

Angela Nichols' delightful recipes appear in collection of Gooseberry Patch cookbooks



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Angela Nichols obviously knows her way around the kitchen because several of her favorite recipes have appeared in the nationally distributed Gooseberry Patch cookbooks. In fact, two of her recipes were printed in the latest edition of

berries are in season.

"I learned to cook when I was very little, and I remember using this cookbook that my Mom bought for me," she said while holding a tiny book entitled, 'Fun to Cook Book.' I used that little book, and I guess that's why I just love to cook," she added.

Nichols noted that she really specializes in plain country cooking and uses many recipes passed along to her by her mother, Janice Sifford, who lives in Hillsville, Va.

"There's just nothing like Mom's cooking," she emphasized. "My mother likes to get our boys, John, 7, and Wesley, 4, in the kitchen and show them how to make cookies."

Nichols and her husband,

Cook

of the week

one of their publications entitled, "Mom's Favorite Recipes."

The young mother of two was notified this month that several of her entries were published.

"I remember the first recipe that I submitted to Gooseberry Patch was soon after I had purchased a copy of the book. I was floored when they wrote saying that one of my recipes was chosen, and it was being published in their Christmas cookbook. And since then, I've continued to submit my favorite recipes. I think I have about five of them in editions of their specialty cookbooks," she added.

The most recent edition of "Mom's Favorite Recipes" has reached the newsstands and is available at Pages Bookstore on Main Street. The book includes Nichols' Friendship Cheese Ball and Garden-fresh Veggie Dip recipes.

She was recently notified that her recipes were chosen and the company rewarded her with a copy of the book. "Each time my recipes are selected, they always include the book for me to enjoy," she added.

During a visit at her home Monday morning, she had a collection of Gooseberry Patch Cookbooks attractively displayed on the kitchen table and buffet. Along with the cookbooks, the culinary artist showed off a fresh strawberry pie and the award-winning Friendship Cheese Ball that she had made for the occasion.

While placing the books and food on the table, she said, "I used fresh strawberries for the pie, but now I have found the glaze for peaches and blueberries, so I'll probably be making those too since peaches and

Chris, have been married 14 years, and they both enjoy working on their beautiful home and its landscaping. She is quick to note that her mother-in-law, Nancy Nichols, who lives nearby, also provides her with some wonderful recipes.

Our featured cook lived in Hillsville until she met Chris Nichols in Mount Airy back during the "cruising days." After they were married, she worked at Brintle's in accounts payable. Her husband is a commercial loan officer with Surrey Bank & Trust.

In addition to her cooking, gardening and crafts, Nichols assists her husband at their latest business venture at Nexstop, a country convenience store with a grill, located at Cana, Va.

With a husband, two young boys and a business, Nichols doesn't have as much time in the kitchen as she once did, "But, I still enjoy cooking," she added.

For more details about the Gooseberry Patch Cookbooks, log on at www.gooseberry-patch.com. You could get hooked on good cooking, just as Nichols has done.

Here are some of the recipes printed in their cookbooks and several that are family favorites.

We'll begin with the cheese ball and veggie dip that are printed in Gooseberry Patch's latest cookbook, "Mom's Favorite Recipes."

FRIENDSHIP CHEESE BALL

- 2 (8-ounce) pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- 5 ounces dried chipped beef, chopped
- 1 tablespoon mustard



Angela Nichols displays a collection of Gooseberry Patch Cookbooks that include some of her favorite recipes. The young mother of two boys, Nichols enjoys cooking for her husband and children and has always had a love for reading cookbooks.

- 1 tablespoon mayonnaise
- 1/3 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 to 1 cup chopped pecans

Combine first 5 ingredients together; shape into a ball. Roll in nuts; wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate several hours or overnight before serving.

"This recipe for veggie dip is great with so many fresh vegetables on the market," Nichols said.

GARDEN-FRESH VEGGIE DIP

- 2/3 cup sour cream
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons fresh chives, chopped
- 2 tablespoons onion, minced
- 2 tablespoons pimento, drained and chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic salt

Mix all ingredients together;

chill. Serve with fresh veggies. Nichols' recipe for Pimento Cheese Spread was published in another cookbook entitled, "Made from Scratch."

PIMENTO CHEESE SPREAD

- 2 pounds pasteurized process cheese spread
- 3 (4 ounce jars) chopped pimento

- 1 (8-ounce pkg.) cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup mayonnaise

Combine all ingredients; pack into a crock and refrigerate. Serve with crackers or spread on slices of homemade bread.

Nichols' first winning recipe was printed in the edition called "Magic of Christmas." This recipe was passed along by Chris' mother, Nancy Nichols.

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