

spacecoast LIVING

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The Thanksgiving Table

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What We Wear Where

Confused about What to Wear? We Sort It Out In "Dressing Up"

Bromeliads and a Blue Agave

Fooling The Eye: Artists Honored at Museum Gala

Spacetacular People

A Healthy Environment = Good Business
says Laurilee Thompson

Plus: The Scene, The Buzz & Fine Dining

The Thanksgiving Table

by Nancy Koplinka | photography by Rob Downey

No matter what your acquired style, a traditional family holiday like Thanksgiving tends to bring forth feelings of nostalgia, as well as, little-used china and even a unique platter that was a part of mother's or grandmother's elaborate Thanksgiving table of yester year.

Conversely, as families get smaller, or as visits from far-flung family members become less frequent and thus more important than an elaborate feast, people are increasingly delighted with a no-fuss, casual table that is easy to create as well as child friendly. Five local decorators share their ideas.

LIVING WITH NATURE

FROM THE COVER



Decorator Roxanne Brillante has created a Thanksgiving table that reminds us of the importance of nature in our lives. The centerpiece combines driftwood from the beach after Hurricane Jeanne, to represent our trying times, and blooming bromeliads to symbolize new growth and hope for the future.

Using a table covering of sheer brown lace, she adds woven grass chargers and handcrafted flatware from Indonesia for texture. Gold-rimmed Lenox china and graceful sterling silver salt and pepper add a touch of elegance. Salvaged seashells, miniature pumpkins, artichoke place card holders and pumpkin-scented votive candles set in beach sand complete the organic feeling.

Brillante has given up her retail business to concentrate on home renovation and interior decorating and can be reached at www.asnatureintended.com.

Nature's Power to Also Lift the Spirit

The last couple of months of hurricanes, demolished homes, no electricity and disrupted routines have been so exhausting I have been wondering when we would begin to feel good again. The moment came for me during a fairly routine photo shoot for me this month. It was the Thanksgiving table setting that appears on this month's cover.

While Roxanne Brillante, designer and principal of As Nature Intended Interiors was setting her Thanksgiving table, she described the inspiration behind the items she had chosen for her centerpiece: driftwood salvaged from the beach in Indialantic after the hurricanes, to remind us of the trying times, and beautiful bromeliads to represent rebirth and hope for the future. (Details on page 22.) As she went on about seashells, starfish and Lenox china I drifted off, experiencing a feeling of joy and then an epiphany.

My first thought was how much control we have over our own moods and attitudes. By finding something beautiful from nature to focus on, we can be inspired in a positive way to move on rather than remaining bogged down by disappointment and feelings of loss.

Second, nature is both beautiful and cruel. If we want to live here, close to nature – and we all do – we must do so with care and profound respect. The frequent talk about how mankind is despoiling nature imbues us with a sense of power and the idea that we can actually control what happens to our environment. To an extent, we do. However, we are but straw men up against the power of the wind and the sea, which from time to time rip through and clear out all that offends – and more.

Nature as a force and respect for its delicate balance are what motivate both of this month's featured

artists, Jerry Thomas and Mari Coneen. Jerry's dramatic paintings give

us new respect for our tropical surroundings. As for Mari's work, man's responsibility for the care of nature is eloquently expressed in her paintings. See "Art as Life" starting on page 38.

November's Spacetacular person, Laurilee Thompson, founder of the annual Space Coast Birding and Wildlife Festival that takes place this month, is also heavily involved with ecological issues. As a former captain of a longline fishing boat and currently an owner, with her family, of Dixie Crossroads, a popular Titusville seafood restaurant, she is well aware of the consequences of over-fishing and depleting our oceans' bounty. Laurilee says that respecting and preserving our environment is actually good business. Quality of life is what brought us all here and continues to sustain us. See what concerns Laurilee, starting on page 48.

Finally, on the lighter side, we bring you a feature on Space Coast dress codes. "What We Wear Where" starts on page 58. We may not be right, but that's how we do it! We thank the local leaders who were gracious enough to model this attire for us.

As you sit down to your Thanksgiving dinner, be grateful that we are as lucky as we are to be living in this beautiful county, state and country. Yes, we have a lot of work to do to restore our homes and communities, but when we get it done, things will be better than they were. Happy Thanksgiving.

Sincerely,



Nancy Koplinka - Editor

