

MaryJane's Cluck

Monthly Sisterhood Newsletter ... where the braggin' begins!

june to mance

June 2010

Circumstances made us FRIENDS, MaryJanesFarm made us SISTERS!

MARYJANES FARM

Hello from Sister #1

What's that ruckus in the henhouse? Why, it's another issue of the CLUCK being hatched—chock full of useful, fun, and fabulous farmgirl ideas. After you've crafted and stitched your way to restoration with Shery and Rebekka Mae and gardened in bliss with Mary Ann, head on over to my daughter's section to try our crowd-pleasin' potato salad. It's a must. Speaking of crowds and spuds, I had unexpected guests this Memorial Day weekend. My husband's family was in town to properly decorate family graves, and my BFF, Sara Devins, decided at the last minute to bring her 21-year-old son (home from France for only five days) and join her husband's bluegrass band (www.bigredbarn.us) for a performance in our local community barn, www.artisanbarn.org. All I had on hand were fresh eggs, greens from my greenhouse, and last year's spuds (sporting six-inch sprouts!). Hubby peeled and grated, I whisked together eggs and flour and heated up several cast-iron skillets, and we fed them all—even my daughter's family that showed up. (The recipe for my potato "pancakes" is in the August/September issue of our magazine, "Lay of the Land," along with some of Sara's husband Charley's stunning landscape photos, www.charlesgurche.com.)

Sara and Charley's son, Peter, all grown up now, made my heart sing as he described his passion for organic farming (and saving the world), having just spent five months on five different farms in France as a participant in "Willing Workers On Organic Farms," www.woofinternational.org, a volunteer apprenticeship program. As an

continued ...



MaryJane and Sara, 1972-ish

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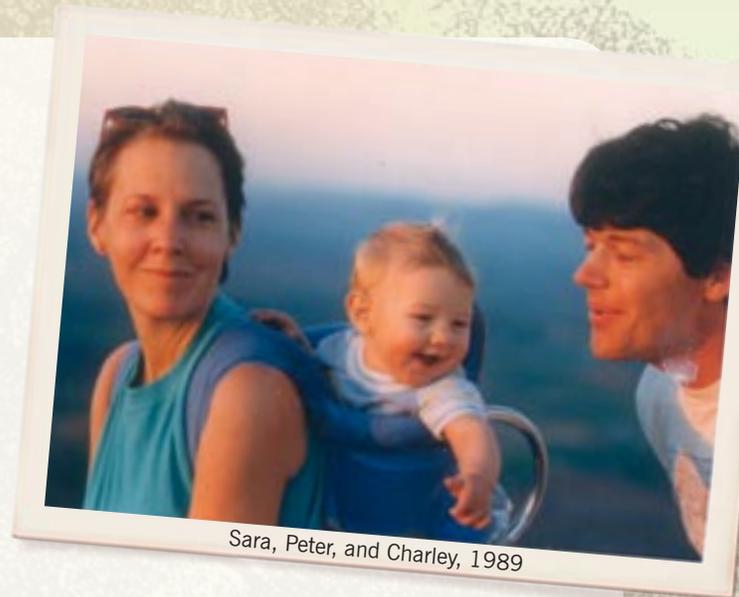
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MARYJANES FARM



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“auntie,” I can always hope a little tyke so dear will grow up bitten by the farmin’ bug, smitten by home-grown spinach and taken with tomatoes while attempting to right wrongs in the world. He spent his time on a draft-horse farm, a donkey-trekking farm (a woman who had won the lottery had always dreamed of taking guests into the outback by donkey, so THAT’S what SHE did with HER money!!), a goat dairy, a chestnut farm (they boil fresh chestnuts and turn them into a spread), and a veggie roadside farmstand. What an education! (He also plays a mean fiddle and duos with his papa on the banjo.) He’s now on his way to Alaska to run a CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) program in Homer and also take guests sea kayaking.



Sara, Peter, and Charley, 1989

Speaking of old friends, Libbie is back! Some of you long-time chatroom members will remember Libbie as one of our week-long Pay Dirt Farm School students and chatroom moderators (and Sister #10, if that tells you anything about how far back we go) who found herself “hit by a farm,” taken with two kids, a pasture full of lambs, ETCETERA!! All of it.

And then some. But as is always the case, routine showed up to help—she’s finally ready to share her rural life and will be replacing René Groom as our Rural Farmgirl Blogger. René will be one busy bee, having taken on the title of Community Relations Coordinator for Prosser Memorial Hospital. She will be missed.

And a hearty hug to our many new sisters this month. You are loved!

Libbie at MaryJanesFarm

“This will be my first vacation in over five years, even though I’m here to learn how to plant my first garden.”

Phil Jackson, Pay Dirt Farm School, 2003

MaryJane 

each other

According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:

EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | CLEANING UP

EACH OTHER with Megan Rae To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **EACH OTHER** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Megan Rae (Sister #2) grew up “on the farm”—MaryJanesFarm. She attended Gonzaga University and received a bachelor’s degree in Journalism. After marrying her college sweetheart, they moved to Kansas and bought their first home on a cobblestone street. Her love for writing, editing, and well, her Mom, finally brought her back to the farm. Raising her 2-year-old and 7-month-old farmgirls and working alongside her husband, mother, and family is the perfect lifestyle mix for Megan. She rounds it out with travel across the country to visit her five dearest college girlfriends who she loves with all her heart (they’ve all been in each other’s weddings), her stepsister in New York City (the perfect excuse to slip into a pair of stilettos), and one of her favorite farmgirls that she met when she lived in Kansas (scheduled around working the cows, of course).

Father’s Day Feast

Lately, I’ve been in the mood for a picnic. After all, it is now officially picnic season. I asked my brother if he knew of any holidays that I hadn’t thought of during the month of June so I’d have an excuse to pull off a celebratory picnic. But just as I was asking my husband what he thought I should get my dad for Father’s Day, the two thoughts collided. Picnic it is!

It’s actually a great plan because we can celebrate my dad, my hubby, and my brother all at the same time. This Father’s Day is especially important for my brother, it being his first to celebrate fatherhood.

So I want the real thing—a huge quilt on a grassy perch with a view. Your version of the “real thing” might be completely different than mine—a quilt on a sandy beach would be pretty darn nice too.

The nice thing about inviting a bunch of farmboys on a picnic is there doesn’t have to be a lot of fanfare, just some *good* fare and good company. I’m planning on some homemade strawberry lemonade. For the main course, I’m going to keep it simple—roasted potato salad and some simple cheeses, apples, and baguettes.

Now for the good company part of the occasion. Since we have a 5-month-old, a 1-year-old, and a 3-year-old between us, we’ll stay pretty entertained—the makings of a perfect picnic: good food and good company in honor of some pretty awesome dads.



recipe, next page ...

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Featured Recipe

Smoked Bacon and Mustard Potato Salad

SERVES: 6

6 cups grilled potatoes (over)
3 small shallots
3 T olive oil
3 T whole-grain mustard
2 T red wine vinegar
½ t salt
pepper, freshly cracked
3 slices smoked bacon,
cooked and crumbled
3 T parsley, fresh, chopped



Since potato salads are a staple at most any picnic and barbecuing is a favorite summer pastime, here's a great way to combine the two: *roasted* potato salad.

1. The first step is baking the potatoes ahead of time. A few of the favorites that we grow here on the farm are Red Desiree and Yukon Gold, but any ole tater will do.
2. Bake the potatoes as you normally would, but remove them from the oven the minute they are done. Over-baking will make them difficult to skewer. You want them slightly *al dente*.
3. Allow the potatoes to cool completely.
4. Cut the potatoes, skins and all, into ¾-inch cubes and then skewer them.
5. Brush the potatoes generously with olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and pepper.
6. Place skewers on a grill top and cook, turning frequently, until golden brown and crispy. Remove from the grill.
7. Sauté shallots in olive oil until barely softened, remove from heat, and add mustard, vinegar, salt, pepper. Toss with warm potatoes, bacon, and parsley.

“What I say is that, if a man really likes potatoes, he must be a pretty decent sort of fellow.”
— A. A. Milne

farm kitchen

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FARM KITCHEN with Alyson Oüten To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **FARM KITCHEN** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Alyson Oüten (Sister #100) is a farmgirl, trapped in a cosmopolitan career. In addition to gardening, she digs deep into stories with her investigative shovel as a television news reporter in Boise, Idaho, and has won two Emmy awards. Alyson lives in a 1910 Craftsman-style bungalow in downtown Boise. She spends as much time as possible cooking for friends and preening and pruning her cottage garden. Alyson is a regular guest at our wall-tent bed and breakfast, where she soaks up our little piece of paradise in a bath under the stars. "I found heaven!" she says.



The Spice of Life

My friends Joe and Thanh were inspired to enter a chili contest this spring, vying for the first place prize of \$500. This was going to be Joe's ticket (literally) to a trip to Cabo San Lucas with Thanh and her sister.

After several weeks of researching recipes, Joe and Thanh started making and revising their own creation. Their claim to fame (they hoped) was an all organic, spicy, beef chipotle chili.

They tested this by hosting several dinner parties and getting feedback from their friends. I was fortunate to be present (spoon in hand) for each revision. The chili they ultimately took to the contest was markedly different from their first effort, but still lived up to their original concept.

