

The Plain and Practical

Year Five, Issue 47, November 2012

“Live simply, that others might simply live.” Elizabeth Seaton

What is Modest?

A friend and I were chatting online, and I had just done a search of a company’s “modest women’s patterns” and told her, anything with that many darts to hug a woman’s, er, circumference, didn’t seem modest to me. She commented that anything with a skirt above the knee wasn’t modest, to her. Some of my friends think going outside the house without a head covering is unthinkable (I’m in that group) while others think there should be ruffles and ribbons on aprons and dresses. Whether you use zippers or buttons or snaps or ties, if you are in the solids, small-prints, polka dots or plaids camp, what is modest is as individual a choice as each of us.

Plain communities often have an Ordnung, to spell out width of hat brims and type of suspenders, denier of hose and height of heel. This can be a blessing in that you know the number of pleats for the back of a cap, to the colors of fabric you need to purchase, and recycling snaps and buttons that remain the same, saves money. Plain Quakers have no ordnung, but when we gather together we tend to appear very similar to the Quaker who is from a different non-plain Meeting. We don’t coordinate this, it just is.

I have Jewish friends whose parents followed the “old way” and practiced a no-carry” principle for Shabbat, not even taking house keys or a wallet to their services. I think it interesting that many faiths bury the dead in a shroud with no pockets, and often in linen, almost always sewn up shut after washing, but in my Methodist upbringing, you were put into your best suit or dress for the occasion, right down to a favorite pin, your wedding bands, and dentures, and your eyeglasses usually folded in a hand crossed over your chest. As a kid I thought that was really weird, who sleeps with their teeth in? I grew up with old people in every room but mine, and they all kept their teeth in a soaking jar next to their beds at night. And that’s where you put your eyeglasses, too, right alongside the jar, next to the lamp and the flashlight.

While many folks think that we’re all so completely different in our practice of our faiths, I think we are a lot alike. Modest dress is like that. You can walk around ethnic parts of town and see women of many cultural backgrounds dressed in similar ways—long sleeves past the elbow, sweater or shawl, hair up or under a covering of some kind, dresses or skirts instead of pants, knees covered, minimal jewelry with maybe just a wedding band and a watch. The women you see at five a.m. at the farmer’s market are homemakers, not home wreckers; they are out to find good food for their family, because heaven knows some man has already recognized her as being good as gold and married her and given her a home to keep. “Tarts and floozies sleep in,” my grandmother told me, “because they stay up late drinking at the bar.” She’s right, because the old-fashioned, home-keeping women are the ones I see at the farm market.

Go to the Middle Eastern store in your Plain cap and modest clothing and you can easily strike up a conversation with a kind woman there, in her beautiful hijab and bright silky scarf, she’ll tell you all about how to use that advar paste in pasta dishes and show you the best stuffed grape leaves ingredients. She, and you, recognize each other as sisters, women who put husband and marriage and family and home-keeping first, willing to be at the market and finding fresh ingredients to make a delicious, healthy meal at low cost. Even when language was a barrier, I could point to something in the deli case, roll my eyes and say “mmmm!” and be led to the back, through kitchen workstations, directly to the little wizened old woman who obviously made the wonderful tabbouli, an explanation would be quickly spoken, the old woman smiles and lets you give her a big hug and a smile, and doesn’t something like that make the world a very small place? Our values come from different sources, but we value kindness and modesty around the world.

Is Modesty just related to your clothes? When you see someone a little drunk and a lot loud in a restaurant, take a peek—bet they aren’t dressed like “little house on the prairie.” That person at the park that lets fly with a word you’d rather not hear, she’s in short-shorts with exposed cleavage and flip flops, probably. The woman who is standing in line complaining loudly into her cell phone about some third party, always seems to have a couple of tattoos showing and long, painted nails. (see page 3)

The Hibbards Have Hubbards

There once was a woman quite thrifty
She’d turn on the oven to three-fifty
On cold dark days
She had a nice way
Of making her home smell quite nifty.

Though the Hibbards like Hubbards the best,
Squeezing more in is always a test
There’s pumpkins and butternuts both
Under the bed in flat totes
And all the cupboards are well-blessed.

She’d take out her sharpest knife
And with a deft motion she’d slice
And with a good laugh
A squash would be half’d
And then she would start the brown rice.

“Tis the simple dishes,” she’d say
Good to hold your hunger at bay,
“Whether with lentils or beans,
Or turnips and greens,
You can have a homegrown buffet.”

