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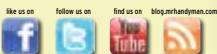
and he took care of everything!



To-Do list

- | | |
|--|---|
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Powerwash deck | <input type="checkbox"/> Install backsplash |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Repair kitchen drywall | <input type="checkbox"/> Hang mirror in hallway |
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about the cover



This month's cover was shot on site with Marty Lineberger of Reliable Home Appliance Center. See related article on page 10. Cover photo by Rick Haithcox, production assistance by Pam L. Goode, and cover graphic design by David James.

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Many know that I wait until the night before we are scheduled to go to print before I put my thoughts together and write a letter from the publisher, in hopes of it being better than those in the previous months. Readers have expressed to me that they enjoy this part of the magazine, and it is my sole responsibility as the Publisher to take it seriously. I believe it connects me with my readership, which is very important to me. So, why do I procrastinate? A great deal of effort goes into each page of each issue as we carefully plan, prepare, and encourage our advertisers to meet our deadline. So, what possesses me to wait until the last minute to write for my personal page?

Webster's defines it this way: **Pro`cras`ti`na`tionn: The act or habit of procrastinating, or putting off to a future time; delay; dilatoriness. Procrastination is the thief of time.** The last part struck me as interesting. I would never think that I would ever allow anything to rob me of time. **Steal** my time? Time is very valuable, and the thought of one precious second being taken away from my hectic daily schedule sends me into a complete panic. I live by a clock ticking in my mind... each minute, of each hour, of each day, anticipating the next activity.

What if we could REALLY procrastinate? What if we could put things off to a future time, such as paying bills, aging or the dreaded tax season? Would this make life easier for us? I believe we all make time to do what is important to us. We spend time doing things that offer us gratification and fulfillment, and with people we deem valuable and important in our lives.

I am certain many people procrastinate. I personally believe it is a habit we allow ourselves to create. It's like a mouse running in a wheel all day – running faster and faster – but only going in the same circle and feeling exhausted. How do we change it? Run faster? I believe habits can be broken when you accept responsibility and decide to change. I ask myself, do I care that I procrastinate? Does it matter that I pack the night before a trip, wash uniforms the night before a game and rush around in the morning to get them dry before the kids leave for school? Truthfully? Not really. It's me, and who I am, it's what makes me the “race around town, mom on demand” that I pride myself in being. I believe there will be a time in life when the list gets shorter, the time moves slower and responsibility shifts. For now, I will address more important critical flaws or habits that I need to work on and keep procrastinating. Until I get to the next stage in my life where I can relax, sleep late and worry my children about all of the things that annoy me, I will sit back and snicker at those who “hurry up and wait”. Do you know why they are waiting? It's simple – they are most likely waiting on the procrastinators.

Until next time... Embrace life... Take time to be a friend to someone, give even when you do not expect to receive, and take a nap. The laundry will still be there when you wake up.

Pam Goode



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Building Relationships On Trust Since 1961.

By Pam Goode

GA!: Who is Marty Lineberger?

Marty: I am a native resident of Gaston County. I am married and have two sons, who are constantly keeping me on my toes. I am a lifelong member of Lutheran Chapel Church in Gastonia. In fact, our sons, Ethan and Bryson, are the 8th consecutive generation of Linebergers to be baptized at Lutheran Chapel.



I enjoy golf, tennis and traveling, but owning a small business limits my free time. I am fortunate to have served on several national councils for the appliance industry, which have allowed me to gain valuable knowledge and key contacts within the field.

I believe in supporting my community, including buying locally and helping local causes, and doing so has always been very important to me. Every purchase made in my store helps

support the Shelter of Gaston County. I was Vice President of Habitat for Humanity, and I am a member of the Gaston and Montcross Chambers of Commerce.

GA!: How did you get into the appliance business?

Marty: I suppose it was destiny. I was working for a company while I was in school, and I had several opportunities, but somehow corporate never followed through with them. I told my parents I wanted to come into the family business, but in the beginning I did not intend to stay. However, it has been 20 years and I'm still here, so I guess it's for good.

GA!: Are appliances the only products you sell?

Marty: No. While they are the heart of our business, we have several other items and are always in the market for quality products. We sell the Big Green Egg, which is very versatile and a great choice because it can be used as a grill, smoker or oven. We also carry a line of grills by Napoleon, as well as improvements for any outdoor area including patio heaters, waterfalls and fireplaces. In addition, we carry many products that contribute to in-home protection and power management for the home.

GA!: As a small business, you have to multitask. In which areas of your business are you most involved?