It was delicious! It was a thick, meaty, smoky chili with an amazing accompaniment of lime crema and avocado relish.

Despite their significant investment of time and money, Joe and Thanh's "Cabo Chili" did not win! My outrage at this injustice is validated by the fact they *did* win The People's Choice award ... which offered *no* cash prize!

But their loss is our gain! If they'd won the cook-off, they would have surrendered their recipe to the restaurant proprietor who held the contest. Since they didn't win, I am giving it to you!

Sadly, Joe was not able to go to Mexico, but Thanh had a lovely girls' trip with her sister. Thanh has since renamed her dish "No Cabo for Joe Chili."



recipe, next page ...

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Slow-cooked Cabo Chili

continued ...

- 2 T olive oil
- 1 package bacon, cut into ½" cubes
- 3 lbs boneless beef chuck roast
- 1 large red onion
- 4 cloves garlic
- 3 T ancho chili powder
- 1 T chili powder
- 1 T ground cumin
- 1 bottle Guinness Stout
- 4 cups low sodium chicken stock
- 1 24-oz can diced tomatoes, drained and puréed
- 1 6-oz can tomato paste
- 4 chipotle peppers in adobo sauce, puréed
- 3 T honey
- 2 cans black beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cans kidney beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 cans cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 2 T fresh lime juice
- 4 Keffir lime leaves
- 6 corn tortillas, cut into 2" pieces



1. Chop, rinse, and purée all ingredients ahead of time.
2. Heat the oil over medium-high heat in a Dutch oven. Cook the bacon until crisp. Add the bacon to a crockpot, reserve the bacon fat, and set aside.
3. Pour some of the bacon fat back into the Dutch oven and brown the beef with salt and freshly ground pepper. Add to the slow cooker.
4. Add the remaining bacon fat to the skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and cook until soft. Add the garlic and cook for another minute. Add the ancho powder, chili powder and cumin. Stir and cook for another minute. Add the bottle of beer and let simmer for 5 minutes or more, until the beer is reduced.
5. While the onion and beer mix is simmering, cut the corn tortillas and microwave with 2 cups of chicken stock for 3 minutes, or until mushy. Place tortillas and stock in food processor and pulse until smooth. Immediately add the stock to the slow cooker and stir it in with the meat. Pour the onion/beer mix into the slow cooker and mix.
6. Add the remaining chicken stock, puréed tomatoes, tomato paste, chipotle purée, honey, lentils, and Keffir lime leaves to the slow cooker. Stir.
7. Cook on high for 5–7 hours. In the last hour of cooking, add the black, cannellini, and kidney beans.
8. Just before serving, squeeze 2–3 T of lime juice and stir into the chili.
9. Serve with a dollop of lime crema, avocado relish, and cilantro.

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Lime Crema

(Mexican sour cream)

1 cup sour cream
1 lime, juiced
lime zest

For every cup of sour cream, mix the juice and zest of one lime.

Avocado Relish

avocados, diced
cilantro, chopped
red onion, minced
salt and pepper to taste
1 jalapeño, finely diced

Mix all ingredients together.
Add jalapeño, salt, and pepper to taste.



“Wish I had time for just one more bowl of chili.”
– the dying words of Kit Carson



garden gate

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GARDEN GATE with Mary Ann Newcomer To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **GARDEN GATE** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Mary Ann Newcomer, (Sister #246) is a MaryJane Farmgirl, living in Boise, the capital of Idaho. Her great grandparents' homestead was established in 1899 on the Palouse prairie and is still in the family. She learned to cook, garden, can, and sew with her grandmother. Never without a garden or, at the very least, a shelf of plants in an apartment, she followed her passion to become an Advanced Master Gardener, a director of the Idaho Botanical Gardens, and a scribe, scout, and speaker for all things gardening.

“He who loves a garden still his Eden keeps, perennial pleasures plants, and wholesome harvest reaps.”

– Amos Bronson Alcott

We Be Jammin' (and putting food by)

Now is the time to get your canning, jamming, freezing, and drying gear together. The bounty is upon us: strawberries, rhubarb, peas, and raspberries are ready in the garden. Ripe for eating ... first, berries and peas straight off the plants, then from the bucket or basket, and finally, you realize you better put some by for the winter.

I love strawberry jam straight, without anything fancy added. Ditto, jam of red raspberries. I use the dog-eared *Ball Blue Book of Canning* for my recipes; its tried-and-true proportions are perfect. You may also want to check out the very hip canning site, *Tigress in a Jam*, and later, *Tigress in a Pickle*. Whether you've been canning and jamming forever, or brand new to putting food by, you will be so glad to open a jar or freezer container of summer goodness come November. I like to give folks the old razzle-dazzle at Thanksgiving by setting out the first raspberry freezer jam of the season, because, YES! I had the foresight to stash it back in June.

If you should be so fortunate to come by a couple extra flats of berries, remember they freeze really well if you lay them out in a single layer on a cookie sheet, freeze until solid, *then* put them in freezer bags. (The same will work for any small fragile fruit or vegetable).

I take time to gather up lots of rhubarb now, too, the redder the better, crimson being my favorite variety. You can cut it up into 1" chunks, freeze them in one- or two-pound bags, carefully noting the date and weight of the contents. Rhubarb makes a lovely juice, which in turn makes a wonderful beverage, the fantastic *rhubartini*.

So, take a minute now to gather up your supplies for the season ahead: you will need sugar, pectin, plenty of clean jars, new lids (EVERY TIME), enough good rings, freezer containers, an assortment of freezer bags, a Sharpie marker, and the freshest of produce. I pick from my garden and at u-pick farms, I pick stuff up at the farmers' market, and I place orders with local farmers for specialty items, like 30 pounds of tiny pickling cucumbers come August.

**Ready,
set,
... let's get jammin'!!**





... more garden gate with René

It seems that the month of May is the perfect time to dust off the outdoor furniture and crank up the old barbeque. All those cute little things that we have tucked away for the winter now get to come out into the light of the day. As I walked around the back yard this week, getting things set up for our first back-yard barbeque (my son Cole's high-school graduation party), I couldn't help but to take stock of all my perennials that are now making a show as well.

I have determined to make as much of my yard into perennials as possible, in hopes that when I am older and grayer, the work will somehow be less and less. Considering that two short years ago, it was a big hole where a pool used to be, I think that I am making progress...

I am glad that I decided back then to start a journal of what was planted where, as I have been a little surprised at how readily the information doesn't come these days. As I was dragging everything out of the garage and finding it a home, I also found my bag of tin cans. I guess it is time to make my tin-can scarecrow and get my badge. Click [here](#) to learn more about badges from this and other garden-gate challenges.



René Shoom

Sister #185

GARDENING

ALL THE RAGE



“A garden journal is a must...At this point, I can't possibly remember all the varieties of fruit trees, berry bushes, and more that I've planted over the years, but I can remember where my garden binders are.”

— MaryJane Butters

stitching & crafting room

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STITCHING & CRAFTING with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **STITCHING & CRAFTING** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Rebekka Boysen-Taylor, (Sister #40) was born in Spokane, Washington, right around the time Mount St. Helens blew her top. She studied Geography at Portland State University and taught grade school in the Bronx and inner-city Los Angeles. She lives with her family on the Palouse. As a stay-at-home mama to two organically growing little ones, Rebekka rounds out her organic lifestyle by volunteering at the Moscow Food Co-op, working as an instructor for MaryJane's Pay Dirt Farm School, embracing a DIY ethic, winning blue ribbons at the county fair, and living simply.

The Humble Napkin

Cloth napkins are a must-have for your farmgirl kitchen. These thrifty gems save paper and money while making each meal feel a bit more put together. Here are some ideas to help you build an artful collection for your dinner table or freshen up the stash you already have.

Make your own

When I go into fabric stores, I love to pick through the fat-quarter bundles. Since I don't quilt, I was never quite sure what to do with them until recently. A fat quarter is a cut piece of fabric that measures approximately 22" x 18". Last week, I found a bundle of fabulous vegetable prints at my favorite store in town, MaryJane's Sweet Dreams, but what would I make with them? I looked at the bundle and realized that they were nearly a new set of dinner napkins. So home they came, where I hemmed the edges. In just 10 minutes, my dinner table was ready for summer—so easy! They are a generous size and an inexpensive way to bring fresh color into the kitchen. To make your napkins extra special, try adding some hand embroidery to highlight part of the print or stitch rickrack around the border. If you have little ones, make them small napkins using soft flannel. They are durable, clean well, and are very absorbent if there is a spill at the table. You can find colorful prints that are a nice departure from pastel bunnies and bears in the quilters' flannel section of your fabric store. I double the fabric and stitch it up in 8" squares for kids' napkins so that they are thick and not too big for little hands.

You don't need to make your own cloth napkins if sewing isn't your forte. For a fun, ready-made set, try a dozen bright bandannas—they are great for backyard barbeques and picnics. Or gather some delicate hankies to use for a fancy tea or brunch.

