

THE RIVER REPORTER



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Home

Fall 2005

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MLS 5096 \$189,500 Wallenpaupack, PA

Sandy Shore w/ rights to Lake Wallenpaupack from fabulous private access area w/ clubhouse, picnic/bbq/play area, avail yearly boat slip all come w/this lovely 3 bedroom, 1 bath home, move-in condition; plus large garage, workshop, storage shed, sun/rain auto awning on front porch, cath ceiling, woodstove, new roof, and more!



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MLS 2652 \$565,000 Damascus, PA

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MLS 5103 \$212,000 Beach Lake, PA

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Our Country Home

Fall 2005

Fall is the season of transitions. While we can still revel in the outdoors, enjoying walks in the crisp autumn air and views of the vibrant fall colors, we begin to turn our attention indoors. We begin to transition from sitting under a shady tree and enjoying tall glasses of lemonade or iced tea to the warmth of a glowing fire and a bowl of hot soup.

In this issue of **Our Country Home**, we feature two homes that are cozy and welcoming spaces. A 300-square foot cottage and a restored guest house invite not only those who reside within their walls but also guests to enjoy the warmth of their spaces and the surrounding land. Another article describes how a cozy office doubles as a guest retreat.

In addition, we have some ideas for entertaining during the harvest season. Gardens in fall continue to provide vegetables, and we need to stretch our



Marcia Nehemiah

imaginations to figure out an original recipe for that over abundant zucchini.

And parties are the quintessential way to invite others to enjoy our homes. Throw a harvest ball or join with friends to make a scarecrow.

Many people have spent a good portion of the summer shopping the area's barn sales, flea markets and garage sales. Autumn is a great time to tackle those refinishing projects. Sally Rowe, furniture rescuer par excellence, provides some tips.

Finally, autumn is the time to ready our yards for the splashes of color and song winter birds bring. Phyllis Jones of Sullivan Audubon Society tells us how we can easily provide birds with feeders and birdbaths to bring a touch of life to the winter scene outside our windows.

For many the more temperate climate and beautiful foliage of autumn make autumn it their favorite season. We hope our supplement will help you get the most out of the coming months.



TRR photo by Charlie Buterbaugh

The front porch at Galilee Guest House faces the crossroads at Galilee, which attracted Joyce Castleberry and G.H. Hovagimyan. Story on page 5.

In this section

- 5** **A guest house where stagecoaches once stopped**
A couple transform an old post office into an award-winning guest house in Galilee.
- 9** **Gifts from my garden**
TRR's publisher, Laurie Stuart, dons a different hat, specifically a garden hat. In her article she ruminates about the spiritual and emotional benefits of working in a garden. And she has some great ideas of how to share the harvest.
- 13** **Diary of (and some tips from) a mad collector**
Sally Rowe, a "furniture rescuer," tells how to tackle and conquer the garage sale circuit. She offers some tips on spending less and getting more, and what to do with the purchases you make.
- 19** **Have a ball this fall**
Here's the way to throw a formal fall party.
- 21** **Flocks and feathers**
Attracting birds to a winter garden can bring much enjoyment through the season. Sullivan Audubon Society's Phyllis Jones tells how provide the proper environment for birds.
- 23** **A garden harvest party**
Have an informal get together with a scarecrow.
- 29** **Thinking small**
Jane Moritz' really, really small house makes the most of its space on the beautiful Delaware River.
- 33** **Reclaiming space for a study**
A couple in Narrowsburg transform once vacant space above a garage into a multi-use, inviting room.

THE RIVER REPORTER

Our Country Home

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A guest house where the stagecoaches once stopped

By CHARLIE BUTERBAUGH

They much prefer the crossroads at Galilee to the congested grid of diverging streets in New York City.

The aesthetic mien of the nearby Methodist church appealed to them so much that they married there.

"We look out our door and see where we got married. It's very romantic," said G.H. Hovagimyan. In 1989, he and Joyce Castleberry bought the mid-19th-century house that was the original post office (est. 1848) in this northeastern Pennsylvania farm village. She still spends most of her working life at **The New Yorker** magazine, and Hovagimyan keeps his experimental digital art studio in a renovated barn beside the house, creating performance, installation and sound art.

Now, life is sweetened by the local people at Sunday farmers markets and road signs bearing the names of Wayne County's old timers, Hovagimyan said.

Breakfast on the bluestone patio and walks around their plush property are part of the good life at Galilee Guest House, the bed and breakfast they've styled with a stimulating mix of the primitive and proper.

But resurrecting the garden and farmhouse was a monumental endeavor. Both the Upper Delaware Preservation Alliance and the Wayne County Historical Society have honored their restoration of the Galilee Post Office and adaptive reuse of the building, awarding the couple with preservation awards.

They bought the house in 1989, untroubled by the multi-colored shag carpets, fiberglass drop ceiling in the stairwell and hollow-core front door.

"We saw it and liked it," Castleberry said. A couple of cinder blocks were stacked for stepping in from the back yard, and the only way into the upstairs bedrooms was through the bathroom, but Castleberry and Hovagimyan knew they could live in one room while renovating the house one section at a time.

Two of the three upstairs bedrooms are decorated with turn-of-the-century décor characterized by straight edges. The simple, clean, austere furniture, including a Spanish-American War trunk with hand-hammered ford handles, goes well with the generic carpenter-style farmhouse. A lamp in one room was made from a French bombshell.

Hovagimyan made the bedroom doors out of some wood he found piled outside.

Downstairs, the space that served as the post office is now a living room, with panel front doors allowing light in, and the original shelves that were used for sorting mail now hold a great selection of antique crockery. Two original support beams with lamb's tongue edges add color to the room. "This is one of the two fancy things they did," Castleberry said of the original builders. The other is a round wall upstairs.

Castleberry and Hovagimyan found the Upper Delaware Valley in the late 1980s. He calls the region the "un-Hamptons."

"It was the only colonial area that was basically untouched within driving distance of New York City." At least, he said, it was not "developed or disneyized."

A few years after they met in 1986, they began searching for a house in the area, where some of their friends, many of them artists, had moved. They found one – the only one listed in **The**

Continued on page 7



The front façade at Galilee Guest House. Through the original panel doors was once the Galilee Post Office.



Joyce Castleberry and G. H. Hovagimyan.

TRR photos by Charlie Buterbaugh



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A guest house where the stagecoaches once stopped

Continued from page 5

River Reporter at the time—and headed out to find the house. When they found it, it looked like “a wreck.”

“We saw it and liked it,” Castleberry said. Hovagimyan had been doing renovation and construction in the city and considered restoring the half-post-and-beam and half-balloon-frame house easy by comparison.