Marty: I am heavily involved in every aspect. I am the CEO, the service manager and even the intern in the mailroom. I love working in the field – from performing service calls and installing new appliances, to sitting down with customers in the store and planning the remodeling of their kitchen. I have always told my employees that I will never ask them to do anything I wouldn't and I try to lead by example.



GA!: Tell us more about the Big Green Egg.

Marty: Your magazine is not large enough for me to cover everything! I love it and use it so often that my neighbors think we do not have a stove. I cook on mine at least four nights a week, and it makes the food flavor phenomenal! Visit the Facebook page Gaston Eggheads and see what my customers have to say. We also offer cooking demos at the store during special events and by reservation.

GA!: Congratulations! Reliable just celebrated its 53rd Anniversary. What have you done to stay in business that long?

Marty: I have stayed focused on what matters – trust, honesty and doing what is right. I have to thank my parents, who started the business on March 6, 1961. They worked hard and even struggled at times, but were determined to make it successful. I am so blessed that they instilled in me the value of hard work and honesty. Alfred and Kay Lineberger, you two are the reason for our success, and I will always be thankful for the life lessons you taught me!

GA!: How do today's appliances compare to those built years ago?

Marty: The appliance industry has changed more in the last five years than the last 25. Everything runs off of electronic boards in order to reduce the cost of energy, which is great, but the downside is that these appliances will not last like your mother's Maytag washer. Also, buying from Reliable will be beneficial when your appliance needs service, because we have trained and qualified professionals to fix your product. We are proud to say we are the only full service appliance store!

GA!: How has the influence of Big Box Stores affected your business?

Marty: Greatly! They command what happens in the marketplace for my business, as well as many others. Although I have lost some market share to bigger stores, my focus is selling valued products and services, as well as creating relationships with my customers. While they do offer lower prices, bigger stores do not often do not provide professional installation, do not have a service department or stock parts for your appliance, and do not offer free help with your appliances. At Reliable, the relationship only begins with the purchase, and we will be here to help with your appliances in any way possible!

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ChewOnThis *Chef Ashleigh Easterling*



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Spring is in the air! This dish is a personal favorite of mine. It's healthy and is great for get-togethers, or as an appetizer before dinner. I decided to use a mint salsa because I personally love the freshness and it pairs very well with the scallops. I look forward to sharing my recipes and I hope you enjoy!

Seared Scallops With Mango Mint Salsa:

- 6 Large scallops
- 1 Tablespoon of olive oil
- 3 Mangoes, peeled and pitted
- 1 Tablespoon Mint, Roughly chopped
- 2 Tablespoons Rice Wine Vinegar
- 1/4 Cup Red onion, diced
- 1 Tablespoon Garlic, minced
- 1/2 Tablespoon Jalapeño, seeded and minced
- 1 Tablespoon fresh lime juice
- Salt and pepper to taste



Mango Mint Salsa:

Dice the mango into 1/4-inch pieces and place in a bowl.

Add the remaining ingredients and mix.

Cover and refrigerate for up to 3 hours before serving.

Seared Scallops:

Remove the small side muscle from the scallops, rinse with cold water and thoroughly pat dry.

Add the oil to a 12 to 14-inch sauté pan on high heat.

Salt and pepper the scallops.

Gently add the scallops, making sure they are not touching each other.

Sear the scallops for 1 1/2 minutes on each side.

The scallops should have a 1/4-inch golden crust on each side and remain translucent in the center.

Serve immediately with the mango salsa.

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Poached Pear Almond Tart

It's April already which means a quarter of the year is already gone - how the time flies! While walking through the produce aisles the other day I saw the pears had started to arrive - Red, Bosc, Anjou, and Bartlett but most were as hard as rocks. Hardly good eating yet, but then how to enjoy one of my favorite fruits without suffering a dental mishap?

Poaching the pears first infuses the fruit with additional flavor and softens it enough so it is ready to eat without falling apart. I recommend the Bosc pears for this recipe.

Ingredients

- 1 Bosc pear halved and seeded
- 2 cups of sugar
- 2 cups of red wine and a cup of water
- 1 clove of Star Anise
- 12 black peppercorns
- 2 cups of Ricotta Cheese
- 1 can of Almond Paste
- A pie crust (Make your own or from the refrigerator case)

Place one cup of the sugar, the peppercorns and Anise with the wine and water in a saucepan and bring to a boil to dissolve the sugar. Reduce to a simmer, then add the pear halves. Flip the pears every 15 or so minutes in the simmering wine. Remove pears when they begin to soften and make sure not to overcook. You will want the sauce to reduce to a thick syrup.

