

MaryJane's Cluck™

spring

dreaming

April 3, 2009

MARYJANES FARM



A word from your Sisterhood Coordinator

I think I caught the bug ...

This week, as I drove from my town in Central Washington to our state's capital on the western edge of the state—a field trip with my 11-year-old son, Matthew—I couldn't help but feel like I was driving from one postcard into another. We started our trip with the usual drizzly spring weather we have been experiencing here in Prosser, but quickly drove into the Cascade mountain range, with falling snow and breathtaking views around every bend. Then we were soon on the west side of the state, where the countryside was sprinkled with flowers in bloom and luscious green fields. My mind quickly darted from one scene to another, and with each one I found myself dreaming of "glamping." Yep, I've caught the bug. I find myself hunting for the perfect little vintage trailer, picking out the cutest curtain material, and plotting my adventures. My desk is now cluttered with not only seed journals but a glamping journal. Hidden in each of its pages are material swatches, theme ideas, and places I want to visit. Apparently, I'm not the only farmgirl with the bug—it seems to be spreading. A virus, a farmgirl pandemic spreading across the country at record speed—even my college girlfriend, Gail, e-mailed me this week with pictures of her darling new 1956 vintage trailer and dreams of the adventures to come. The only known cure, of course, is a glampers of my very own and a few glamping sisters in tow!

For more on glamping, check out the latest issue of *MaryJanesFarm* magazine, as well as MaryJane's third book, *MaryJane's Outpost*.

Join other "Farmgirls on the Loose" with glamping dreams of their own: [Click Here](#)

Earn a Sisterhood Merit Badge for "out-there" farmgirls: [Click Here](#)

Talk with other "out-there" women over on the Outpost chatroom: [Click Here](#)

Gene' Shoem



Featured Farmgirl

Wendi Haught (chatroom name: Wendi H)



As we began to make plans for MaryJane's 4th of July Farm Fair, I had the great pleasure of meeting a farmgirl from the Coeur d'Alene area. Wendi and I were introduced by Chris and Shannon Varela of Settler's Creek farm. Wendi is known as the top event planner in the Coeur d'Alene area. Hearing about our plans for Farm Fair, Wendi offered to partner with us for the Sunday event at Settler's Creek, and we couldn't be more thrilled or feel more fortunate.

Wendi describes her husband as a wise and phenomenal man who brings balance and kindness into her life. They have three boys ranging in age from 19 to 3. Wendi is a self-confessed "foodie," which works well with her chosen profession as an event planner, as well as an avid reader. When asked about her favorite flower, in typical Wendi style, she asks, "Can I choose two?" The flowers she chooses are gardenias, in memory of both her grandmothers who always had that scent around their homes, and hyacinths, as they grow wild in her back yard. In the choosing of the flowers is hidden the perfect definition of Wendi: grounded in heritage yet wildly her own person.

After spending 24 years in the meeting/event arena for hotels, Wendi was thrilled to create Framework Meetings and Destinations with business partner Scott Shellman last September. They provide site selection and meeting/event planning services for groups heading into the Spokane and Coeur d'Alene region. With all the natural abundance of the Pacific Northwest, they are proud to feature ways to incorporate the region's farmers, chefs, attractions, sports, lakes, rivers, and mountains in many of their tours.

Wendi's favorite quote is: "The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me."—Howard Roark, in Ayn Rand's novel, *The Fountainhead*.

The scoop from MaryJanesFarm

MaryJanesFarm Store Class: Memory Mini-Quilts April 18

Made entirely from second-use fabrics, MaryJanesFarm will show you how to make an “eco” quilt that is the ultimate in recycling, using a variety of embellishments, baubles, and buttons to make it uniquely yours. Discover new ways to showcase your memories.

Instructors: Rebekka Boysen & René Groom
Skill level: Beginner
Class Fee: \$20
Supplies: Kit fee \$5 (includes background piece of fabric for making a mini-wall quilt, an assortment of vintage doilies and laces, etc.). Bring old photos, doilies, pieces of old quilts, lace, hankies, table linens, buttons, etc.
Time: Saturday, April 18, 10 am–12:30 pm
Location: MaryJanesFarm Store, 210 E. Sherman, Coeur d’Alene, ID

For those girls who are making this into a mini-vacation, we are working on some great hotel rates. Can’t wait to see you!
 -Rebekka

Click here to go to the Farmgirl Connection thread about Memory Mini-Quilts.



Rebekka Boysen





The farm scoop continues ...

Look Who's Coming to Dinner

Join the growing movement of Americans who will celebrate the arrival of spring this year by hosting an Earth Dinner™, a new tradition that gathers friends and loved ones around the table for a fresh, seasonal meal made from local, sustainably produced ingredients and conversation that connects us to our food, the Earth, and each other.