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stitching & crafting room

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STITCHING & CRAFTING with Rebekka Boysen-Taylor To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **STITCHING & CRAFTING** category, [CLICK HERE](#)

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The simple rituals of dining and spending time in the kitchen become embedded, cherished memories. Even more so when you are thoughtful about what you put on the table. When a girlfriend of mine married, she stitched cloth napkins for all of her guests to use at the reception. Some years later, the napkins are still on her table and in her little ones' lunch boxes as a warm reminder of the family's beginning.



Gail Kessler's
"Garden Fresh"
collection is also
available on our
website.
[Click here.](#)

“
Call it a clan, call it
a network,
call it a tribe, call it
a family. Whatever you
call it, whoever you are,
you need one.”

– Jane Howard

make it easy

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MAKE IT EASY with Shery Jespersen To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **MAKE IT EASY** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Shery Jespersen (Sister #753) is a Wyoming cattle rancher who's been horse-crazy all of her life. Shery is a leather and lace cowgirl. Her other interests include "junktiques," creating eclectic "make do" arts and crafts, collecting antique china, and cultivating mirth.

Re-Everything Garden

My grandpa taught me the art of recycling and re-purposing. His influence instilled in me a lust for junk hunting and making new things out of old things. The whole affair is a joyful adventure that challenges your ability to be a creative problem-solver.

My most recent "problem" was two-fold. First, I wanted a garden in an environment that is NOT garden-friendly. Second, I was determined to make it happen. But HOW? Our growing season is short, the wind can be hideous, spring is a long time in coming, and late frost is not uncommon. I had surrendered my gardening interests several years ago, upon moving here. In addition to the other problems, we have the heaviest clay in the world—bentonite and shale.

Then it happened—a little light bulb blinked on overhead! There are many old ranch dumps in our area, and in those old garbage sites lay hidden treasure. Things like rusted-out water tanks for livestock, old laundry tubs, cast-iron bed frames, enamelware buckets, and all kinds of antique "ag iron." Nuthin' doin', off I went on a junking safari.

Long story shortened ... after several trips hither and yon, I made my garden out of many of the afore-mentioned found objects. In addition, I spied some old picket fence, now serving as a wind-break fortress. The whole of it is a cobbled-together conglomeration of 100 percent recycled materials. Even the wire I used to piece the fence sections together is old baling wire. The stock tanks should provide more warmth for my veggies. Iron headboards are now trellis ladders for climbing flowers and beans. Homemade "dirt," courtesy of our cattle and horses, fill the tanks.

All of my garden containers qualify as "Make It Easy" projects, and I hope the photos will inspire ideas that you can run with. Don't be shy about asking farmers or ranchers in your area about going junk hunting on their place. Just be polite and offer to pay for your finds. More often than not, they'll see it as getting rid of garbage. I didn't pay for one item!

Once my garden project was completed, I made a wreath of old barbwire for my garden gate. But it needed a cute little farmgirl-style sign. I used an old piece of wood that was once a part of a drawer. Any old hunk of similar lumber will do. The dimensions of the capitol letters are approximately 1 1/4" tall. The sign is 4 1/4" x 14".

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make it easy

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MAKE IT EASY with Shery Jespersen To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **MAKE IT EASY** category, [CLICK HERE](#)

continued ...

“ Gardening is not a rational act. What matters is the immersion of the hands in the earth ... In the spring, at the end of the day, you smell like dirt. ”

– Margaret Atwood

The How To:

With a pencil or pen, draw your letters on an 8" x 11" sheet of paper—this is your dress rehearsal. Repeat on the board. With a small, fine paintbrush, paint the letters first with light olive-green acrylic paint. Let dry, and then apply a darker shade of the same color (don't use too much paint). Let dry. Follow with a diluted brown, using light strokes and very little paint. Don't be overly meticulous. Paint the heart on one side with red paint and smudge a little pink down the left side with your pinky finger. Paint a daisy or your own favorite flower on the other side. Let dry. Glue a button onto the heart. Spray with an acrylic sealant. Drill two holes and insert wire through them to make a hanger. (Refer to photo for details.)



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Irene Wolansky (Sister #1144) is the Marketing Director at Mountain Rose Herbs. Born and raised on the Oregon coast, Irene spent her childhood learning about beekeeping, growing and preserving fruits and vegetables, building forts in the forest, and going on adventures with her dog. She has many interests, which include making her own body care products, mushroom harvesting, gardening, arts and crafts projects, nature photography, mead and beer making, camping, herbal medicine, baking, traveling, hiking, and spending time with her boyfriend and friends. [Click here](#) to visit Mountain Rose Herbs on the Web.

Body Care with Wild Plants

What fun it is to explore fields and woods, bringing home wild plants to transform into healing products! Many wild weeds are a treasure trove of vitamins, minerals, and properties that help soothe and heal the skin. When harvesting wild flora, make sure and do so in a harmonious and respectful way that will not negatively impact your local ecosystem. To learn more about identifying and harvesting wild plants, look for local field guides such as *Peterson Field Guide to Eastern Medicinal Plants* or *Medicinal Plants of the Pacific West*.

Balm of Gilead Buds (*Populus balsamifera*) – Buds from Cottonwood Poplar trees have antibacterial and anti-inflammatory actions, making them ideal for ointments, salves, and oils to treat minor wounds and skin injuries.

Blackberry (*Rubus fruticosus*) – Not only are Blackberry leaves abundant, they are also a gentle astringent for normal and oily skin. Use in facial steams or brew with boiling water, strain, cool and use as a facial toner.

Chickweed (*Stellaria media*) – Rich in minerals and excellent for poultices, skin irritations, and eye inflammations. This herb is often used in salves because it is so soothing to the skin.

Comfrey (*Symphytum officinale*) – Comfrey root and leaf can be brewed into an infusion and applied as a gentle and soothing toner beneficial for inflamed, sensitive, or dry skin. This mucilaginous herb can also be incorporated into salves, poultices, and ointments. The root or leaf can be used similarly, but the root is stronger.

Elder (*Sambucus nigra*) – A traditional cosmetic wash created by brewing a tea from the fresh flowers. May be applied as a facial toner or as a wash for soothing eye and skin irritations.

Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) – Naturally high in silica, this herb strengthens and conditions hair. Make a water infusion and apply after washing your hair, or infuse in Olive Oil to use in hot oil treatments.

Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) – This wondrous herb is rich in minerals, strengthening, and astringent. Use in hair treatments to stimulate circulation at the scalp and encourage hair growth and in facial care to tone oily, normal, combination, or acneic skin. Nettle is also beneficial as a healing wash to cleanse wounds and sores.

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Plantain (*Plantago major* or *Plantago lanceolata*) – The folkloric name for this herb is “Green Bandage” for obvious reasons. Plantain is one of the best poultice herbs available. The fresh leaves applied as a poultice soothe irritations and infections, while the dried and powdered leaf can be used as an herbal first-aid powder for infections.

Red Clover (*Trifolium pretense*) – Not only are they beautiful, but the blossoms are anti-inflammatory, calming, and cleansing. Especially beneficial when used in facial treatments for dry or irritated skin. Toss a handful into a bowl of boiling water for a gorgeous facial steam!

Self Heal (*Prunella vulgaris*) – This common weed has antibiotic and antiseptic properties, and is a traditional remedy to treat cuts, abrasions, and bruises.

St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) – Traditionally infused fresh in Olive Oil, this weedy herb grows readily along roadsides and in disturbed areas and is a fabulous remedy for damage to nerve endings, burns, wounds, bruises, and sprains.

Wild Rose (various wild species) – Leaves from Wild Rose plants are astringent and toning. They can be added to facial steams and the fresh leaves can be applied as a poultice for bee stings and insect bites.

Wild Strawberry leaves (various wild species) – Wild Strawberry leaf infusion makes a gentle astringent for normal, oily, or combination skin.

Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) – A very strong natural astringent. A poultice of crushed fresh Yarrow leaves can stop bleeding, and an infusion made from the flowers can be used to treat eczema or acne. The dried powdered leaf can be used in a first-aid kit and applied to cuts and wounds to disinfect and stop bleeding.

Horsetail & Nettle Hair Rinse

Place 1–2 handfuls of fresh Horsetail and/or Nettles in a glass mason jar, fill with boiling water, and cap tightly. Allow to infuse for 2 or more hours, and then strain out the herbs (great for compost!). After washing hair, rinse with the liquid.

Wild Plant Facial Steam

Choose 1–2 handfuls of fresh wild plants (choose one or a mixture: Red Clover Flowers, Elder Flowers, Wild Strawberry leaves, Blackberry leaves, or Rose Hip leaves). Place fresh herbs into a large ceramic or glass bowl. Boil water and pour over herbs, immediately placing a towel or lid over the bowl so that the oils being released from the herbs do not escape. Steep for 5 minutes. Place the bowl on a table or other surface where you can comfortably sit and hold your face over the bowl covering your head and the bowl with a large towel to make sure that no steam can escape. Make sure to keep your eyes closed and breathe deeply to inhale the therapeutic properties of the herbs. Steam for 10 minutes.

continued ...

make it easy ... with

mountain rose herbs®
.com

continued ...

