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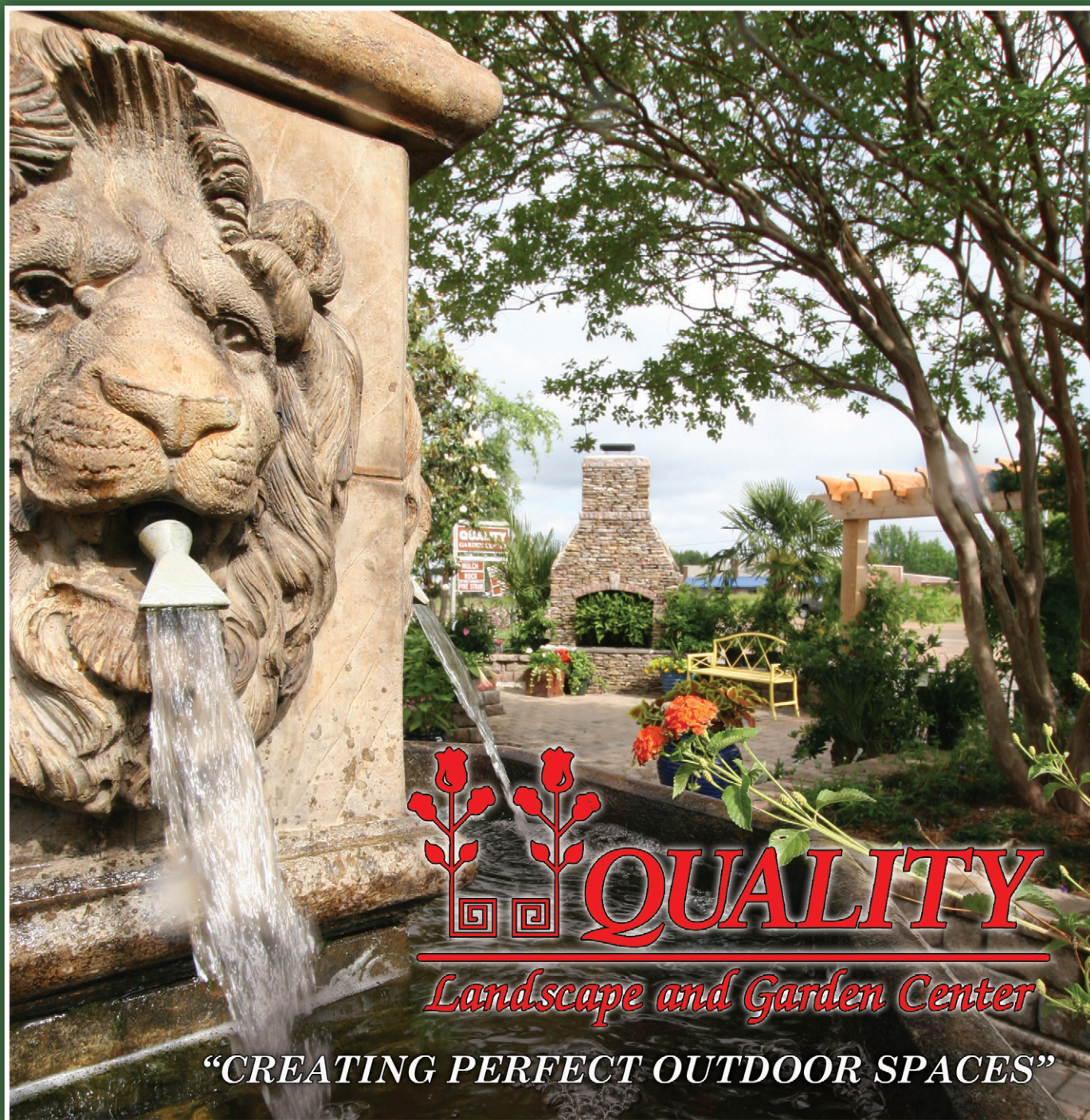
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A SUMMER HORIZON

As I write this month's letter, residents on the Gulf coast are anxiously awaiting the next move by British Petroleum to hopefully cap the gushing oil.

We are all holding our breath.

If one message has been lost in the recent news, it's that the Mississippi Gulf coast is still pristine and clear and open for business!

Just as June knocks at our door, schools let out, and summer officially starts, many people are wondering if

hitting land.

Whatever looms on the summer horizon, we'll keep our southern neighbors and beloved landscape in our thoughts.

If traveling just isn't in your plans, then there's no better time than early summer to explore our area for local farmers markets, gardens, and U pick operations to pick up a healthy dose of fresh produce. Squash, cucumbers, cabbage and broccoli have all made their grand seasonal entrance and we hope the tomatoes aren't too far behind.

And talk about grand entrances. What would June be without brides?

We're excited once again to bring you our wedding issue filled with stories, destinations, and of course, brides. We hope a photo or word inspires a bride or reminds you of your own wedding memories.

It's summer! Sweep off the patio, start up the grill and sit back to enjoy our stories for this month. Here's to another new horizon.

Dana Finimore

Editor in chief
dana@desotomag.com



they should venture to the coast as planned.

Starlin Lanier of the Newcomers & Visitors Guide South MS and South Mississippi Charters has one word: Yes!

Not to underscore the seriousness of this disaster, but as of this moment, the media barrage has hurt the Gulf coast worse than any potential oil



On the Cover

This three tiered wedding cake, topped with orange Amazon roses, is from the wedding of Katherine Fili and Lance Stribling. Photography by Jacqui R. Pello.

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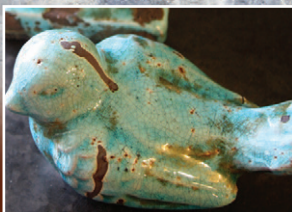
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Dear Readers: We love hearing from you. Drop us a line if you have comments, questions or suggestions related to our editorial features and/or departments. Our email is info@desotomag.com or write to: P. O. Box 451, Nesbit MS 38651.



Artist, Helen Argo exhibits her work at the first annual Art Walk.

Art Walk

Thank you, for a lovely event! I think the First Annual Art Walk was the start of something big. I heard so many positive comments not only about the concept of the show, but about your shop as well. We all had a good bang for our buck! What an encouragement to the art community here and we hope to continue this good beginning.

Helen Argo
Hernando

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Because you care, Palmer's children are equipped to make a difference, and indeed they have, serving in our nation's military and in every walk of life. Many Palmer alumni will be joining us for an upcoming reunion this fall. When we gather we will do as all families do, enjoy each other's company, catch up on all the latest family news and reminisce. And we'll do something more: we'll give thanks for you and other caring friends who helped to see us through difficult and often heartbreaking times.

Thank you again for looking in our direction and for your commitment to care. Our gratitude to you shall know no end. Bless you!

Ed Waldron, Ph.D.
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By Gene Davies

Are you trying to lose weight? Diet fads and trends come and go, and most of them don't lead to lasting weight loss. Fortunately, there are legitimate ways to approach losing weight. You can cut back on either the amount of carbohydrates, fat, or calories you eat. If you combine one of these strategies with exercise – and do it consistently – there's a good chance you'll get results. Any of these approaches will lead to weight loss if done consistently – but which is better – cutting carbs or calories?

CUTTING CARBOHYDRATES: IT'S NOT ALWAYS THE BEST APPROACH

Very low carbohydrate diets were the rage up until a few years ago. They're still around, but they're not quite as popular as they were in the days of Dr. Atkins. The reason? A very low carb diet is hard to stick with and a significant percentage of people who go on this

type of restrictive diet gain most of the weight back. In fact, studies show that people who follow a low fat diet are more likely to keep the weight off long term than those who follow a low carb diet.

There's another reason why cutting carbs isn't always best. If you're exercising to build lean body mass and cutting carbohydrates too much, it can work against you. With high intensity exercise, the body uses

carbohydrates as its primary fuel source. If you limit carbs too much, your body breaks down protein to get the energy it needs – not fat as most people think. Fat is the primary fuel burned during low intensity exercise such as walking.

CARBS OR CALORIES?: THE BEST WAY TO DO IT

The best way to maximize weight loss while preserving lean body mass is to cut calories and change the type of carbohydrates you eat. Eat more complex, low glycemic carbohydrates such as whole grains, vegetables, and fruits that are low in sugar – and nix the sweet desserts, processed foods, and deep fried potatoes. These foods offer little in the way of nutritional value and send your blood sugar and insulin levels soaring – which causes more fat to be deposited in spots where you least want it.

WHEN CUTTING CARBOHYDRATES WORKS BEST

Certain groups of people may benefit more from a low carbohydrate diet. This includes people with type 2 diabetes, metabolic syndrome, and people with polycystic ovary disease since they're usually insulin resistant. Anyone who has these conditions should talk to their doctor about trying a low carb diet.

CARBS OR CALORIES?: THE BOTTOM LINE

If you're active, aim for a ratio of about 50% carbs (complex, healthy carbohydrates), 25% fat (monounsaturated and polyunsaturated), and 25% protein. If you're like most people, cutting back on calories and cleaning up the kinds of carbohydrates you eat works best for long term, sustainable weight loss. ■

References:

Medicine Net website. "Low-Fat Diet Tops Low-Carb in Long Run"



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TOP FIVE HEARTY HOUSE PLANTS

No green thumb? Try one of these hearty varieties to satisfy your yearning for something green around the house.

Some folks are born with an inept ability that allows them to grow any type of plant, indoors or out, into a lush, flourishing specimen that would be befitting for the cover of *Better Homes and Gardens*. For the rest of us, these elusive green thumb abilities are lacking, and we are left with more of a “black thumb”, one that brings death and destruction to almost any type of flower, shrub, or plant that we touch. Fortunately, God saw that not everyone possessed the capacity to grow things, and he thus created hard to kill house plants that will stand up to neglect and abuse. Beware, however, that if you kill one of these tough plants, there really is no help for you — and you should just simply resign yourself to a plastic cactus or vase of silk flowers instead.

Hard-to-Kill House Plant #1: Jade

The jade plant is one tough cookie that is easy on the eyes. The jade’s one of a kind leaves and pink winter blooms make it eye candy for the home. But the jade’s best quality is that it requires very little attention and only a small amount of sunlight, making it the perfect plant for black thumbed would be gardeners everywhere.

Hard-to-Kill House Plant #2: Chinese Evergreen

One plant that can take a beating and keep on thriving is the Chinese evergreen. This cold hardy

plant does not require constant attention and comes in more than twenty beautiful varieties. It is easy to overwater this type of plant, however, so it should always be placed in a well drained planter. This slow growing plant will need to be repotted around a year after purchase.

Hard-to-Kill House Plant #3: Spider Plant

The spider plant hails from South Africa and is one of the most popular house plants in the world. This unique plant is very unique looking, with long, pointy leaves that end up turning into buds that die and then turn into smaller spider plants. The spider plant is one hard to kill house plant that is hardy at any temperature and that loves bright sun light. The spider plant does not need to be watered every day, but must be watered most days during the summer months.

