

SOUTHERN BOUQUETS

Melissa Bigner with Heather Barrie
Photography by Peter Frank Edwards

Today's Southerners celebrate their ingrained love of the land by welcoming fresh, homegrown flowers into their houses year-round. Step inside a Southern home and you'll find bountiful bouquets gracing both parlor corners of stately manors and the chipped-paint porches of shotgun shacks alike.

Southern Bouquets showcases these arrangements—large or small, humble or sophisticated—with sumptuous, inspiring photography in sometimes breathtaking, sometimes cozy, but always quintessential Southern settings. Want to re-create the simple and elegant looks yourself, no matter your zip code? Charleston, South Carolina locals Bigner and Barrie make it a breeze.

Browse these pages to see how a tabletop spread of perky daffodils can sweep out the winter doldrums; how floating a few camellia blossoms adds a touch of easy elegance in any setting; how zinnias are the no-brainer summertime flower for zesting up a party; and more. Flower tips, flower trivia, and Southern tales abound here.

So enjoy! Down-to-earth blooms (not a one came from a florist), down-to-earth arranging advice, and heavenly photos await. *Southern Bouquets* brings the simple goodness of Southern gardens to your bookshelf . . . and to your home.

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MELISSA BIGNER with HEATHER BARRIE
PHOTOGRAPHY by PETER FRANK EDWARDS

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BIGNER / BARRIE

"Melissa Bigner and Heather Barrie's gifts with flowers are simply magical. Their approach is easy, stylish and inviting. . . They have captured the pure joy that bouquets bring to our lives. I'll keep this book in my library for their inspiring ideas and as a reminder that simplicity is the best rule of design."

—P. Allen Smith,
author and host of *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* and *P. Allen Smith Gardens*

"Romantic, inspirational, and informative, *Southern Bouquets* captures the beauty and mystique of perennial favorites, while offering history and hands-on instruction. Kudos!"

—Darcy Shankland,
editor-in-chief of *Charleston*, *Charleston Home*,
and *Charleston Weddings* magazines

"I couldn't heap more praise upon this book if I owned a backhoe. . . *Southern Bouquets* gives guys like me—who were scared to hand their mothers a fistful of dandelions—the confidence to create timeless arrangements using classic Southern flowers gathered not from the florist, but from gardens, fields, old home sites, and even roadside ditches."

—Steve Bender,
Senior Editor, *Southern Living* magazine

ENTERTAINING / GARDENING

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FLORAL DESIGNER/STYLIST

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PHOTOGRAPHER

Peter Frank Edwards' photography has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Garden & Gun*, *Gourmet*, *Men's Journal*, and elsewhere. A Charleston local, former fish monger and sous chef, he lives amid his own minor camellia forest on James Island.



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DAFFODILS

COMMON NAMES AND TYPES: daffodil, jonquil, and paperwhite

COMMON BOTANICAL NAME: *Narcissus*, *N. jonquilla* and *N. tazetta*

PLANT TYPE: perennial (bulb)

FLOWER COLORS: bicolor, cream, orange, pale pink, white, and yellow

ORIGINS: Asia and Europe

IDEAL GROWING CONDITIONS: Full sun to partial shade; moist but well-drained soil. Let a month-and-a-half pass after blooming before you remove foliage to ensure growth the following year.

SIZE: 4 to 20 inches tall

ZONES: 3 to 9

BLOOMING TIME: late winter through spring

ARRANGING TIPS: Try not to get the sap on your skin, as it's an irritant. Cut stems on an angle to help them best drink water. Change water and trim stems daily, as the sap thwarts vase longevity.

VASE LIFE: Three to six days

MEANING: rebirth

TRIVIA: In the 1930s, one group of the Civilian Conservation Corps planted thousands of daffodil bulbs at Tennessee's Cades Cove in a pattern that spelled out the name of their company—the 5427th. Visit March to April to see their handiwork. Also in Tennessee, Franklin's Carton Plantation is home to a massive spread of pre-1869 daffodils. Cultivated as a tribute to the first blooming flowers that wounded Confederate soldiers recuperating there would have seen, the narcissus are as much a memorial to the past as are the 1,500 military headstones on the grounds. Elsewhere in the region, two of the biggest daffodil festivals in the South sprang from families that indulged their passions for the blooms. The Daniels of Camden, Arkansas, and their "backyard garden" brimming with some 1,200 varieties gave way to the annual Camden Festival; Gloucester, Virginia, couple Brent and Becky Heath's nursery, famed for heirloom daffs, is at the heart of the Gloucester Daffodil Festival. Further, Fremont, North Carolina, is known as "Daffodil Town," while the Lone Star State town of Round Rock calls itself the "Daffodil Capital of Texas."



