

Reader Recipes

Crunchy Pea Salad

1 10-oz. pkg. frozen peas, thawed
1 cup celery, diced
1 cup cauliflower, chopped
1/4 cup green onions
1 cup cashews, chopped
1/2 cup sour cream
1 cup ranch salad dressing
1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
Crisp, crumbled bacon
Combine all ingredients. Chill. Garnish with bacon before serving.

Bacon Buns

10 bacon strips, diced
1/3 cup onion, chopped
1 16-oz. pkg. hot roll mix
1 egg, lightly beaten

Cook bacon and onion in skillet until bacon is crisp. Drain. Let roll dough rise in warm place until doubled. Divide dough into 18 pieces. Roll out each piece on a floured surface to a 5-in. circle. Top with 1 tbs of bacon filling and fold into small loaf, pinching edges. Place on cookie sheet and let rise 30 min. Brush tops with egg and bake at 350° for 20 to 25 min. or until golden brown.

Hot Pepper Butter

42 Hungarian yellow wax peppers
1 qt. vinegar
1 pt. bottled mustard
5 cups sugar
1 cup flour
1 1/2 cup water
Salt to taste

Grind peppers. Bring vinegar, mustard and sugar to a boil. Make paste of flour and water. Combine with peppers and vinegar mixture. Cook together 5 min. Put in jars and process in boiling water bath 10 to 15 min.

No-Bake Peanut Butter Bars

2 cups graham cracker crumbs
1 cup margarine
1 tsp cooking oil
2 1/2 cups powdered sugar
1 cup peanut butter
1 cup chocolate chips

Combine cracker crumbs and sugar. Melt margarine, add peanut butter, and then blend in all dry ingredients. Press into a 9 by 13 pan. Melt chocolate chips and oil, then spread on top of peanut butter mixture. Chill before cutting into bars.

Add-On Storm Windows

Ted Lacey found an inexpensive way to reduce his heating bills, by installing homemade storm windows over the three 6 by 8-ft. picture windows in his house.

The idea worked, reducing Lacey's heating bills by one third. "Now almost all the windows in the house have storm windows on them, making the house very energy efficient.

The storm windows create a 4-in. air barrier and also let the sun shine through. I couldn't believe what a huge difference they made," he says.

He screwed 2 by 4's together to make an outside frame and screwed the frame with angle brackets into the house wall, and he also added 2 by 3 wood stiles inside the frame. Then he placed pieces of clear vinyl or acrylic over the window and stapled them onto the frame. He also screwed on pieces of thin wood batting over the window. There's a 4-in. gap between the outside vinyl covering and the actual house window, which produces a barrier of about 13 degrees.

"I don't know how to make anything complicated, and my homemade storm windows were an inexpensive way to tighten up the house," says Lacey. "They keep our house much warmer in winter and keep ice from forming inside the window frames, even in the coldest weather. Our heating bill dropped from an average of \$1.50 per day to \$1 per day."

Lacey says it helps that his house's walls are rated beyond R-40 and the roof beyond R-60, and there's 2 in. of Styrofoam under the basement floor and 2 in. outside the basement walls.

He says that of the 3 storm window materials he has tried, vinyl works best.

"Vinyl makes a better storm window because it doesn't become yellow over time like Lexan does. The problem with acrylic is that it scratches easily and you have to be very careful when cleaning it. I also used vinyl to make smaller storm windows for my shop."

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Lacey built "exterior" storm windows around his existing windows to cut winter heat bills.

Gordon can turn a farm photo into a personalized carved panel that can be used anywhere in your home.



He Carves Designs On Doors, Mantles, And More

Artist Justin Gordon can customize your home with carved mantles, beams and doors. Whether you want a touch of nature, the Massachusetts artist says almost anything is possible.

He prefers working on detailed smaller pieces like architectural elements and decorative pieces such as a mantle depicting a client's farm, right down to a favorite tractor and beloved dog.

"When people contact me we toss ideas around," says Gordon. "If they have something they like, we talk about layout and height." With that he can figure cost and time estimates.

Gordon uses pine, basswood and mahogany for most of his work, and sometimes the client provides the wood. While a majority of clients live in the Northeast, he has sold art to people in many other states. Sometimes the job combines chainsaw and architectural work, such as a bear cub holding a vanity and two bears holding a wooden plank countertop for a Midwest client. Other pieces are finer detail work - finials for organs, corbels to hold up a mantle, clock cases, decorative sculptures, and bronzes, for example.

With more than 45 years of accumulated artwork behind him, Gordon says he's open to any challenge.

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Gordon loves a challenge so he enjoys it when people come up with new ideas for him to work on.

FARM SHOW®

New Products For The Farm, Ranch Home

"Spray Boom" Garden Waterer

FARM SHOW reader Larry Symynuk recently sent photos of a 20-ft. boom from an old field sprayer that he converted to water his garden.

The aluminum boom is located about 7 ft. off the ground, mounted on lengths of square steel tubing. A garden hose attaches to one end of the boom, which has nozzles spaced 32 in. apart. Symynuk positioned the nozzles to face upward in order to provide a wide spray pattern.

When he wants to water the garden, he just opens the faucet on back of his house and walks away. The water falls as a heavy mist and covers about a 10-ft. wide area.

"I've been using this idea for 2 years, on 2 different gardens, and it works great. I have very little money tied up in it," says Symynuk.

"A lot of people tell me they want to try the same idea on their own garden. More and more farmers are using big self-propelled sprayers, so there are a lot of old pull-type sprayers out there free for the taking."

The pull-type sprayer was given to him by a neighbor. It came equipped with an 8-ft. center section and two 20-ft. wings, which fastened to the sprayer with small U-bolts. Symynuk removed the boom, then drilled 1/4-in. holes through one end of the gazebo tubing and U-bolted the boom to it. He then drove lengths of rebar into the ground and slipped the other end of the tubing over them. "I placed the tubing within the row so there's room to cultivate between rows," says Symynuk.

Since the water comes down as a heavy mist, he sprays mostly in the evening or early morning when it's usually less windy. "On windy days I might not irrigate at all. Sometimes hummingbirds fly through the mist, which is fun to watch," says Symynuk. "If I want, I can loosen the U-bolts and rotate the boom to direct the water to either side. One advantage of upward facing nozzles is that if any dirt gets inside the boom, it'll stay there without getting inside the nozzles and clogging them up."

Symynuk says he had been using swivel-type lawn sprinklers in his garden, but didn't like having to drag hoses around all the time. Also, after the plants got too high they blocked the spray pattern.

"Because the boom is high off the ground, it distributes water evenly across the garden. It's never in the way as I can walk right under it. Also, if I want to rototill the garden in the fall I can quickly disassemble the waterer," notes Symynuk.

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Symynuk uses a section of boom off a field sprayer to water his garden.