)

June

- 19-20 Patchwork Quilters Jamboree at Graham High School in Bluefield (pg. 6)
- 20 Shenandoah Valley Quilters Biennial Quilt Show in Harrisonburg (pg. 4)

July

- 10-11 Lake Quilters Guild Quilt Show at Franklin County High School in Rocky Mount (pg. 6)
- 23-25 Chincoteague Island Blueberry Festival in Chincoteague (pg. 12)

October

- 17 Peninsula Piecemakers' Quilt Symposium in Newport News (pg. 10)
- 17-18 Richmond Quilters' Guild Quilt Show at ACCA Shriners' Center in Richmond (pg. 9)

November

- 13-15 Bodacious Bazaar at Hampton Roads Convention Center in Hampton (pg. 10)



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Mother's Day Quotes

by Janet Young

It's that time of the year as Mother's Day rolls around, that we begin to switch gears and begin to focus on our mothers. We celebrate the many blessings she has 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. It may make you laugh, reflect, and recall some of the remembrances you have of your mother.

- Let's get started.
- Mothers can look through a child's eyes and see tomorrow. Reed Markham
- Mother is a verb. It is something you do, not just who you are. Cheryl Lacey Donovan
- All I am I owe to my mother. George Washington
- All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my mother. Abraham Lincoln
- A mother's arms are more comforting than anyone else's. Princess Diana
- My mother has a great deal of trouble with me, but I think she enjoyed it. Mark Twain
- A mother understands what a child does not see. Jewish proverb
- My mother is my root, my foundation. She planted the seed that I base my life on, and that is the belief to achieve, starts in your mind. Michael Jordan
- The next three quotes are from unknown sources:
- Nothing is really lost until your mom can't find it.
- Life doesn't come with a manual it comes with a mom.
- Moms are like buttons they hold everything together.

I hope as you read these quotes some made you laugh, and some touched your heart. But more importantly, I hope it brought back reflections of why your mother means so

much to you.
For those whose mothers are in heaven, may you cherish the memories and feel the love that only a mother can provide.
Happy Mother's Day
- © Janet Young is a Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, Co-Founder of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association, and prior owner of Over The Teacup

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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.

continued on page 5

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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

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And the Winner is...
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Sue selected Sewlovelee in Irvington as her favorite shop. She enjoys the shop because their staff is "helpful in color and fabric selection." Congratulations Sue.

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Wit & Wisdom, cont. from page 4

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



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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!

© house 11/11/11

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

Soulful 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.

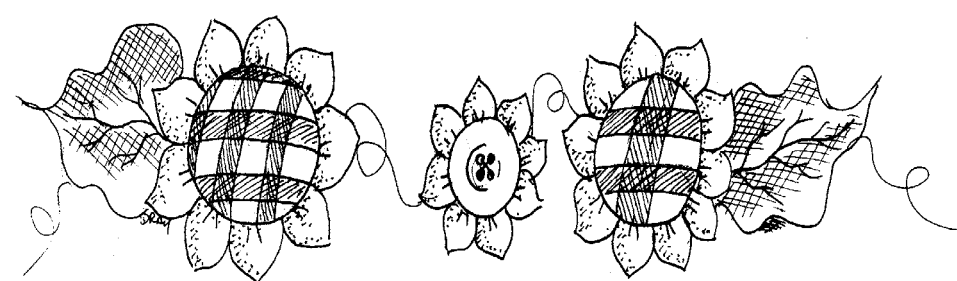
With temperatures gently warming and daylight hours stretching out before us, this time of year is indeed a blessing. Spring is the ideal time to tackle some of the tasks we have planned all winter long. Whether it is mending our Williamsburg-style fence or putting a fresh coat of paint on our batten 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 baskets 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



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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 elivingtoday.com
 Photo courtesy of Unsplash

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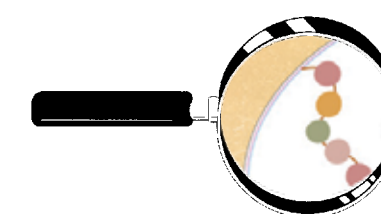
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One person will be drawn from the correct entries to be named in next issue.



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:

1. 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.
2. Line the bottom of a clay pot with a coffee filter to keep soil from leaking out the bottom.
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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 premade 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.