Hard-to-Kill House Plant #4: Peace Lily

The peace lily is one plant that will communicate to you what it needs. If you fail to water it, its leaves will begin to noticeably wilt as it cries out for water. You don't have to have much light to grow a peace lily, but they can become quite large and require repotting after some time if you want them to really reach their full potential. The peace lily is easily distinguished by its tall, white flowers.

Hard-to-Kill House Plant #5: English Ivy

If you have the room, English ivy is a great plant to bring indoors, although it thrives best outside where it can grow to become as long as one hundred feet. Other than sunlight, English ivy requires very little maintenance and has the added benefit of cleaning your indoor air!

Choose one or all of these hardy house plants and you'll be able to fool your friends into believing that you have developed a green thumb; we promise not to tell them that you've chosen a hard to kill house plant! ■

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Dr. Wheeler Believes in Taking Time to Care for Patients.

After nearly two decades of caring for cancer patients at The West Clinic in Southaven, Dr. Benton Wheeler knows what matters. He says, "I still take time to talk with people." A board certified oncologist, Dr. Wheeler completed his internal medicine residency and hematology oncology fellowship at Indiana University Medical Center and earned his medical degree from the Medical College of Georgia. He relocated to Memphis in 1993.

His experience over the past twenty years has given him a sensitive and seasoned insight that keeps him close to his patients. "For hematology oncology patients, the issues are just so big. Some things you just can't rush, and people appreciate the time I spend with them." One of his patients recently commented that at The West Clinic, "it just feels like everyone cares."

Wheeler attributes his patient centric philosophy, in part, to his early education. "We trained with a lot of good family practitioners. We did the nitty, gritty stuff and really learned how to take care of people." He also credits his excellent training in Indiana and the high level of teaching there for leading him to his current specialty.

Advanced Learning, Advanced Care

Today, Wheeler still feels a sense of excitement about oncology. He believes that, because of new, targeted therapies and continued genetic research, more treatment options are available with more on the horizon. "We all want to learn something new, and it's still a really exciting field, even when progress can be frustratingly slow."

Dr. Wheeler says that, during the course of his time with The West Clinic, he has continued to learn. "I feel extremely grateful to be a part of The West Clinic team, especially to be here at a time when other talented doctors like Drs. Kurt Tauer and Lee Schwartzberg are practicing here."

Dr. Wheeler is also active as well in the community. He is the current president of the Tennessee Oncology Practice Society and he serves on the Tennessee Oncology Practice Society board. He volunteers with the Church Health Center in Memphis and is active with the Memphis Chamber Music Society, Memphis Brooks Museum, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception, and Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. Wheeler believes that the crowning achievement of his career is his ability to work and collaborate with other talented physicians at The West Clinic.

Growing in Southaven

In the Southaven clinic, The West Clinic has continued to grow and evolve, expanding radiology and gynecological oncology services so as to advance patient care and access in North Mississippi. Dr. Wheeler works alongside Dr. Sonia Benn, an oncologist who specializes in treating breast cancer patients, and Drs. Linda Smiley and Todd Tillmanns, who are gynecologic oncologists. Drs. Brad Summer, Robert Johnson, and Jarvis Reed also see patients in the clinic. Together, the Southaven team delivers the best of care, including imaging and psychological and nutritional support.

And, in Dr. Wheeler's words, "The West Clinic's unwavering commitment to patient care has set a phenomenal standard for others to follow."



Benton M. Wheeler, MD



L to R: Dawn Sawyers, RN; LaShay Brown; Dr. Ben Wheeler

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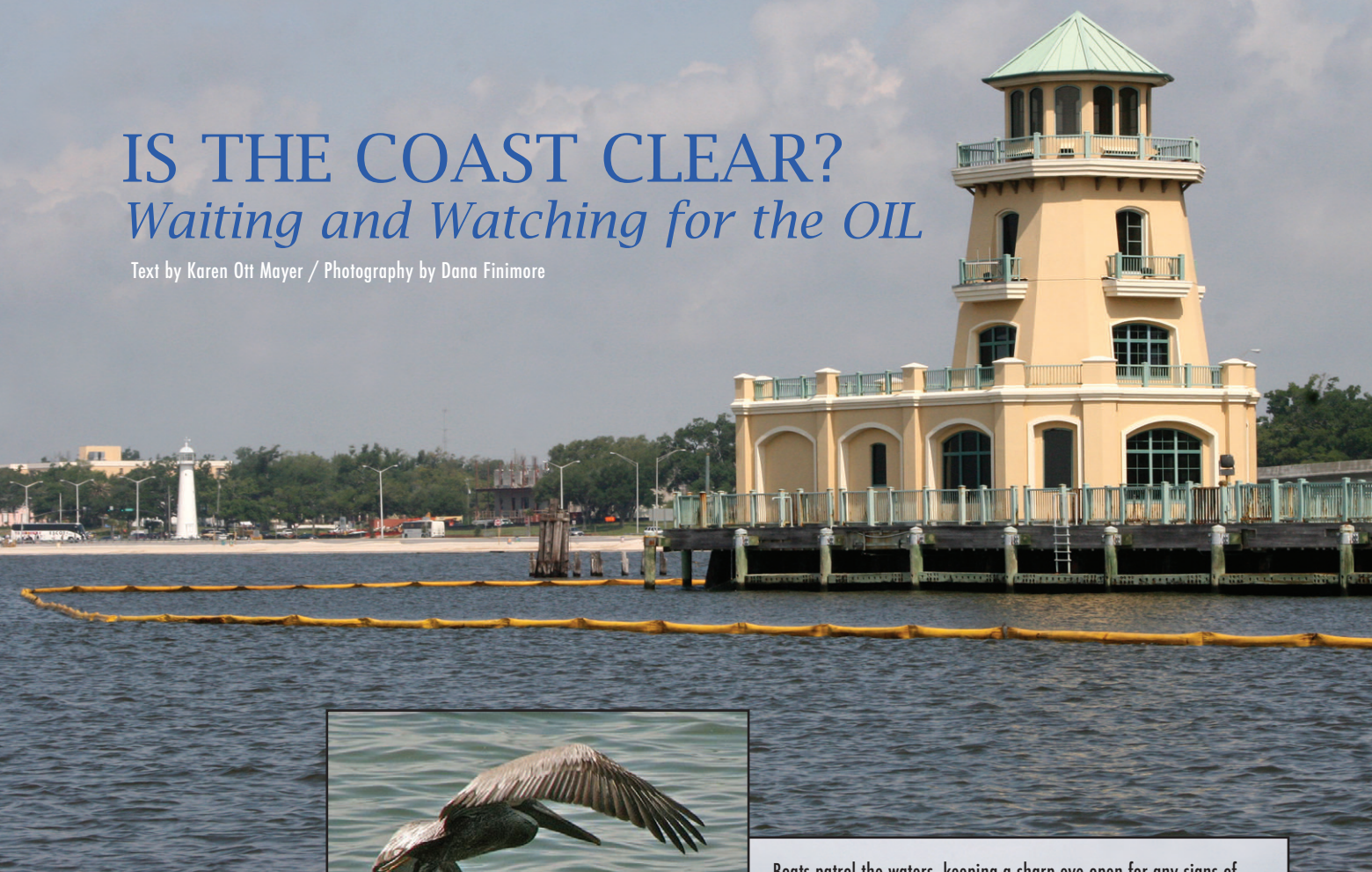
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IS THE COAST CLEAR?

Waiting and Watching for the OIL

Text by Karen Ott Mayer / Photography by Dana Finimore



Boats patrol the waters, keeping a sharp eye open for any signs of the oil drifts.



Since the catastrophic explosion on April 22 of the British Petroleum (BP) oil rig, the world, particularly the Gulf coast residents, have been holding its breath as repeated efforts to plug the oil have failed.

Over a month later, one question preoccupies those living on the Mississippi coast: Will the oil hit the coast?

One truth that remains clear is no one can know for sure what tomorrow will bring. As of this writing, the Mississippi coast is still clear and residents are bracing for the worst.

For people like Dianne Hunt, a marine biologist and licensed captain who has lived on the coast for over 20 years, the tragedy is ironic. Having lost her entire home to Katrina, she noticed something this spring.

"This is the first year we're seeing a holistic recovery since Katrina. Fruit, berries, trees...everything is just lush. It's about as perfect as it can get," says Hunt.

In contrast, certain disappointing signs do exist.

"I smell oil very strongly every morning and that's not a good thing," says Hunt.

Hunt says her main concern is the dispersant being used. "It's never been used in this manner and it's toxic. A hurricane isn't toxic."

Having raised oysters on Cat Island for four years, she expresses concern over the affects the dispersants will have on the sea surface that teems with unseen life. "The worst possible scenario would be it's going to start killing the base of the food chain."

Even so, Hunt says the marshes are still in tact and she's looking forward to camping and fishing on the barrier islands this weekend. "Hopefully, the booms will protect our estuaries and wetlands."

Meanwhile, for commercial boat charter owners like

Greg Thornton who operates Due South Charters and Horn Island Charters, the current situation is both promising and frustrating. At the moment, Thornton reports the barrier islands like Horn Island, Cat Island and Chandeleur are free of any oil.

“The Mississippi waters are still open for charter boats and fishing with the exception of Chandeleur,” says Thornton.

Chandeleur Island was shut down to any charter fishing as of this writing.

Thornton, who founded Due South Charters in 1972 and Horn Island Charters in 1994 has weathered hurricanes but has never witnessed a potentially devastating environmental disaster like this one. “It’s pretty devastating to the charter boat and fishing industry because the shrimp season gets going in early June in Louisiana, then they head to Mississippi.”

Thornton also reports the smell of oil, but not constantly. As of May 24th, he says that BP has had everyone sign rotation contracts. “We’re hoping to get in the water. They’ve got everyone this rotation.”

Nonetheless, Thornton wants visitors to know that charters are still available.

Earlier in the month, Thornton even took a CNN crew out to Chandeleur Island where a massive oil slick was seen.

Hunt believes that BP is doing everything possible at this point in time to try to cap the oil. “There’s just no technology to deal with a situation like this one so everyone’s just trying what they think might work.”

Hunt and Thornton know the Mississippi coast has much to offer visitors. Centrally located in the country with beaches, wetlands and marshes, the area has long been a favorite destination for generations. While work continues to contain the oil, Hunt perhaps summarizes the situation best for those living along the coast.

“We’re very, very afraid. It’s not here and maybe it won’t be here, but we’re bracing for it.”

Starlin Lanier, who was born and raised on the gulf, owns South Mississippi Charters and is president of the Newcomers & Visitors Guide. He says the biggest problem to date is the perception that the Mississippi coast is black with oil. “All of our waters are still open today. You would never know there’s anything going on out in the water,” says Lanier.