He says he is the “grunt laborer” in the garden now that the house is finished. Castleberry planned out the grounds, including the conversion of the village’s baseball field into a mix of raised beds and grass. Next to the posts and rails of the original fence that the coach and

players used to lean against, she has placed an arbor for future gardening.

Concord grapes, which Castleberry uses to make jelly, grow on a trellis. Hovagimyan made a sculpture out of 100-year-old lilac. The property will be open during Wayne County’s Secret Garden Tour next year.

The couple often host weddings and family reunions at the bed and breakfast. “It’s a way to access the community. We’re kind of the community’s living room,” Hovagimyan said.

Galilee, once a stagecoach stop, was considered a “Sabbath’s journey from Damascus” by a local minister. It’s seven miles both from Damascus, PA and Callicoon, NY, and not far from Equinunk and Rutledge, PA.



The original master bedroom is now an upstairs guest room. Flanking the French doors are Pennsylvania balloon-back chairs.



TRR photos by Charlie Buterbaugh

The shelves, which were once used for sorting mail in this room, the original Galilee Post Office, now hold the couple’s collection of crockery.



The Galilee Methodist Church is a stone’s throw from the property.

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Gifts from my garden

By LAURIE STUART

Anyone who asks me what's new this summer gets the same answer: "I have a big garden."

"A big garden," they say. "How do you have time for a big garden?"

I tell them that I have been working the ground in that same spot for quite a few years and have finally learned how to weed in early spring by removing *every* last shred of a grass root. I extol the merits of mulch. And I explain that I'm keeping up with it by spending the first half hour of my day working in the space.

It's been the highlight of my summer. While it has been an investment in energy expended, the garden gives back much more that I have put in.

The first gift is a metaphysical one. My garden provides me with a different perspective on each and every day. I start my day in my gardening clothes and experience myself outside in a non-work setting. It helps me to identify the dichotomy that I am more than my daily routine, but at the same time, my daily routine defines me.

The second gift from my garden is the realization that we garden with every expectation that what we plant will grow. We tend and care for it and it rewards us with the fruition of life. I ponder whether we could apply that same method to our ideas, dreams and goals. How would the outcome be different if we expected to grow just like our gardens? Would we get different results if we actually tended our dreams and goals with the intention that they would bear fruit?

My daily tasks have changed over time. First I prepared the ground, then I spent my time planting seeds, then weeding around the seedlings and then heavily mulching. I put down wet newspapers and then covered them with mulch hay from a local farmer.

Now, my daily half hour is spent picking the harvest. I have an abun-

dance of yellow squash, at least 16 fruits a day. Left to the terror in my mind and the passage of several days', I could easily believe that it is impossible to keep up with the abundance. Here perseverance, an unshakeable will to not get inundated and creativity has gotten me through.

One of the ways I solve the challenge of hyperactive squash plants is by adjusting my standard of what is big enough to pick. I have been showering friends with small succulent yellow squash, some with the flower still attached.

Yellow squash makes for a lovely

"I can even be thankful to the rabbit that is getting into the garden and has systematically decimated the string beans and the wax beans."

summer pickle when preserved with red peppers and onions. And husband, Stephen, and I have already made two batches. We added a couple of hot peppers to some of the jars in this last round.

And even the squash that somehow got missed and harvested at 12 inches or more have found themselves peacefully stuffed with green onions, white cheese and cold chicken or turkey in equal parts and grilled on the barbecue.

Early on there was lettuce, then peas, now yellow squash, tomatoes, cucumbers and herbs. In time there will be acorn squash, popcorn and potatoes.

I can even be thankful to the rabbit that gets into the garden and has sys-



TRR photo by Laurie Stuart

Garden abundance brings gifts to the gardener and her friends.

tematically decimated the string beans and the wax beans. It's one less thing to deal with. I can share my bounty with friends and acquaintances, as creatively or simply as I desire. I can determine whether I have the interest to replant the spinach, lettuce and peas and have a fall harvest of those vegetables. I can write the story of the summer of 2005 when I had a big garden and it dominated my attention, determining by my perceptions the ultimate outcome of the experience.

Mostly, the garden serves as a

reminder that we can consciously choose to participate in life-producing activities and we can open ourselves to the potential in our challenges set before us. We can move through our lives understanding that everything has a season and a time for fruition.

I can participate peacefully, accepting what is, expecting things to go well and be rewarded with joy, contentment and abundance way beyond any expectation.

(Recipes and gift ideas on page 11)



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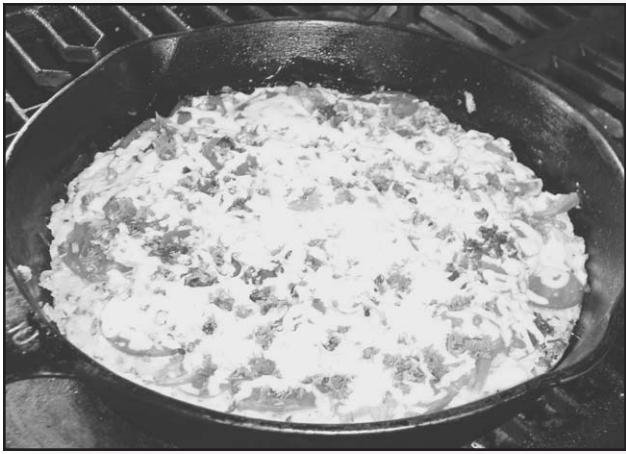


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Gifts from my garden

Continued from page 9



Baking this vegetable crust in a cast iron skillet on the stove is a welcomed relief from turning on the oven on a hot day. The trick is to maintain a steady heat, cooking the crust without heavily browning it.

After the crust is baked, top with sliced tomatoes, basil and parsley and mozzarella. You can use more cheese, but a modest amount satisfies the Italian in me. Cover and cook about 10 minutes or until cheese melts.

This pizza is terrific hot or room temperature and is especially delightful cold.

Squash Pan Pizza

(adapted from Zucchini Crusted Pizza from the original "Moosewood Cookbook")

Crust:

- 3½ cups grated summer squash
- ¾ cup minced onion (can be omitted)
- 3 eggs beaten
- 1/3 cup flour
- ½ cup mozzarella cheese
- ½ cup grated Parmesan
- 1 Tbs. fresh basil leaves minced, or ½ tsp. dried salt and pepper
- 1 Tbs. olive oil

Topping:

- 3 tomatoes, sliced
- 2 Tbs. each, minced fresh basil and parsley
- 1 cup grated mozzarella cheese

Coarsely grate the squash and onion into a large bowl. Salt lightly and let it sit for 15 minutes. Squeeze out all the excess moisture. Combine all other ingredients.

