

Oh, Christmas Trees: The Joy of Seasonal Decorating

# New Hampshire

magazine

## Happy holidays

The Perfect  
**SUGAR COOKIE**

Recipes and Tips  
**FOR FESTIVE  
ENTERTAINING**

Of Christmas Past  
**By FRITZ  
WETHERBEE**

Magical Winter  
**WEEKENDS**

DECEMBER 2004 \$2.95

12>



7 25274 78092 1

# Holiday Divas

Who ya  
gonna call  
now that  
Martha's not  
free?

We found three Granite State women who love to entertain and do it with style and grace — much like the original diva herself. Here, the women offer favorite recipes and a few tips to make your holiday gatherings a festive and memorable time.

Photos by Susan Sauer

**\*Tip from Amalia Scotsas**

Freeze homemade eggnog ice cream in ramekins and serve in pre-chilled elegant compote dishes. Find more tips on page 46.

*Philip and Amalia Scontsas of Nashua love to entertain in their charming "Shabby Chic" cape. For the holidays their home is decorated with vintage-style ornaments (available at their Nashua store, Scontsas Fine Home Décor) in such a grand manner that several national magazines have featured their seasonal décor.*

*For entertaining, Amalia loves to use recipes passed down from her mother and new recipes that have a pleasing twist. She also keeps a journal filled with food-related anecdotes to pass down to her own children.*

## MARINATED MUSSELS (MEJILLONES A LA VINAGRETA)

*This is a fun recipe Amalia likes to prepare any time of the year — it goes great with vodka martinis or champagne.*

- 24 mussels
- cornstarch
- 9 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 5 tablespoons lemon juice
- 3 tablespoons Spanish onions, minced finely
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, minced
- 2 tablespoons finely minced red sweet pepper (hot pepper will do as well)

Soak mussels with 2 tablespoons cornstarch in cold water overnight.

Meanwhile, whisk olive oil and lemon juice together. Add onions, peppers, parsley, salt and pepper; stir, add mussels and refrigerate overnight.

In approximately 1/2 cup water, steam mussels in covered pan, taking them out as they open (discard those that do not open).

Separate mussels from shells, saving half the shells which will be washed carefully, covered and refrigerated.

Fill half-shells with marinated mussels and cover with some of the liquid.

Serve on a platter, decorate with fresh thyme, lemons or limes, etc. Serve chilled.



# Amalia Scontsas



# Tips from the Diva

**BE ADVENTUROUS** — don't use ordinary pieces to serve. Try the unusual, like a birdbath filled with ice for bottled beverages.

Cocktail parties are great for the holidays because they don't require too much advance preparation, don't last long hours, and can be done at short notice (your guests can usually schedule a couple of hours for good cheer).

Themes always help me as they provide a template for the evening. It gives me a starting point for menu, décor, entertainment, music and set-up.

For fun, add something special like salsa dancing after a Spanish-influenced dinner.

Keep your guests moving; take them from room to room for different courses, for example.

Drinks on the patio in season, hors d'oeuvres in the kitchen, dinner in the dining room, dessert by the fire.

If you are caught off guard, dim all the lights and light all the candles — nobody will notice the dust.

Don't forget your guest is a guest — get them something to drink immediately and pay attention throughout the evening ... there is nothing worse than a “nowhere-to-be-found host.”

Always offer your guests drinks you have available instead of asking them what they would like and running the risk of not having what they ask for.

Decide on what to serve ... red wine, white wine, champagne for simplicity

— *Philip and Amalia Scotsas*

An Ocean View  
Surveying NH's Seacoast

Affordable Housing:  
A First-time Buyers' Guide

Coming Soon:  
Pro Hockey in Manchester

# New Hampshire

magazine

Your State. Your Stories.

## Spring Preview

Ideas for  
the Ideal Pool  
or Patio



MARCH 2001

\$2.00

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED  
100 MAIN STREET  
NASHUA, NH 03060



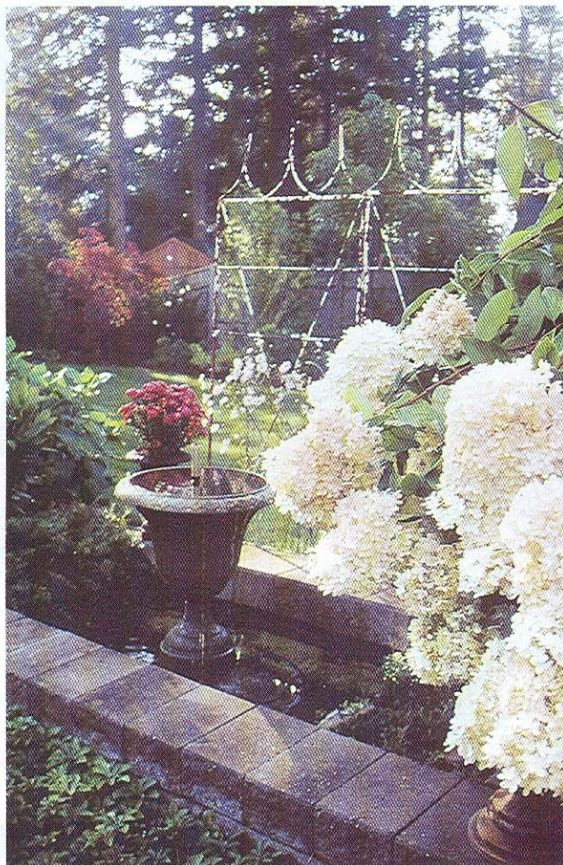
Reach us on the Internet at: [www.nhmagazine.com](http://www.nhmagazine.com) — an NH.com Partner