Oil containment booms have been placed around Horn Island and other Ms coastal areas as a precautionary measure.



Starlin Lanier owns South MS Charters.

Lanier points to the media that would prefer a doom and gloom story.

“We’re open for business. I’ve had a few charters and we’ve caught large, plentiful, very edible fish.”

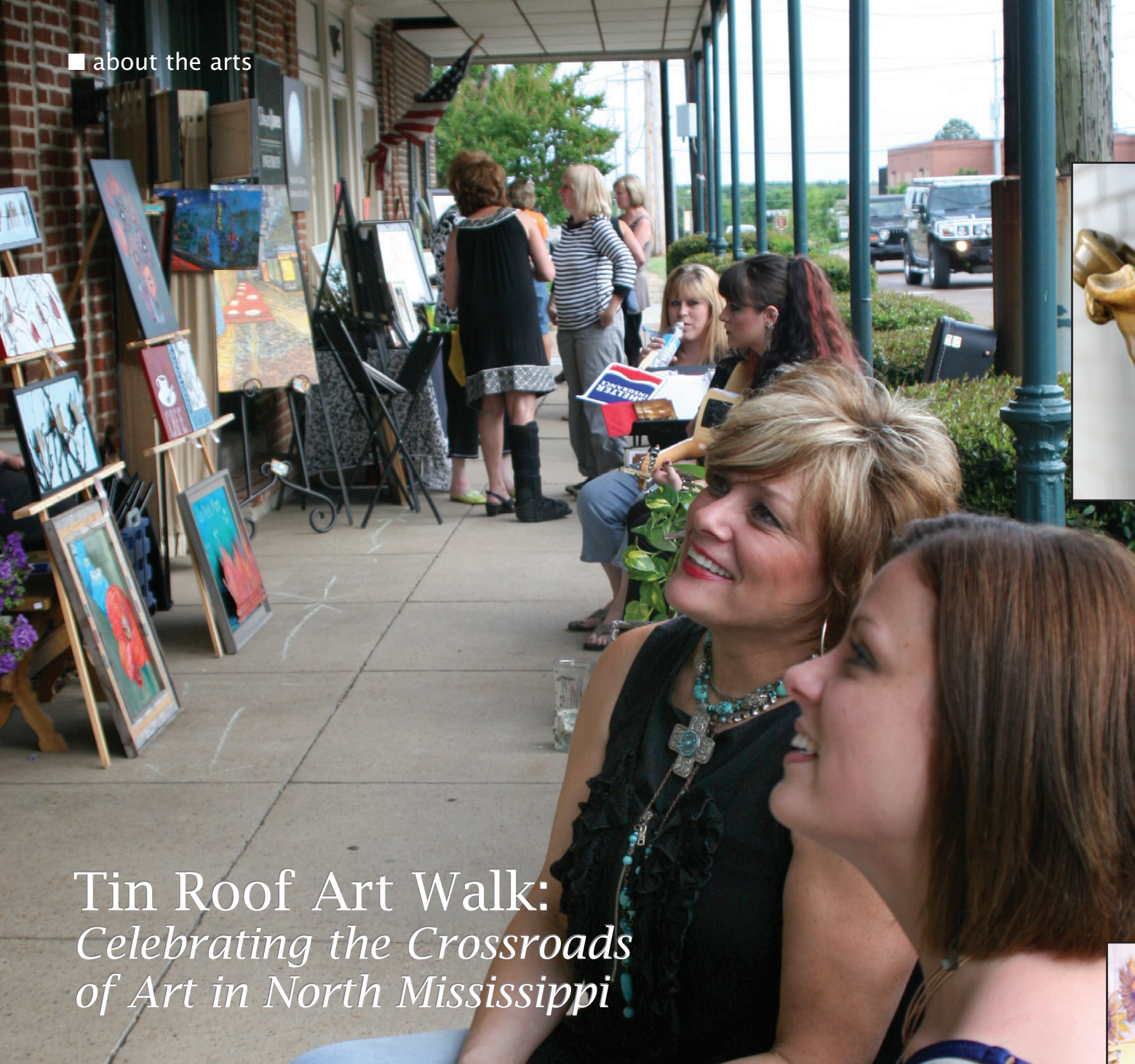
At a time when his phone should be ringing off the hook for charters, it is quiet. Lanier knows that anything can happen with the spill but he also knows what the reality is today.

“More than anything, if you were planning on coming to the coast, come on down. We can show them how wonderful everything looks. And until it gets here, if it ever does, we’re wide open.” ■

(Note: We will update our readers again in July about the situation on the coast)

The beach and dunes are free from oil on Mississippi’s Horn Island.





Tin Roof Art Walk: *Celebrating the Crossroads of Art in North Mississippi*

Text by Herman King / Photography by Dana Finimore

As the sun set on a Thursday evening in May, a gathering of artists, musicians, art enthusiasts and community leaders grew on the sidewalk just outside Tin Roof Market on the Hernando Square as the first official Art Walk began. Sponsored by Tin Roof Market, the Art Walk in Hernando marks a creative crossroads for the art community and promises to become a regular artistic event for all of North Mississippi.

The sounds of 16 year old Tori Tollison, a vocalist with Infused Studios of Eudora, filled the air as visitors strolled along the sidewalk, enjoying the works of 15

talented local artists.

Works included oil paintings, portraits, mixed media, collage, sculpture and pottery. Inside Tin Roof Market, guests could browse the shop or indulge in fruit, cheese, assorted cookies or a glass of wine.

Local artist Helen Christi Argo helped organize the event.

"It was easy. I just made a few phone calls and everyone thought it was a great idea. We talked to a lot of artists," says Argo. Unfortunately, space limitations forced the organizers to choose from many talented artists, and in the end, the chosen artists represented a

(opposite) Dawn Edwards designs unique, decorative crosses from cast-off materials. Her daughter is an accomplished photographer.
(below) An amazing bowl by Joe Eckels.



diverse group of works.

Argo herself does amazing collages and landscapes and likes the idea of cross promotion among artists.

With the advent of the Desoto Arts Council, the Artists Network of North Mississippi and increased interest in the visual and performing arts throughout the county in the last decade, establishing a regular art event similar to the South Main Friday night arts shows in Memphis just makes sense. Dana Finimore, editor in chief of this magazine, envisions supporting artists across a wide range of mediums, possibly tying this event to other community based events like the



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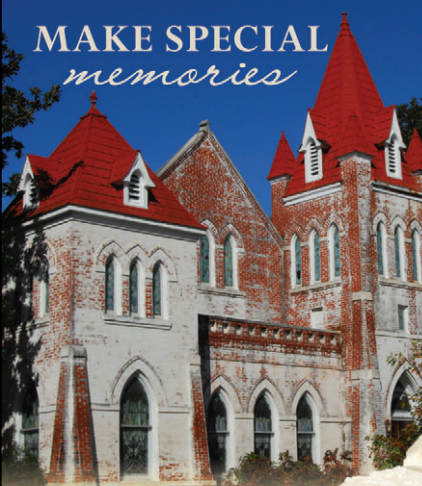
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"Social Scene" 25 x 7 mixed media by Chelle Ellis.

Saturday morning farmers market.

"As a painter, photographer and designer, I like to connect with other artists and I feel like we have a lot of talent in this area. Since opening Tin Roof Market, I have met other new artists and am excited to be able to help sponsor and promote the business of art," says Finimore.



Arts supporter, Kathy Franks selects a print from painter, Miriam Crotwell's display portfolio.

The list of artists who joined in the first Art Walk varies from new to seasoned artists.

Potter Joseph Eckles has been in Hernando for years and has established himself as a serious potter with a popular following. A member of the Memphis Potters Guild and the Mississippi Craft Guild, Eckles fully supported the new event.

"It's a good idea. I hope to do it again," says Eckles.

Painter Julia Baker Bell, whose work includes bold acrylics, also attended.

"I really enjoyed it and we had a good turnout for a first time," Bell commented.

Another long time Desoto County

painter, Kaye Harrison, also joined in the fun. Harrison's recognizable work, including everything from oil landscapes to florals, sells regularly. Harrison herself has been a consistent supporter of young artists by supporting the Artists Network and teaching in her studio.

"There is a lot of talent in this area, so this event could easily be expanded," says Harrison.

For Hernando, the event marks yet another positive move in developing a strong community in general. With the Gale Center, the Performing Arts Center and the historic square itself, the city has proven its commitment to the arts.

"I'm pleased the event was such a success. I hope to see it expand to include even more participants," says Mayor Chip Johnson.

Shelly Johnstone, director of community development for the city, agrees.

"It's really a great thing for the community."

Finimore agrees.

"I think it turned out well. I received good feedback from both the artists and the public. The only thing I'd change is to make it a much bigger event in the future." ■

Singer and musician, Tori Tollison, with Infused Studio entertained at the event.





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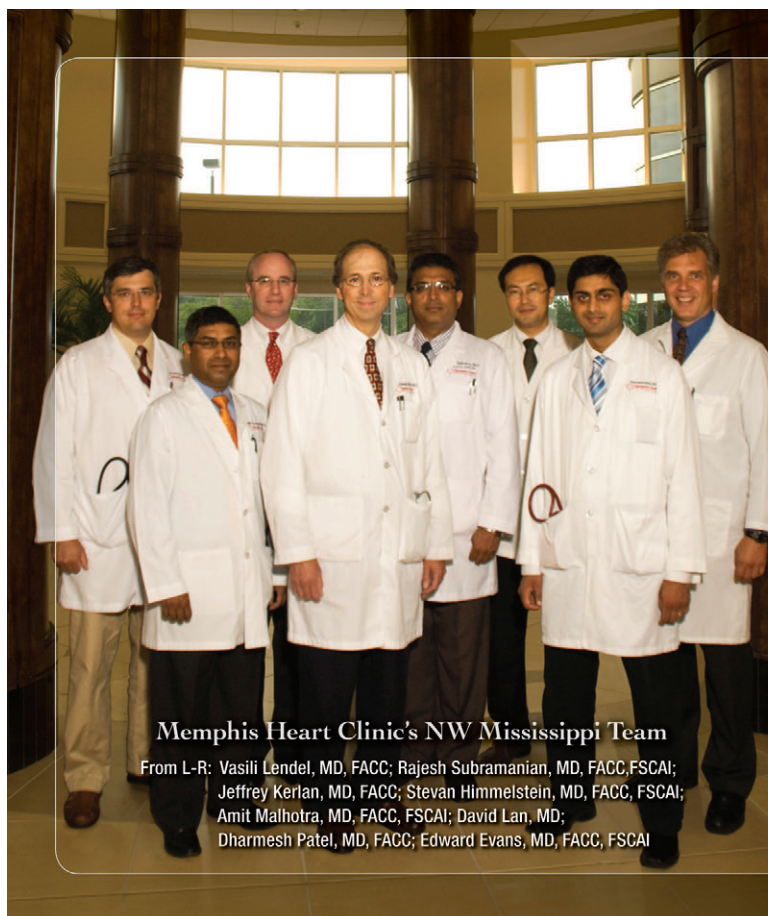
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BONNE TERRE: Back in Business & Better Than Ever

By B. Crawford Whitham

Great news for future brides, event planners and anyone who wishes to escape the hustle and bustle of the city—Bonne Terre has reopened under new ownership and management.