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

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Reader Shares!

Finished Project!

Pattern by Coriander Quilts, fabric collection Cali and Co. by Cory Yoder from Moda.

I am a fairly new quilter and very proud of my latest finish!

Shared by reader C. Rankin of Powhatan, VA



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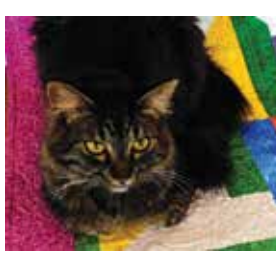
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How Do You Choose Fabric

by Deb Heatherly

People have told me time and time again that choosing fabric is the hardest part of the process when making a quilt. When I owned my quilt shop, customers would tell us that they just did not know what would look good together, once the quilt was complete. Here are a few suggestions.

If you have a local shop, go in and let them help you. My employees had "a great eye" and loved helping customers put together stunning fabric combinations. Once you voice your preferences such as bright, muted, floral, novelty, etc., let them point you toward those fabrics and help you audition pieces that look great together.



Do you have a fabric in your stash that you've had forever because you absolutely love it, but have no clue what to use it for? Take that fabric with you to your local shop and ask them to help you pull companion fabrics that will make you smile. There's nothing like being surrounded with lots of options and many times the perfect combo might contain fabric you would never have purchased on your own. Be open to suggestions but remember you have the final say.

Kits are another great way to pick your next project. Many times, shops will have a sample hanging that catches your eye. They already have that fabric or something similar in a kit, so it's a win, win! You already know you are going to be happy once the quilt is finished because it will look similar to the one that was in the shop. Grab that kit and let the fun begin!

What about a scrappy project? To me using scraps is like visiting old friends. I love to reminisce about the quilts that each of the fabrics was used in. For a challenge, toss them in a bag and without peeking, vow to use each one in the order they were pulled. This can be a fun thing to do with a group of friends. You can even take turns pulling from each other's bags. Laughter and fun are sure to follow.

Finally, let the project go to the dogs, or in my case cats. When unsure of a fabric to begin, lay out several on the floor and let your dog or cat decide. Max loves this game and will quickly walk on them all and then pick one to lay on. When we play that game, I always take his 'advice' and begin selecting companions to go with his choice. It makes for some interesting quilts and you never know what will jump start your next masterpiece.

My last piece of advice is to just do it! Start sewing and see what evolves. Every quilt is a work of art and there is always someone who would love to snuggle under it, build forts with it or use it on a teddy bear picnic. Get sewing and think of the possibilities.

- Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and the author of eight popular pattern books. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration, and two free mysteries each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/>. Shop Owners are invited to join her group just for you, "Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only" <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524>. Visit Deb's website at www.Debcatsquilts.com.

A friend listens with their heart

IN THE GARDEN

WE CUT OUR KITCHEN GARDEN RIGHT OUT OF THE CENTER OF OUR LAWN & PUT A PICKET FENCE ALL THE WAY AROUND IT. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR OTHER GARDENS

- Butterfly Garden
- White Garden
- Water Garden
- Herb Garden
- Knot Garden
- The Secret Garden
- Perennial Garden
- Wildflower Garden
- Potted Garden
- Cutting Garden
- Hummingbird Garden
- Meditation Garden
- Rose Garden
- Rock Garden

TO PLANT A SEED IS A HOPEFUL DEED

When I hear the CHIMES in my garden it's like fairies are going by.

I AM WEARY OF SWORDS & COURTS & KING'S. LET US GO INTO THE GARDEN... Mary Johnston

Find lots more about the garden in Susan's new Summer Book at www.susanbranch.com ~ Happy Spring! 'Tis the Season!



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KISSed Quilts Celebrate Earth Day!

by Marlene Oddie

In celebration of Earth Day, I'm sharing two new designs with fabrics shipping June 2026 to a local quilt shop.

I revisited an old friend when using a new Lumin Fabrics/Island Batik collection - *Fossil Finesse*. I originally designed this "jewels" quilt in 2009 for a wedding. The version was called Peacock Jewels. With this new collection I used two slightly different background whites so you can see uniquely bordered jewels but also see white stars. The jewel tones and motifs in this fabric collection felt perfect for this quilt pattern. I enjoyed custom quilting it to really show it off!