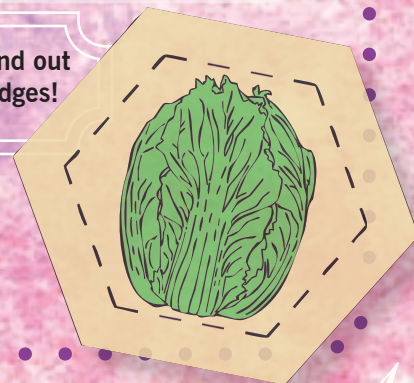
MaryJanesFarm has partnered with Organic Valley to promote the Earth Dinner challenge. What do you do? You plan a dinner with your chapter or friends or people in your community using organic foods from your area as dinner. It can be as big or as small as needed ... and it can be all prepared or you can ask people to bring dishes for a potluck.

Organic Valley has provided the "Earth Dinner" deck of cards for us to hand out free of charge to farmgirls who sign up on our chatroom ... all we ask is that you sign up, host a dinner, and then post details of your event.

We thought it would be fun to see how many farmgirls could host a dinner during the week of April 20 (in honor of Earth Day, April 22). But while we have designated the week of April 20 as Farmgirl Earth Dinner Week, hosting a dinner anytime during the year or around holidays is the goal.

For more details and for some great ideas, check out the website <http://www.earthdinner.org>. If you want to sign up to host an Earth Dinner in your home or community, **click here** to add your name to the thread and e-mail me your address so I can send you the Earth Dinner cards. For those in the Sisterhood, consider your "Bustin' Out" badge in the process!

Click here to find out about merit badges!





and even more farm scoops...

2009 Farm Fair ... July 3-5, 2009

An event for the whole family. Come take a mini-trip around the rolling hills of the Palouse. Drive down country roads, witness harvest underway, and grab a glass of ice-cold lemonade. Stop your buggies long enough for a barter or two (or three), then we will all meet up at the Old Mill in Oakesdale for a little "boogie." Mark your calendars and save your egg money ... Farm Fair 2009 is a-comin'!

To go to the MaryJane's "Buggy, Barter & Boogie" thread on The Farmgirl Connection, [click here](#).

For more Farm Fair information, [click here](#).





Farmgirl Chatter

What are Farmgirls chatting about?

Check it out at The Farmgirl Connection link [here!](#)

Henhouse/Chapter Farmgirl Challenge

MaryJane's 2009 4th of July Farm Fair ("Buggy, Barter, and Boogie") is just around the corner, and all the plans are coming together. We want to invite you to participate in the event whether you can be there in person or not. Sunday, July 5, MaryJane will be hosting a luncheon at Settler's Creek organic farm in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho (home of MaryJanesFarm Store). We are looking for farmgirls, chapters, and henhouses to adopt tables. You and your farmgirls will need to think up a farmgirl theme, put the items into a box, and mail them to Settler's Creek to be set up for the event. Or if you will be coming in person, feel free to bring the items with you, and we will collect them Friday night at the store. Each table seats eight guests. Make sure your farmgirl/chapter/henhouse name is boldly stated for all the guests to see. We will keep a list of farmgirls/chapters/henhouses that are adopting a table and farmgirls can sign up to sit at those tables when they register. We will have fun little prizes for the most creative table, for the chapter whose table tickets are sold first, for the most tickets sold, and more. So you will want to encourage farmgirls to sit at "your" table. Knives, forks, and cups are all provided; you just need to worry about the decorations (tablecloths, centerpieces, etc.). To get on the list, please e-mail me or leave a message on the thread above and I will e-mail you the address and details. Let the games begin! ...

For more information, [click here.](#)



Chapter Chatter: What do you get when you arm farmgirls with duct tape? You get "dress forms!"

Thursday night at our fun chapter meeting, we wrapped gals in duct tape to make MaryJane's dress forms; here are a few of them. I cannot even begin to tell you the amount of laughter that went on!

Rene~Prosser Farmgirl #185

To read more and see photos, [click here.](#)



the chatter continues ...

Make it Easy ~ Splitting Firewood

Now that winter is slowly leaving us, I have many downed trees on the farm. I would sure like to split all that up for firewood. Can anyone recommend the best place to get inexpensive tools to do the job and the best techniques to split firewood when you are a small woman? How much wood makes a cord too? I am thinking of hauling some of it to the hay and firewood auction to make a little money for the farm and they need it by the cord.

Thanks, Sara

Read the discussion: [click here.](#)



Chocolate Cream Frosting

1 1/4 c whipping cream
1/4 c light corn or agave syrup
1/4 c unsalted butter
1 lb semi-sweet or dark chocolate,
chopped

Frost your favorite cupcakes with this delicious chocolate frosting, and garnish with fresh damsel's rocket blossoms.