Bonne Terre is a French phrase meaning good earth, and there is an abundance of that in the wooded, sprawling 23 acres in Nesbit, Mississippi. Just a short drive from Memphis in DeSoto County is the south's premier country inn, restaurant, chapel and ballroom.

Emily and Bob Rygg bring to this adventure a wealth of experience in corporate event planning, catering and wedding coordination. Emily has absorbed the knowledge from 28 years at the Peabody Hotel in Memphis and the Crescent Club in Memphis and, for good measure, she spent 12 years doing corporate catering in Florida. Bob has spent 30 years in development, and they have a shared vision that will result in one of the showplace inns of the South.

Café Bonne Terre showcases the culinary artistry of executive chef Clint Morgan. He received his culinary degree from Johnson & Wells and specialized in an American cuisine with a European flair. Morgan uses fresh, wholesome ingredients with no preservatives or additives. He makes weekly visits to the farmer's market and has fish flown in every other day.

The restaurant seats 75 guests, and they are invited

to relax with a cocktail in the bar before indulging in a superb gourmet meal on the veranda overlooking the gardens or dining in the main room dominated by a fireplace.

A complimentary breakfast is served each morning in the Café for inn guests who can enjoy a variety of morning delights.

Special dinners are being planned, such as an Evening with Mark Twain, Mystery Dinners and other delightful surprises.

The fifteen elegant and graciously appointed guest rooms each have a private bath, and most have Jacuzzi tubs. The décor is a blend of Southern and Old World elegance with beautiful fine French and English antiques. Each room offers a spectacular view of the grounds and lakes.

The in ground saltwater swimming pool with a view of the Meditation Garden and overlooking one of the lakes is more relaxing than the ocean.

Ashley Hall, a unique Williamsburg style conference center with a capacity of 285 in the banquet ballroom, offers an atmosphere of relaxed productivity. A professional staff is there to assist in coordinating activities and arranging food and beverage service. Overlooking the grounds and a lake with a fountain is an ideal way to combine business with pleasure.

A wedding in the rustic European chapel at Bonne

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The Ryggs' goal is to provide their guests with a relaxing, romantic retreat with all the amenities and no worries.

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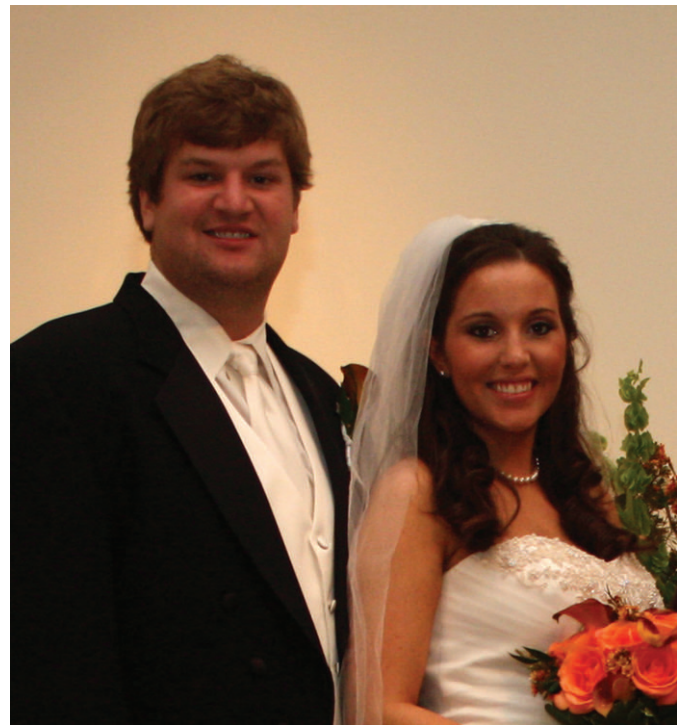
Fili & Stribling

The Square in Hernando played a major role in the wedding of Katherine Fili and Lance Stribling. After dating for almost a year, they were strolling around the square one day and decided to peek into the area where the Courtyard is located.

The visual impact was strong for Fili, and she thought it would make a beautiful location for a wedding reception. As they started to leave, Stribling pulled two pennies from his pocket and told Fili to make a wish. After throwing the pennies into the fountain, Stribling asked what she wished for and she told him. She then asked what he wished for, and he simply replied, "My wish is to make all your wishes come true," and he then dropped to one knee. Fili said, "The proposal was everything a girl could ever wish for, and I immediately said yes."

They planned to get married on their one year anniversary of dating, which meant a short engagement. Although it was challenging, decisions were made quickly.

The ceremony was held at the First Presbyterian Church in Hernando and was officiated by Amos Hood, a member of the church and a retired Presbyterian minister.



The rehearsal dinner was held at the Memphis Street Café, and the magnificent floral centerpiece drew many comments from the admiring guests. The arrangement, designed by Tracy Scott, owner of Dorothy K's Flowers & Gifts, featured open lavender roses, white hydrangeas, miniature green hydrangeas, white lisianthus, clusters of grapes, grapefruit and oranges, and purple and green kale. Scott said, "We try to help the bride in every way possible, so this arrangement was also used at the church and reception."

The exquisite altar arrangement, also created by Scott, was composed of Talisman snapdragons, tropical Amazon roses, orange tinted wax flowers, miniature green hydrangeas, peach roses and mixed greenery. Adding to the beauty of the arrangement were ruby red grapefruit, limes and oranges. A portion of the fruit was sliced to show the rich color and the remainder was kept whole.

The bride, escorted by her father, Vince Fili, wore a cream strapless gown of champagne lace. Her bouquet featured dark mango miniature calla lilies and tropical Amazon roses accented with orange wax flowers, with their stems wrapped in ivory satin with brown sheer braid.

The bride's maid of honor, Beth Fili, and her attendants, Kelly Nelson, LeeAnn Fili, Jessica Graves,



Alicia Michael and Ashley Conner wore strapless A line gowns in chocolate with coral sashes. They carried bouquets of tropical Amazon roses wrapped in brown sheer fabric.

The groomsmen included best man Will Townsend, Drew Hamrick, Andy Nelson, Kyle Abraham, TJ Wilson, Cody Bunyard and Zac Coleman.

Music for the wedding was provided by Roy Brewer, violinist, who had played with the Memphis Symphony.

Outdoor receptions can be risky in November, but fortunately for the couple, the weather was perfect and even unusually warm for that time of the year.

The Courtyard was picturesque, with 25 arrangements in lanterns using flowers similar to those featured in the wedding and trailing greenery. The massive arrangement from the church was breathtaking when placed behind the fountain, which had additional flowers floating in it.

The three tiered wedding cake was topped with orange Amazon roses, which were also placed around the base. The groom's Superman cake and the wedding cake were created by Kathy Warmath of Nesbit, Ms.

At the reception, guests danced to the music of the KC Lipe band, which played jazzy, bluesy music into the night.

The bride said, "One of my favorite elements of the reception was a table placed in the Courtyard next to the fountain. The table had an easel with a notice that said, 'The bride and groom invite you to make a wish,' and a jar of pennies was placed beside it. That was so special to me because it incorporated Lance's proposal into our wedding celebration." ❁



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Townsend & Thompson

The wedding of Barbara Townsend and Lee C. Thompson was an exciting and highly anticipated event with well-wishers attending from all parts of the country.

The couple were professionals in the education system of Memphis and DeSoto County for a combined total of approximately seven decades. She taught business and was a guidance counselor. He taught, coached and was assistant

superintendent of the Memphis City Schools.

Their paths may have crossed during those years, but it was much later in life that they became friends, eventually fell in love and wished to share their lives together.

The culmination of that friendship resulted in a joyous wedding at the Hernando United Methodist Church on May 22, 2010.

It was the bride's first wedding, and attention to detail was paramount in the planning stages. Townsend said, "We wanted to share this special time with our family, friends and former students (she refers to hers as 'Godchildren') and incorporate as many as possible into the ceremony and reception."

Prior to the wedding, the couple was honored with a luncheon hosted by Marsha Grant, who also taught with Townsend. The Purpose Driven church group entertained the couple with a cook out at the home of David and Pat Nixon, and the bride to be was presented with a bouquet of red roses.

Family and out of town friends enjoyed the rehearsal barbeque dinner held at

the church fellowship hall which Sonny Daniels hosted. Among the family members included were Thompson's son, Pat Thompson, his daughter, Linda Thompson, and grandchildren.

Butterflies Florist created the beautiful and abundant floral décor for the church, which consisted of 12 hurricane candles accented with ribbons lining the aisle and two altar arrangements of blue and white hydrangeas with pillar candles and greenery across the back of the altar.

Prior to the ceremony, the guests were entertained with



music by Time and Again barbershop quartet.

Music was provided by Donna Harris, organist for Hernando United Methodist Church, and Beverly Wilkes, vocalist, who sang "The Lord's Prayer" and "Longer."

The ceremony was officiated by Reverend Danny Dabbs of Hernando United Methodist Church and Waid Wilkes, retired minister.

The bride wore a long gown and matching jacket in serene blue and carried a bouquet of blue and white hydrangeas with gardenias from Butterflies Florist in Hernando. Due to a brace on her leg, she opted for a comfortable pair of blue and silver tennis shoes with white satin laces. Tucked inside one of the shoes was a sixpence which she brought back from London, England.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by LeRoy Heffner, and her matron of honor was Anne Heffner. The groom was attended by Jerry Raburn, a long time hunting pal.

Many friends played a major role in the wedding. Caterers were Vicky Wallace and Judy Wade, both of whom taught with Townsend. The photographer was Selena Baker, also a teacher from Horn Lake High School.