Healing Weed Oil & Salve

Choose one or a mixture: Balm of Gilead buds, Chickweed, Comfrey, Nettles, Plantain, Self Heal, St. John's Wort, or Yarrow. Wilt fresh herbs for 12 hours to remove most of the moisture (too much moisture will cause your oil to go rancid), cut into small pieces, and crush with a mortar and pestle before adding to a clean Mason jar. Cover the herbs thoroughly with organic Olive oil, cap tightly, and place in a sunny windowsill. Shake the jar daily for 6-8 weeks, then strain the herbs out and bottle the remaining oil. This healing oil can be used on small cuts, scrapes, insect bites, and other minor skin wounds. To make a salve, combine 4 oz of herbal oil with ½ oz of beeswax and melt gently over a double boiler until the beeswax melts. If desired, add 20 drops of Lavender essential oil for its therapeutic properties. Remove from heat and quickly pour into tins or glass jars and allow to cool before capping with lids.



According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:

EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | **OUTPOST** | CLEANING UP

OUTPOST with Shery Jespersen To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **OUTPOST** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Shery Jespersen (Sister #753), Wyoming cattle rancher and outpost writer (rider), shares the “view from her saddle.” Her longtime love is Apple Pi “Dolly” Rose, a 20-year-old Morgan otherwise known as “The Best Darn Horse in the Universe.” In our Make It Easy section, Shery also shares her other love, “make do” arts and crafts.



Little Panda On The Prairie

About a year after I was married, I bought my very first “real” work of art, an oil painting of a newborn “black baldy” calf standing next to a yucca. The title of the painting is “Where’s Mom?” The image is a sentimental symbol of the profession I married into and a lifestyle I eagerly embraced ... cattle ranching.

Every year, I so look forward to seeing our calves. Each new day during calving season is like opening a present. New babies are born nearly every day during April and May. As we ride, we hunt for and discover the newborns tucked into the sagebrush. They nestle there, out of the cold wind on blustery days and yet the sunshine keeps them warm and cozy. When the calves get a little older and bolder, they’ll stand up and strike a pose for you. Every year, I pick a few favorite calves. Without exception, they’ll have white faces or ‘brockle’ faces (mottled white). Here is my pick this year. Isn’t she a dandy?

The purpose for us riding daily is to check for potential birthing problems or to discover a calf that may not be thriving—maybe his mother forgot where she put him or maybe her teats are too large and she may need to be milked out. Nice weather presents fewer problems.

“Ranch air” in the springtime smells of new grass and sage ... clean and green with an almost menthol coolness. Calving time is also when the wildflowers bloom. Looking for them is something I never tire of. My favorite wildflower is the blue or blue/lavender Penstemon. The rather drab-looking plains that we call home are transformed into a sea of green velvet. We have many species of wildflowers, and the prairie wears them as if millions of colorful ornaments were scattered on the four winds.

Western historians have labeled the ranching profession as “The Grass Culture.” Everything in our line of work, as well as our character, is determined and shaped by grass. The weather also rules our lives, as is true of any agricultural pursuit. Am I grateful to call this lifestyle “work”? Oh yes! If you love what you do, you don’t look at it as work. If, one day, someone places flowers on my casket, I hope they know that a simple bouquet of grass and sagebrush will do just fine.



Farmgirl is a condition of the heart.

cleaning up

LEMONADE

According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:

EACH OTHER | FARM KITCHEN | GARDEN GATE | STITCHING & CRAFTING ROOM | MAKE IT EASY | OUTPOST | **CLEANING UP**

CLEANING UP with Toni Salerno To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **CLEANING UP** category, [CLICK HERE](#)



Born and raised in Florida, Toni Salerno (Sister #197) left her city life as a Theatre Director/Teacher to live a more holistic, serene life in Idaho. Five years ago, she found her dream home in Troy, Idaho, and embraced the Palouse way of life. Now, Toni and her husband, Adam, and their four daughters own Clean Green, an organic cleaning service. This company specializes in chemical-free cleaning using their own line of environmentally safe products. Visit their website at www.cleangreenocs.com.

Make Mine
GREEN

When Life Gives you Lemons ... CLEAN!

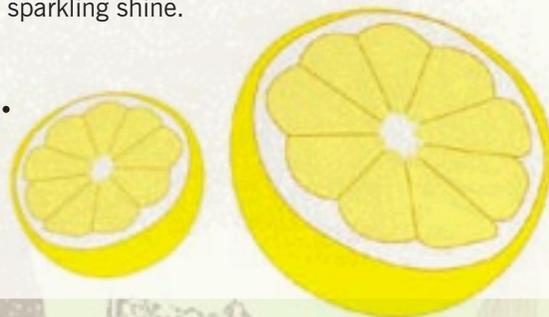
In summertime, one of my most favorite summer memories is crushed ice with lemon juice. Many people all over the world add lemon to their water, tea, and other beverages for a fresh, crisp taste. But who knew that in addition to tasting tart and delicious, lemons could be used for so much more, including cleaning? I have learned that lemons can be used for all different types of cleaning jobs, like removing grout stains, whitening fingernails, sanitizing cutting boards, and clearing up acne. Not only is lemon versatile, it is inexpensive and works efficiently and naturally.

Here are some cleaning tasks that lemons work well for:

IN THE KITCHEN

- 1. Sanitize a cutting board.** Run a slice of lemon over the surface to disinfect.
- 2. Remove tough food stains from plastic.** Squeeze lemon juice onto the soiled surface, rub, and let sit for 20 minutes. Rinse with water.
- 3. Sanitize your dishwasher and remove mineral deposits.** Place $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of lemon juice in the soap dispenser and run through the normal cycle.
- 4. Freshen a stinky garbage disposal.** Slice a lemon into the disposal and turn on the disposal with running water until the lemon is gone.
- 5. Clean copper pots.** Cover the surface of a half lemon with salt and scrub your pot with it. Rinse and buff with a soft cloth for a beautiful shine.
- 6. Clean silver and brass.** Clean with lemon juice and buff with a soft cloth.
- 7. Clean your cheese grater.** Rub a generous amount of lemon juice on the grater or rub the pulp side of the lemon across the grater. The juice's abrasiveness will loosen the grip of the cheese to the metal surface of the grater. After a few wipes, your grater will be clean, sanitized, and cheese-free.
- 8. Shine metal.** Lemon juice can serve as a natural metal cleaner. Its acidic properties work wonders on the surfaces of metal furniture and china. Combine a little soap with lemon juice and rub down the metal with it.
- 9. Shine the interior of copper cookware.** Sprinkle a lemon wedge with salt, then scrub and rinse.
- 10. Clean glass shower doors.** Apply lemon juice with a sponge or microfiber cloth. Dry with newspapers or coffee filters for a sparkling shine.

continued ...





cleaning up

According to MaryJane, the seven aspects for living the farmgirl life are:

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CLEANING UP with Toni Salerno To earn a Sisterhood badge in our **CLEANING UP** category, [CLICK HERE](#)

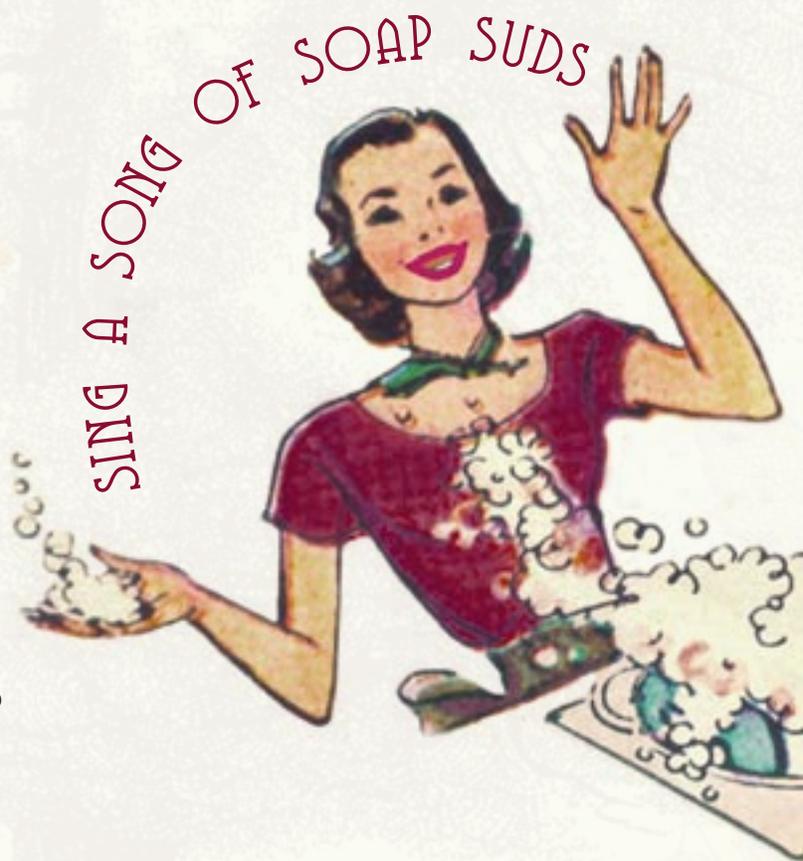
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IN THE BATHROOM AND LAUNDRY

- 1. Clean grout around tiles.** Apply lemon juice and water with a toothbrush and scrub.
- 2. Fade tea stains on cloth and/or naturally bleach clothes.** Dilute lemon juice with an equal amount of water. Use an eyedropper or a Q-tip to target the stain. Rinse with water. To brighten whites without bleach, just pour a quarter of a cup of lemon juice into the washing machine.
- 3. Toilet bowl brightener and disinfectant.** Squirt lemon juice around the toilet bowl and let sit for 20 minutes, follow up by using the toilet brush, then flush.
- 4. Short-term deodorant.** My mother swears by this one. In case you have forgotten to use deodorant, wipe a little lemon juice under your armpits. This should eliminate any odors up to a few hours, however if you need longer coverage, like most of us do, try dabbing baking soda under your armpits after applying the lemon juice.

