

Better Homes and Gardens

Touches
Of Fall
Decorating
Page 66

homemade & delicious

**Reader Favorites
From Our Famous
Cookbook**

**The Best of
American
Home Cooking**

**30 'Aha!' Tips
For Livable
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**10 Great Clutter
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**Early
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Doughnuts So Fresh
They're Still Warm p.198



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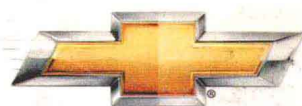
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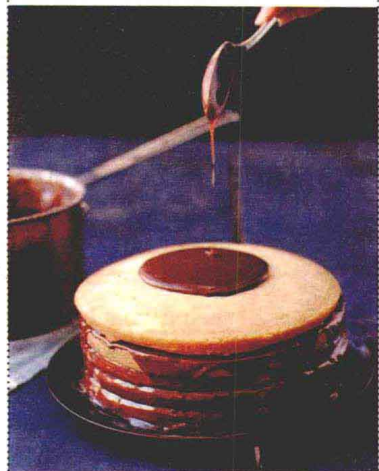
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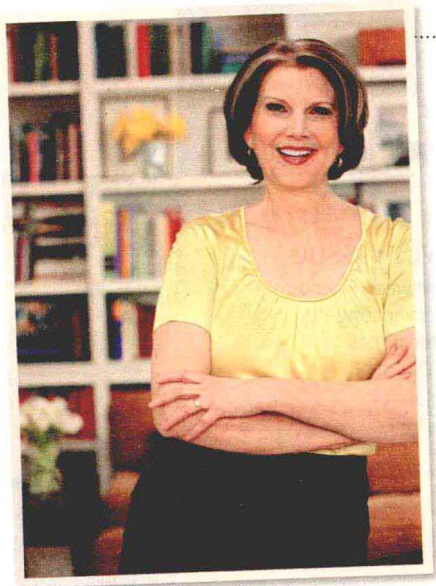


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A shock of grass adds an autumn flourish to potted arrangements. Find "recipes" for great-looking grass-flower combos on page 118.



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Over the summer, our family vacationed in the North Carolina mountains, returning with a digital photo album full of rolling skylines and views from the Appalachian Trail. And

thanks to my kids, the souvenirs also include a new genre of vacation photos—a dozen or so snapshots of plated food from restaurants we visited or meals we fixed together in our knotty pine cabin. I'm pretty sure a few of them were on Ellen's Facebook page even before the dishes were done.

Sharing of food photos, as you've likely noticed, is a huge trend in online social media and recipe-swap sites like *mixingbowl.com*. At first I had mixed feelings about Facebook postings of food. (Boring? Indulgent?) But I quickly discovered that I enjoy seeing what others are serving up. It's a simple way of celebrating the experience of good food.

And good food is an experience worth celebrating, both the pleasure of preparing it and the

satisfaction of sharing an hour or so around the table for a delicious meal and conversation. Maybe that's why home cooking is enjoying such a resurgence as a pastime and as a way of connecting with others.

Just as television cooking shows have heated up the interest in restaurant food, farmers' markets and talented local chefs are rekindling our interest in home-cooked meals. And one of those leading the way is our contributing editor, chef Scott Peacock, whose passion is collecting authentic American recipes from hand-me-down books and locally known cooks he discovers in his travels. This month, Scott teams up with *New York Times* food writer Kim Severson to define American home cooking, 2010 style, *page 161*, and explore its roots.

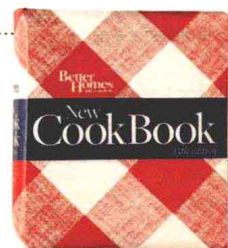
It's a different kind of story for us, but one I know you'll enjoy, along with seven truly delicious recipes curated from Scott's personal collection. In addition, we couldn't let this month pass without celebrating the 80th anniversary of our *Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book*. We're proud that it's helped generations of women become great home cooks—including the up-and-comers on *page 170*.

And by the way: For the final day of our vacation back at home, we decided on a grand-finale shrimp-and-sausage boil, based on the Scott Peacock menu from our July 2008 issue.

Naturally, we took a picture.

Gayle Goodson Butler, Editor in Chief

Share the Plaid In honor of the four-score birthday of the *Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book*—aka “Red Plaid,” we’re holding a just-for-fun contest. (Well, for fun and \$1,000.) Take your favorite recipe from any edition of our cookbook, change it up to make it your own, and enter our “Mad for Plaid” contest. Details, *page 178*.



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“The feature on Jayme Leffler’s rental cottage, May 2010, was just delightful! She’s clearly a woman who knows how to decorate, and her home is reflective of a happy, enchanted person. I’ve enjoyed decorating my own home and am inspired by her to keep going.”

Maria Strickland, Painesville, OH

Just wanted to say thanks for the handy pull-out list of the favorite websites you featured in July’s “33 Ways to Get a Great Deal,” after page 64. This is great. I always think I’ll write down the sites’ addresses as I’m reading but never remember or have time to. Now, pulling out this insert and tucking it with my computer is so handy and time-saving. In this busy world, you are once again making our lives not just better but easier, too.