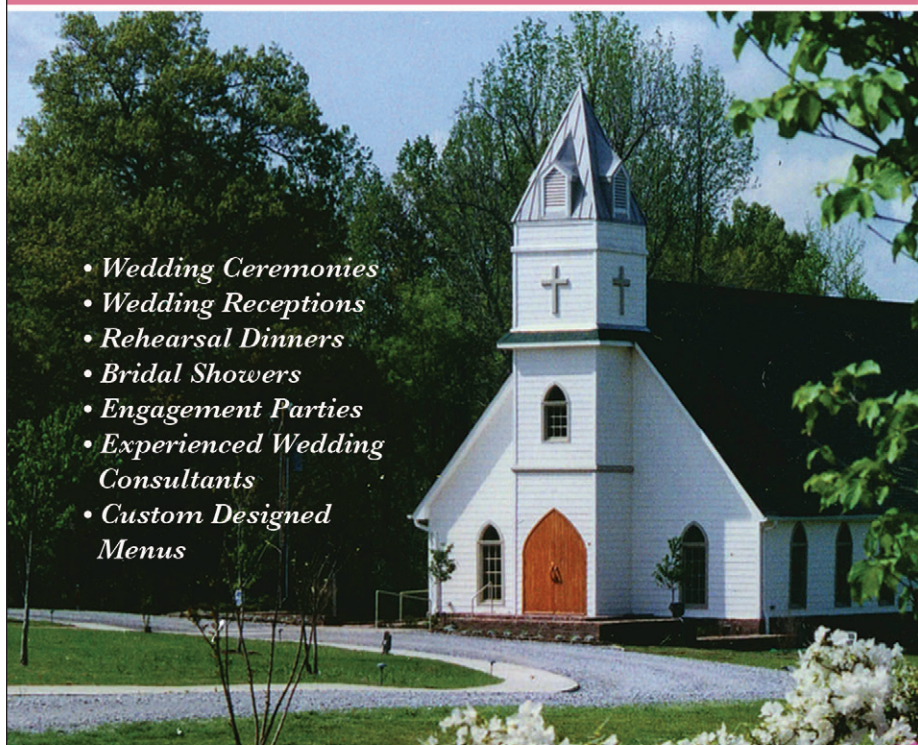
Over 250 guests shared the couple's joy at the reception in the church fellowship hall, featuring a pasta bar and salad bar. Entertainment was provided by Thompson's group (they call themselves The Pickers and Grinners). The group has played different venues in DeSoto County for years, and there was special sentiment to include them in the festivities.

The stunning five tier wedding cake (three top layers of strawberry and the bottom two of chocolate and vanilla) had vanilla butter cream icing with cascading hydrangeas, and it was provided by Ann Olivia's Sweet Shop in Hernando. They also furnished the groom's carrot cake in the shape of a dobro (steel guitar) and sugar free cupcakes.

The couple chose to take a delayed honeymoon in June and spend time in Mountain View, Arkansas.

Sources revealed the generosity of the couple extended to having their floral displays set up early in order that an earlier wedding could enjoy the arrangements. Also, in lieu of gifts, the couple asked that monetary donations be made to either the DeSoto Animal Rescue Society, Palmer Home for Children in Hernando or Hernando United Methodist Church Building Fund. ❀

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Jobs & Sims

The wedding of Jennifer Jobs and Brad Sims was the result of a friendship that began in the 7th grade and continued while they were in college. She attended Delta State, and he studied at Ole Miss, and the e-mails flew back and forth.

After graduation, Sims became an officer in the United States Navy, and they kept in touch during his service in the military. He later resigned his commission and began his civilian future with Hershey's in Memphis. Jobs pursued her career with Brenntag chemical sales.

They began dating, and during a trip to Charleston, South Carolina, while they were enjoying the beach, a mysterious message in a bottle appeared. Inside was a one of a kind octagon shaped engagement ring with brilliant and channel set diamonds. Sims had already received her father's consent, so he knelt down and proposed. The future bride said, "I started laughing because that is what I do when I am happy or nervous and, of course, I said yes."

Jobs consulted with Elizabeth Carter Scott, party orchestrator with Celebrations with Panache! Together they determined the direction of the wedding and began planning.

The result was an intimate, lavish wedding and reception for the happy couple in 2009. Pastor James Lewis officiated during the exchange of vows, which took place at DeSoto Hills Baptist Church and was witnessed by 150 guests.

A pre nuptial celebration was held at the home of Nick and

Katie McCain in Olive Branch. The 'couples' party' featured a Mexican theme related to the engaged couple's first trip to El Dorado Spa & Resort in Mexico and their honeymoon destination.

Holliday Flowers designed the beautiful floral arrangements for the church, which included two large arrangements of hot pink and medium pink roses, hydrangeas, gladiolas, snap dragons, daisies, mums and bells of Ireland. The flowers were displayed in stone urns on 4 foot stone columns. The altar was decorated with two tulip tree candelabras and a unity candle on a matching candelabrum.

The bride, given in marriage by her father, Ricky Jobs, wore a white halter gown with a beaded bodice and tulle overlay designed by Mori Lee. Her bouquet featured hot lady and medium pink roses, light pink peonies, green hydrangeas, white cymbidium orchids hand tied with the stems wrapped in white satin ribbon.

The five attendants wore black gowns in a variety of styles and earrings designed by the bride and given as gifts. They each carried a hand tied cluster of hot pink and medium pink roses, green hypericum berries with a rim of greenery wrapped in hot pink ribbon.

Maid of honor was Christy Bramlett, and the groom's best man was Adam Fair.

Garden District in Memphis staged the magical garden setting reception that took place in the tent adjoining Snowden House. The tent was erected around a dogwood tree with votives hanging from its branches. Lush mounds of floral arrangements were centered on each table, and they featured green hydrangeas, esparance roses, which are cream tinged with pink, pink finesse, and pink peonies.

Displayed in the tent were ivory lanterns of various sizes with candles inside.

The buffets were visually captivating with blooming cherry branches and hanging votives. Catered by Brenda Vernon, the food included an array of fruits and cheeses, shrimp, smoked salmon, beef tenderloin, homemade rolls, hot spinach dip, green beans, asparagus and sugar snap peas.

A large floral sphere composed of hydrangeas and peonies extended from the chandelier over the wedding cake. Pillar candles and trailing greenery bedecked the mantel in the background.

The three tiered, vanilla wedding cake by Kipp Holmes of Cordova was frosted with butter cream icing and pearl dust. Topping the cake were pink Lydia spray roses, green hydrangeas and white roses. Strawberries and edible pearls also



adorned the cake. The groom's cake was red velvet with white fondant icing and featured a gold anchor and a three dimensional M for Ole Miss.

As a special treat for their guests, the newlyweds gave each guest a personalized Hershey bar that announced, "Here they are, Jennifer and Brad."

The proud parents, Ricky and Peggy Jobs of Southaven and Gary Sims and Roxanne Sims of Olive Branch, wished the couple a happy honeymoon at the Grand Sandal Resort in St. Lucia. 🌿



Bridal Registry



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Daniel Forbes
June 19, 2010

Ainsley Gorman
Jason Burch
August 28, 2010

Erin Reiter
Drew Funderburk
October 2, 2010

Gresh Gorman
Ben Grisham
October 9, 2010

Brooke Mitchell
Donnie Marrs
November 13, 2010

Mandy Klepzig
Hal Kent
May 1, 2010

Julia Bledsoe
Hayes Harris
May 29, 2010

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Bryant Worsham
June 5, 2010

Ashley Ferguson
Robert Quimby
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CREATING A PEACEFUL SETTING

Text by B. Crawford Whitham

A serene area on your patio or in your garden is a great place to enjoy the outdoors, indulge in a favorite pastime or entertain family and friends. You can create such a setting in your home landscape without breaking the bank and become the envy of your neighborhood.

Peaceful Settings owner, Ben Richardson, was a corporate executive with a national company, but when the company moved their offices to another state, he took early retirement rather than relocate his family. Richardson has a background in engineering and architecture, and when his wife, Bonnie, urged him to pursue his woodworking, they turned his lifelong passion into a successful business.



Peaceful Settings specializes in: decks, arbors, gazebos, pool decks, bridges, piers, docks, storage buildings, garages, stained and stamped concrete patios, concrete driveways

Richardson said, “Even the smallest project can bring added beauty to your outdoor space, giving you the opportunity to enjoy nature in all its splendor.”

He also emphasized that it is helpful to know the difference between an arbor, pergola and gazebo if you are leaning in that direction.

An arbor creates an entrance to the garden or home and can be both decorative and functional. It may also have a seat where the owner can read and relax outdoors with a little shade from vines or roses.

A pergola is a shaded outdoor space and it can be attached, free standing beside a structure or just free standing. It is similar to a gazebo but usually less expensive. A synthetic



cover can be added to the top for additional protection from the elements.

A gazebo is a small living area in the garden, usually domed and enclosed or semi enclosed with lattice. Seating can be built in or outdoor furniture may be placed inside. Size would depend on the area of placement and budget.

Richardson has also built a number of Sukkas (Hebrew for shelter) that are used during a Jewish holiday for temporary shelter.

Trellises are a simple way to ensure privacy and/or hide an undesirable element in your yard. Easy to install and inexpensive, they can give a lot of bang for your buck.

Peaceful Settings offers consultations and answers questions about issues such as: permits, height and size requirements, proper location on your property

The wood of choice for Richardson is western red cedar, which is used on 99% of their arbors and pergolas. He said it lasts longer than other woods, and with proper care and maintenance, its beauty will not diminish with time. Since UV rays will turn the wood gray over time, he recommends true oil based products in your pigment of choice. Semi transparent stains are available in several colors and are excellent for long lasting application.

Richardson said, “We use stainless steel fasteners to prevent bleeding, and we are continually setting a higher standard and build to exceed code.”

He and his crew, to whom he refers as “Our True Southern Gentlemen,” work 52 weeks a year unless it is under 28 degrees, snowing, sleeting or raining.

Richardson said it is important to select a company that is owner involved and has a history of completing a project before going on to the next one. A company should also provide attention to the most minute detail, which will result in exceptional customer service and higher quality work. ■

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Text by Karen Ott Mayer

Photo of chapel courtesy of the Hernando Museum

THE MARRIAGE MILL

With no waiting and no blood tests required, 1940s Hernando, Mississippi became a mecca for couples who wanted to tie the knot quickly and with little or no fuss.

IT'S WEDDING SEASON, AND PERHAPS NO OTHER SMALL TOWN CAN BOAST SUCH A HISTORY WITH WEDDINGS AS HERNANDO CAN.

In the 1940s, Hernando became known as the “Marriage Mill,” and couples like Rex and Pat Mitchell who lived in Memphis tied the knot just across the state line in Mississippi, which had few requirements and no waiting period.

According to the DeSoto County Museum in Hernando, couples drove from all over the country to get a marriage license at the courthouse. On one June day, the county set a record by issuing 114 marriage licenses in a single day.

Other states refused to allow such lax marriage laws that required no waiting period or blood tests, fearing that teenagers would run away and marry without

their parents’ consent.

Ceremonies could be performed by judges, mayors, ministers or at the well known Spencer café, which was located on the square and had a wedding chapel set up in the back room.

The Mitchells, who were married for over 50 years prior to his death, married in Hernando in 1947 after meeting at a USO dance.

At the time, Pat was a nursing student at Methodist Hospital and lived in the dorm. Strict rules prohibited female students from marrying.

Rex took the bus from Millington to Memphis every chance he found. Since the dorm had strict visiting rules, the pair would sit on a bench and visit.

They were completely broke but agreed that once Rex received his discharge money, they would go to

Hernando and marry.