MISCELLANEOUS USES

- 1. Whiten fingernails.** Rub a wedge on the surface of your nails.
- 2. Freshen the air.** Squeeze a few drops of lemon juice into the vacuum cleaner bag before vacuuming, or put lemon juice into a squirt bottle and spritz in the air.
- 3. Remove the smell of garlic or onions from your hands.** Rub with a lemon slice and rinse.
- 4. Guitar cleaner.** With the exception of maple-based guitars, you can use lemon juice to clean your guitar and other stringed instruments. The juice gets rid of built-up dirt on the string's grooves and can even shine the tops of your instrument.
- 5. Detox and metabolism booster.** Drinking a cup of warm water with lemon juice every morning can have a detoxing effect on your organs. In addition, if you drink lemon water throughout the day, you can greatly speed up your metabolism.





Young Cultivators

What's a Young Cultivator?

Young Cultivators are girls and boys between the ages 6 and 13. They can work with Farmgirl Sisterhood members to earn badges, but have their own unique program. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Sandra L. Hatch

has spent the last 28 years editing a national quilting magazine, in addition to hundreds of books and pattern books. This experience has rewarded her with long-lasting friendships with quilters from all over the world, along with her avid love for quilting. She is an experienced quilter, published quilt designer, and quilt-book author. Her first book, *Putting on the Glitz*, was co-authored with Ann Boyce. Since that first book, she has collaborated on many other books. By herself, she has authored several books, including *Illustrated Guide to Vintage Quilting* and, most recently, *Decorating for Christmas!*



pincushion all by herself.

Lauren designed and made me a

Passing It On

By Sandra L. Hatch

From the time I was a little girl, I sewed. I made my first crazy quilt when I was 10 or 11. I still have it. I became a home economics teacher so I could share my skills with others. When I had a daughter, I couldn't wait to teach her how to sew. That really never happened—she wasn't interested. When she was about 5 years old, I helped her hand-stitch a little quilt. From the beginning, she had problems—her hands sweat too much! The fabric pieces and thread got wet, making it nearly impossible for her little fingers to pull the needle through the fabric. Because of this negative beginning, she really never wanted to try again. She did make a couple of wall quilts, and she really has good skills, so I think one day she will be interested.

Now I have grandchildren; three of them are girls. The oldest, Lauren, is 10, and is the perfect age to learn to sew. Recently, she came to stay during a school vacation, and her goal was to make a quilt. Finally, my wish is coming true—I can pass along my love of quilting to another generation. The week before she arrived, I received an advertisement online for a small sewing machine. After reading all the reviews, I ordered one. Believe it or not, this little Janome machine really sews. It retails for under \$60, and I got it on sale for \$40. The machine got here just in time to be used for Lauren's first original-design quilt.

When Lauren arrived, she presented me with a pincushion she had made while visiting her 94-year-old great-great aunt. She designed and made it herself. It was made with felt and embellished with sequins. I love it and will keep it forever.

Lauren was anxious to get started on her quilt. We began by looking through my considerable fabric stash. She selected some rather modern-looking fabrics, and then she decided to add polka dots to the mix. After she settled on the fabrics, I gave her a clipboard with some graph paper, a pencil ruler, and colored pencils. I told her to sketch out a design. I expected questions, but there were none.

continued ...



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I was very impressed when she showed me her first draft—it was to scale on the graph paper. She had not left herself enough room to finish, so she drew it over again. I suggested she then color the design as close to the fabric colors as she could. She did a fantastic job—the drawing resembled the fabrics right down to the colored dots and swirls. Lauren is very artistic, but I had no idea she would be such a good designer right away! We clipped some little swatches of the fabric to the drawing, and we were ready to start.

We figured out the sizes to cut and made a list. Since she had drawn the design for each square on the graph paper to equal an inch, it was easy to make a cutting list. She had already chosen the fabric placement. Because I was worried about her cutting herself with a rotary cutter, I cut most of the fabric pieces, but she did learn how to use a ruler, cutter, and mat.

Once the pieces were cut, we arranged them on a flat surface to match the drawing, and we were ready to sew. She had a problem in the beginning because she could not control the speed on my sewing machine, but her little machine arrived just in time. It had one speed—slow! That helped her to stitch an accurate 1/4" seam allowance. She stitched and pressed for a whole day, and she finished putting the top together. There were some changes to the borders, so the drawing got a bit messed up, but I assured her that's what creative people do.

The next day, we sandwiched the batting between the backing and stitched top. We pinned the layers together with quilters' safety pins. Since one of the fabrics was a wavy print, we decided to use that as the quilting design. I started the process because she was a bit scared to do it. Once I had quilted enough lines to hold it together, we removed the pins. After watching me, she decided she wanted to give it a try. Once she got going, she didn't want to stop! She kept finding places she thought needed a bit more quilting.

I ended up binding the edges, but this quilt was all Lauren's—from choosing the fabrics, drawing the design, and stitching the pieces to the quilting. She is so proud, but she isn't as proud as I am—I know now who got my quilting genes. She is anxious to start another quilt on her next visit, and I can't wait.

I couldn't be happier to pass my quilting skills on to the next generation. I am hoping that my other granddaughters will want to learn to sew, too. It will be nice to know that my fabrics, books, and other sewing and quilting materials will be appreciated long after I am gone.

continued ...

(This little gem of a pinkeeper was a gift to MaryJane, handmade by Miss Wilma's 10-year-old granddaughter, Brooke.)



MASTER QUILTER'S WORKSHOP
ILLUSTRATED
GUIDE TO
Vintage Quilting
By Sandra L. Harsh



continued ...



Lauren trying to narrow down her fabric choices.



Coloring her drawing made her design really come to life.



Sewing on her new little Janome sewing machine was a new experience.



Ironing was a challenge—Lauren got a small burn on her wrist. She was much more careful after that.



Using a rotary cutter is a daunting task for a 10-year-old.



The fabrics are chosen, the design is done, and Lauren is ready to start cutting and sewing.



Machine quilting was fun!



continued ...



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Lauren is shown proudly holding her completed quilt.



Featured Farmgirl

Patti Ann Long, Sister #1395

FORUM ID: Patti Ann

MARRIED: Yes ... to my childhood sweetheart!

CHILDREN: Robert is 9 years old; Salina is 13 years old.

FAVORITE FLOWER: Wildflower

WHY? A wildflower is born to be free ... nobody plants it in a certain place or decides to take care of it; it blooms where it lands and never takes more than what it needs to survive to be beautiful.

WHAT IS YOUR PASSION (besides hubby and kids and other family members)? Experiencing the great outdoors! It is like my second living room—without the comfy brown couch. I roam barefoot through and over it all. My feet aren't the prettiest in town, but they have this worn-in feel that looks great with a splash of pink toenail polish! I especially like to garden, and just when I think I can't pull another weed ... my hardworking German grandmother comes to call and I keep going because we are both strong that way. Camping is another one of my favorites, which always finds me hiking, fishing for trout, getting a golden tan, and eating the best food right out of the campfire coals or my treasured Coleman stove. Life just seems to make a little more sense when I hear a bird chirp or a butterfly dance.

FAVORITE QUOTE: "Most folks are as happy as they make up their minds to be."
- Abraham Lincoln

BEST PIECE OF ADVICE ANYONE HAS EVER GIVEN YOU . . . AND WHO GAVE IT??
"Do what you love ... and love who you are." It was in a fortune cookie!



continued ...



continued ...

WHAT ARE YOUR DREAMS FOR THE FUTURE?

I wake up most mornings with a surge of excitement and anticipation ... what will happen this day? ... the possibilities are endless, I seem to think.

Some days, all I want to do is spend time with my children and watch them grow. My first dream wishes to see them turn into these wonderful human beings that I had the privilege to know, nurture, and love. My second dream allows me to keep on living the best way I know how ... with more farm everything and the good sense to enjoy it. There is a third dream, which ends up being a combination of a great idea, good intentions, and downright fun ... my new business: FarmgirlProductsUSA. It will serve the farmgirl as a tool to sell her wares. Simple as that! I figured she needed a platform all her own to celebrate the special person she is. This dream would see me doing something I love for women I care about ... no matter if I have met them or not! I have much conviction around seeing that this is a success, although I realize fate will have it the way it will.

For more info on FarmgirlProductsUSA click [here](#).

