

OUR COUNTRY HOME

A RIVER REPORTER LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE

SPRING 2020



Bidding a house goodbye
Gardening for the future
and more inside

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Letter from the editor

This week, temperatures are supposed to climb into the 50s for what I'm pretty sure is not the first time this winter. Even so, the spring flowers haven't sprung and I haven't spotted any goslings yet. Our basement remains unflooded and there's still a tiny patch of snow in the shadow of the porch.

So it's still winter. Mostly.

This issue of Our Country Home gives you thoughts of spring: thoughts of gardening with a focus on designing gardens that reflect our native plants. I interviewed landscape architect Carolyn Summers of Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve in Sullivan County about the crucial importance of these flowers, trees and weeds.

Thinking about redesigning your garden this year? Veronica Daub explains how to choose plants that draw in pollinators, and the Audubon Society weighs in on the importance of inviting birds into your garden.

Onto the "home" part of Our Country

Home. A local couple preps their house to sell and offers tips on how to see your house with new eyes, as Gina Kaufmann puts it. They balance the need to live in the house and create a space where buyers can see themselves living in it too.

Broker Dawn Curreri from Eagle Valley Realty gives the real estate perspective: do you really have to renovate your kitchen? And we have a list of items you can find locally so you can DIY the little improvements that can make a big difference.

I hope you enjoy your spring; may it be full of flowers and sunlight.

Annemarie Schuetz, Editor
Our Country Home

Annemarie Schuetz lives in her country home, surrounded by family and cats inside and deer, birds and ticks outside. She leads an uninteresting life spent avoiding ticks and reading a lot.

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Cover photo by Joe Cooke features the Kaufmann house on the PA side of Callicoon. The owners are getting ready to sell after living there for more than 30 years.

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Bidding a house goodbye

And preparing the place for sale



Photos contributed by Joe Cooke

The Kaufmanns' dog peers out the huge window in Gina's studio, the former attic. The room is not completely finished: a canvas for the next owner.

By Annemarie Schuetz

Tom and Gina Kaufmann have lived in their centuries-old farmhouse on the Delaware for decades. They raised five kids there. They worked and they volunteered, they even ran a local business. The connections and the memories run deep.

"It's hard to leave," Tom said.

But it's happening. They're moving out of state, near other family members. And that means putting the house, built in 1794, up for sale.

"The house has outgrown us," Tom said. The kids are adults, living elsewhere; elders have passed on or moved away. For good or ill, life happens, and the Kaufmanns are looking to the future.

Part of that is selling the farmhouse, a fascinating

blend of rooms, passages and history. The main house has five bedrooms and three baths, including a new one on the first floor.

"This is a multigenerational house," Gina said. Her mom lived for years in the attached apartment, which is connected to the main house via a passageway. It has two more bedrooms and a bath.

The house is a total of 3,400 square feet and boasts the original pine floors and hand-hewn beams. One bathroom has a pressed-tin ceiling.

"The neighbors are great," Tom said. They have family on both sides, and the Willow Wisp Organic Farm on part of the original property. And, of course, the river behind—a fourth neighbor—flowing slow and majestic, just as it did when the house was built 226 years ago.

Preparing to sell

To start, you need to "see the house with new eyes," Gina said.

The point is that "you live with things [and rooms] for so long you stop seeing them." A fresh assessment can help you prioritize what needs to be done. (For more input, see the interview with Eagle Valley Realty's Dawn Curreri on page 9 of this issue.)

Tom and Gina haven't renovated for the sale because they've already done the work. The place stood empty for 18 years. "When we took over the house, we breathed new life into it," Gina said. And, one could say, poured a lot of sweat equity into it too. "If something needed to be done, we did it right."

Continued on page 6

GOODBYE

Continued from page 5

The renovations have added value as well as made the place livable. However, it's not something that a seller can do in a few months, not without living somewhere else while hordes of workers tear the place apart. Tom did most of their work over the years.

That said, Gina outlined some things that they have done recently to prepare.