Combine cream, syrup and butter in large, heavy saucepan. Whisk over medium heat until mixture begins to simmer. Add chocolate. Reduce heat to low and whisk until frosting is smooth, about 1 minute; transfer to medium-sized bowl. Fill a large bowl with ice. Set bottom of bowl with frosting on top of the ice. Whisk until frosting becomes cool and thickens, about 8 minutes. Place the bowl of frosting on your work surface. Using an electric mixer, beat until color lightens and just until frosting becomes thick enough to hold peaks when beaters are lifted, about 2 minutes (frosting will continue to thicken as it stands). Garnish with flower petals or whole blossoms.

Featured Recipe

From MaryJane's Outpost:
Unleashing Your Inner Wild





even more chatter ...



Knickers/Pattern Sizing Question

Here are the waist and hip measurements for the 3 sizes of knickers.

Small waist = 44"; Small hip = 56"/Pattern size 8-10

Medium waist = 47"; Medium hip = 60"/Pattern size 12-16

Large waist = 52"; Large hip = 64"/Pattern size 18-22

I'd suggest measuring waist and hip and decide which size will fit best, taking into consideration how much ease throughout the knickers you want. In looking at other gathered pants, pattern manufacturers (McCalls, Butterick, etc.) allow 10"-12" for ease in waist.

MaryJane, Farmgirl #1 Plowin' Thru ~ giving aprons a good wrap for 45 years and counting ~

Barnyard Buddies ~ All Things Sheep and Goats

We have been having a very interesting sharing at the Stitching Forum that started with my Tail Spun Yarn and has moved into all sorts of adventures into breeding, selection of genetics, and fleece information, and we felt that to continue the sharing it might be served more if we moved over here....

To catch up, you can read "Tail Spun Anyone?" in the Stitching Forum. Please feel free to ask questions and to answer questions - we have all types of fiber animals represented here and it would be wonderful to get to know them better. I have or have had Alpaca, Llamas, Angoras, and Cashmere Goats, Icelandic, Southdown, Corriedale Sheep, French Angora Rabbits, and Great Pry's (Yes, I spin dog) and have in my studio everything from plants to Yak, so let get busy and talk....

Grace Gerber
Larkspur Funny Farm and Fiber Art Studio

Read more: [click here.](#)





and the chatter goes on...

Hogs & Quiches & Prayers Round-up: Are you taking care of yourself?

It is insane how the caregivers give and give to everyone but themselves. I am talking about you and me. As momma, daughter, sister, friend and to some honey bun, we need to take care of ourselves. So in honor of all we do, I am going to write a daily meditation here for us to take a moment and give ourselves some regenerating yummy renew.

So here is the first one (I love writing lists, so this is how I get through my to-do list. I start with an internal chore to practice throughout my day).

#1

Listen to your body's instinctive wisdom. Our bodies communicate through the emotions of comfort or discomfort. When your body sends signals of distress, do you listen or ignore them; thinking it will go away? Give yourself permission to feel any feelings that arise through the day and don't judge yourself or feel guilty.

Hopefully that's a doable challenge. . .
Heide

Read more: [click here.](#)

Farmgirl Sisterhood News

The Farmgirl Sisterhood

When you become an official member of the Farmgirl Sisterhood (FIND OUT HOW at www.maryjanesfarm.org/farmgirl-sisterhood) and create or join a Farmgirl Chapter, you will gain access to set up "henkeeping" in our online "Henhouses." We now have nearly 500 Farmgirl Chapters around the world where members meet regularly face-to-face, and even a few "virtual" chapters where members meet solely online. Our Henhouses will give Farmgirl Chapter members who become part of the official Farmgirl Sisterhood a place to meet online to chat; post photos; and share instructions, tutorials, and more for just their own chapter.





Farmgirl Sisterhood News

..... *WOO-HOO Sisters!*

Earning badges this week are:

([Click here](#) for photos and details. Woo-hoo is right, just look at this list)

Farmerette Awards:

Nicole Meerwarth

Stitching & Crafting – Expert Badge, Knitting

Ashley Meerwarth

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Apron

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Embroidery

Sisterhood Badges:

Chelsey Swan

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Crocheting

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Knitting

Gail Springman

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Sew Wonderful

Garden Gate – Beginner Badge, Backyard Farmer

Christina Williamson

Garden Gate – Beginner Badge, Heirlooms Forever

Janie Edwards

Farm Kitchen – Beginner Badge, Get It Together

Carrie Meerwarth

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Homespun Christmas

Make It Easy – Beginner Badge, In the Garden – Trellis

Outpost – Beginner Badge, Disconnect To Re-Connect

Each Other – Beginner Badge, Lend a Helping Hand to Families

Cleaning Up – Beginner Badge, Shopping Green

Garden Gate – Beginner Badge, 3 R's

Cheryl Severeide

Farm Kitchen – Beginner Badge, Get It Together

Sharalyn Paetz

Stitching & Crafting – Intermediate Badge, Knitting

Ingrid Schoolkate

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Knitting

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Apron

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Crocheting

Lora Rosencrans

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Apron

Stitching & Crafting – Beginner Badge, Buttons

Garden Gate – Beginner Badge, Heirloom

Susan Arkles

Farm Kitchen – Beginner Badge, Get It Together

Farm Kitchen – Beginner Badge, Organic On a Budget

Cleaning Up – Beginner Badge, Shopping Green

Cleaning Up – Intermediate Badge, Shopping Green



the clucking continues ...