“ ‘When you wake up in the morning, Pooh,’ said Piglet at last, ‘what’s the first thing you say to yourself?’
‘What’s for breakfast?’ said Pooh.
‘What do you say, Piglet?’
‘I say, I wonder what’s going to happen exciting today?’ said Piglet.
Pooh nodded thoughtfully.
‘It’s the same thing.’ he said. ”

– A. A. Milne, The House at Pooh Corner





The Scoop from MaryJanesFarm

Tracey Gaudette, from Grosse Ile, Michigan, won our Christmas Tree Decorating Contest in 2008. Her prize was a personal visit from MaryJane, who would teach her Farmgirl Chapter how to make rag rugs. That visit is finally in the works! After the class on June 15, others are welcome to join MaryJane and the Farmgirl Chapter for lunch.

Come to a farmgirl lunch with MaryJane!!

Tuesday, June 15, 12 noon, in the Garden at Bishop's Cottage, 7573 Macomb Street, Grosse Ile, Michigan 48138, 734-671-9191.

Innkeeper Kathy Brockmiller will be offering a lovely menu ... you have a choice of Broccoli Cheddar Quiche or Chicken Salad with Croissant. Both entrees are served with a generous selection of fresh fruit and a side of cottage cheese dusted with cinnamon. Unlimited beverages include: coffee, hot tea, iced tea, lemonade, and water. This is a fixed price lunch for \$15. Limited availability; reserve early to avoid disappointment. Kathy is asking that guests reserve their spot for this special event by pre-ordering and prepaying for their lunch by mail. If you are a Farmgirl Chapter, please work as a group and send in a list of attendees and a single payment to minimize paperwork. No rooms are available at Bishop's Cottage during this time. Parking will be available in the municipal lot across the street ... look for balloons marking the parking lot and Bishop's Cottage.

Visit Bishop's Cottage on the Web.



MaryJane at "The Creative Connection" Sept. 16-18

MaryJane is proud to be a keynote speaker at "The Creative Connection" event on Sept. 16, 17, and 18 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The Creative Connection is a 3-day conference and market created by Nancy Soriano and Jo Packham of *Where Women Create* for creative women and women entrepreneurs, bringing together women who are passionate about being creative in their lives as artists, business owners, bloggers, and more. Come learn, network, market, and create! Find out more **here**.

- * Take part in daily hands-on workshops in jewelry, knitting, painting, sewing, journaling, and more, all taught by industry leaders.
- * Learn how to use tech and social media to grow your audience and business.
- * Sign up daily at the Smart Bar for one-on-one and small group advice.
- * Also find entrepreneurial panels; a vibrant Handmade Market where you can shop for great items and sell your own; and event meals where women entrepreneurs in the tech, craft, and artisan communities will talk freely about what they love most.

MEET

MARYJANE

MARYJANES FARM. TV



the scoop continues ...

MaryJanesFarm.TV

Head on over to www.maryjanesfarm.tv and check out our new Farmgirl “U” Sisterhood Merit Badge videos. (Search through the list for those that are underlined—those are links to completed videos.) Also, our new “DIY Magazine Projects” has a video of paper guru Jaime Whitney demonstrating how to make beautiful paper out of junk mail as a companion to her how-to pages in the April/May 2010 issue of our magazine. And for a bit of escape, enjoy our “Farm Romance” videos.

Farmgirl “U” is for YOU—the gal who still giggles with her girlfriends and craves vine-ripened tomatoes, homemade jams, and healthier living in general. (Let’s not forget simple pleasures in particular.) And you were born with enough curiosity that continuing to learn is a must. In can-do, will-do “I can do this!” fashion, we are slowly offering how-to videos that match our written Merit Badge requirements. So take heart, visual learners, we heard you loud and clear! But be patient, our list of videos-yet-to-be-completed tells us we have about a year’s worth to shoot. Stay tuned! We’re hard at it.

MaryJane ♥

P.S. Don’t be shy! If you have a video camera, don’t hesitate to put yourself, a Farmerette, or a Young Cultivator in front of it describing how a particular badge was earned. They can be sent to us on a DVD as a .mpeg file for inclusion on our www.maryjanesfarm.tv website (upon approval). Send them to: MaryJanesFarm/Merit Badge Videos, Box 8691, Moscow, ID 83843. Include your e-mail address and the badge earned so we can let you know when it will go live. (You still need to apply online for approval of badges, but don’t hesitate to shoot videos of ANY badges you’ve earned in the past. And sorry, we can’t return the DVDs you send.) Think Farmgirl “U” Tube and get those cameras rolling!





Farmgirl Chatter

What are farmgirls chatting about?

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

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From the Farm: Please read!

Please remember, girls, when posting on our forum, not to **SHOUT** (all CAPS equals shouting on the Web)—even in headings—and please, please, please stick with the default font size, which is a size 2. Our moderators have to go in and put everything back to normal every time someone forgets the rules. **IF WE ALL DID CAPS AND BIG, COLORED LETTERS, THE FORUM WOULDN'T BE VERY READABLE.** Remember, everyone's posts are equal in importance; please be courteous to our moderators as well as to everyone else. No CAPS and no fonts bigger than 2. Thank you!

HomeSafeHome: Old Bra Use. Submitted By debtea2

What to do with those old bras :) I make them into drawer scenters by just cut the sides off and stuff cups with batting and lavender buds and sew together. If you leave the straps on, you can hang them inside the closet or with your jackets and coats for the winter, or put in your luggage or gym bag.

jpbluesky's reply gave us a chuckle:

My *old* bras are still serving my *old* boobs! :)
Get more ideas [here](#).

Farmgirl Barter: Jeanpatch Barter Blog Now Open. Submitted By marjean

I closed my eBay store. The fees just got too high. I'm starting a barter blog. I will sell and barter for everything that is listed. My mother's things I have to sell, but my things I will barter for. Click [here](#) to see. I have it up and running as of now!!! I'll be adding new stuff daily, so check back often. We have tons of Tupperware still and some scrapbook supplies and some vintage items as well. So check back and I'll let you know when it is open. I have pie and cupcake takers with pink lid or base. I also have some vintage pieces on my Etsy store ([click here](#)). I will give a 10% discount to farmgirls; just give me your forum name or sister #. I have a vintage serving trio, grater, coasters, lettuce keepers, storage containers, large tumbler cups, and more will be added this month. On my Etsy store, I also have vintage fabric and cotton fabric and vintage sewing items. I have a lot of children's patterns that I will be adding soon. Some are already on my eBay store. To join in on the bartering, click [here](#).

Farmgirl Swap: How about a Rescue dolly swap? Submitted By Yarnmamma

Hi doll lovers, We would rescue a used doll from thrift shop or anywhere ya find one. Rescued dolly gets fixed up...example new hair do, clothes, etc...Use your talents and give dolly love and and a new home. Anyone want to do this??? Dolly is a human, not animal or stuffed animal. Contact your partner for more info to agree on. Post pics if ya can or send pics via email to me and I can post them here for you. Click [here](#) to see post.



the chatter continues ...

Clean Up: Open Windows! Submitted By Alee

I think having the windows open on a bright beautiful springtime day is such a gift! I am cleaning my house and shampooing carpets, and I have the windows wide open! The air is so fresh and clean! I hate breathing old stuffy "winter" air when the air outside is so beautiful! Plus, it is healthier for us too! Most modern furniture, wall paint, and floor coverings outgas into our atmosphere. This out-gassing is incredibly unhealthy for us. I have heard that our household air can be something like 9x more toxic than city smog sometimes! Yikes! That's pretty gross! Speaking of fresh clean air, I think I am going to take down my window sheers, and wash them so they are nice and clean too...

Farm Kitchen: Tattler Reusable Canning Lids. Submitted By Heather B

I just read an article in *Backwoods Home* magazine on Tattler reusable canning lids. They are a little expensive, but I'm wondering if they really work. If they do what they say, it may be worth me investing in them. I always feel bad about throwing the lids away each year, and with as much as I can, it gets darn right expensive! So my question to you gals is ... Has anyone used the Tattler lids? Pros? Cons? If anyone wants to check out the Tattler lid website, [click here](#). Join in on the discussion by clicking [here](#).

Outpost: I Finally Found My Dream Camper. Submitted By clothedinscarlet

Just picked her up today. She in such good condition on the inside! I'm so excited! A new coat of paint on the outside and she will be a vision! She is a 1962 Fan. I will post some interior pics later when I get home. Squeal!!! She's all ready for memories with this family of 5! You can see pictures of the trailer [here](#).

Stitching & Crafting: MJF Raffia Hat-Making Supplies. Submitted By Kerbear

I have collected all my supplies needed; however, the craft store I was at did not have a hat form. So I am going to order one from the website listed in MJF magazine. Does anyone know which size I should order for the hat form? Gentle Dome or High Dome, which would work best? Thanks for your help! Join in on the discussion [here](#).

