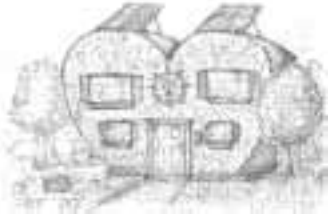


Home & Heart



Kathleen Jarschke-Schultze

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After retiring from *Home Power* over a year ago, I had visions of pursuing my own interests. I wanted to devote more time to my bees. I had been saving and reading material on soapmaking, both the lye/fat kind and the glycerine kind. And I fully expected to be writing more.

Garlic Queen

Before *Home Power* and Hornbrook, I grew and sold garlic. I raised only one kind of garlic. It was a soft-neck variety that could be braided easily. I grew many kinds of everlasting flowers that could be dried and braided into the garlic braids and wreaths. I didn't make a lot of money at this. But it was satisfying work, and it could be done at Starveout, the old mining claim where we lived at the time.

When we moved here, I began growing garlic because it seemed strange and wasteful not to. I acquired a wonderful array of garlic varieties from Filaree Farm in Okanogan, Washington. I started growing the local garlic started here by the early homesteaders on Agate Flat. By the time we really got settled in at our place on Camp Creek, I was growing twenty-five types of garlic.

Two years ago, I lost all of the year's garlic crop. At a critical time of harvesting the current crop and planting the next year's crop, my mother became tragically ill and passed away. My time spent with her then was priceless and I am without regrets. So last year I began acquiring varieties again. I am building up seed stock for a mid-sized garlic production. I am growing hard-neck and soft-neck varieties now. By next year, I hope to have some to sell.

The Bee Codger

Last year I started keeping bees. I got two hives and lost one. This spring I got four more hives. I had a disappointing harvest, although the bees seem to be doing okay getting themselves stocked for winter.

This spring I set up a hive for my 83 year old Dad down in Paradise, California. We started late for his area. I had a little trouble finding someone to sell me a package of bees to get him started. So his hive was set in place the last week of April.

In the last week of July, I took my extractor down and we got four gallons of honey from Dad's supers. My brother and his girls helped Dad extract another four gallons at the end of August. My sister got a few more gallons in the final extracting in September before starting the fall medicating of the bees. We figure Dad got about 100 pounds of honey from his one hive. Now we call him the Bee Codger.

Of course he just spoils his bees. He hung a shirt he had recently worn on a pole by the entrance of the hive. Pretty soon he was able to work the hive without a veil or gloves. He would go out four or five times a day to check on his bees.

He made them a self-maintaining watering pan with rocks in it so the bees wouldn't drown. He covered the hive stand legs with a coating of used motor oil to keep the ants from bothering the bees. Then he carefully made covers for the oily legs with cereal box cardboard so the bees wouldn't get caught. When the summer sun heated the hive, Dad made a little shade roof so the bees wouldn't have to work too hard ventilating their hive.

I don't begrudge Dad his amazing success with his hive. I am a little jealous though. And he does give me something to strive for.

HP, Then EC

Once again I am doing office work from my home. Now I work for Electron Connection. My status as a non-techie is in jeopardy. After living with renewable energy for sixteen years, I am now learning the basics of RE system components and their usage.

The Bee Codger.



It is amazing how little I knew. With Bob-O knowing everything, I just didn't have to. I guess my brain is on a need-to-know basis. Well, now I need to know. I like working with Bob-O. I've always considered our union a partnership, and this is just one more facet of our marriage.

I fill, place, and ship orders, send out bills, and track shipments. I function as a live person answering the phone when Bob-O is gone on an installation. My time at *Home Power* has helped, since most people in the industry know me already, even if I didn't know them.

Since his office is in what we laughingly call "the dining room," I can get other things done around the house while I'm working. I got a snap-on belt and pouch so I can even work in the garden and still answer the cordless phone. I have to catch myself occasionally since I have a tendency to answer "Home Power" instead of "Electron Connection."

Renewable Vows

We went to a wedding recently. Some dear friends of ours got married. As part of the ceremony, Bob-O and I renewed our vows after fifteen years. The reason most of the people at the wedding knew each other and had become friends was their mutual RE lifestyles. The conversations at the reception included a lot of talk of systems, their components, and the future course of the industry.

The wedding was held at Lake Tahoe's North Shore. Bob-O was appalled at the resort's lack of knowledge or usage of compact fluorescent lighting. For all the lights that are left on 24/7, the power consumption could be cut considerably.

Nevada seems to be trying pretty hard to be aware of renewables. We picked up a newspaper in Reno and it had a twelve page insert called *The Nevada Renewable Energy Guide 2000*. It was filled with articles on how Nevada could take advantage of deregulation of the power industry.

With articles explaining wind power, solar power, and geothermal power for the layman, and ads for local dealer/installers and component manufacturers, this insert was great. More states should be following Nevada's lead in informing their people about renewable opportunities.

Nevada's governor, Bob Miller, has proclaimed that their state is one of the few in the nation with the potential to become totally energy independent through investment in energy efficiency and the development of renewable, indigenous resources such as solar, geothermal, wind, and biomass.

Nevada is striving for 10,000 solar roofs as part of President Clinton's million solar roofs challenge. If you go to the Million Solar Roofs Web site, you can download a booklet called *The Borrower's Guide to financing Solar Energy Systems*.

Access

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