Heat a large cast iron skillet on the stove until well heated. Add olive oil. Slowly pour crust contents into the skillet. Gently shake the pan to even out content and cover and cook 15 minutes or until set. Place tomatoes on top of crust, sprinkle basil and parsley on top and cover with the cheese. Return cover and cook another 10 minutes or until cheese is as you like it.

This is tasty at any temperature and especially delightful cold the next day.

Crust can also be baked in the 350 degree oven in a 9x13 inch pan for 25 minutes or until set.

Yellow squash pickles

(adapted from Ken Baim's zucchini pickles. Baim's recipe uses zucchini, celery and onions.)

- 16 cups yellow squash, sliced 3/8 inch thick, cut in halves or quarters, depending on the size of the squash. (Cut in half for squashes 1.5 to 2.5 inches in diameter, quarters for squash 3 to 4 inches.)
- 2 cups (or more) red bell peppers cut into 1 inch strips and then into 1 inch cubes
- 2 cups onions cut into 3/8 inch slices
- 1/3 cup salt

Brine

- 3 cups sugar
- 3 cups apple cider vinegar
- 8 cloves of garlic
- dill sprigs or dried dill

Method: Mix cut vegetables together in large bowl. Mix in salt and cover with a dinner plate. Place a jug of water on the plate and let sit for up to 36 hours.

Drain vegetables.

Boil cider vinegar with sugar to make a syrup.

Prepare jars, lids and bands by washing and boiling.

Place a clove of garlic in the bottom of your prepared jars and fill with the squash mixture. Pack fairly tightly. Put a sprig of dill or a pinch of dill weed on the top. Pour hot syrup to ½ inch of the top of the jar. Use a plastic spatula to release trapped air. Put jar lids on and process for 10 minutes.

Yields 8 pints.



A couple of sheets of newspaper can be used to transport and protect a delicate bouquet of flowers easily.



TRR photos by Laurie Stuart

Baskets of vegetables can be artfully assembled either as a theme or as a sampler. This basket contained small squash, extra flowers, a cucumber, a few cherry tomatoes and a chili pepper. The wire mesh was lined with a variety of kale that came in a mesclun mix. You can give away either the whole basket or deliver your gift with a brown paper bag to transfer the veggies out of their carrying case. Cut flowers for a vase for a colleague at the office are always delightful.

6 gift ideas from the garden

- Create baskets of vegetables. Using a small basket from a garage sale or a dollar store, arrange a variety of veggies (either on a theme, as in everything for a particular stir-fry recipe, or as a garden sampler). I think about the person's preferences and create a basket that they would particularly enjoy. Use a variety of peppers, if the person likes peppers. Use only vegetables with the flowers still on for those folks who love squash blossoms.

- Give the gift of an almost already-prepared stir-fry dish. Prepare the vegetables by measuring, cutting and placing them in plastic bags. Place in a basket. Make a small bag of spices, if desired. (You don't have to grow vegetables to use this idea.)

- Put a variety of vegetables in a brown paper bag and give it someone who doesn't have a garden.

- Bring flowers to your friends. Remember, once picked there is no trace of the neighboring weeds.

- Pick a bouquet of flowers for a colleague and maintain it for a period of time.

- Invite a non-gardening friend to pick from your garden. The garden is such a peaceful and fruitful space and it is relaxing in itself to pick vegetables.

Please note: None of these gifts are about overwhelming people with tons of way-too-big or way-to-many vegetables to satisfy your need to be free of them.

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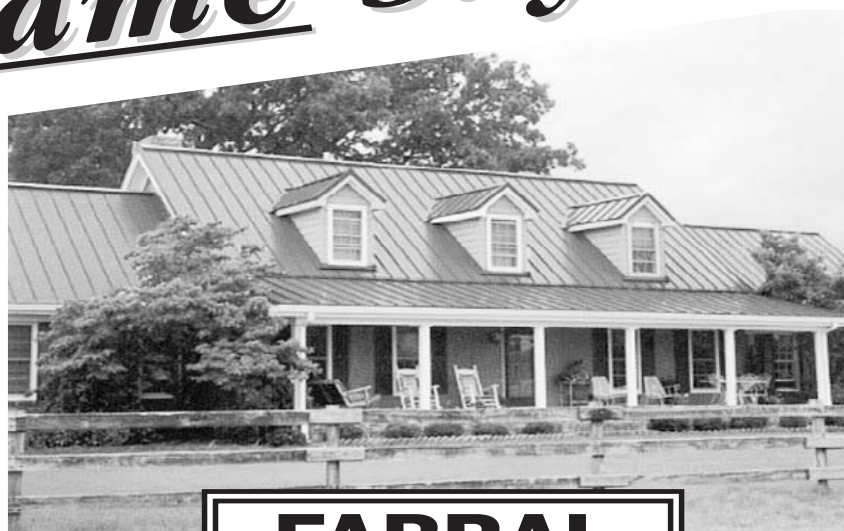
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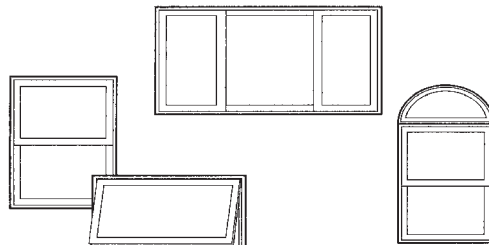


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Diary of (and some tips from) a mad collector

By SALLY ROWE

THE ANTICIPATION

It is a spring morning, Thursday. The blood is coursing through my veins. I make a bee line to the computer and log on to the regional newspapers' classified sections. First in line, **The River Reporter** (naturally). I scroll through the headings...estate sale, yard sale, tent sale, moving sale, tag sale, garage sale, barn sale. It's amazing how varied the nomenclature can be when hunting for something as simple as...well...STUFF. Old stuff, to be precise.

But back to my morning. After breakfast, I make a circuitous route around town and pay a visit to all the local bulletin boards: the one by the supermarket, the town hall, the hardware store. I comb the mass of thumb-tacked flyers for this weekend's sales. I write down times, dates and locations. While in the car, I'm on high alert for all signs nailed to telephone polls, trees or makeshift wood stakes stuck into the ground.

Friday comes, and with it a trip to the general store. I exit with an armful of newspapers, which I furiously flip through while still in the parking lot, sidled up to the car. I look slightly possessed....passing strangers must surely think I've gone round the bend.

THE THRILL OF THE CHASE

It is Saturday. The adrenaline rushes, and I pop out of bed like a piece of toast. After two days of scouring, I have managed to scruff up a morning's worth of activity. All errands and chores fall by the wayside. I am in SALE mode.

