

# HOME & GARDEN

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Deed Transactions • Classifieds

SECTION C

## FRONT AND CENTER

Mary K. Schoonover



## A river runs through it

"Be sure to tell her it looks like a river," Kevin said, tossing a glance my way with that familiar mischievous crinkle around his eyes.

We had run into friends who asked for a tour of the garden — especially to see some of our latest projects, like the stone walkway I finished earlier this month. Its curved path is purposeful, I had told my symmetrically minded husband when I designed it, to evoke the flow of a river.

Rocks and water form a large part of my aesthetic, and I respond to gurgling streams and rushing waterfalls, even waves lapping at pebbles. The rhythms, the sounds, the timeless beauty harmonize to elicit peace and calm. I want to bring some of that into the garden — not stylized in the Japanese manner, but in a more naturalistic way.

To my regret, I repeated my rationale after the walkway was done. As I stood, straightening my back and surveying my work, I queried: "See, doesn't it look like a river?"

Two mentions is all it took. Kevin seized upon my analogy as an opportunity for teasing me — what I've learned in 12 years of marriage is one of his favorite pastimes. "I mock because I love," he tells me.

Nevermind that "mock," by definition I reply, is scornful and contemptuous. All I get in return is a loving grin.

Later, when my brother stopped by and took his customary walk through the garden, he paused to admire my handiwork. He was especially touched that I used stone from a barn foundation on my parents' property to create the edges.

But before he could offer words of praise — or even suggestions for improvement — Kevin said "Tell her it looks like a river."

Even my mother, who had had a hard time envisioning what I'd described over the phone and was eager to see it for herself, was arrested in her response by an impish interjection: "Tell her it looks like a river."

So there it is. My winding, inviting walkway that took years of planning and weeks of sweat and strained muscles to build. Not even 10 days old and it's the butt of a recurrent joke.

Sigh. The other day, when I was home alone, I strolled its brief length and envisioned how it'll complement the rest of the garden's features. It was a peaceful respite — much like a sojourn beside a river.

Just don't tell me it looks like one.

*Schoonover is chief copy editor at the Times. She and her husband, Kevin, are turning their front lawn into an edible landscape garden. Email her at mschoonover@fltimes.com.*



Photo by Kevin Schoonover



Photos by Cal Adams

## CHALET OF CANANDAIGUA EXTERIOR

**Be prepared for an absolutely extraordinary bed-and-breakfast experience at this five-star, Frommer's-recommended upscale log cabin. It is truly rustic enough for him and elegant enough for her, with hostesses/owners Pattie English and Margaret Covington accommodating gracious hospitality. In operation since March 3, 2007, this 7,600-square-foot, lodge-style business encompasses 30 acres of land, including woods and a pond. It's located on the outskirts of the city of Canandaigua.**

## Women duo cooks up a five-star accommodation

**A**bsolutely blown away that such an amazing, five-star, Frommer's-recommended bed-and-breakfast was a mere 23 miles from our front door, we were even more charmed by the owners of the establishment, Pattie English and Margaret Covington.

Warmly welcomed at the entrance, given the grand tour of each and every nook and cranny of this deceptively grand, yet cozy, 7,600-square-foot lodge, we felt like royalty during our entire visit.

Pattie and Margaret described the fascinating history of the Chalet of Canandaigua B&B, including how this structure on the west side of Canandaigua Lake began as a rustic cabin built by G. Henry Boyce, then purchased by the Lee family in the late 1970s. The Lee family added on and modernized on a major scale. When Mrs. Lee was widowed and needed to downsize, she eventually accepted Pattie and Margaret's offer and proposal as being most in line with her husband's feelings and ideas of how the house should be used. Hospitality, celebration and people enjoying people were in line with his life philosophy.

Serendipitously, it's also true for Pattie and Margaret ... and so, a bed-and-breakfast was born!

