

GASTON ALIVE

MAGAZINE

HOME | GARDEN | STYLE | FUN | FOOD | HAPPENINGS

**Meet Jackie Radford,
Book Artist**
p6

Fun Front Entrance For Fall
p10

**Yummy Apple Cake
With Caramel Glaze**
p12

Get Your Merry On! Christmas Open House

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Holiday Decorating Seminars*

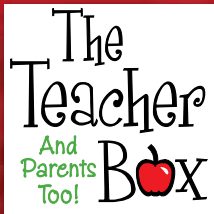
Thursday, November 3

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

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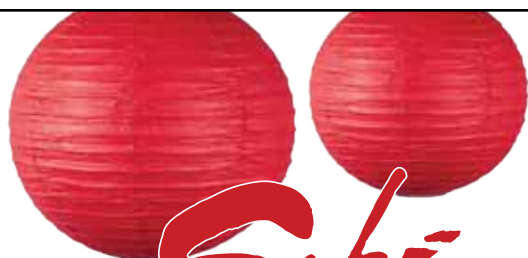
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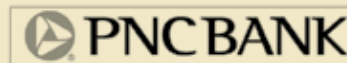
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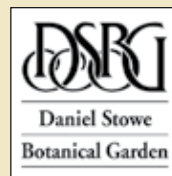
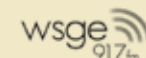
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

Loving this cooler weather-makes me look forward to the rest of fall and the holidays, as well as hot chocolate with marshmallows! By the time you read this there will be eleven weeks until Christmas... a scary thought, that.

Be sure to check out the Lost Hollow Music Fest put on by my friend Jim Hoffman and Daniel Stowe Botanical Garden October 15th and 16th, featuring some great Gaston County talent- David Childers and the Serpents, Bil Jones and Stepside Deluxe, and Dixie Moon.

As always, be sure to support your local merchants; they add so much color and vibrancy to our community.

Have a great October!

David

featured this month

06
10
12

JACKIE RADFORD,
BOOK ARTIST

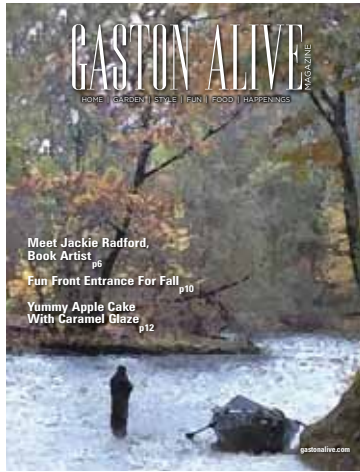
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APPLE CAKE WITH
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on the cover



Pictured on the October cover is a piece entitled "Fall Fishing Watercolor" by Master Photographer Rick Haithcox, cover graphic design by David James.

our staff

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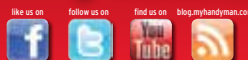
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JACKIE RADFORD

By David Hamrick

BOOK ARTIST

Not every artist paints in oils, or composes symphonies. Artists have to find their own inspiration, their own direction...



GA: So Jackie- what is a book artist?

Jackie: That's an excellent question. A painter uses paint and a potter uses clay; I use books as my medium. I am a book binder, so I do make books by hand. And I also make books that have an unusual structure such as a flap book or an accordion-fold book. The content of the book will usually drive the choice of structure. As a book artist, I create books that are unusual, as well. Some of my Sculptural Bookwork teeters on the edge of even being considered a book. But, the work of a book artist is to think about books in inventive ways.

GA: How did you get started doing this?

Jackie: I have had a passion for books since I was a young girl. My nose would always be found shoved in the pages of "Green Eyes", "The Bobsey Twins" or "Black Beauty". I have remained an avid reader my entire life and I was stunned to discover that I could actually learn how to make my very own books! I attended every class or workshop I could find which culminated in my study at Penland School of Craft. I enjoy a variety of binding styles, but I must say that long stitch binding remains my favorite. When I teach classes on book binding, I am able to modify any binding style to be attainable by even beginner students.

GA: Some of your books have lots of blank pages, but also pages of poetry, maps, etc...