Listen to the house, she said, and it will tell you what it wants.

They decluttered. Items went into storage or were given away.

The rules say that you should remove all personal items, but that can be tough if you still live there. Compromises can be made: Gina turned a wall of family photos into an arrangement of work by Boston artist Edna Hibbel, easily removed before a showing if needed.

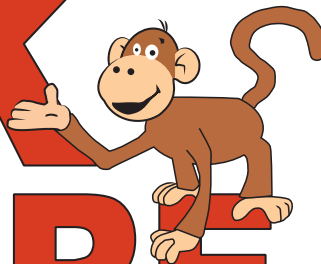
Gina plans on painting the dining room in neutral colors. "The big decision [was] which *greige* should I choose. Pinterest offers so many, too many choices."

Although the rooms couldn't be emptied out, since they still need some furniture and dishes and things, cleaning, decluttering and minimizing still open the space up for



The Kaufmann living room with its original hand-hewn beams. There are still signs of the family here, but Gina is slowly depersonalizing the house.

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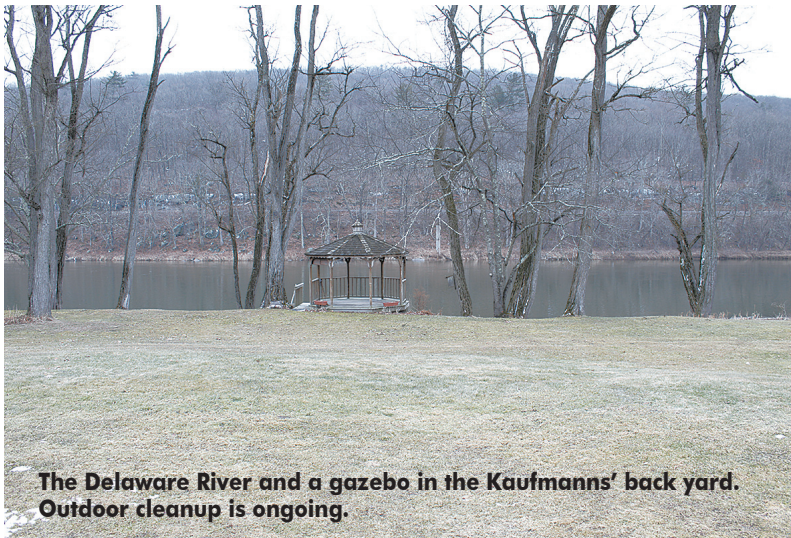
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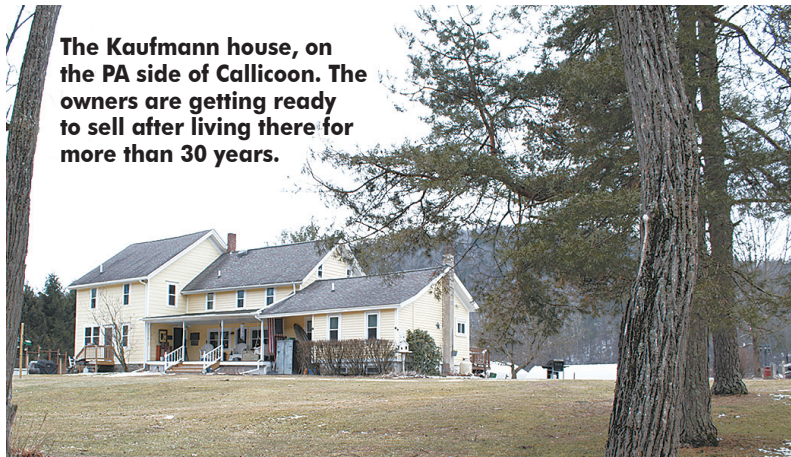
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The main bathroom with its pressed-tin ceiling and claw-foot tub. The Kaufmanns didn't update it when they renovated the house and they chose not to renovate it now.



The Delaware River and a gazebo in the Kaufmanns' back yard. Outdoor cleanup is ongoing.