Earth's Essence is another Lumin Fabrics/Island Batik collection shipping soon. I used a fat quarter bundle of the collection to make this City Windows pattern. It really maximizes the use of a fat quarter and shows off some of those larger print elements in the collection.

Ask at your local quilt shop that carries Island Batik fabrics for these fabrics and patterns.

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts>



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Grace's 21st birthday

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



By the Yard

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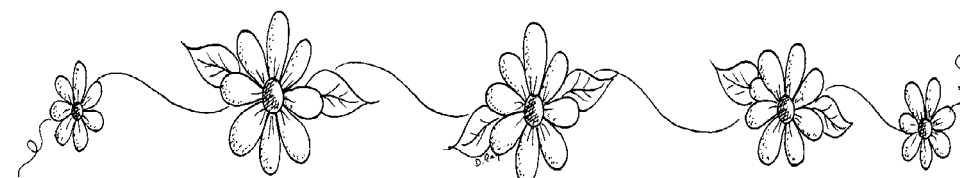
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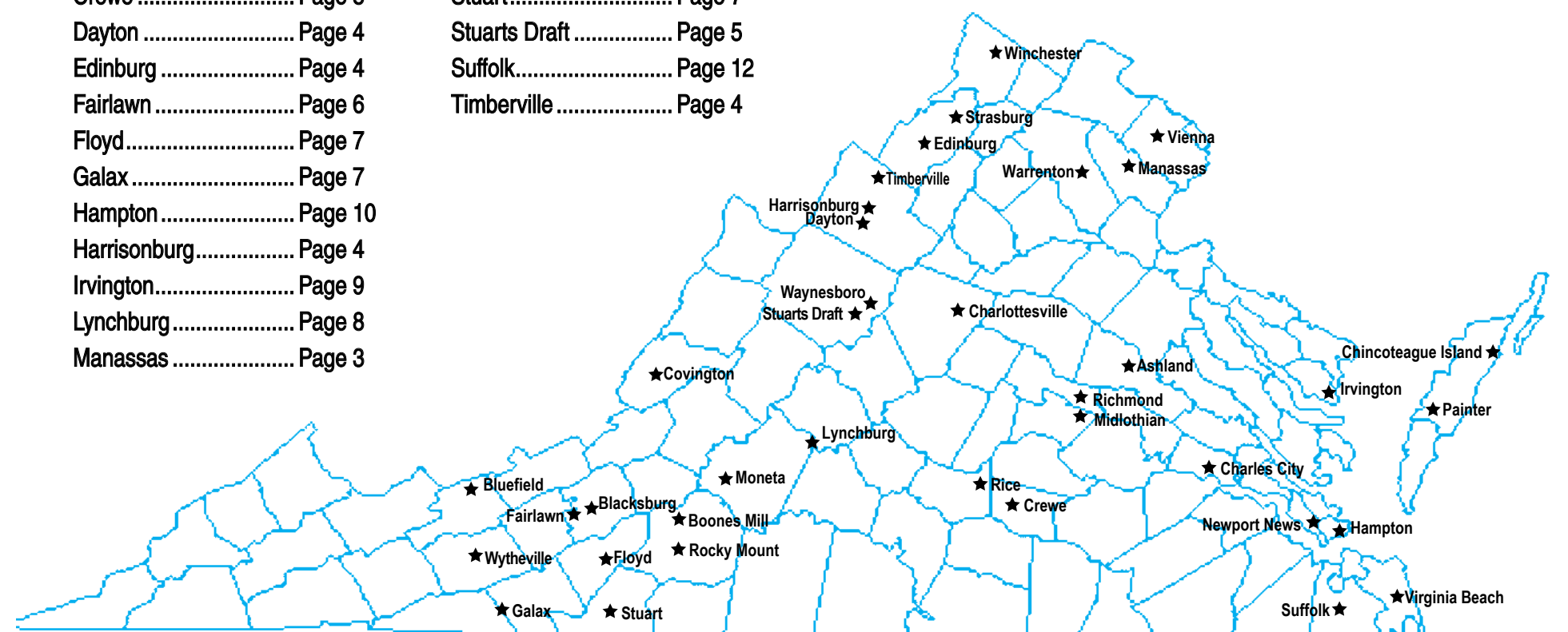
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Back Porch Break

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.



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.

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