As usual, I try to look as grungy as possible, hoping the sale-givers will take pity on me and give me a good price, or, at the very least, give me first crack.

I arrive at my first destination, and the hunting begins. I take a quick survey, but try not to make any snap judgements. A cursory scan registers a table full of Christmas paraphernalia (groan), and a blanket lying on the ground adorned with plastic baby toys (double groan), but I try to remain hopeful. Eureka! I spot a great looking old chair that is oozing with character...that is, until upon closer inspection I notice that it wobbles, needs to be stripped and has a rip in the rush seat. Suddenly, this chair is looking REAL bad REAL quick. I walk away empty handed.



Sally Rowe transformed tables that once were junk with a lot of potential into beautiful home furnishings.

TRR photos by Marcia Nehemiah

At my third stop, I spy a tall metal utility cabinet standing off to the side. At first glance, it reads "nothing special" until my mind starts to churn: several coats of cheerful paint, some shelf liner and vintage glass knobs (from a former treasure hunt)... I'm now envisioning a totally funky kitchen cabinet, and scoop it up for five bucks.

By the end of the day, I have spent an additional \$9, and added to my loot an old fireplace grate (now converted, with a little polyurethane slapped on, to a wonderful planter), a small offbeat wooden table (covered with contact paper...ick) and a 1950s tablecloth (washed and later converted to some pillows).

I pick up a few more interesting odds and ends, making the total damages for the day only seventeen dollars, a bargain in my eyes, not to mention one of the cheapest forms of entertainment going around.

I come home exhausted, but exhilarated and already formulating my technical and artistic strategy for my new-found treasures.



Sally Rowe works to transform one of her flea market finds into a beautiful table.

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Diary of (and some tips from) a mad collector

Continued from page 17

THE RESCUE

It is late fall. After months of hunting, the thrill of the chase has finally taken its bodily toll; in fact, I have practically chased myself into a coma. Fortunately, I am in sync with the season; there is not a yard sale or flea market to be had in the entire county.

The timing couldn't be better. I go downstairs and observe a garage full of things laid before me. Metal things. Wood things. Glass things. Ceramic things. Fabric things. A variety-of-eras things. Almost all begging for some kind of technical and creative intervention. Before I even have time to mutter the words "Matamoras Flea Market," I have plucked one of my little cuties from among the pile and am standing at my work table, screwdriver in one

hand, can of pink paint in the other. Now the real fun begins.

THE ITCH RETURNS

The last snowflake has melted. All winter long, I have been busily squirreled away in my garage, slowly transforming my mound of wonderous, but in-need-of life-support, "stuff" into a beautiful array of functional art. After months of sawing, sanding, scraping, nailing, painting, and just plain fixing, I could use a bit of a break and a good masseuse. So on this particular day, I am relieved to put the finishing touch on my final piece.

At night, I dream that I am in someone's house...a house full of stuff. Old stuff. Great stuff. The next morning, I wake with a familiar sense of longing.

I am feeling the itch, and once again, thankfully, spring is in the air.

Feeling creatively inspired? Here's a brief "how-to" guide...

While on the hunt:

- Beware of signs that read GIANT, HUGE, MULTI-FAMILY. Per the words of William Shakespeare, "Methinks he doth protest too much."

- Allow time to take in the whole GESTALT: the people, the house, the garden, the interactions.

- Try not to crash your car. Recall the bumper sticker, "I brake for yard sales?" Well, I did brake...hard....and got rear ended. NOT a good experience. (But I still went to the yard sale!)

- While searching, think creatively: this will help you develop "the eye."

- Don't be shy: look behind and underneath things; dig through boxes; if you are looking for something special, ASK.

- Bargain respectfully: asking for a discount is SOP, but haggling is uncouth.

- Expect to take home some klunkers. "Whatever possessed me to buy THAT??" is a question you will ask yourself on more than one occasion.

When Rescuing:

- Stock your tool chest with a variety of the basics: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, wrench, saw, sander, nails and screws, as well as a range of glues, paints, stains, varnishes, etc. As you become more experienced, expect to continually add new tools and supplies to your list of must-haves. (Note: electric tools are nice to have, but for most things, good old-fashioned elbow grease will serve you just fine.)

- Shop local! The people in your

neighborhood hardware store are usually delighted to help you solve technical problems and pass along knowledge whenever they can. You can also consult how-to books if you want to acquire more advanced skills, such as professional level carpentry, decorative painting, upholstery or furniture restoration.

- Be patient. Things invariably take more time than you expect and present more technical challenges than you might anticipate.

- Learn from your mistakes. For example, I have learned the hard way that rust eventually bleeds through paint (yes, even Rust-Oleum), and that using spray paint in close proximity to a car is NOT a good idea (ours now looks like it has been tie-dyed).

- Safety is paramount. ALWAYS wear gloves, goggles and protective respirator masks; be sure your working area is very well ventilated when applying paints and strippers (organic varieties are less toxic); clean up sawdust/toxic garbage as quickly as possible.

But most important...happy hunting and happy rescuing!

[Sally Rowe lives year-round in Barryville, NY with her many rescued objects and her very understanding minimalist husband, psychologist and ceramic artist Anthony Biancoviso. Her work under the brand name, "Funky Sally's," can be purchased at Domesticities and The Cutting Garden in Youngsville, NY, (845/482-3333) or by contacting Sally directly at 845/557-3640 or sallyrowe@frontier.net.net.]

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TRR photo by Kimberly M. Weyandt

Serve champagne with a slice of fruit in the glass to add flavor and an element of surprise.

Having a ball this fall

By KIMBERLY M. WEYANDT

In the great room your colleagues sip wine and munch on apples and cinnamon-cider dip in their stunning fall-inspired dresses and suits as they await the chance to show off their newly acquired ballroom dancing skills. Or a few of your closest friends sample pumpkin-patch cookies in cocktail dresses as they remark on how lovely your home is and how big your children have gotten. This year, use the vibrant colors of the fall season as inspiration for your impressive fall ball.

Put your great room to use or support your local fire department by renting out their hall for a night. Decide for whom you are throwing the party and then send out invitations accordingly. Impress your boss, colleagues, clients or neighbors with a party that celebrates success, or sell invitations as a way to raise money for a worthy cause. Or bring your family together in style with a slightly upper-class bash. Ask your guests to dress in their best fall inspired attire and expect a relaxing and sophisticated evening.

Once you have your location and guests, set up your room according to your needs. Separate your room into three sections: one for dining, one for dancing and one for production. If you are hiring an orchestra, band or DJ, let the enjoyment of their music play a large role in your ball. Set up your room so the dance floor and band are the center of attention. Set up your dining section along the perimeter and use the remaining space for your buffet table and other production necessities.