Because the hospital did not allow married students, the couple needed to keep the wedding a secret. At the time, Hernando didn't publish wedding announcements.

The Mitchells did tell their parents and her roommate, but that was it.

When Rex received a few hundred dollars from the government, he bought a ring and a suit. They took a bus south to Hernando and found a Methodist minister to marry them. They were both 19 years old.

"Even though Rex had just been discharged from the military, he had to call his mother from the courthouse to confirm he had permission to get married," says Pat.

After they married, the couple returned to Memphis so Pat could make her next class. They spent the night at the Gayoso Hotel.

Even though they couldn't tell anyone about the wedding, Rex found a gift on his desk the next morning and knew one of his friends had left it.

The Mitchells lived apart until 1948 when she graduated. She continued living in the dorm, and he lived down the street in an apartment.

Upon graduation, she reported to her new job at Methodist Hospital the next day.

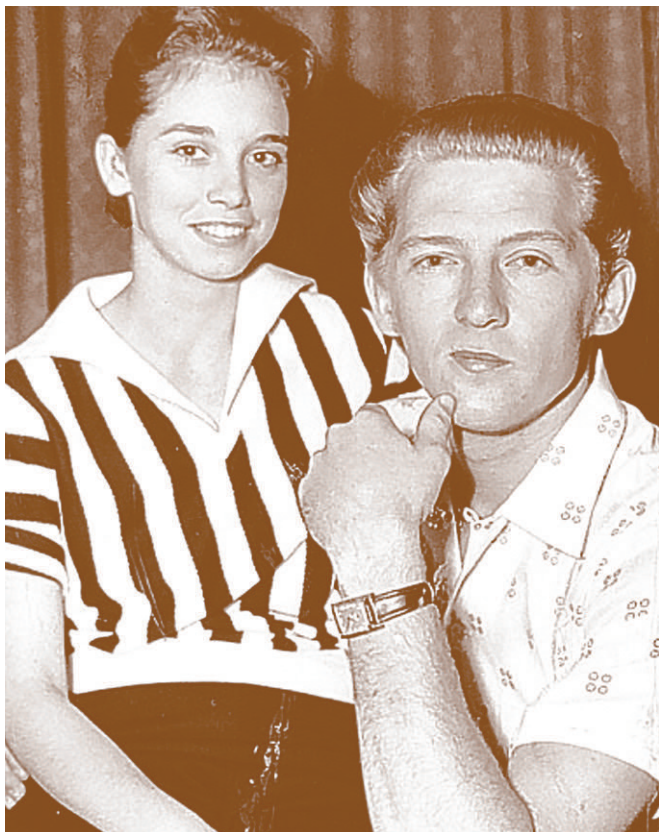
"I signed in with my new name, and no one ever said a word."

The Mitchells both agreed they didn't want to wait to marry, even considering the risks.

"Although we were both young, we were stable, even then. Maybe it was because we came from small towns."

Just across from the courthouse, the Spencer Cafe and Hotel gained a reputation as another wedding spot. Over a 100 years old, the hotel and cafe with its large glass porch already rented space for parties. In 1956, Bess Winding and Neil Gunn arrived in Hernando from Las Vegas and ran Hernando's Little Wedding Chapel until the building burned in 1957.

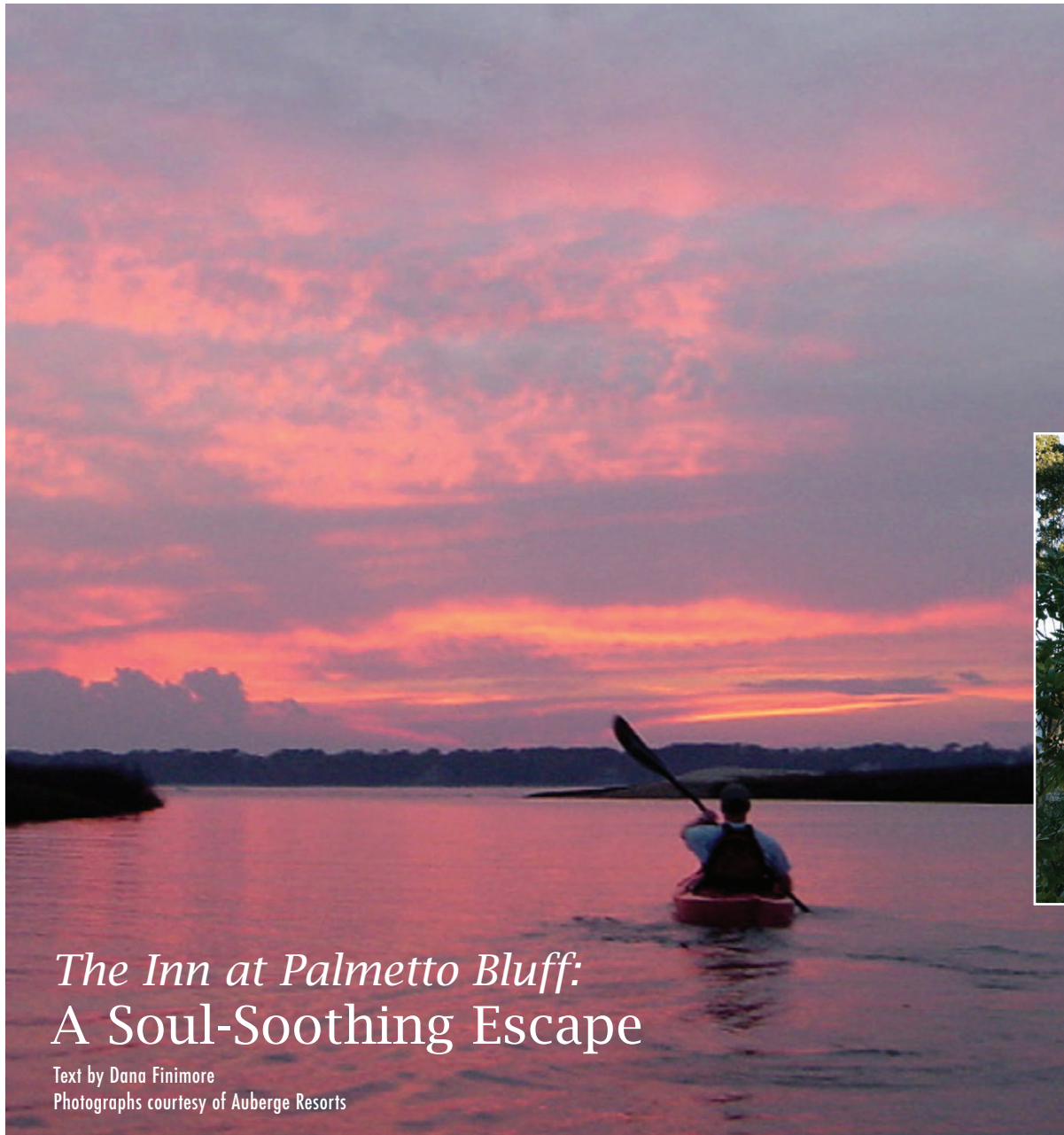
Hernando facilitated the marriages of many more couples until 1958. That year, Mississippi passed a state law requiring a three day waiting period and blood tests, ending Hernando's reputation as the "quickie marriage capitol" of the South. ■



WHO KNEW?

Country music singer Charlie Pride and his wife Rozene tied the knot in Hernando in 1956. In 1957, Jerry Lee Lewis shocked the world by marrying his 13 year old cousin Myra Gale Brown at the Little Wedding Chapel.





The Inn at Palmetto Bluff: A Soul-Soothing Escape

Text by Dana Finimore
Photographs courtesy of Auberge Resorts



If you're looking for a soul soothing escape that combines the best of eco tourism with fine dining, spa treatments, and world class golf all wrapped up in luxurious accoutrements then look no further than The Inn at Palmetto Bluff.

This ultra romantic haven is nestled along the banks of the May River in South Carolina's Low Country. The Inn is surrounded by 20,000 tranquil acres of wilderness that was once home to more than 20 working plantations.

The area's natural ecological diversity includes forests, freshwater creeks, and saltwater marshes

teeming with creatures indigenous to the area. Visitors can experience the Low Country beauty via kayak with a naturalist as a guide. Enjoy a close encounter with a bottlenose dolphin or learn about the thriving birdlife that inhabits this remarkable tidal ecosystem.

The freshwater ponds and lakes at the Inn are an angler's paradise.

Well stocked and carefully managed for decades, the property's waterways are abundant with brim and bass.

Palmetto Bluffs offers a rich history dating back to the 1500s. History buffs can immerse themselves in a variety of activities designed to highlight the region's most interesting historical characteristics. A half day tour will introduce you to the inspiring beauty and history of legendary Daufuskie Island. Beginning with a boat ride through the beautiful salt creeks, you'll



arrive at the island and board golf carts to tour the famous historic district. Your guides all Daufuskie historians will take you to the First Union African Baptist Church, the Mary Field School where Pat Conroy taught, Bloody Point Lighthouse, Silver Dew Pottery, and much more.

Your quarters at the inn will not disappoint you. Step inside one of the spacious guest cottages and experience the ultimate in South Carolina vacation accommodations. Exquisitely outfitted, the interiors are designed to celebrate South Carolina's rich architectural heritage: The cottages and suites greet you with the warmth of genuine pine floors, vaulted ceilings, cozy fireplaces, and spacious screened porches. Fine bed linens and upscale personal care amenities add polish, giving guests a feeling of sumptuous comfort. The cottages' wide windows offer panoramic views of South



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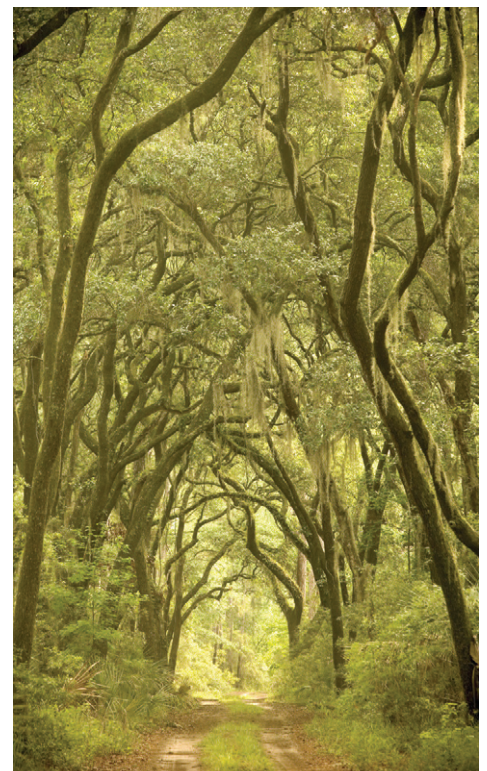


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skin care, and body treatments draw on the healing traditions and ingredients of the area: cornmeal, peaches, cotton, wild rice, and red river clay. The grounds of the spa feature a private garden with a wide selection of roses, local flowers, and herbs.