The Kaufmann house, on the PA side of Callicoon. The owners are getting ready to sell after living there for more than 30 years.

the buyer's imagination.

Curb appeal is important, and they're working on that now, cleaning up the area around the house. "I have many gardens that can become overwhelming for a new owner. I've contacted Adrienne, The Dirt Diva to help me knock one down, and help with spring clean up. I never got to properly close my garden [last fall] due to work and rainy weekends."

They removed an unsightly fence, took the satellite dish off the roof and treated the gazebo for lichen.

"There are other things we have thought about but then wonder if a new owner would have different ideas than we do," Gina said. "For instance, finishing the loft," which has a spectacular view. "We are still undecided as to how to finish this... I think the new owners would love something to make that space their own."

Over time, they've found so much on the property: a tiny shoe, various interesting bits of paper, a flint spear head that the Kaufmanns unearthed when they buried their dog. Bits of history, just waiting for them. "The next people will find more things," Gina said. And they'll fill the house with their memories and soul until it becomes their place too.

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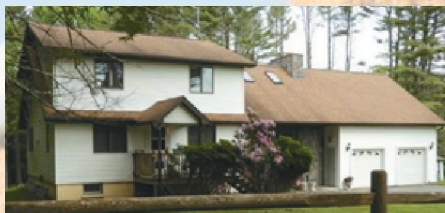
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Getting ready to sell?

A real estate broker weighs in

By Annemarie Schuetz

So, you spent the winter debating and now it's time to sell your house.

And then you look around. Do you need to fix everything? Paint? Maybe you don't want to sink a lot of money into the place if the new owner is going to re-do everything.

"I never tell people to put a lot of money into a home," says Eagle Valley Realty broker Dawn Curreri. "Nine out of 10 times, you don't get your money back."

Instead, try to think like a buyer. What would someone looking at your house see first?

Start with cleaning up outside. "Clear bushes, plant flowers, put up a couple of hanging baskets," said Curreri.



Then, moving inside: "decluttering is the key," she said. "Less is more. The less stuff of yours is in the house the more the buyer can picture themselves living there."

Box things up, put them in a closet, or put them in storage. A house full of personal possessions is "overwhelming," Curreri explained.

In the kitchen, you can keep it simple. "Keep countertops uncluttered," she said. If a faucet is dripping, get it repaired.

After you've cleaned up, take a look at the walls. Look for areas that need a touch-up with paint. Look at the wall colors; neutrals are best.

Look at the floor. "If the carpet is worn, you can pull it up," Curreri said. Expose the wood floors if they're in decent shape.

Look at the windows. Get rid of heavy window treatments and let the light in. The more, the better.

What if you don't have money to make more significant repairs? "It's all a part of negotiations," Curreri said. Cleaning up and decluttering go a long way to making a house appealing.

What's ahead in housing?

Despite the doomsayers, who are looking at the nation, Curreri sees positive trends here. "Right now it's a seller's market," she said. "There's low inventory. If you're thinking of selling, now is the time."

Now as in now. Don't wait for summer, thinking that that's when all the tourists are here.

"We're a second-home market," Curreri reminded me. People want to be moved into the house before summer. A typical closing in Sullivan County takes 60 to 90 days.

Recent news reports have it that housing is too expensive, pricing first-timers out of the market. Not so here. While the area has its share of high-priced housing, first-time home buyers can find affordable options too, she said.

Dawn Curreri is a broker with Eagle Valley Realty, licensed in New York and Pennsylvania.

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Home staging resource list

Sometimes all you need is a little touch-up on your woodwork or counter top, or to quickly dress up an older sofa. These simple products, suggested by Jenna McElwain of Jenna Nicole Interiors, offer inexpensive and effective ways to upgrade your home:

Look for these at your local hardware store. If the work is more significant, contact your local flooring or kitchen/bath store first. Often they'll renovate an existing surface.

Hangman's Erase-a-hole is a fast way to repair nail or screw holes in drywall. Works on cracks too.