If your party is meant to be more of a social gathering with light or no music in the background, take advantage of your room by giving each table more room and consequently each guest more space to mingle. Consider having high tables and stool to make it easier to chat with guests as they sit.

Decorate your room in shades of red, orange, yellow and purple, and turn colorful harvest vegetables and ordinary candles into spectacular centerpieces. Secure branches to the ceiling and hang colorful ribbons from them. Decorate with cornhusks, Indian corn and white candles.

When it comes to the meal, consider having your party catered, setting up a buffet, or serving only appetizers. Accompany your meal with a beverage menu made up of wines or champagne served in a glass adorned with a slice of peach or raspberry apple cider. On each table leave a bowl of dried pumpkin seeds and apple slices with dip.

"Ask your guests to dress in their best fall-inspired attire and expect a relaxing and sophisticated evening."

Cinnamon-Cider dip

Ingredients

2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 Tbsp. brown sugar
1 1/3 cups apple cider
3 tsp. honey
2 tsp. lemon juice
2/3 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 Tbsp. butter or margarine
Apples

Method

Mix together cornstarch and brown sugar in a medium saucepan. Stir in apple cider, honey, lemon juice and cinnamon and stir until thickened or boiling. Cook for a few more minutes before adding in butter or margarine. Stir until melted. Serve with sliced apples.

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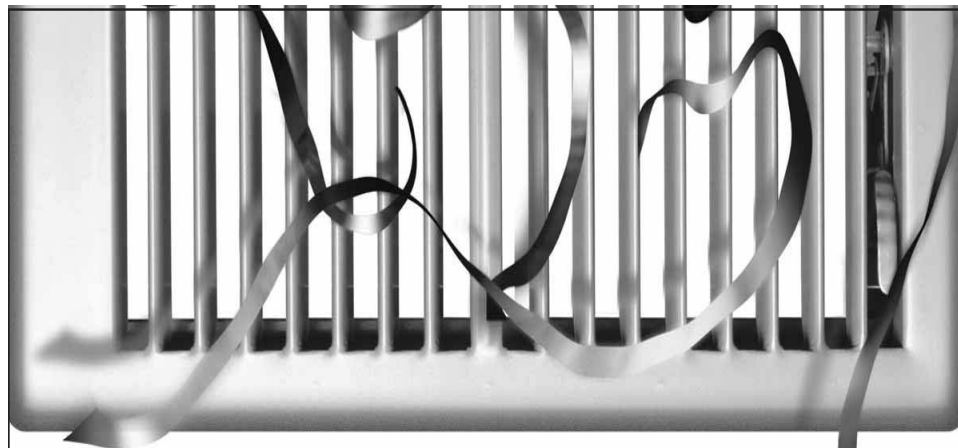
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Flocks and feathers

By PHYLLIS R. JONES

The long, cold winter months can be brightened considerably by feeding birds. For those just beginning to enjoy the hobby of birding, attracting birds to your yard is a wonderful way to learn the local species by seeing them up close.

There are three important features of a successful feeding station: food, water and shelter.

Finding the food and feeder

Black oil sunflower seed is favored by many birds, so if you want to use only one type of food, this is it. Suet is an excellent source of energy for those birds which feed on insects in the summer. While there are commercially prepared suet cakes, plain beef suet from the meat department of your local supermarket is just as good and less expensive. You can keep it in your freezer in chunks to fit your suet holder.

Niger or thistle seeds are popular with finches, but they will be attracted to sunflower seed as well. Check out the commercially prepared mixes of birdseed at your local farm and home store and keep track of which your birds seem to prefer. Avoid the inexpensive mixtures available in some supermarkets and discount stores. They contain fillers which just end up on the ground below your feeders. Check the ingredients for sunflower and safflower seeds, peanuts and cracked corn.

Some really dedicated birders prepare their own food, using a mixture of peanut butter, sunflower seeds and vegetable oil.

Tube or bottle feeders work well for woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees and tufted titmice. Platform feeders will attract cardinals, mourning doves and blue jays. You can select a feeder because it is decorative or just plain functional, but avoid those that are made of unprotected plastic or wood. These will not last long if you have squirrels, raccoons or other hungry woodland animals. Of course the more feeders you have and the greater variety of food, the more birds you will attract.

Keep the pool warm

Water is essential to birds in the winter, and keeping it from freezing can be a challenge. There are a variety of birdbath heaters available which are safe and effective. However, placing a pan of clean, fresh water in a sunny, protected location may keep ice from forming. Keep the water level low or place a rock or two in your birdbath so birds can drink without getting completely drenched.



TRR file photo

Safety first

Where to locate your feeder is also a consideration. Nearby shrubs provide cover, which is especially important when a hawk spots a feeding station. If you have ever noticed small birds suddenly freeze on branches or tree trunks, there will probably be a sharp-shinned or red-tailed hawk looking for its next meal. Dense evergreens can provide roosting spots protected from wind and snow. Nest boxes put up for birds in the summer may also be used for protection on cold winter nights.

Many of us who set up winter feeding stations realize we can be creating hazards for the very birds we are attempting to help. A large picture window, which gives us a good view of the feeders, can be a trap for birds that see reflections of trees and fly into the glass. Strips of window screening or bright plastic can be fastened to flutter in front of the window and break up the large expanse of glass, without disturbing your view. If local cats tend to gather below your feeders, be sure to place feeders well off the ground and close to shrubs.

Pesky squirrels can be a real challenge for bird lovers. There are many

remedies for thwarting squirrels, both homemade and commercially produced. Experience proves that these all work well for a time, but that these clever, hungry critters eventually find a way to overcome any obstacle. Perhaps it is best to enjoy the squirrels' antics and just try to keep one step ahead of them.

In our area, bears are cause for much more concern. Be sure to treat them with the respect they deserve. While we might be happy knowing we live in an area wild enough to support a bear population, we must not encourage them to become too comfortable in our yards. Once you have been visited by a bear and lost a feeder or two, plan on taking your feeders inside each evening, or stop feeding entirely until the time has come for hibernation, which is around December 15th.

Feeding birds in the winter can be as simple or as elaborate as you wish. If you are just starting out, try a single feeder and watch the birds come. It may take a week or two for the birds to find your feeder, but once they do, be prepared to become hooked on this wonderful activity to thwart those winter blues.

Sighting species

Sullivan County Audubon Society has been collecting data on winter bird feeding since 1981. The report from last winter shows that 10 to 19 species have been recorded by observers during the 7-day count period at the beginning of each month from November through April. To read more about this survey visit www.sullivanaudubon.org.