Emerald City Farmgirls ~ Seattle Area Chapter Starting in April 2009

We are farmgirls within an hour of Seattle. Our goal is to meet for a monthly potluck to discuss and plan activities members can choose from-canning, gardening, seed/produce exchange, antiquing, sewing, farm tours, etc. We have other great ideas about green and community projects - so far we're in our 20's and 40's - all are welcome. Shoot me an e-mail if you like and we'll coordinate a date that works for everyone: motofunroad@yahoo.com. Thanks!

Read more: [click here](#).

K-Falls Farmgirls ~ The Nest is Filling

Welcome chicks! The nest is filling. Brian at MaryJanesFarm so nicely opened our henhouse door. Thank you so much, Brian! As your hen-honcho, I welcome you to use these threads to give us information about you in the bio section. I will "bee" laying eggs here about meetings and things we are doing. Welcome to the nest!

Cheryl
Farmgirl Sisterhood member #309
Klamath Falls Charming Chicks Hen-honcho

Read more: [click here](#).



Magazines, Books, and More

April/May 2009 issue of *MaryJanesFarm*

Our April/May issue, *Glamour Camping*, has just hit newsstands, and is being shipped to subscribers now. In it, you'll find lots of recipes for summer's first crops (organic of course!), a feature article about Sisters on the Fly, lots of gardening (including a how-to for a "moveable garden"), and projects that include a quilted bath mat, crocheted and knitted rugs, an oilcloth tablecloth, and even a portable "glamping cot." You'll also find a fun article titled "Farmgirl Buzz: I feel most like a farmgirl when ..." featuring quotes from our Farmgirl Connection members.



[Click here to subscribe to *MaryJanesFarm* magazine.](#)



MaryJanesFarm 2009 Calendar

There's still time to get your third annual MaryJanesFarm Calendar! Each month's top page features a full-color image from our farm and each calendar page includes dates, holidays, inspirational sayings, lunar phases and fabulous farmgirl culture. This is a Project F.A.R.M. (First-class American Rural Made) product. All 26 pages are printed here at the farm on 8.5"x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire—unfolds to approximately 17" high by 11" wide. \$10. [Click here](#) to order it!

"MaryJane's Everyday Organic" Newspaper Column

Want to help MaryJane spread the farmgirl spirit? Get in touch with your local newspaper (letter, phone call, visit) and nudge them into carrying her column, "MaryJane's Everyday Organic." Let them know you're on board and why—that you're someone who cares, who dares, and most importantly, who loves to share what MaryJane represents for you; that you want to see more of what MaryJane has put voice to; that her simple solutions for buying less, eating better, and getting more out of life are something you'd like to see them carry.

Here's the little bit of info you'll need:

"MaryJane's Everyday Organic" weekly column is distributed by United Feature Syndicate, the same people who bring you features like Miss Manners, Sense & Sensitivity, Animal Doctor, Peanuts, and Dilbert. Newspapers can **e-mail** lwilson@unitedmedia.com to find out more. Good luck, and let MaryJane know WHO you contacted and WHEN by **dropping her a line** at column@maryjanesfarm.org.

"MaryJane's Everyday Organic" is running in The Salt Lake Tribune!

Check it out online every Thursday. [Click Here](#)

And you can look at the "More Home News" list on the left side of the page to read past columns.

Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

Magazine "Goodies" on the MJF Website

"For those who are looking for the Magazine portion of the website, here is the place to find additional patterns, instructions, recipes and such! Yum!"

~ Alee, Farmgirl Sister #8

To find the goodies, **click here!**



Gift Items ...

Inspire yourself or inspire a friend with books, journals, note cards, and other gifts from MaryJane. From the kitchen to the campfire, there's something special here for every farmgirl-at-heart.

Click here to shop on our website.

And don't forget to visit our "Product Shop" ... **Click Here**

There, you'll find everything from organic bed sheets to beautiful bed sets to aprons to dolls to candles to chocolate to over 60 instant or quick-prep meals and desserts to much, much more!



René Groom, Sisterhood Coordinator

MaryJanesFarm • Moscow, Idaho

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**Over 785 Farmgirl Chapters in 48 states and 7 countries
and 27 Henhouses with 550 Sisterhood members ~
growing stronger every day!**