

Living a Simple Life with a Back Porch View

Dear Listener:

Thank you for stopping by for a visit at Living a Simple Life with a Back Porch View podcast! To make it easy, you will find a transcript of each episode. I hope you enjoy the visit!

Episode 2 - Who I Am

Welcome to Living a Simple Life with a Back Porch View. Thanks for stopping by! Grab a glass of Lemonade, pull up a rocker and join me for conversations about living the Simple Life. Go ahead. Get comfortable and settle in for a good visit. It's time to relax and enjoy!

Welcome back to Living a Simple Life with a Back Porch View! Go ahead and pull up a rocker and settle in for a visit. Get out your bag of knitting, your carving knife, or whatever craft you are working on. Help yourself to some Lemonade and try some of those cookies. This week it's Spiced Oatmeal...fresh from the oven, with hints of cinnamon and other spices.

Since today we are just getting to know each other, let me introduce myself. I am Julie. I am a writer, speaker, teacher, and blogger over at The Farm Wife. I am originally a city girl. In 2003 all that changed when we moved to a 60-acre piece of land in Northwest Louisiana. The first moment we saw this place, we named it Paradise Plantation, because of the sheer beauty of the place. We figured it was the closest to Paradise we could get here on earth. We have a strong faith in God and strive to be the best stewards of this land as we can be.

That doesn't mean it has all been confetti and cake. No, we have had our share of struggles. As I like to say, facing trials, troubles and disappointment just means you have been blessed to wake up to another day. But when the successes and joys do come, the day just seems a little bit brighter and our smiles a little bit wider.

Our big goal for the farm is to first, be as self-sufficient as possible. Now, please understand. We don't really like that term 'self-sufficient, as our true sufficiency comes from The Good Lord Himself. But we do strive to grow our own food – from beef, chicken, pork and fish to fruits, vegetables and herbs. We have one dairy cow to provide us milk, which in turn gives us buttermilk, butter, and some cheeses. We have laying hens that provide us with eggs. We have four small gardens where we grow heirloom vegetables and some of our herbs. And we have grapevines that are up and coming, blackberry vines, and some two-year old fruit trees.

We love to cook meals with all that fresh produce. The Country Boy knows his way around the kitchen and loves to fix what he calls 'plain food' – Gumbo, Steak, Rice and Gravy, and of course, almost anything that is cooked on the grill. I can cook a delicious meal as well, but my first love is baking. I am often in the kitchen baking bread, cookies, and pies.

But I will tell you this – unless it comes in a sheet pan, you won't find me baking cakes. It didn't take me long to discover that layer cakes are not my forte. Oh, I can bake the cakes alright. But when it comes to frosting them? Let's just say that when I do try, anyone looking at them will get a good laugh.

Both of us also love creating. Whether it is out of necessity or enjoyment, there is always a project going on around here. The Country Boy prefers to work with metal, steel, and wood. I prefer the fiber arts, such as weaving, crochet, and since I recently got a spinning wheel, learning how to spin the yarn I need. And there are times when the Country Boy decides to head for the woods when I look at him and say, "I had this idea, and wondered if you could build it."

All this is a lot of work for just two people, but we know that if we just take it one day at a time, we will get there eventually.

One of our passions is enjoying visits with family, friends, and neighbors – whom we refer to as 'our people'. We do our best to be on standby if one of our people is in need. Here in the South, food is the equivalent to comfort, so we get in the kitchen and start cooking. And we love sitting down to a good visit, which is where the Virtual Porch comes in.

You don't have to do everything we do on the farm. You can live in a tiny house, an apartment, or in a suburban home. The Simple Life is very adaptive to anyone, anywhere, who just wants to slow down and enjoy life. And if you want to learn more about what a Simple Life is, stay tuned for upcoming porch visits. We'll be talking about that, as well.

Now, it's your turn. Tell me a little more about you – your interests, your goals, your dreams. Do you live a Simple Life, or is it something you've been dreaming about? I see your rocker slowing down a bit over there, and you seem to be staring out across the porch deep in thought.

When you are ready, just email me at thevirtualporch@yahoo.com. I'm ready to listen. But take your time. Enjoy another one of those cookies and take another sip of lemonade. I know that just sitting on the Virtual Porch may be the first chance you have had to relax and breathe. After all, that's what porch sitting is all about.

I hope you become a regular visitor on the porch. There are plenty of rockers to go around. I just made a fresh pitcher of Lemonade, and there are plenty of Oatmeal cookies in the cookie jar. And I am open to just about any topic. Just email me at thevirtualporch@yahoo.com, tell me what's on your mind and I will see about getting the conversation started.

If you want to learn more about the topic at hand or want to get the recipe for the delicious Spiced Oatmeal cookies we've been enjoying, just visit my website at www.thefarmwife.com/podcast. That is the Resource page for this podcast and I have it set up by episodes to make things easier to find. And just so you know, this is Episode 2 – you don't want to miss out on baking those cookies.

Be sure to subscribe, so you don't miss any episodes. I'll be sitting on the porch every Monday morning waiting for your visit!

Thanks for stopping in. I am enjoying getting to know you better. I will see you next Monday. In the meantime, you don't have to get up yet. Stretch out your much needed quiet time. Go ahead. Grab that glass of refreshment, another cookie, and just settle in. It's time to

Relax and Enjoy!

Julie