

Spring has sprung!

THE *Dish*
effortless
ENTERTAINING®

May 20, 2020

“Rich colours actually look more luminous on a grey day, because they are seen against a somber background and seem to be burning with a lustre of their own. Against a dark sky all flowers look like fireworks.”

G. K. CHESTERTON



Dear Friends,

Although it seems there is a monsoon in the mountains and even though I'm sitting by a fire, spring has indeed sprung! I've enjoyed your beautiful posts with roses, peonies, and more! Here in the North Carolina mountains, we're a little bit behind. The first wave of Rhododendron are showing off in the most beautiful reds, pinks, and purple blossoms. Our hydrangea, peonies, and dahlias will soon follow!

In today's newsletter, I want to share a few EE Tips & Quips for arranging flowers. Let me confess, I'm not the most capable, nor am I nearly the most creative. Maybe that's why many of you may want to read further and even tune in to the video on [Instagram](#). The old adage applies...

If I can do it, you can too!

For those of you who have *Effortless Entertaining*, you will find more information in Step 6; *Setting the Tone* and Step 7; *Style ... Simple to Spectacular*, along with photos of table and flower arrangements throughout the book.



Tips & Quips



Beautiful table featured in [Peachy the Magazine](#).

My first T&Q: Find a photo of something you like and copy it! Seriously, there are so many talented people on social media such as [@franceschultz](#) and [@cathybgraham](#), two of my favorites, who post a lot of beautiful arrangements. While I love that you're part of the EE community, we can all learn so much from others too!

T&Q #2 Get organized. Gather a few supplies; Clippers, frogs, oasis, and anything else you like to use such as



floral tape, wire, etc. Organize these items in a storage container that is easily accessible. Organize your vases and other flower containers so they are also easily accessible.

T&Q #3 If you don't have a garden full of flowers, determine your best local sources. Many of our groceries carry a nice selection of flowers. I've found that our Trader Joe's is especially good and will also special order. You may want to find a local florist that will let you buy cut stems. It may be a little more pricey, but you'll find a greater variety.

T&Q #4 Find a "formula" that works for you. If you're super creative, throw caution to the wind and go for it. If you're like me, develop strategies that you know will work, will save time, and deliver great results.

So ... what are my strategies?

- Containers and vases that work well on my tables.
- Boxwood and hydrangea as my go-to base for most of my arrangements. I also love pittosporum and fern in the summer and magnolia in the winter.
- Add one to three other elements such as roses, tulips, peonies, dahlias, berries. etc.
- Bunch a single flower in a container in the center of the table or in multiple containers down the center of the table.



Arrangement by friend Donna Lawhon using our wonderful mountain flowers.

T&Q #5 Find a good friend or florist who will make it fabulous and completely ... *effortless!*

From our home to yours,

Dee Dee

Follow EE on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

Copy others!



*Follow [@franceschultz](#) and
do what she does!*



*Single flower in different
shapes and size vases on the
end of Hester Hodde's bar ...
simple, perfect!*

Get Organized!



Organize your tools

Vases and Containers



*Easily accessible simple
go-to containers*



*Perfect vase from Paysage for
an outdoor table*



Use your silver!



*Gorgeous glass vases
@abodehome without or
without flowers*

Abode Home Vases | available here

Flowers from find good sources!



Peonies from Trader Joe's

Develop Strategies



Boxwood – my favorite base



Single flowers – no arranging needed!

Find a friend or florist ... effortless!



*Centerpiece by friend
Nan Williams*



*Truly beyond my
simple skills!*

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*“I was so happy when you did this series with GiGi!
I’ve been going in her shop for some 20 plus years
now....wouldn’t miss it whenever we go to*

*Wrightsville. So fond of GiGi and the whole staff!
Love her variety of things and the way she presents
her merchandise!”*

FRANNIE

We want to hear from you!

Send us your stories and photos!

[Send us comments and photos!](#)



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