Whether you're in the mood for a fine gourmet meal or a casual snack, The Inn at Palmetto Bluff offers a wide variety of dining choices to satisfy most every culinary whim and desire. Many of the restaurants feature locally sourced organic ingredients, often prepared with a special South Carolina Low Country flair.

Relaxation is a personal pursuit, and you'll soon succumb to the resort's casual pace as you enjoy this one of a kind vacation paradise set amidst the South Carolina flora and fauna. ■





Palmetto Bluff Weddings: The Perfect Day Requires the Perfect Setting.

Tranquil, scenic waterways wind through moss-laden Spanish oak trees as your guests arrive at the resort. A spectacular sunset sets the sky on fire as they make their way through the quaint Village Square, where antique gas lamps flicker to announce the evening. To the left stands the stately River House, a soft yellow glow coming through the windows of the Grand Ballroom, where the final preparations are being made for the wedding celebration to come. Located at the water's edge lies the beautiful Waterside Chapel, an intimate sanctuary that looks out over the May River, providing the most breathtakingly romantic setting imaginable. Set against the backdrop of the magnificent Southern Carolina Low Country, The Inn at Palmetto Bluff is ready to host a wedding like no other resort can—with world-class service, gourmet catering, professional event planning, and award-winning accommodations that have made Palmetto Bluff synonymous with the finest in luxury resorts.

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the Square Cupboard

a little girl's dream come true



As a little girl, Jamie Whitley Smith loved playing in her grandmother's curio cabinet. She unwrapped the delicate bone china from its protective paper, set the dining room table, stood back, and marveled at its stunning beauty – the intricate gold floral pattern layering gracefully with crystal goblets and sterling silver. At the age of 5, she discovered her love for all things “fancy.” At the beginning of her college years, Jamie studied interior design and further developed her appreciation of creating functional and aesthetically pleasing spaces. While spending a summer in Italy her love of original artwork grew. Twenty years after setting that first table, Jamie and her husband, Charlie, decided to change their career paths and embark on fulfilling her dream. That dream became a reality May of 2008 – and the Square Cupboard was established.

Nestled on the northwest side of the historic square in Hernando, MS is Desoto County's most unique and upscale bridal registry and gift shop. Located in part of the old hardware store and full of southern charm and extraordinary style, The Square Cupboard offers distinctive and exclusive lines, boasting one-of-a-kind pieces – perfect for everyone's home. Jamie searches for items, striving to appeal to the discriminating tastes of her clientele. From European formal china and everyday dinnerware to Mississippi-made pottery, each shopper's taste is sure to be satisfied.

Now, the dream has been expanded into several areas. Furniture, art, jewelry, invitations/stationery, baby gifts, gourmet foods, and home décor are among the different areas of specialty at the store. Jamie enjoys finding fine home furnishings overseas as well as displaying custom pieces made right here in Hernando by her husband, Charlie. Because she is proud of her Mississippi roots, Jamie has secured Mississippi-made items for all areas of the store. These include paper products from Tupelo; specialty food items from Yazoo City, Louisville, and Indianola; jewelry from Meridian, Tupelo, and Jackson; baby products from Brookhaven, Jackson, and Hernando; picture frames from Jackson; pottery from Starkville, Oxford, and Etta; copper from Clinton and White Oak; children's books from Starkville; and cookbooks from all over the state. What a way to instill this Mississippi pride in all shoppers!

Priding itself as a one-stop shop for wedding needs, The Square Cupboard works with a variety of companies that cater to brides and grooms planning for this exciting event. These businesses offer shower invitations, save-the-dates, wedding invitations, programs for the ceremony, guest books, and a variety of incidentals to help add those special touches to the big day. Over fifteen lines of fine china, ten everyday dinnerware lines, seven lines of pottery, as well as crystal, sterling silver, copper accessories, linens, pewter, and gifts for the home are available for couples to peruse. One of Jamie's favorite aspects of owning the business is helping engaged couples as they choose, from the vast array of items, those things which will help make their new home really theirs, one with a personal touch. Witnessing the establishment of their own traditions is always a thrill for her.

The Square Cupboard has become widely known for its wide assortment of gifts for every occasion, not just weddings. From Mother's Day to graduation, birthdays to Christmas, as well as just a “happy” to brighten a friend's day, The Square Cupboard offers just what you need.



2+2



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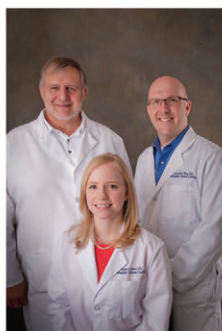
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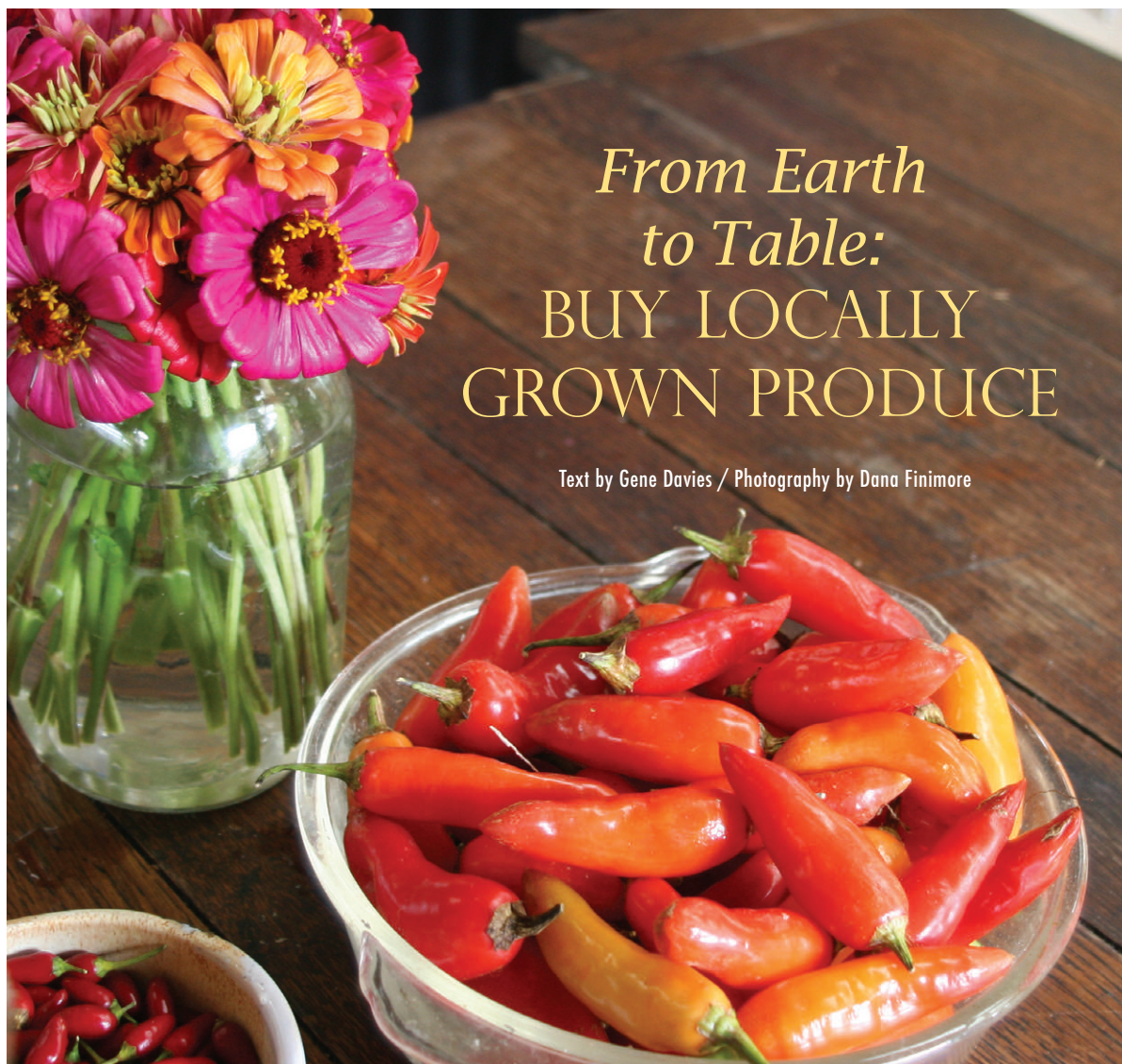


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From Earth to Table: BUY LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

Text by Gene Davies / Photography by Dana Finimore

THERE IS NOTHING MORE SATISFYING THAN DINING ON HOMEGROWN VEGETABLES, PICKED DIRECTLY FROM THE GARDEN. NO MATTER IF IT'S YOUR SMALL PATCH OF DIRT IN THE BACKYARD OR A LOCAL FARM JUST DOWN THE ROAD, IT DOESN'T GET MUCH BETTER THAN A RIPE, JUICY TOMATO, STILL WARM FROM THE SUN OR A SAVORY SUMMER SQUASH, JUST PULLED FROM THE VINE.

The best produce is what's grown closest to you. Find farmers' markets, family farms, and other sources of sustainably grown food in your area, where you can buy produce, grass fed meats, and many other goodies.

There are almost two million farms in the USA. Many of these are small family owned farms. More and more of these farmers are now selling their products directly to the public. They do this via farmer's markets, u picks, farm stands, and other direct to consumer practices.

Large scale chemical agriculture can poison our soils and our water supply.

By buying direct from the farm you can help reduce your carbon footprint as well as support your local

economy. By buying locally grown produce, you are working to maintain a healthy lifestyle, a vibrant community, and a strong and sustainable local economy for you and your family.

Below is an array of recipes to help you make good use of the season's bounty grown locally.

www.localharvest.org

GARDEN SALSA

Ingredients:

- 1/2 sweet onion, chopped
- 1/2 green bell pepper, coarsely chopped
- 1/4 cup fresh cilantro
- 5 slices pickled jalapeno peppers, or to taste
- 6 fresh tomatoes, quartered
- 2 teaspoons olive oil
- 2 teaspoons red wine vinegar
- 1/2 lime, juiced
- 1/8 teaspoon salt

Directions:

Place onion, bell pepper, cilantro, and jalapeno peppers into a food processor. Pulse until finely chopped. Add tomatoes, and pulse just a few times until the tomatoes are coarsely chopped. Transfer to a bowl with a tight fitting lid.

In a separate bowl, whisk together olive oil, red wine vinegar, lime juice, and salt.

Pour dressing over tomatoes, and stir well. Cover, and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.

SAVORY SQUASH BAKE

Ingredients:

4 cups sliced yellow squash
1/2 cup chopped onion
35 buttery round crackers, crushed
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
2 eggs, beaten
3/4 cup milk
1/4 cup butter, melted
1 teaspoon salt
ground black pepper to taste
2 tablespoons butter

Directions:

Preheat oven to 400°.