While the pear is poaching place the pie crust into a fluted tart pan. Press to the edges and pierce the bottom, then bake at 350 for 30 minutes. I use pie weights on parchment paper to keep the shell from shrinking. Take out and let cool.

Warm the almond paste and blend with a cup of sugar in a mixer, then add the ricotta by half cup, continuing to blend each addition till smooth.

Assemble by spreading the ricotta mixture in the pie shell, then slice the pears and arrange on top. Drizzle with the reduced wine syrup (removing the peppercorns and Anise). Sprinkle with shaved almond pieces, bake for 20 more minutes to set, then let cool to serve.

I use the spices in the red wine to add some zip, but they are optional. Look for me on Facebook - I just started a page under Cooking with Glenn. I hope you'll stop by and 'Like' it.

Until next month, Make It Your Own!



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The Home Stylist

By Jodi Kines



Jodi Kines –Jodi has a degree in Interior Design from Winthrop University, and is the owner of Plan-It Design, LLC in Belmont, N.C.
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Some of the most common questions I am asked are regarding wood flooring. The many types, various suppliers and often confusing lingo associated with wood flooring can result in difficulty choosing the right option, as well as determining what will be best suited for a personal or professional environment. Hopefully the guide below can help answer some questions and clear up confusion for anyone in the market for new floors.

The following are brief descriptions of the types of wood flooring available, some of the pros and cons of each, and a few additional design details to consider when selecting the right project for your home or office.

Solid wood flooring is exactly what it sounds like—the same solid board all the way through each plank. A solid floor can be resanded and refinished several times. Although the frequency of necessary resanding will vary based on wear levels and taste, every twenty years is often recommended. Solid hardwoods are available in either unfinished (to be finished on-site) or prefinished, and both options have plenty of pros and cons. Unfinished hardwoods offer a greater selection of finish options and the ability to install the boards flush to one another, without the micro-beveled edges typically seen on prefinished boards. Prefinished floors offer a vapor-free and single session installation, versus the solvent smell and multi-step process of floors finished on-site.

Engineered wood flooring is a man-made flooring board that is made up of layers and layers of wood bonded together to create a strong core board, which is then topped with a solid hardwood laminated layer. The top layer, which can vary in thickness, is a thin sheet of actual wood. In some cases the product can endure one resanding, although typically this is not the case, meaning any major damage, scraping or scratching is often permanent. However, these products will often allow you to have a higher grade of wood without the expense of a solid wood product. In terms of both solid and engineered flooring, there are many wood species from which to choose. Each type of wood - oak, pine, ash, walnut, maple, and bamboo - has distinct properties such as the density (hardness), graining (natural pattern), and knotting (actual pits/holes in





the wood). Each of these properties affects how well the floor repels scratching and denting, how it accepts stain finishes, and how it will impact the overall aesthetic design of the space.

In addition to wood species, engineered and solid hardwoods are also classified into grades of wood. Whether you choose solid or engineered hardwood flooring, you'll be able to choose from prime, select, natural or rustic grade wood. Each grade is determined based on the number of knots present as well as the color consistency.

Generally speaking, smaller knots coordinate with a more uniform color, a higher grade of wood and of course a higher price (prime wood). As you go down the list to rustic grade, the number and size of knots increases as does the inconsistency of color. Also, the price decreases as you go down the list. Which option you choose will depend on the overall design concept of the space and your budget constraints.



Laminate flooring is made up of an image that is sealed onto a backboard and made to look like real hardwood flooring. Since it is not made up of any actual hardwood products, it can endure no resanding and is generally not considered as durable as hardwood products.

Finishes & plank widths are also important aspects when selecting wood flooring. There are a multitude of finishes available to today's consumers. Consider the overall design of the space as you select the color (ranging from almost white to rich, dark brown tones), sheen (from hardwearing lacquered finishes to prevent fading and sun damage, to natural, matte oiled finishes), and distressing (from a smooth, mirror-like finish to centuries-old-looking distressed). There are also many options available when selecting the plank (board) size for your flooring. Very thin planks are typically used in spaces with an older, more traditional feel, while the current trend is wide, and even varied length boards.

Regardless of where you land after navigating the many options available, well made and correctly installed wood floors will add warmth, character and value to any size, style or age interior as long as you call your space home and beyond.



To contact the Home Stylist for a personal design consultation, email Jodi at jodi@planitdesign.us or via facebook at www.facebook.com/Plan.ItDesignLLC.



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