[Phyllis Jones is co-editor of the Sullivan County Audubon Society's newsletter "Warblings."]

"Perhaps it is best to enjoy the squirrels' antics and just try to keep one step ahead of them."

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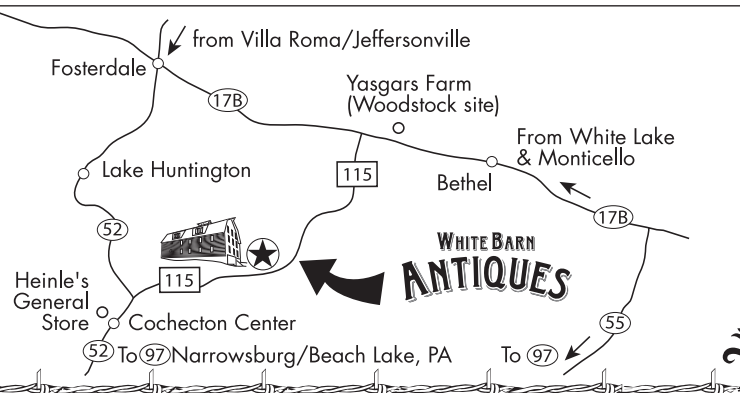
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A garden harvest party

By KIMBERLY M. WEYANDT

Imagine a handful of your closest friends or neighbors working together, getting their hands dirty and relaxing their minds as they fill baskets and crates with the fruits of another successful harvest. This year, celebrate the grandeur and bounty of the fall with a party of miniature proportions, a garden harvest party.

You've spent your entire summer weeding, watering and waiting for your garden to produce wonderful vegetables, fruits and herbs. This fall, invite your workaholic, city or fellow gardening friends and their children to help reap the fruits of your labor. An afternoon in your garden will not only give them peace of mind and great fresh produce to take home, it might also inspire them to appease the gardener within by planting a garden of their own next year.

For your low key and relaxing garden party, send out invitations at least a week in advance. Plan your party for a time near the end of the summer when a majority of your plants will be ripe for the picking. Invite your guests to come in their farming attire, shoes and clothes that they can get dirty in.

The week of the party, continue to water and weed your garden but avoid picking anything. Give your garden time to become abundant if not overfull in party preparation.

Present guests with baskets and invite them to fill it with one or two of each vegetable in the garden. To complete their basket, give each a copy of one of your favorite recipes on how to prepare their fresh gift.

In your yard set up picnic tables to eat at and bales of hay to act as natural seats. You can use your hay seats later for the scarecrow building contest. Serve dishes made from the vegetables in your garden such as cucumber sandwiches, vegetable lasagna or fresh apple pie.

After the harvest, serve lunch and lemonade or apple cider and then spend the remainder of the afternoon relaxing, sharing recipes and participating in fun fall games. Have a hay ride, hay pitching contest, carve pumpkins or hold relay races.

Orchard relays

Set up two cardboard apple trees on one side of the lawn. Give each child a cardboard apple and encourage the children to write their name and what they're thankful for. Let each child color the apple in a unique way. When everyone is done, divide the children into two teams and line them up on the side of the lawn opposite the cardboard trees. Set up an obstacle course — a rope to jump over, a table to crawl under, a hay bale to climb over. Have them race one at a time through the course to put their "apple" on the "tree." Whichever team is finished first wins.

Homemade Scarecrows

Spend time together this fall by building a scarecrow as a family. Have the family hunt through their closets for old or tattered clothes to dress the scarecrow. Although each scarecrow is unique, they all require a long-sleeved shirt and long pants. Search for a hat, a belt and other unique touches. For his head, a burlap sack is a classic choice.

Scarecrows also require two planks or sticks of wood, paint, string, a needle and thread and hay.

Begin by nailing together the two planks of wood. A longer plank or stick will serve as the scarecrow's body and will extend into the ground, a shorter plank or stick will be nailed toward the end of the other plank to serve as the scarecrow's arms.

Begin by giving the scarecrow a funny face. Use your paint to draw his expression on the burlap sack. The bottom of the sack will serve as the top of the scarecrow's head. Once his face is on, stuff the sack with hay and use the string to tie the head closed.

Next, sew the head to the shirt and the shirt to the pants. Try to maintain the integrity of the clothing by not sewing them shut. The next step is to fit the clothing over the top of the longer plank and the sticks through the armholes of the shirt. It's okay if the "arms" stick out of the ends of the sleeves.

If you are using pants you may need to cut a hole in the back for the plank to stick out of. Use the remainder of the hay to stuff the scarecrow's body. Pack in as much hay as possible. Add the final touches to your man-a hat, a pipe, a wig or whatever you can think of. When he is finished, stand him up in your lawn by sticking the end of the plank into the ground.

"Invite your guests to come in their farming attire, shoes and clothes that they can get dirty in."



TRR photo by Kimberly Weyandt

A scarecrow-building contest is a fun way to spend an afternoon at a harvest party.

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Do you tend to use anti-bacterial **household products** like soap or cleaners?

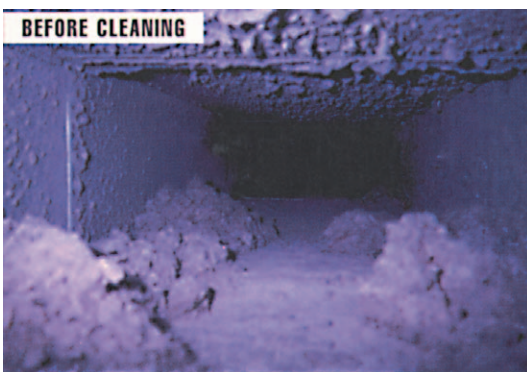
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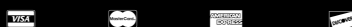
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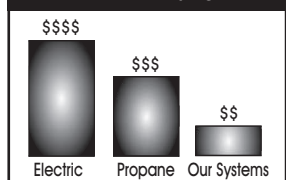