Jackie: Most of the books that I make are leather journals. I use a beautiful Mohawk 70 lb. text weight paper for the blank pages of the journals. But, I find that, much like a blank canvas, a blank journal is a bit intimidating. So, I like to use a lot of ephemera in my journals to help people connect with and begin to interact with the journal. I am often found lurking in the used book section of our local Habitat for Humanity Re-Store looking for interesting books or maps. I have used pages from old school plays, vintage maps and dictionaries in my journals. As you turn the pages of my journals, you will always find a nice, little surprise tucked in amongst the blank pages.

GA: Do you use a machine to make your books?

Jackie: Do I use a machine? Absolutely not! Every part of my books is conceptualized, designed and created by my hands. I cut the leather, tear down the pages and sew each and every book. Recently,





I've decided to part with my substantial collection of vintage jewelry. So, I have begun using the vintage jewelry pieces as part of the closure on the journals.

GA: Tell us about your sculptures..

Jackie: My current body of work is in Sculptural Bookwork. In fact, my work was just accepted into the American Craft Council Juried Show, one of the premiere institutions for fine craft. My sculptural pieces encourage people to think about books in a different way. Much like painting had to change when photography was invented and radio had to change when television was invented, books are changing as the e-reader was invented. Now, we still have painting and radio and we will always have books. But, book artists are thinking about books in new ways in light of the e-reader. What is the purpose of a book? Does a book have to have a cover or pages? Does a book have to have content? These questions are being asked by book artists and being answered in their work. My sculptural books aren't square or rectangular, they are round and the pages are trimmed into swirls and spirals. The book is elevated as a concept and as purely an object of beauty in my work.



GA: Do you make custom books?

Jackie: Absolutely. I love doing a custom book for a customer. Often times, a client will come to me with an idea about having a book made for a special occasion or a client might want a journal with certain pages or in a certain leather. I enjoy learning about the client, about the things they like, their hobbies and families. This knowledge helps me find papers and images to include in their book that accurately reflect who they are as a person. I have been commissioned to make custom guest books for weddings, baby books and many, many as gifts for Christmas and Birthdays.

GA: What is the most interesting or unusual book or journal you have been asked to make?

Jackie: Well, the sweetest book I created was for a gentleman's 70th birthday. His daughter asked 70 of her father's friends and family to write a letter to her Dad. I took those letters and bound them into a leather book. For another commission, I did have to get really sneaky. A client wanted a book for her boyfriend's 50th birthday. She helped me get photos of all his favorite places from his Instagram account.

GA: Are you a Gaston County girl?

Jackie: I've lived in Gastonia for 20 years and my second son was born at Gaston Memorial Hospital. Both of my sons have attended school here in Gastonia and my husband is a Nephrologist at Metrolina Nephrology Assoc. We have a wonderful history in Gastonia and consider this town our home.

GA: Where can folks check out or purchase your work?

Jackie: My journals can be found right here in Gastonia at The Hive on Main Ave. in Downtown Gastonia, right next to The Sleepy Poet. My work can also be found at Ciel Gallery in Charlotte, K.D. Morris Gallery in Holden Beach and at Trashed Studios in Concord.