Minwax Wood Finish Stain Marker works well for quick and easy touch-ups of nicks and scratches on floors, furniture, cabinets and doors.

Zep Hardwood and Laminate Floor Refinisher revitalizes dull, scratched, hardwood and laminate floors. Polyurethane finish.

Miracle Sealant Grout Pen covers and cleans mildew and stained grout.

Peel and stick vinyl tiles is an easy, affordable update. Can be used with or without grout. Ask at your local flooring dealer.

Rustoleum Metallic Spray Paint is an effective update for outdated light fixtures or door handles

If you don't have time to sew your own slipcover, or can't hire someone to make one, try Surefit Slipcovers. Perfect for a quick update for sofas and chairs.

Murphy Original Oil Soap can be used to clean floors and cabinets, restoring their natural shine.

Frame your bathroom mirror quickly and easily with Mirror Mate.

(Information to be used as a reference only;

Jenna Nicole Interiors does not work with or endorse any of the above products, services or companies, and does not guarantee their work, results or prices.)

Jenna McElwain is the owner of Jenna Nicole Interiors. She designs commercial and residential spaces and works with realtors staging homes for sale in Maryland, though she did work with the Kaufmanns: see page 5. Check out her website, www.jennanicoleinteriors.com to learn more and to read her blog post, "Home Staging IS a Big Deal." For further tips, follow her on Instagram and Facebook @jennanicoleinteriors.

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A parterre at Flying Trillium uses spruce, arborvitae, asters, heuchera and other native plants.

Photos by Carolyn Summers of Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve

Sustainable practices promote harmony with nature

Story on page 15

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  L A Z B O Y

Gardening *for the future*

By Annemarie Schuetz

What lies ahead feels unstoppable. New evidence about the damage climate change will do constantly unfolds, and each choice that's made has repercussions. It feels too big for small individual actions to make a difference.

But that's not true. You can start with something as simple as a garden.

"As gardeners, we have an immense opportunity to make the world a better place," Carolyn Summers, the landscape designer behind Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve in Sullivan County, wrote in an email.

Sustainable gardens, according to the National Garden Clubs, work with natural surroundings "to contribute to a thriving ecosystem. Not only does maintaining a sustainable garden support long-term ecological balance," it is fun, and the rewards are countless.

Sustainable gardens can be simple and traditional, something any of us can create.

The National Garden Clubs list what you need to consider:

- Plant choice
- Mindful design
- Compost
- Water conservation
- Sustainable maintenance choices, including decisions on how to deal with waste and fertilizer

"To garden sustainably is to forego the use of pesticides, lawn fertilizers and other harmful additives that kill wildlife, pollute waters and contribute to climate change," Summers said. "Sustainable practices promote harmony with nature. Such practices include reducing lawn areas in favor of native trees, perennials and shrubs to provide food and shelter for wildlife."

Her book, "Designing Gardens with Flora of the American East," covers this in detail.

We can turn over some soil, add compost and drop in seeds. We can make gardens, even if our space is as small as a sunny window and a terra cotta pot.



An heirloom squash vine winds around a garden gate.



Blue flag iris at Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve.



Irises are a beautiful part of a water garden.



Rhododendrum prinophyllum growing wild in the Flying Trillium bog.

In this issue of Our Country Home, we'll start with plant choice.

That means native plants. Native plants are those that grew in a region before others were introduced. They were here first. "They are the ecological basis upon which life depends, including birds and people," writes the New York Audubon Society in their article "Plants for Birds" (www.bit.ly/OCHplantsforbirds).

"Why native [plants]?" asks Summers. "It is because we must rebuild food webs from the plants on up, from the smallest insects to our birds and other wildlife." She cites entomologist Douglas Tallamy on the importance of native plants. "He believes that through individual actions, we can mitigate the damage we have done and restore healthy populations of wildlife."