Farmgirl Fashion: Little Farmgirl. Submitted By Butterscotch Grove

My daughter (who lives for dresses) just had her kindergarten "graduation" celebration last Thursday. They sang "First Grade, First Grade" to the tune of "New York, New York," complete with top hats and canes. Friday was actually the last day of school, and she chose to wear jeans and a pink top with "New York" spelled out in pink rhinestones on it. I'm sure that was because of the graduation song ... but to top off her outfit (she called it "the finishing touch"), she tied a blue and white gingham apron with a swan embroidered on the pocket over her jeans. Real Farmgirl Bling. :)

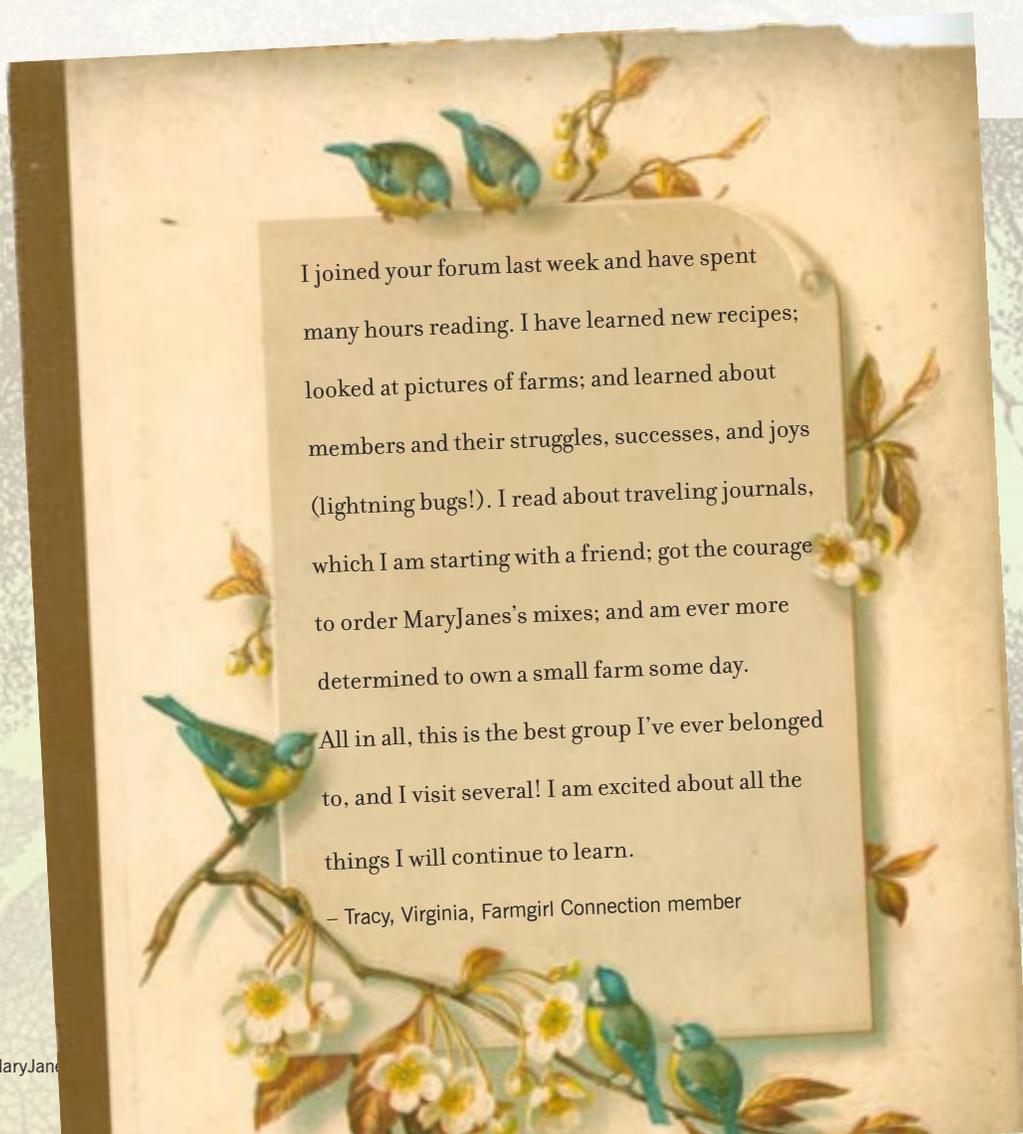
Farmgirl Sisterhood News

Sisterhood Brochures available for download. **Click here**, then scroll to the bottom of the page.

Bees Without Borders/Project Discussion. Submitted By Bee Haven Maven
What are those Bees up to? And who is BeeBee? **Click here** to find out.

MJ's Heirloom Mavens/Project Discussion. Submitted By Graciegreeneyes
Meet the new leader for the Mavens **here**.

The Book Worms/Book Discussion. Submitted By Kyria
No Life For A Lady – By Agnes Morley Cleavland. **Click here** to see.



I joined your forum last week and have spent many hours reading. I have learned new recipes; looked at pictures of farms; and learned about members and their struggles, successes, and joys (lightning bugs!). I read about traveling journals, which I am starting with a friend; got the courage to order MaryJanes's mixes; and am ever more determined to own a small farm some day.

All in all, this is the best group I've ever belonged to, and I visit several! I am excited about all the things I will continue to learn.

– Tracy, Virginia, Farmgirl Connection member



... more Farmgirl Sisterhood News

Wondering what else is going on over at the Henhouses? If you aren't yet a Sisterhood member, sign up today and then e-mail Brianogle@MaryJanesfarm.org and he will set you up.

If you would like the opportunity to have your business, life, or blog featured in the Cluck, please e-mail us at FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org.



Sisterhood Necklace

We've partnered with Elaine Tolson of Washington to offer this lovely bit of vintage-style jewelry—for Sisterhood members only. Your necklace will be emblazoned with your own unique Sisterhood number, setting your braggin' rights "in stone." Whether you wear it as a secret code for those in-the-know, or as a conversation starter about the Sisterhood, is up to you. **Click here to order yours.**



Front



Back

Hi Girls,

I ordered my Farmgirl Sisterhood necklace and I cannot express enough how wonderful it is. The pictures do it no justice! It came wrapped in rustic packaging, and was just such a great surprise! The chain is long, which I like. I highly recommend this necklace to all you Farmgirl Sisters.

– Connie (naturemaiden), Farmgirl Sister #673

Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's Sisterhood Badges go to (drum roll please):

Adrienne Wilson, Addybelle #906

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Amy Johnston, Amy Johnston #37

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Amy Wilson, pumpkinvine #119

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Angela Burnette, natesgirl #1438

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Angelyn McLain, blueshelties #906

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Carla Garner, phonelady #1186

Beginner badge: Community Service / Each Other

Carrie Meerwarth, Carrie M #147

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate

Expert badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate

Cassie McClelland, cjeanjellybean #1356

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

Cheryl Severeide, K-Falls Farmgirl #309

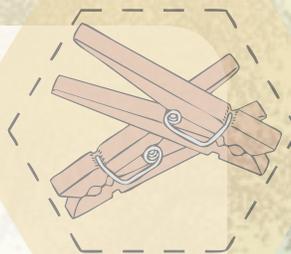
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Christina Williamson, city_chick #195

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

CJ Armstrong, ceejay48 #665

- Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy
- Beginner badge: Connecting Growers and Eaters / Each Other
- Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Pay It Forward / Farm Kitchen
- Beginner badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy
- Intermediate badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Intermediate badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
- Intermediate badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen
- Intermediate badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy
- Expert badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
- Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Expert badge: BakeOver MakeOver / Farm Kitchen
- Expert badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
- Expert badge: Organic on a Budget / Farm Kitchen
- Expert badge: Light the Way / Make It Easy

Courtney Driver, CountryLuv #1338

- Beginner badge: Grow Where You're Planted / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Bee Good to Your Mother Earth / Garden Gate

Dawn Christiansen, dchristi #1006

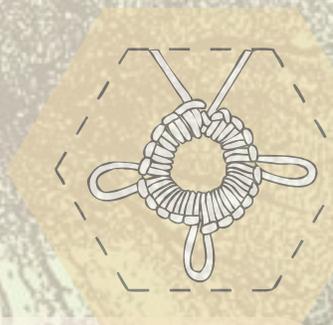
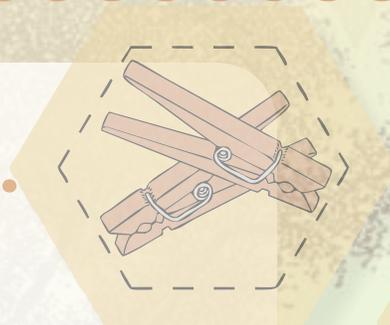
- Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Debbie Bosworth, dandelionhouse #1199

- Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
- Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
- Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate

Debi Barnes, barnyard #1405

- Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
- Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate



“ ‘Tis the gift to be simple,
 ‘tis the gift to be free.
 ‘Tis the gift to come
 down where we ought
 to be, and when we find
 ourselves in the place
 just right, ‘twill be in the
 valley of love and delight.
 When true simplicity
 is gain’d, to bow and
 to bend we shan’t be
 ashamed, to turn, turn
 will be our delight, till
 turning, turning we
 come out right. ”

– Joseph Brackett, 1848

continued ...