This was a daring adventure for two women who had never done it before. They had looked for a suitable property for a while and had nearly given up. At last, they found it. They loved it, and it fit their criteria, so, in October 2006, they purchased it, began renovations the next month and, on March 3, 2007, had their grand opening. They welcomed their first guests March 23, 2007.

Their main contractor was Al Cooper, of Cheshire, with Margaret in charge of managing the infrastructure renovation and Pattie overseeing the interior design. About 70 percent of their furnishings were purchased from Bassett Furniture in Victor. The remainder — except for the antiques found throughout — are from Lynch's Furniture in Canandaigua. The white wood furniture in the Woodview Suite is from Ethan Allen. Pottery Barn is the source for their beautiful selection of bed linens.

Margaret had dreamed of operating a little bistro, while Pattie loved the idea of running a B&B. In the Chalet, they've both gotten their wishes, since cooking is part of the package here as well. No guest will ever receive the same dish twice ... unless he or she requests it. Their creative range is vast for the repertoire of brunch and breakfast dishes they offer, and it changes seasonally.

A typical fall breakfast consists of a fall fruit bruschetta with pumpkin mousse, a hard-boiled egg over arugula with basil pesto, and German apple pancake with cinnamon-orange crême fraiche and maple-sage sausage patty with caramelized onions.

Pattie, who hails from the Syracuse area, left behind a successful, 30-plus-year career in information technology with Welch-Allyn in Skaneateles to work full time here.

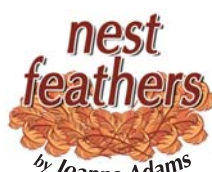
Margaret, a Rochester-area native, still finds time to do financial and business consulting for a few clients part time. Formerly, she was controller and chief financial officer for a number of companies.

For Pattie and Margaret, making a home for themselves was an important factor in finding the right fit for their B&B.

Though they have been critiqued by outsiders for spending too much time with their guests and investing too much of themselves in their business, Pattie and Margaret say they are enjoying themselves too much to have it any other way. They have a huge repeat clientele and a high occupancy rate, each considered crucial to success in the B&B industry. Many of their guests have become their friends.

And so, along with their mantra that each guest shall be personally greeted and welcomed to the Chalet, it is certainly understandable what our hostesses are told repeatedly: "Those who come to stay, wish they could never leave."

# B&B IN OUR OWN BACK YARD IS BEYOND BREATHTAKING



Nest Feathers, by Joanna Adams of Geneva, features exceptional homes in the Finger Lakes. If you know of a home that should be highlighted — whether for its architecture, interior design, historic significance, energy efficiency or any other reason — email Joanna at jocaladams@yahoo.com.



## WOODVIEW SUITE

This suite, located on the first floor of the Chalet, is convenient for guests with mobility issues. It is furnished with a white-spindled wood king bed and other pieces from Ethan Allen Furniture to lend a lighter tone to the rustic wood paneling and hardwood floor. Here, as in each suite, are matching robes provided for guests, as well as a private bath.



## UPPER BALCONY

This magnificent view of the balcony off the bedroom suites and the stairwell leading to the Great Room below shows off the timber framing and the use of pine logs on different levels.

## The Chalet of Canandaigua

Location: 3770 Route 21 S., Canandaigua  
Phone: (585) 394-9080  
Website: www.chaletbandb.com



## BALCONY SUITE

This lavish and glamorous suite is equipped with a king-sized bed, see-through fireplace, cheval glass mirror, a double soaking tub and a shower, fully equipped kitchenette with a stocked mini-refrigerator, TV and two balconies, one overlooking the great room and one overlooking the kitchen. It is truly one of a kind.



## LEE SUITE

This more masculine-toned suite is furnished with a sleigh bed and leather easy chairs and ottoman. From the beamed ceiling hangs a chandelier whose fixtures lend a warm glow to the scene below. The bed linens also are a warm golden tone. Out of sight is the luxuriously appointed bath and kitchenette.