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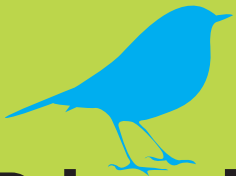
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Gardening for birds calls for native plants

Birds welcome here

By Annemarie Schuetz

For more than 100 years, the Audubon Society has created communities where humans and birds can live together. That mission has become more urgent as the climate changes, migratory patterns shift and the effects ripple down on all of us.

Birds matter. They help plants reproduce by spreading seeds. They eat insects, some of which spread disease in humans, and they are food for humans and animals. They're good for the economy just by being themselves; bald eagle tourism is a great example, notes the Audubon Society.

Birds are also sensitive to environmental change (think the canary in the coal mine), so they're an indicator when things are starting to go wrong.

Birds rely on native plants, but often we opt for non-native plants in our gardens; they might be pretty, but they can become invasive. Invasive plants choke off native plants and can potentially "degrade the native habitat," Audubon New York writes in their article "Plants for Birds" (www.bit.ly/plantsforbirds).

The loss of native plant habitats, said Carolyn Summers of Flying Trillium Gardens and Preserve, means the loss of the insects and birds that were sustained by those plants. "More than 96 percent



Photo contributed by Kate Hyden of Sullivan Audubon

This garden is designed with birds in mind: a feeder surrounded by native plants like beebalm and goldenrod.

of birds, including hummingbirds, raise their young on tiny insects and insect larvae, not nuts and berries. No caterpillars [equals] no baby birds," she said.

If we want to bring birds home, we need to create an environment that they'll love to return to. It is a simple thing to do; it gets you started on the sustainable-gardening path.

Choose wisely

Meaning plant choice. Go to your local lawn and garden store: They can steer you in the right direction and tell you the best way to start. (We all have different soil, and your garden store knows it.)

If you need some ideas, the Audubon Society has a database of native plants. Simply visit www.audubon.org/native-plants and plug in your zip code, and the results will display plants that are native to your region.

I came up with 98 plants, each of which

has a list of birds (with pictures) attracted to that plant. Nothing could be easier if you want to provide a home for our local birdlife right outside your window.

Gardening for birds is an easy way to start gardening sustainably, and you'll know that the benefits will ripple out from your little garden and help spread something wonderful back into the world.

"With all of the truly bad news coming at us, it comes as a relief, to me at least, to know that what I'm doing is making a huge difference, right here, right now," said Summers. "The power to garden sustainably provides me the best antidote to feeling hopeless about the state of the world."

The bird world invites you

Sullivan Audubon is having its first spring meeting at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 19 at SUNY Sullivan in room B113. President Kate Hyden said they'll be talking about identifying and attracting birds with plants, feeders and peas. So if you have questions, you can ask the experts! Visit their website at www.sullivanaudubon.org.

In Pennsylvania, NEPA Audubon welcomes bird-lovers and people with questions, too. Mark your calendar: on Wednesday, June 3, they're presenting a program on gardening for birds at 6 p.m. at the Park Street Complex in Honesdale. Give them a call at 570/253-9250.

Contacts

Native plant databases

www.bit.ly/PAwildflowers

www.bit.ly/NYwildflowers

Audubon database

www.audubon.org/native-plants

Invasive plant list:

www.bit.ly/invasivefacts

National Garden Clubs:

www.gardenclub.org/projects/sustainable-gardening.aspx | 314/ 776-7574

NY Audubon Society: www.ny.audubon.org

Sullivan Audubon: www.sullivanaudubon.org

NEPA Audubon: www.nepaudubon.org | 570/253-9250

Contact **Carolyn Summers** through her website: www.flyingtrillium.com



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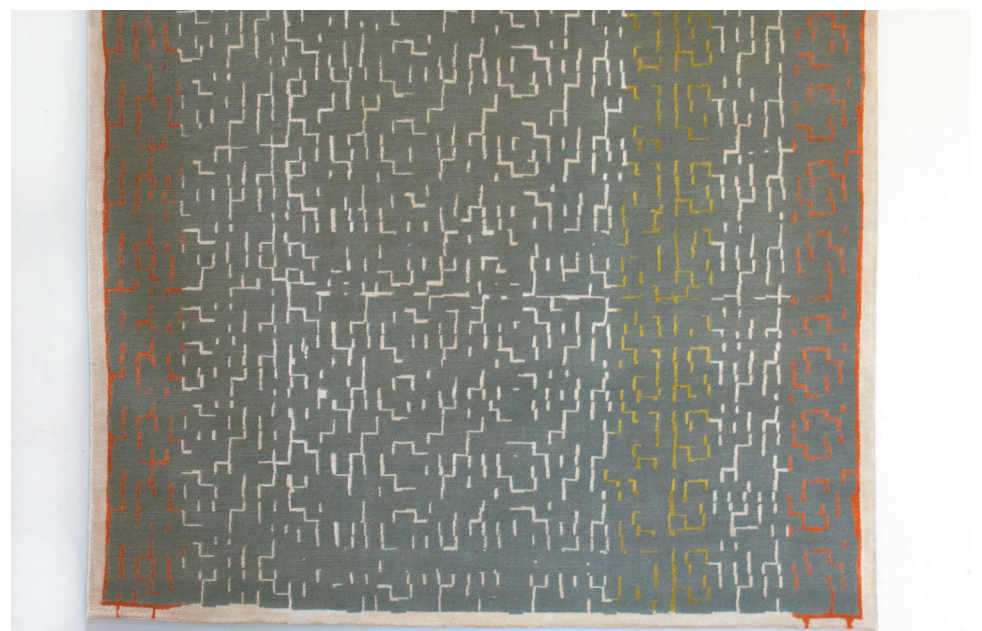
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Save room for pollinators

By Veronica Daub

As spring arrives and the world wakes around us, more and more people are also waking up to the reality that we have to assist the precious life of our planet. Since we've domesticated the landscape, it seems only fair we do our part to use our landscapes to promote the health and well-being of creatures essential in sustaining our way of life—and who does a more important job than pollinators?

Pollinators visit flowers for a variety of reasons. Flowers provide food, shelter, nest-building materials and even mates. Besides the food they provide, flowering plants can attract pollinators with their shape, scent and color.

The Pollinator Gang

Bees are the most efficient, hardworking pollinators. In the United States alone, there are more than 4,000 native species of bees. Thanks to bees, say the Friends of the Earth, "we can enjoy a range of foods from apples and pears to coffee and vanilla. And if you are wearing cotton, that's because the cotton plant your threads came from was pollinated." To help attract bees in your yard or garden, plant bright white, yellow and blue flowers that are shallow or tubular with some form of a landing platform.

Pollinators aren't strictly insects; birds also do some of the work. The most common bird pollinator in our area is the hummingbird. Hummingbirds love red, orange and white tubular flowers with large, funnel-like cups and strong perch support.

Butterflies enjoy brightly colored flowers with a wide landing pad, as, unlike bees, they cannot fly while feeding. While butterflies may not be the most efficient pollinators, they are indicators of a healthy ecosystem. Not only are they beautiful, they also provide natural pest-control services. They also do a bit of housekeeping, as they are happy to eat the rotten fruit in your garden. To invite butterflies into your landscape, include larval host plants for caterpillars to eat. Monarch caterpillars in particular depend on native milkweed.



Photo by Kate Hyden

A Giant Swallowtail investigates beebalm.

Continued on page 21

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POLLINATORS

Continued from page 19

Beetles may not be the most appealing visitors, but they are useful pollinators. They prefer dull white and green flowers with large bowls to clumsily fly into, such as magnolias. Beetles often leave a mess behind as they eat, damaging plant parts and excreting waste as they go—but they're doing the best they can.

Moths and bats are the nocturnal pollinators in charge of the night shift. Bats go for dull white, green and purple bowl-shaped flowers with a strong musty odor. These flowers may be closed during the day. Moths enjoy pale red, purple, pink and white tubular flowers with sweet scents.