Merit Badge Awardees

Debra Swan, Debra Swan #462

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Dianna Morris, annaid41 #1534

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Elizabeth Bollen, TexBetsy #1444

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Heather Neuharth, Heather.Eleanor #1304

Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other

Beginner badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Little Squirts / Each Other

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Intermediate badge: Safe Toys / Stitching & Crafting

Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Joan Van Roo, Tourguidejoan #1413

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Judy Torola, JudyT #599

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Karla Visser, karla #1426

Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting

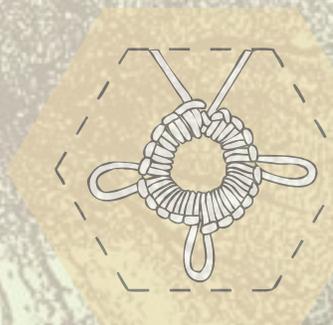
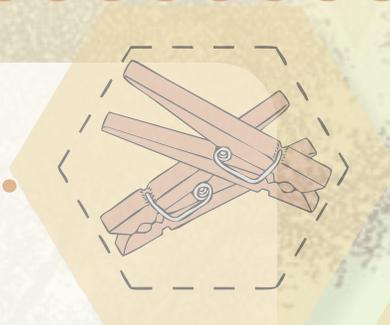
Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other

Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate



continued ...



Merit Badge Awardees

Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
 Intermediate badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
 Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Katherine Osborn, KanMogirl #1349

Beginner badge: Embroidery / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up

Kristina Nelson, FieldsofThyme #800

Beginner badge: Plant It Forward / Each Other
 Beginner badge: Self-sufficiency / Farm Kitchen
 Beginner badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
 Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
 Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
 Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
 Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy
 Intermediate badge: Forage for Food / Farm Kitchen
 Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
 Intermediate badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
 Intermediate badge: Horse Dreams / Garden Gate
 Expert badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up

Kyria Baker, Kyria #991

Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other
 Beginner badge: Know Your Food / Farm Kitchen

Lisa Alverson, lisajanie #1198

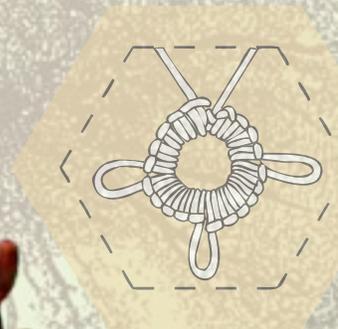
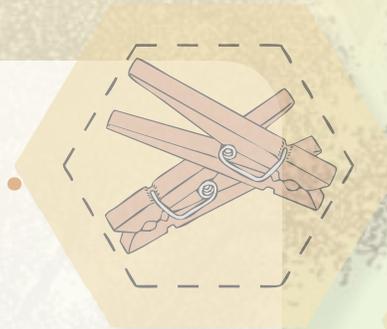
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Lisa Long, elisa in the woods #1202

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Marcy Lundy, Marcy #170

Beginner badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
 Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting



continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Crochet / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Marilyn Edlund, edlund33 #1100

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Melanie Bickman, melbick #1475

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Gaining Ground / Garden Gate

Melissa Bailey, MissLiss #724

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Knitting / Stitching & Crafting

Nicole Christensen, texdane #1155

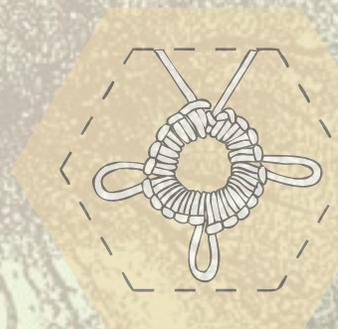
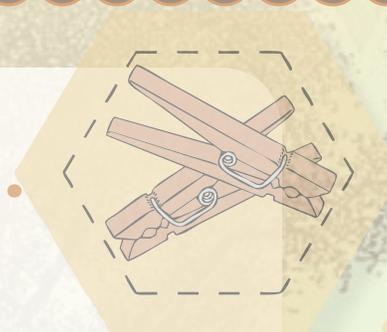
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Intermediate badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Expert badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen

Robin Montoni, #1485

Beginner badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Nellie Will-do / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Expert badge: Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Rose Lynn, christmasgal #1486

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



“All happiness depends on a leisurely breakfast.”

– John Gunther

continued ...

Merit Badge Awardees

Sandie West Clark, #1239

Beginner badge: In the Garden / Make It Easy
Beginner badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Quilting / Stitching & Crafting

Sherrilyn Askew, Sherri #1350

Beginner badge: Sew Wonderful / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Sherry Kennedy, sheleeken #1367

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Expert badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Stacy Keely, Stacy K. #896
Intermediate badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Teresa Julian, TeresaJ25 #1348

Beginner badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up
Intermediate badge: The Secret Life of Bees / Garden Gate

Teresa Woodson, Kangarookate #1506

Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting
Beginner badge: Entrepreneurial Spirit / Each Other

Tina Dennis, dreamingofafarm #1355

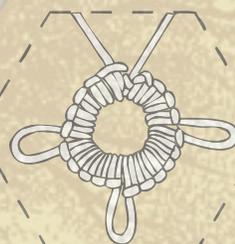
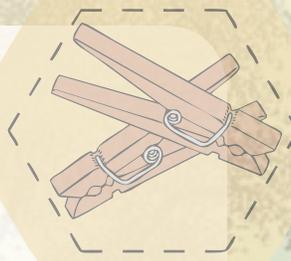
Beginner badge: ChillOver ComeOver / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: What's Your Beef? / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: Aprons / Stitching & Crafting

Tina Page, logcabinchic #1265

Beginner badge: Going Green / Cleaning Up
Beginner badge: Farmgirl Gratitude / Each Other
Beginner badge: Bustin' Out / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Get It Together / Farm Kitchen
Beginner badge: Backyard Farmer / Garden Gate

Tracey Riddell, Marmee #1471

Beginner badge: Shopping Green / Cleaning Up



Merit Badge Awardees

Woo-Hoo! This month's **Young Cultivator Badges** go to (drum roll please):

Emily Nelson, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800
Beginner badge: Let's Go To Town / Each Other
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Kaitlin Nelson, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

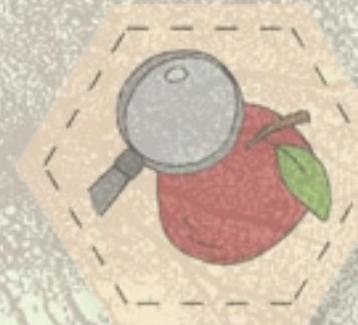
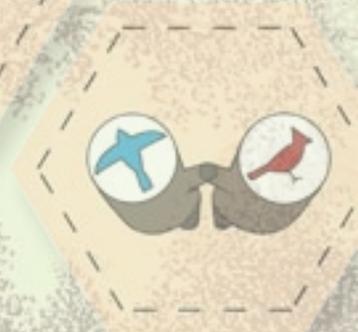
Madison Taylor, Young Cultivator of Tina Taylor #1399
Beginner badge: It's In the Bag / Cleaning Up

Stephanie Hatton, Young Cultivator of Kristina Nelson #800
Beginner badge: Horsing Around / Garden Gate
Beginner badge: All Buttoned Up / Stitching & Crafting

Trisha Miller, Young Cultivator of Lori Miller #1404
Beginner badge: Weaving In and Out / Stitching & Crafting



THE SONG OF THE FIVE CHICKS.



“While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about.”

— Angela Schwindt



JUNE Farmgirl Sisterhood Special

Enjoy!
10%
off

Raising Jane® Pillows

Color: White
Type: Vintage Lace
Made By: Miss Wilma

Miss Wilma's been a busy bee,
making things for Farmgirl Sisters.
To purchase Raising Jane Pillows,
click [here](#).



TO ORDER:

Call us at (1-888-750-6004) **OR**
order online at www.maryjanesfarm.org

Coupon Code is: PILES-O-PILLOWS (not case-sensitive)

If you're ordering online, please:

- Fill in your Sisterhood number in the "Sisterhood Number" field before adding pillows to your cart.
- Fill in the "Coupon Code" field during checkout with PILES-O-PILLOWS and apply the code to your order.

Miss Wilma's pillows are made from authentic vintage fabrics, lace, and pure down filling, which she sterilizes and refurbishes into these beautiful handmade works of art.

Special good through June 30 OR while supplies last.



Magazines, Books, and More

Our June/July issue, "Sentimental Journeys," is on newsstands now. In it, you'll find out how to bring home your first goat and make cheese with its milk, plant a memory garden or a vertical garden, make ice cream without an ice-cream maker, weave a garden hat, stitch up a cowboy-boot purse, and more!

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

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!](#)

MaryJanesFarm 2010 Calendar

You can still order our fourth 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 8½" x 11" card stock and are bound with black spiral wire, unfolding to 11" x 17".

[Click here](#) to order.



Magazines, Books, and More continues ...

SPECIAL: 3-Book Bundle

MaryJane's books are all bundled up for spring. Buy them together and save \$15! *MaryJane's Ideabook, Cookbook, Lifebook; MaryJane's Stitching Room; and MaryJane's Outpost.* [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 our gift items.

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 organic instant or quick-prep meals and desserts to much, much more!



If you know of someone who may be interested in receiving this newsletter, send their e-mail(s) to us at sisterhoodhopeful@maryjanesfarm.org and we'll e-mail them a sample issue.

For other questions or general inquiries, e-mail FarmgirlSisterhood@maryjanesfarm.org.

Over 1010 Farmgirl Chapters in 48 states and 8 countries
and 50 Henhouses with 1,618 Sisterhood members ~
growing stronger every day!