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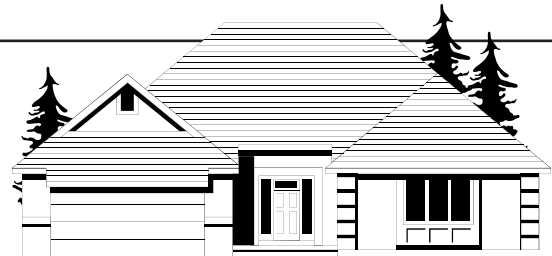
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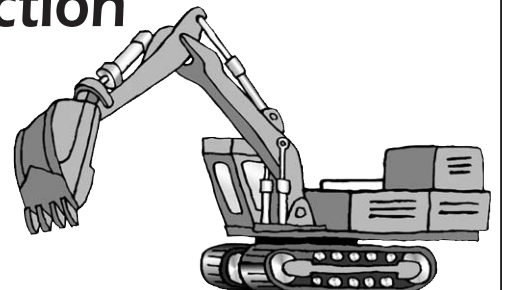
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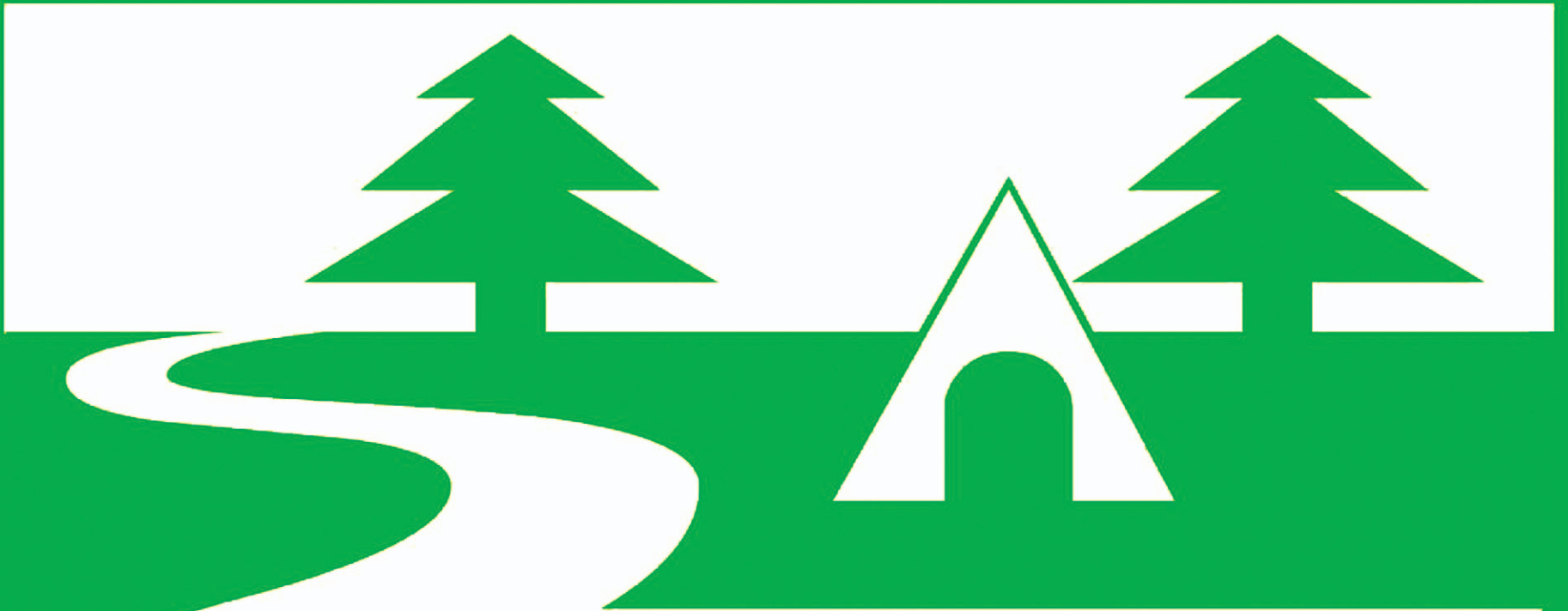
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Thinking small

By MARCIA NEHEMIAH

Most people would balk at the idea of living in a really, really small house, say a house of only 300 square feet. But it's surprising how Jane Moritz's country home in Beach Lake fits her needs perfectly and just how much room it actually has.

A few years ago, just before retiring from her teaching position in NYC, this artist began to solidify her dreams for relocating. They did not include a tiny house on the Delaware River.

"I wanted to live in Maine by the ocean like the rest of the world." But when her close friend Judith Heath, who lives in Narrowsburg, asked her, "Why don't you come up here?" Moritz joined Heath for an exploratory trip to Upper Delaware.

"As soon as I saw the area, I knew I could live here and I gave up the idea of Maine." Moritz cited a primary reason for staying close to the city where she has lived for 38 years: proximity to her two children and her new grandchild.

"I was born in a house 16 blocks from the Delaware River, but a dirtier version of it," she says of her hometown Philadelphia.

Now retired but still living in the city, Moritz' love for her country surroundings is evident when she points to the lagoon that separates her three-acre property from an island in the river, when she says with pride that she replaced the only trees she cut down to make way for a driveway by planting nine more and when she points to the hemlock woods, a ravine and the open field that comprise her homestead.

She built her part-time home four years ago and plans to make it her permanent residence in about two years.



The inspiration for Jane Moritz' cabin, set on three acres of Delaware River waterfront, came from garden sheds.

"My little shack"

Without endless sums of money, Moritz knew she had to think creatively when it came to planning a structure. She and Langan thought "garden house."

"You know, one of those structures where you pot plants," she explains with a smile, only she would have to eliminate the plants so there would be room for her to live in the smallest of spaces.

Heath and Moritz "would drive around and look at garden sheds to get ideas for a small house, so I began to call this house I had not yet built "my little shack," Moritz recalls.

The two friends consulted magazines and traded ideas. Once Moritz came to terms with the fact that the only way to realize her dream was to dip into her savings, something she had been reluctant to do, "We moved into a much more substantial mode of thinking."

Heath and Moritz hired a builder who had done work for Heath and the three of them conceived of ways to meet Moritz' needs: a comfortable sleeping loft (not a room, she insisted), a good bathroom and a serious, working kitchen. "I also wanted to use the best material I could afford," she says.

Moritz spoke highly of her builder, Bill McIntyre of PA. Not only his skills as a builder, but his willingness to listen to Moritz and to collaborate with her made the house come together in a way that pleases her so much. "He's so honorable. I have the greatest respect for him," she says.

Moritz says McIntyre "knew how to create a sense of height in the space so it would look larger." To that end they incorporated a peaked ceiling rather than a flat one. Moritz applied white stain to natural pine walls, and light from three sets of long double windows and two sky lights floods the space.

"As soon as I saw the area, I knew I could live here and I gave up the idea of Maine."



TRR photos by Marcia Nehemiah
The placement of long double windows lets in the light and the surrounding greenery to make the small house look larger.

And light is crucial to a painter. Moritz says she will now be painting on smaller canvasses rather than the large ones she has done in the past. She has plans to incorporate a drafting table where she can work on paintings related to nature.