It is also incredibly helpful to implement a bee bath in your garden for bees, birds, butterflies and other pollinating pals. It doesn't need to be fancy, you can make one easily with a shallow plate or lid. Place it at ground level and include a few stones that can act as landing pads. Change the water every few days to avoid mosquitoes.

Keep pollinators in mind as you choose the flowers for your yards and gardens. Help them help us sustain the beauty and wildlife of our area.

For more information, visit www.pollinator.org, www.pollinator-pathway.org and www.fs.fed.us.



A Bronze Copper butterfly perches on milkweed/photo taken and contributed by Rick Bunting.

Photo by Rich Bunting

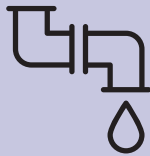
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Brassy: a nonfunctional light fixture

An ongoing drama, with semi-useful repair tips

Ramona Jan and I decided to take her nonfunctional light fixture and do something about it. Maybe it's because I'm reading Samuel Richardson's "Pamela" right now, or maybe it's because Ramona Jan and I ate something weird for dinner. Whatever the reason, we decided it was funnier to chronicle the repair attempts in letter format using fictional characters. Spoiler alert: we haven't succeeded yet. But we did learn a few things along the way. And you may all be grateful that I cut out the "Pamela" jokes.

First tip: DIY electrical work is lots of fun, but really folks: get an electrician. (We both have practice and know when to call for help. Plus we have friends/spouses with lots of experience). If you DIY your plumbing, at worst you'll have a wet or stinky house. If you DIY your electrical repairs, you can burn your house down.

Dear Tatloc Repairs:

Something went wrong!

One of the LED bulbs went out in this five-bulb dining-room overhead light fixture! How could this be? LED bulbs are supposed to last about 15 years. The fixture was installed and all the bulbs put in at the same time, about two years ago.

We took the fixture out. The connections to the porcelain sockets (by cotton covered electrical wires) were brittle. We then lost our minds, daring to become our own repair people; we bought new wires and began redoing the wiring. We soldered! The solder did not hold.

(Tip: Turn the power off at the breaker box or fuse box, not just at the switch, before removing fixtures. Then remove the fixture and check your connection. On an old fixture, the wires are often in poor shape.)

(Tip: Maybe don't solder if you've never done it before. Or at least practice on something first.)

To test the points, we grabbed each wire and swung the lamp around the room. The wires should've held, right? They didn't.

(Tip: This was a bad idea.)

Perhaps we used the wrong solder? It's silver in color; that's all we know about solder. You are our only friend, Mr. Tatloc of Tatloc Repairs. We trust you with our beloved bare-bulb '30s-era fixture. Make it good again and you will be duly rewarded with some nuts, mitens, pencils and a picture of a princess.

Very truly yours,
The Good Neighbors



Photos contributed by Ramona Jan
The new sockets. Tidying is needed.



Parts of Brassy we don't normally see.

Dear Neighbors:

My sympathies for your plight! Tragedy abounds in the smallest things, even in something so insignificant as a single nonfunctioning LED light. Have you had the bulb analyzed? Perhaps it is merely striking out on its own, endeavoring to be its own person.

(Tip: This is not a "Pamela" joke, it is a "psychoanalysis" joke.)

Perhaps the endeavor failed and the bulb is no more. But the first course of business will be to verify that the late bulb is indeed late.

(Tip: Always a good starting point. And surprisingly, people often don't check the bulb first.)

In turn, I shall do my best to return your light to a state of... well... lightness. If it is not possible, we shall gently sweep the matter under a very bulky rug, and then not walk on it, for then we will break the fixture and the glass will hurt our feet. Even through the bulky rug.

I look forward to meeting your light fixture, and consider your offered terms fair.

Sincerely,
Steven Tatloc, Tatloc Repairs

PS: Which princess? I have mixed feelings about Disney.
PPS: LEDs do not always last as stated. The voltage of your rural supply may be the culprit, burning out the bulb fast.
PPPS: I shall assess the overall condition of the fixture as well. Going forward, please note that the flinging treatment is not effective for light fixtures. I do find it works well with freshly washed lettuce in a pillowcase, drying it in a snap.
(Tip: This is a great way to dry lettuce.)

