

Here is where I'll share my ideas, gardening tips, crafting, sewing, carpentry, home decorating, entertaining ideas, and simple solutions for everyday organic. The inspiration for this magazine was born when a woman told me, "I wish I could have your life!" I thought, "Why not?"



“You know you’ve read a good book when you turn the last page and feel a little as if you have lost a good friend.”

— Paul Sweeney

## Simple Solutions

for everyday ORGANIC™

### MaryJane's

**2 Launch a Library**  
Little Free Library is a non-profit effort to establish book-exchange boxes in neighborhoods around the world. The concept is simple: Share a book, leave a book, or both. “Real people are sharing their favorite books with their community,” says founder Todd Bol. “These aren’t just any old books; this is a carefully curated collection, and the Library itself is a piece of neighborhood art!” Users can purchase boxes from LFL’s website, download how-to plans, or completely wing it. Find out how to launch your own at [littlefreelibrary.org](http://littlefreelibrary.org).

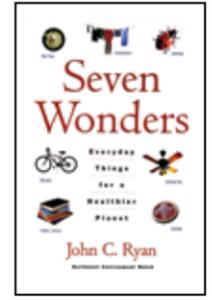
**3 Savor the Scent**  
Ever wondered why old books have that certain scent that logophiles love? It comes down to chemicals like lignin, a natural component that exists in all wood-based paper. Lignin emits a vanilla-like aroma as it breaks down, lending a sweet note to vintage volumes. According to perfume experts Luca Turin and Tania Sanchez, this is how “Divine providence has arranged for secondhand bookstores to smell like good-quality vanilla, subliminally stoking a hunger for knowledge in all of us.” Now is that your tummy rumbling ... or your brain?

**4 Oust That Odor**  
Not all old books smell sublime. The stale scent of mildew can ruin the most devout book-lover’s reading experience. While there’s no surefire way to eliminate it, rare book experts recommend this process to reduce mustiness: Wipe the covers and edges to remove dust. Set the book on end so that its pages fan open, and allow it to air out for three days (avoiding direct sunlight). Stow the book, pages fanned, in a sealed container with an open can of coffee grounds for one month. Repeat if necessary.

## A Few Tips for a Simple Life

by Michael Guilfoil, *The Spokesman-Review*

Organic farmer MaryJane Butters long ago embraced Thoreau’s dictum to “simplify, simplify.” As a Forest Service ranger in the 1970s, she spent two summers roaming Utah’s Uinta Mountains with her home on her back. Later, she maintained the most remote wilderness ranger station in the Lower 48. Today, Butters and her family live eight miles outside Moscow, Idaho, on their farm, headquarters of her mail-order dry-foods business. But even e-commerce hasn’t tempered Butters’ enthusiasm for simplicity.



In December 1999, a newspaper reporter from Washington called. He was writing a review of the book *Seven Wonders: Everyday Things for a Healthier Planet* by John C. Ryan. Michael Guilfoil of *The Spokesman-Review* newspaper asked me if I had my own “seven wonders.” The story that ensued was headlined

“Simple Solutions.” Here, then, is the continuation of that story. Each issue of *MaryJanesFarm* will feature in detail new solutions, and will give you all the information you need to make them your own.

Solutions from previous issues are available in the magazine section of my website: [www.maryjanesfarm.org/SimpleSolutions](http://www.maryjanesfarm.org/SimpleSolutions).

**7 things you might not know about books**

You crave them, devouring pages as if stories were sustenance. But, dear bibliophile, I’ll bet there are a few things you don’t know about books. For instance, Americans buy somewhere around five million books a day! Surprised? Read on to boost your brainpower and share the literary love.

**Quiz Your Friends**  
Who wrote the first novel? A woman! Almost 1,000 years ago in Japan, Murasaki Shikibu penned *The Tale of Genji*, an 1,100-page epic based on her experiences in the Imperial Court. She completed the tale in installments that were read aloud to women of the aristocracy.

## seven wonders

**5 Sneak a Peek**  
Bibliokleptomania is the obsessive impulse to steal books. So what are the most commonly taken titles? The Bible (guess they haven’t read the “thou shalt not steal” passage yet); anything risqué, including art history books; textbooks; and out-of-print reference books. (*The Michigan Divorce Manual*, a DIY divorce kit complete with filing papers, is a hot commodity at the Bay City, Michigan, library.) Thieves also pilfer pop novels and books covering all things taboo, controversial, or paranormal.

**6 Take a Guess**  
Who’s the bestselling author of all time? Agatha Christie, maven of mystery. According to Guinness World Records, her books have sold over 2 billion copies! She also holds the record for the thickest book ever published (4,032 pages, at 12" thick, containing the complete Miss Marple series). The record for most books ever published by one author—4,000!—is held by Spanish romance writer Corín Tellado.

**7 Spread the Word**  
WorldReader is partnering with publishing companies and government agencies to make digital books available to families throughout the developing world. E-reader technology significantly reduces the cost and complexity of delivering reading material on a global scale, so millions more people will be able to benefit from the educational bounty of books. Chip in at [worldreader.org](http://worldreader.org).