McIntyre designed the ladder that leads up to the sleeping loft reminiscent of a tree house or fort in its playful, cozy atmosphere. Because there are no closets in the house, Moritz stores her clothes in beautiful baskets.

The house is big enough to sleep at least four. With tents pitched on the lawn and sleeping bags rolled out on the screened-in porch, which runs the length of the house and is about half the width, there's no telling how many guests the space can accommodate.

Moritz highly recommends sleeping the porch which she calls "delightful."

"I grew up in a house by woods. In a way being here is like coming home."

The expanding future

Moritz says of living in a small space: "You control the small space. A small space can't control you. You can't accumulate too much."

On the other hand, she laments a disadvantage with which she is all too familiar after having lived in NYC all these years: not enough space. She would like a studio where she could "paint big" and which would accommodate a music system, telephone, TV, a big table for her work and lots of large walls for her canvasses.

A future dream for this place Moritz so obviously loves is to build a bigger house which she hopes will become "the family home" where her son,

daughter, grandchild and the anticipated "growing family" can spend time and which will include first-floor studio space.

She also plans to build that house with internal central solar power that will hook up to the small house. She wants to revive her garden and to build steps following the deer path down to the river. Her "little shack" will remain, not in the shadows of the newly built bigger house, but beside it with lots of kids giggling and whispering in the sleeping loft and getting safely lost in the small space.



This corner sitting/sleeping area features built-in drawers under benches that double as beds, providing storage and sleeping space in Moritz's one-room cabin.

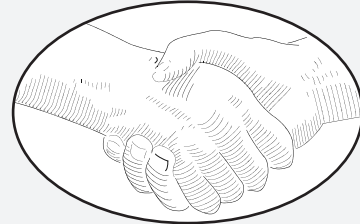
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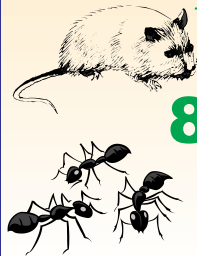
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Reclaiming space for a study

By JENNIFER O'REILLY

W

ith the help of an outstanding general contractor, a surplus of imagination and a "can-do" attitude, one local couple reclaimed a previously unused area under a highly pitched garage roofline to successfully engineer a complimentary marriage of workable functionality and cozy comfort.

This special living space effectively employs elements of a city-type loft's spatial organization, remains true to the home's cozy country theme and pays proper homage to spectacular views.

Inspiration for the "new" loft dawned during the current homeowners pre-purchase inspection of the circa 1990 custom home. The owners, an off-site communications director and her semi-retired financial consultant husband of 27 years, discovered that though a single main level office was convenient, it was not particularly functional, especially for two. Productivity, creativity and communication (effective, positive communication anyway) were stifled, and there seemed to be no space for "private time." Within a year they finalized their ideal image of a "new" living space above the garage.

Progress was rapid from planning to construction. Since structurally the "room" already existed, limited demolition was necessary. By 2004 the completed project, with the exception of perhaps another ceiling fan for those really scorching summer days, provided a gain of over 400 square feet of usable living area.

While the "new" loft is located on the home's upper level, adjacent to a full bath and three bedrooms, there is a sense of it being a space unto its own. Abundant natural light streams through two skylights.

Multiple-paned traditional casement and custom Anderson windows set into opposite walls allow for excellent air exchange. The custom triangular window set beside a traditional rectangular casement is designed to specifically accommodate the slope of the roofline rather than restrict the sightline of the treetop view into Narrowsburg, NY. Seasonal swings in temperature are handled by the addition of a third zone in the existing geothermal forced-air system.

The loft's "work" space features a spacious desktop configured into an "L" shaped nook nestled beneath the breathtaking custom window views. Custom drilled 'hideyholes' ensure minimal exposure of the yards of wire necessary to link together the components of a modern office. Recycled from the kitchen, the oak cabinetry has been beautifully refinished. Hand-painted porcelain knobs provide a colorful splash of whimsy offsetting the more serious utilitarian nature of the work and storage spaces. The lines of a honey-toned, durable wainscoted wood floor seem to stretch and elongate the space.

This treatment is echoed on the built-in dual guest beds set into opposite walls and in a connecting wainscot panel running up a third of the wall between the two beds. Each twin bed comfortably sleeps adult or child-sized guests and features two drawers of "under bed" storage and a tri-level, mini-library/knickknack shelving unit that doubles as head/footboard. An assortment of plump, comfy chairs and antique rockers is perfectly suited for meditation, story time, a spacious craft nook or even a private TV viewing.

The dominant impression this multi-dimensional living space imparts is "transformative." Not only is the



TRR photos by Jennifer O'Reilly

Windows in the office space of the loft provide light for work and views for inspiration.

"Though a single main level office was convenient, it was not particularly functional, especially for two."

carefully self-designed square footage totally adaptable to the diverse and changing needs of the homeowners, the space readily lends itself to opening the proverbial 'creative door.' From this breathtaking window on the world, the owners witness the transformation of the open sky and chang-

ing weather conditions moment by moment. Eagle sightings are frequent if not commonplace. The air is fresh and flowing. Each of the twin beds is comfortable enough to curl up in for a mid-afternoon nap. Working in this loft must be truly an inspiring experience.



Part of the 400-square foot loft space is dedicated to a reading alcove.



Under these built-in guest beds drawers provide storage while shelves double as headboards.

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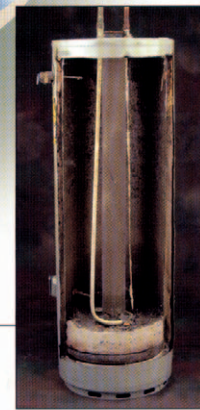
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LAKE WALLENPAUPACK PRIVATE LAKEFRONT

This very attractive 4 BDR, 2 BTH lakefront home with 100 ft frontage on the "big" lake. Features spacious living room with fireplace, dining/family room with fireplace, entertainment size screen porch, plus expansive decks and oversize dock. Priced for immediate sale! \$549,000.



SPACIOUS FAMILY HOME

Very attractive 3 BDR, 2 BTH maintenance free home nestled on landscaped parcel with great backyard and hot tub. Highlights include bright and airy living area with fireplace, country kitchen, family room, full basement, garage and more. Perfect location to library, shops and schools. (20667) \$149,000.



37 ACRE COUNTRY CHARMER BEAUTIFUL VIEWS - BARNES

Currier & Ives setting! Pride of ownership is evident throughout this 3 BDR, 2 BTH Pa. farmhouse offering blend of fields, mature woodland plus picturesque valley views! Home features spacious living area, eat in country kitchen, family room, stone patios, carriage house, and much more. (20457) \$ 365,000.



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