Dear Steven:

We are in receipt of your letter dated 18 February, 2020. In addressing your theory about the bulb, please be informed that we indeed changed the bulb with several working bulbs. Also, note we have a temporary fixture there now but it is not a long-term solution.

Curiously, now that the temp fixture is up, there is no longer flashing from the kitchen fixture. In this 1915 house, the dining room and kitchen fixtures are somehow related electrically. Our theory about the flashing (now that it has stopped entirely) is that the dining room (one socket) was shorting the kitchen fixture. As already stated, this is not happening betwixt the temp and dining fixtures. And we know you will ask: The temp fixture is just as old as the lamp you are about to receive.

(Tip: Suspected short? Call your electrician.)

So there you have it. Probably not the bulb. However, we know you are thorough so please do check anyway, though we feel it would be a waste of your time. We appreciate your attention in this matter.

Best,
Lenora Brandt

PS: If for some reason the fixture cannot be repaired, we have another one. However, we would need to check the wiring and then, more importantly, fashion some sort of ceiling plate to cover the previously existing gaping hole in the ceiling. (The hole is a gift from a previous electrician.)

Steven Tatloc to Lenora Brandt:

Do not despair! Other repair people are the past; we have only the future, and the future involves your light fixture.

Now then: We shall proceed under the assumption that the fixture is fixable. Although if the unthinkable must be thought, then we will use your three-light fixture for parts. Or as a replacement.

All will be made clear.
Steven B. Tatloc

PS: Has your light fixture a name?

I feel awkward referring to it by its species all the time.

Dear Steven,
We have named it
"Brassy."
The kitchen fixture
is "Flashy."
Lenora Brandt



Brassy's public side. Sans LED bulbs. Attached to the ceiling, Brassy really looks much better, but we didn't have a photo of him in situ. "We never thought he'd be in the paper," explained his owner.

Steven Tatloc to Lenora Brandt:

I found Brassy waiting for me in the morning against my front door. Having assessed him, I have these observations:

The wires are in extremely poor shape; I was deeply distressed at their condition and had to sit down with a restorative cup of tea. Many wires were either broken, or about to be broken. The Wires of the Socket of the Nonfunctional Light were nonfunctional as well.

(Tip: And therein lies the problem.)

Past solder had not been cleaned out of the socket, and it has now hardened into a formidable nightmarish mass.

I recommend new sockets. To remove the old solder might be beyond my abilities, and certainly my inclination.

Thank you for the opportunity to return Brassy to a state of health.
Steven B. Tatloc

Dear Steven,
The stores do not have ceramic replacements that will fit Brassy. What do I do now? I find myself sinking into despair after all.
Lenora Brandt
PS: What does the "B" stand for?

Dear Mrs. Brandt,
Please find enclosed Brassy and his sockets. Perhaps if you bring one to a local antique store help will be forthcoming.
Steven B. Tatloc
PS. The "B" stands for "B."

Dear Steven,
Original parts were found at A Picker's Find in Honesdale and I bought them all. They gave me a lead if I want new ones, but we are not sure if they would work. Can you assess? Please find enclosed photos of the sockets I purchased.
Lenora

PS. I have a blender that is also nonfunctional. When Brassy is restored to health, could you take a look, please?

(Tip for handymen: Make sure your client realizes the blender repair will increase the cost.)

Dear Mrs. Brandt,
Well. Some of the sockets look usable. Some have broken wires of their own. They want tidying at the least. Perhaps you could drop them off at my front door and I will do my best. But deadline is pressing and my editor does in fact wish to see this discussion of a problem that may affect nobody at all.
Steven B. Tatloc

PS. Re the blender: I will welcome the blender as well; it can keep Brassy company.

(Tip: Don't use the ones with the broken wires.)

(Final tip: See first tip)

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