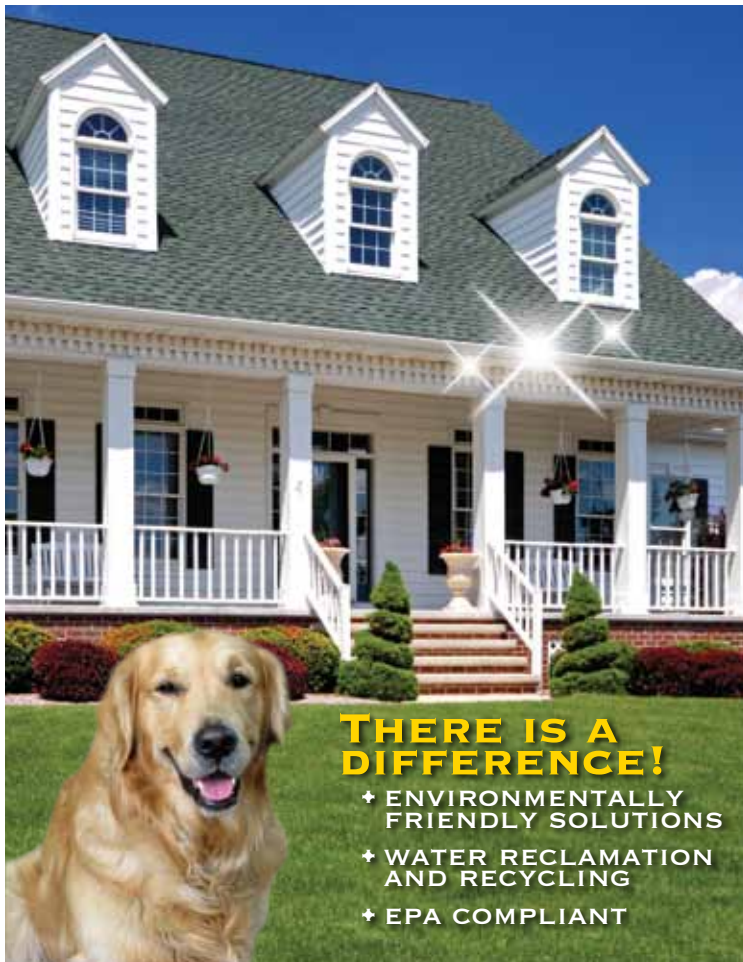


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WELCOME FALL TO YOUR FRONT DOOR

By Nan Bridgeman

With the first hint of cool, crisp air we are delighted to say good bye to our hot, muggy summer here in the South and welcome fall. Your entry is the perfect place to add a punch of fall colors and offer your guests a warm welcome. These ideas can be done in a snap.



Pop a seasonal wreath on your door. This wreath of ripening pumpkins, plump berries and natural grapevine works well from late August until Thanksgiving. The use of soft greenery contrasts nicely with the door's dark stain. If your door is painted a light color, then consider using darker tones such as russet reds, golds and toasty browns for your wreath. The addition of a fall icon, such as a feathered pheasant or a sassy squirrel peeking out of a frame of colorful leaves can add a touch of whimsy.

Fill a basket with fall blooms and foliage. Wicker baskets with a handle can be filled with fall sprays and hung on your door or gate. Change out the flowers to match each season, and use the container all year.



Plunk a cheerful mum or a bunch of fall sprays in a basket by your door to greet guests. This reproduction English market basket can be used on small stoops as well as large porches.





foliage mixed with magnolia stems for contrast. In December fill with greenery and red berries or pop in a cheerful poinsettia and use inside your entry hall. Easy and cheerful!

Throw out seasonal pillows. On Blythe's covered front porch, we toss pillows in harvest tones on our benches and then add fun hooked pillows to express our joy in the coming season. For benches sitting in open weather, there are some great outdoor pillows available resistant to fading and mildew. A great way to add some pizzazz with little effort year after year.

Garden figures can also be dressed for the season. Our old lead colored whippet greets guests with a ribbon collar with a few small fall sprays worked into the knot. Perhaps you have a figure in your garden that can be dressed up to announce the coming season.

Use props you already have such as a bench or garden statue and then let your imagination come up with fun ways introduce fall accents to your home's exterior. It is so much fun for you and your guests.

We hope you have been inspired to bring a note of fall to your entrance.

*Nan Bridgeman is the owner of Blythe Gallery,
A home interiors shop in downtown Belmont, NC*





A PERFECT FOR FALL DESSERT

CARAMEL WALNUT APPLE CAKE

Tastes Like Fall!

This a time and family tested recipe for a Caramel Walnut Apple cake- and it can be mixed and baked in the same pan, saving all the mess usually associated with baking!

(Note- leave the nuts out if you are allergic or don't care for them!)

Grease a large flat baking pan- a 9" x 13" works best.

Method:

Mix by hand, batter will be very stiff. Bake 1 Hour at 350°

INGREDIENTS:

- 3 Eggs
- 2 Cups Sugar
- 1 1/4 Cups Oil
- 3 Cups Plain Flour
- 1 Tsp Soda
- 1 Tsp Salt
- 1 Cup Walnuts (Optional)
- 1 Tsp Vanilla
- 3 Cups Diced Apples
- 2 Tsp Cinnamon

Glaze

Preparation:

Bring brown sugar, butter, and milk to a boil in a small saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly; 1 minute. Remove from heat, and stir in vanilla extract. Stir 2 minutes; drizzle over cake immediately.

Serve and enjoy!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract



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