Bobette, Downingtown, PA

Speaking of time-saving ... head to our pull-out this month following page 60. It lists websites we’ve come across that can help you save time in various ways: shopping, recipe-keeping, travel planning, and more.

“33 Ways to Get a Great Deal” was the July issue’s icing on the cake. I read the article twice to make sure I absorbed the great tips. I even took it to work so I could make copies for my coworkers. I can’t wait to start saving on my future purchases. Thanks for another informative BHG article.

Susan Muniz

Enjoyed the article on canning in July’s “Saving Summer” article. However, those new to canning

should know that some widely sold waterbath canners are not recommended for flat ceramic cooktop stoves. The canners with grooves on the bottom heat unevenly and can crack the cooktop. An option is to use a large stockpot and buy a separate rack/jar lifter.

Jennifer Bradshaw, Charlottesville, IN

My son was visiting one night, and he said he wished he had a list on how to use herbs in cooking. I said I bet my *Better Homes and Gardens New Cook Book* would have one. Sure enough, when I looked, it did. I bought my book in the ‘60s when I was first married. It has served me well. My copy is somewhat battered, worn, and patched. The index has fallen out, but I still have it in a bulldog clip.

J. Autiero, Vancouver, B.C.

What timing! On page 170 you’ll find “Mad for Plaid,” which marks the 15th edition of our Better Homes and Gardens cookbook and describes how four young cooks use their “Red Plaids.” And be reassured that tatters and stains make this recipe book also a storybook.

After 27 years of being a stay-at-home mother, I returned to my career. While at home, I had my own way of keeping up with the housework, but that all changed

when I re-entered the workforce. I struggled with how to make my at-home time work better for me. Upon reading the article “Quick-Clean Routine” in the May issue, I was delighted and knew right off that this way of keeping my house clean could work for me.

Denise Cook

Thank you, thank you! In your July health section, you presented a factual, easy-to-understand explanation of celiac disease and gluten sensitivity. It can be very difficult to explain these issues, but your article does an excellent job. I’ve made copies to share with others so they will understand the seriousness of our situation and see that we’re not crazy or eccentric. I hope to see more information in your magazine as this subject becomes better understood.

Gloria Gardner, Onamia, MN

Love your before-and-after pieces. Just a thought: Many of us have bought houses that have large entryways and are unsure how to decorate the wall space leading up the stairs. I’d love to see a before-and-after with several ideas.

Laurie Ernst

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STORAGE TIPS, INSPIRATION, AND MORE!

Want a tech-savvy house like the one seen on page 50? Here are some of our best tips for a media center that stores more and looks fabulous.
**BHG.com/
mediacenters**

Add beauty to your fall garden or landscape with the help of step-by-step container garden creations.
**BHG.com/
fallcontainergardens**

If you love the 30 ideas for a better family room on page 91, we've got more inspiration to create a cozy space your family will love.
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fresh

IDEAS FOR LIVING WELL



Fruits of harvest Tuck fresh apples into a bouquet of red dahlias for a bountiful centerpiece. Poke twigs into the bottoms of different-size apples, then insert twig ends into floral foam in the container.

Produced by KELLY RYAN KEGANS and JESSICA THOMAS

PHOTO: HELEN NORMAN; ARRANGEMENT BY MATTHEW MEAD

things to do this month...

1

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Roll out the welcome mat on Good Neighbor Day (September 26) and reconnect or make new acquaintances on your block. Try a neighborly gesture such as sharing something from your garden—a lovely hosta, perhaps? (Fall is a great time to divide perennials.)



BE DAZZLING Hot hues have strutted right off fashion runways and into the home. Pantone's color picks for fall lend a couple of bright ideas: Boost curb appeal by painting your front door a juicy tomato red, or try this year's hottest color—turquoise—on a room accent, such as a lamp or pillow.

2

NOW AND LATER

If your tomato plants are producing fruit faster than you can say “rotten tomatoes,” consider drying the excess to use in recipes. Just follow a few easy steps to oven-dry tomatoes at 250 degrees for a couple of hours. For tips and a recipe on dehydrated tomatoes, see BHG.com/driedtomatoes.

4

A NEW CHAPTER

No time for regular book club meetings? Go virtual. The Rumpus Book Club (therumpus.net/bookclub) sends you a not-yet-released-to-the-public book each month for a \$25 monthly fee. Read it, then chat online with fellow members and the author. Or sign up on VeryShortList.com to get a gem delivered weekly to your inbox.



INDISPENSABLE: PENCIL CASES

Just write—er, right—for heading back to school, compact pencil cases hold plenty of other essentials so you don't have to waste time digging around in the bottom of your bag. “Snakeskin” vinyl pencil case (8”x2”); \$8.95; sortingwithstyle.com

CONTRIBUTOR: SALLY FINDER; PHOTOS (PENCIL CASES) ADAM ALBRIGHT; “BARN PENDANT LAMP,” STARTING AT \$130; BARNLIGHTELECTRIC.COM