PRSR STD  
U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 802  
MANCHESTER, NH

# NHhome PATIOS

## *Backyard Shabby Chic*

**P**hilip Scontsas, owner of Scontsas Home Decor and Fine Jewelry on Main Street in Nashua, and his wife Amalia worked to create an “old garden feeling” in their backyard. Classical fountains set the tone, and the wonderfully-rusted vintage table and chair set completes it. The garden’s tall flowers are held in place by interesting vintage metal supports. A market umbrella is draped with netting for mosquito control, and because they “love the look.” **NH**



Real Estate Goes Boom:  
Finding the Hot Properties

Small is Beautiful:  
10 Top Tiny Towns

Using Natural Options  
for Lifetime Flooring

# New Hampshire

magazine

Your State. Your Stories.

## Great Gift Ideas

BULK RATE  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 802  
MANCHESTER, NH

NOVEMBER 2000 \$2.00



Reach us on the Internet at: [www.nhmagazine.com](http://www.nhmagazine.com) — an NH.com Partner

# A Cape Remake

Philip Scontsas, owner of Scontsas Jewelry and Home Decor in Nashua, and his wife, Amalia, recently remodeled their early 1900s Nashua home. They combined three rooms into one to make a large living room. Where there had been walls, extra pieces of flooring were added to seam together new flooring with the existing wood floors that were refinished.

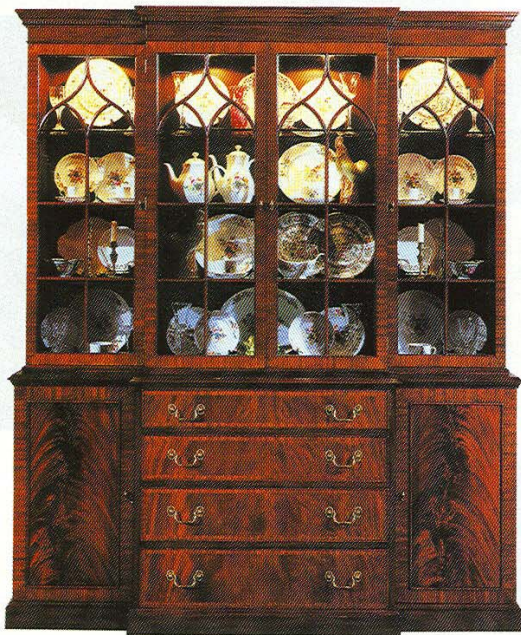
So far, they haven't put carpet down. Scontsas says they love the look of the oak, and the lines. "The linear look adds to the feeling of openness we wanted."

Scontsas says he and his wife might change their minds about carpeting when winter settles in, but, for now, they're staying with the "sparse look." **NH**



## Winchendon Furniture co., inc.

The policy of Winchendon Furniture is to offer the consumer the best possible selection, service and value available. With over sixty lines to choose from and a friendly, knowledgeable staff to work with, shopping at Winchendon Furniture is a pleasant experience.



### HENKEL - HARRIS

Just Possibly, America's Finest Furniture

Amherst, NH | Winchendon, MA

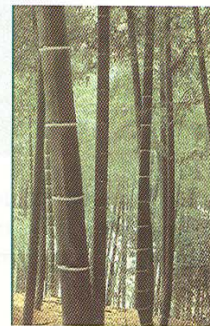
phone 603.880.6393 | fax 603.880.3470 | phone 978.297.0131 | fax 978.297.3405



## Bamboo: A Really Renewable Flooring Resource

An environmentally-friendly flooring option that's as hard as hard maple and harder than red oak? Bamboo. This naturally blonde wood can be treated to create an interesting striped effect.

Bamboo trees grow to maturity in five years, so you don't have to worry about depleting the exotic hardwoods of the rain



forest. And, its not the same bamboo that the panda eats.

Most manufacturers produce this product pre-finished. During the production process, it's treated to prevent insect and mildew damage, and to conform to fire prevention

standards. Maintenance for bamboo flooring is the same as it is for other flooring. **NH**