

Simple Solutions

for everyday ORGANIC™

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?"

“I wish I were like Facebook—being able to ‘like’ and ‘share’ everything I get.”
—Ashok Kallarakkal

MaryJane's

2 Share Time

TimeBanking is a medium of exchange, like money. The idea is simple: I earn a time credit by doing something for you. It doesn't matter what that "something" is. You turn around and earn a time credit doing something for someone else. For example, an hour of gardening equals an hour of childcare equals an hour of dentistry equals an hour of home repair equals an hour of teaching piano. By paying it forward, TimeBanking joins unused resources in a community to needs that aren't being met. Learn more at TimeBanks.org.

3 Share Repairs

A reconstructive revolution is sweeping the globe. Don't have the tools or know-how to fix that broken chair, stitch that hem, or mend that mixer? Take them to a Repair Café! Repair Cafés furnish tools and materials to fix clothes, furniture, appliances, and more. Plus, visitors can connect with fix-it specialists who'll lend a hand and share know-how. Currently, there are only a few Repair Cafés in the U.S., so if there isn't one nearby, start your own. Find a comprehensive start-up manual and promotional materials at RepairCafe.org.

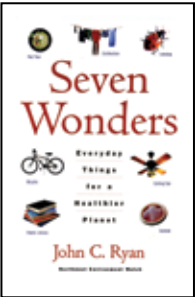
4 Share Energy

A community solar garden (CSG) is an energy-sharing center that can easily be installed in urban garden plots. Local residents invest in the CSG and receive a rebate on their electrical bills. A CSG is an economical option for people who can't afford their own solar panels or who are restricted by property regulations, and it's a hopeful step in the direction of energy independence. Check out Solar Gardens' nationwide map to see if there's a garden near you or find out how you can get connected at SolarPanelHost.org/garden.

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: MaryJanesFarm.org/SimpleSolutions.

7 ways to share resources

We learn to share as toddlers, but it's time we tap into the vital skill of give-and-take to bolster communities and better our lives. How? By building a "sharing economy." Pooling resources is an age-old concept that's reemerging at the local level and succeeding on a global scale. It works like this ...

Share a Ride

In several U.S. cities, car owners provide transportation to neighbors, co-workers, friends, and even strangers through Zimride, a "peer-to-peer" ride-sharing service. Passengers use smartphones to locate and request drivers, who are guaranteed to have a reliable car, a clean driving record, and a clean background check. Find out more at Zimride.com.

seven wonders

5 Share Clothing

A community clothing swap is a great way to exchange clothes without any money changing hands. Participants wash items before bringing them to the swap, which can be held at someone's house or a community center. Everyone wears a swimsuit or spandex under their street clothes so they can try stuff on before taking it home; if something doesn't fit, toss it back into the pile so someone else can try. Clothes remaining at the end of the swap are donated to a local charity. Get ideas for hosting a swap at Zokos.com/ziab/clothingswap.

6 Share Workspace

Coworking space is occupied by work-at-home professionals, independent contractors, and freelancers who seek a community environment. As the concept evolves, entrepreneurs are finding that coworking spaces provide affordable alternatives to private offices and offer perks like energizing ambience, gourmet cafeterias, and discounted gym memberships. Learn more at Coworking.org.

7 Share Seeds

I love the idea of a seed library! All you need is a communal space, preferably with climate control and/or refrigeration, where patrons "check out" seeds for free, grow fruits and veggies from the seeds, then harvest seeds from their crop and "return" them to the library for others to use. Watch a free "webinar" about starting a seed library at NewDream.org/resources/webinars/seed-library.