Place squash and onion in a large skillet over medium heat. Pour in a small amount of water. Cover, and cook until squash is tender, about 5 minutes. Drain well, and place in a large bowl.



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In a medium bowl, mix together cracker crumbs and cheese. Stir half of the cracker mixture into the cooked squash and onions. In a small bowl, mix together eggs and milk, then add to squash mixture. Stir in 1/4 cup melted butter, and season with salt and pepper. Spread into a 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with remaining cracker mixture, and dot with 2 tablespoons butter.

Bake in preheated oven for 25 minutes, or until lightly browned.

TANGY CUCUMBER SALAD

Ingredients:

2 small cucumbers, thinly sliced
1 teaspoon salt, divided
2 medium tomatoes, chopped
1 medium onion, chopped
1/4 cup cider vinegar
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 tablespoon honey
1/2 teaspoon celery salt
1/2 teaspoon dried basil
1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
1/4 teaspoon dried oregano
dash cayenne pepper

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Directions:

Place cucumbers in a strainer; sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon of salt and toss. Let stand for 30 minutes. Rinse and drain well. Place in a large bowl; add tomatoes and onion. In a small bowl; add tomatoes and onion. In a small bowl, whisk together the remaining ingredients; pour over cucumber mixture and toss. Cover and refrigerate for several hours. Serve with a slotted spoon.

CHEESY GARDEN MIX

Ingredients:

3 ears corn, husked and cleaned
1 tablespoon butter
1 onion, diced
3 small zucchini, cut into
1/4 inch slices
3 small yellow summer squash, cut
into 1/4 inch slices
salt and pepper to taste
1 cup lightly packed shredded
Cheddar cheese

Directions:

Fill a saucepan with water, bring it to a boil, and boil the ears of corn until partially cooked, about 3 minutes. Plunge the ears of corn into ice water to chill, then cut the kernels off the cobs into a bowl.

Melt the butter in a large skillet with a lid over medium heat, and cook and stir the onion until translucent and beginning to brown, about 5 minutes. Stir in the corn; cook and stir until cooked through, about 5 minutes. Add the zucchini and yellow squash slices, and reduce the heat to medium low. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the squash are tender and the liquid from the vegetables is cooked away, about 8 minutes.

Remove the lid, season the vegetables with salt and pepper, and sprinkle with Cheddar cheese. Place the lid back on the skillet, and turn off the heat. Allow the cheese to melt, and serve hot.■

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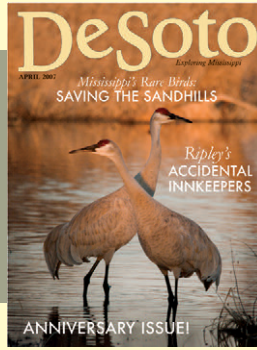
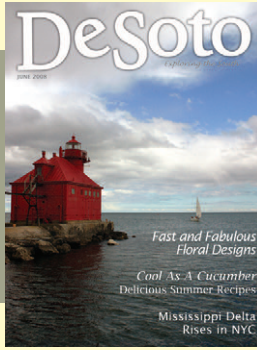


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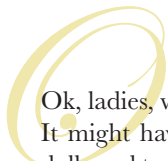
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SHOWER THE BRIDE-TO-BE

By Jenny Harper



Ok, ladies, when was the last time you had a tea party? It might have been when you were little, dressing up dolls and teddy bears for pretend tea and cookies. Well, I'm excited to relive some of that simple joy and host a real tea party as a bridal shower.

I'm looking forward to showering the bride to be with the affection of good friends and a delightful array of tea time treats. And it will be fun to dress up a little, too!

If you'd like to host a bridal shower tea, try some of these easy ideas:

* Set out your best dishes and silverware. If you can, mix and match vintage pieces for a charming, old fashioned look. Add some pretty floral napkins and fresh flowers, and you'll have a beautiful table in no time.

* Food for a tea party should be light and fresh. An assortment of finger sandwiches, scones or muffins, fresh fruits and a vegetable tray could be set out buffet style. Serve fresh juices, sparkling ciders and, of course,

a good selection of teas. And don't forget dessert! These Zesty Orange Cookie Cups are simple to make and are just the right size to serve with tea.

* Send each guest home with a special tea souvenir. Give them each a colorful teacup filled with packets of tea. And for an extra touch, add a flavored honey stick, too.

For more bridal shower recipes worth celebrating, visit VeryBestBaking.com.

ZESTY ORANGE COOKIE CUPS

Makes 48 cookie cups

1 cup (2 sticks) butter, softened
1/2 cup granulated sugar
2 cups all purpose flour
2 cups (12 ounce package) Nestle Toll House Premier White Morsels
2 large eggs

1 can (14 ounces) Nestlé
Carnation Sweetened Condensed
Milk
1/2 to 3/4 teaspoon orange
extract
1 tablespoon grated orange peel
(1 medium orange)

PREHEAT oven to 350°. Grease
48 mini muffin cups.

BEAT butter and sugar in
medium mixer bowl until creamy.
Add flour; beat until mixture is
evenly moist, crumbly and can be
formed into balls. Shape dough
into 1 inch balls. Press each ball
onto bottom and up side of
prepared muffin cups to form
wells. Place 5 morsels in each cup.

BEAT eggs in medium bowl
with wire whisk. Stir in sweetened
condensed milk and orange
extract. Spoon almost a measuring
tablespoon of mixture into each
muffin cup, filling about 3/4 full.

BAKE for 15 to 17 minutes or
until centers are puffed and edges
are just beginning to brown.
Upon removing from oven,
gently run knife around each cup.
While still warm, top each cup
with 8 to 10 morsels (they will
soften and retain their shape).
Cool completely in pans on wire
racks. With tip of knife, remove
cookie cups from muffin pans.
Top with grated orange peel just
before serving. Store in covered
container in refrigerator.

TIPS:

Love lemon but not crazy about
orange? Simply substitute lemon
extract for the orange extract and
use grated lemon peel (2 lemons
needed).

*Nutrition Information per serving: 130
calories; 60 calories from fat; 7g total
fat; 4.5g saturated fat; 20mg cholesterol;
50mg sodium; 15g carbohydrate; 0g
fiber; 11g sugars; 2g protein ■*



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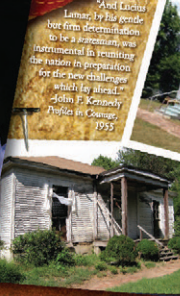
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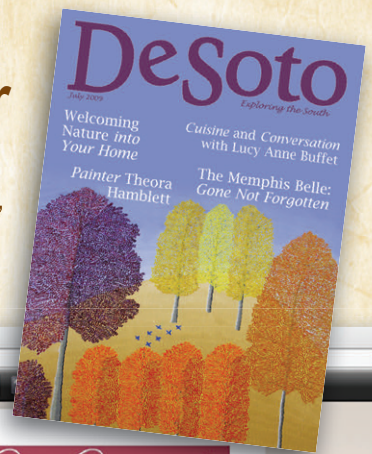
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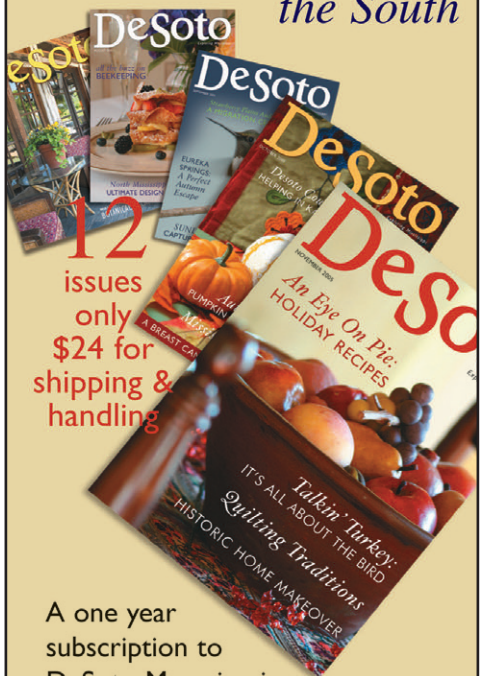
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June 11-12

DeSoto Shrine Club BBQ Cook Off & Mississippi Widow Sons Bikefest

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June 11-July 2

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June 12

Jewel

Horseshoe Casino & Resort
Tunica

8 pm

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June 12-13

Trade Days

Coldwater

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Columbus

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June 18-27

Shenandoah

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Southaven

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June 19

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June Jam

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June 25

Montgomery Gentry

DeSoto Civic Center
Southaven

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June 25-26

North Mississippi Hill Country Pinics Blues Festival

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Downtown

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July 2

Pat Green

Horseshoe Casino & Resort

Tunica

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July 2

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Horseshoe Casino & Resort

Tunica

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Gold Strike Casino Resort

Tunica

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July 4

July 4th Celebration

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Southaven

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July 7

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DeSoto Civic Center

Southaven

7:30 pm

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THE DOGWOODS

Text and Photography by Herman King

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Most years in early April, something calls me to visit my boyhood home on Philadelphia Street in the Cooper Young area of Memphis. The visit is usually brief, and I doubt that the people in the area are aware of my presence.

I suspect my father's spirit taps me on the shoulder and suggests, "Let's go check on our dogwoods." I know I feel him just behind my shoulder when I stand and enjoy their beauty.

In the fall of 1954, Dad and I dug two large holes. I asked, "Why do the holes have to be so big? They're way bigger than the root ball."

"The roots need a soft fertile soil to give the tree a good start, so it can stand the wind and pull moisture and nourishment from the ground when it's dry," he said.

I put my hands on his as he packed the last of the dirt. Mine were small and smooth, his large and strong, rough and weathered.

As the dogwoods grew, Dad attached loose restraints to support them in the wind until their roots were established. Once he felt they could stand on their own, he removed the restraints. He continued to nurture the trees but allowed them to gather strength

by standing against the wind on their own. He employed much the same methods raising his only son.

Wade King grew up on a farm in the hills south of Oxford, Mississippi. The family farm, the family store, and commercial fishing boat forged the depth of character, independence and tenacity that brought this country through the Great Depression and two world wars. A member of what has been called "The Greatest Generation," he would not consider himself anything special, but he was.

He loved to make things grow, and vegetables and flowers responded to his touch and his voice. When a neighbor commented that he used the same seeds and fertilizer as Dad but did not get the same results, I laughed and told him, "You just don't talk to them like Dad."

All living things responded to him, not just plants, but animals too; few were the dogs that he could not pet. People felt peace and comfort in his presence. He was the favorite uncle of many of my cousins. Children that came to visit—even the shy ones that clung to their mothers' skirts—would find themselves following him down the rows of his garden or sitting next to him in his big chair while he told them a story.

Wherever we lived, he left some planting: fruit trees, berries, flowering shrubbery, and two dogwoods. He also left family and friends who grew better because of his touch. ■

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