... just in case you accidentally wander into a voting booth one day, there are some things you should know, and one of them is that there is absolutely no evidence to support the statement that we’re the greatest country in the world. We’re seventh in literacy, twenty-seventh in math, twenty-second in science, forty-ninth in life expectancy, 178th in infant mortality, third in median household income, number four in labor force, and number four in exports. We lead the world in only three categories: number of incarcerated citizens per capita, number of adults who believe angels are real, and defense spending, where we spend more than the next twenty-six countries combined, twenty-five of whom are allies.

Jeff Daniels, opening scene,
The Newsroom, 2012

We used to root for the Indians against the cavalry, because we didn’t think it was fair in the history books that when the cavalry won it was a great victory, and when the Indians won it was a massacre.

Dick Gregory

The High Cost of College—and other interesting salaries

The Chronicle of Higher Education has released a list of the highest paid public college presidents (U.S.) and I thought it was interesting, in a time when tuition costs are rising above what families can pay without borrowing tens of thousands of dollars. What do you think of these yearly salary/compensation packages?

E. Gordon Gee, President, Ohio State University	\$1,992,221
Michael D. McKinney, Texas A&M	\$1,966,347
Graham B. Spanier, Pennsylvania State University	\$1,068,763
Lee T. Todd, Jr., University of Kentucky	\$872,106
Mary Sue Coleman, University of Michigan	\$845,105
Kent R. Hance, Texas Tech University	\$757,740
Francisco G. Cigarroa, University of Texas	\$751,680
Robert H. Bruininks, University of Minnesota	\$747,955
John C. Hitt, University of Central Florida	\$741,500
Charles W. Steger, Virginia Tech	\$738,603

Keep in mind that Barack Obama’s salary to run the whole country was \$395,188; John Seffrin, the CEO of the American Cancer Society, earned over \$2 million dollars. Thomas Nelson, president of the AARP, was paid \$1,176,614. Harry Johns, president of the Alzheimer’s Association, \$966,342.

November, 2012

Eleventh Month

S	M	T	W	TH	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

Presidential and local elections: 6th

Veteran’s Day: 11th

Thanksgiving: 22nd

Full Beaver Moon: 28th

Remember: From Thanksgiving to Christmas Eve, there are only four weeks; start holiday planning early this year.

Wholesome Rhyming Words—can you find and circle all the words that rhyme with one of these? —Love—Peace—Joy—Heaven—Light—Pray—Star

S E V E N G Y E B O Y
 N E V A E L E V E N O
 I O P E V O D Y A N T
 G Y A R T V P I E C E
 H E K I T E V O B A Y
 T H G I R B Y A H R R
 R R A C S I G H T A R
 E C I E N R A J F C R

Dove
 Glove
 Above Kite
 Piece Tray
 Niece Obey
 Poi Nay
 Boy Bay
 Toy Hay
 Seven Hey
 Leaven Tar
 Eleven Car
 Bright Far
 Sight Jar
 Night

The Coming of The Snows—Reasons to Stock Up

My friends in Denver, Colorado, and up in Traverse City, Michigan, and up in Canada, have already been driving in snow a couple of times. Down here in central Ohio, we had our first freeze last night (October 11). It won't be long until winter spreads larger and wider and swallows us up along with northern neighbors.

What kind of winter will we have? Whatever God gives us, of course, but it's human nature to prepare and want to have enough firewood, lamp oil, hay, blankets, steps-salt and other needs set aside for those times when you can't get out, or grow more for the moment.

The Farmer's Almanac's online page has this quote:

“For the coming season, we're predicting that winter will return to some – but not all – areas. We think it will be a winter of contraries, as if Old Man Winter were cutting the country in half. The eastern half of the country will see plenty of cold and snow. The western half will experience relatively warm and dry conditions.”

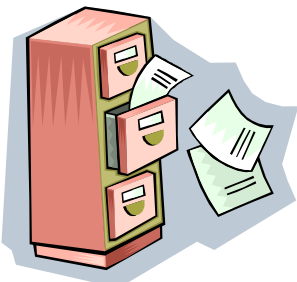
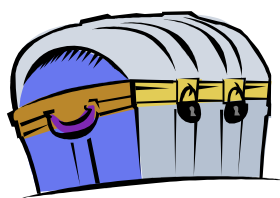
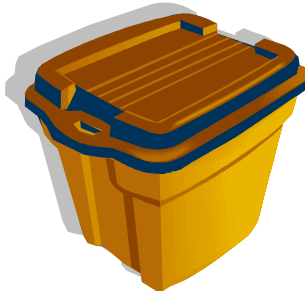
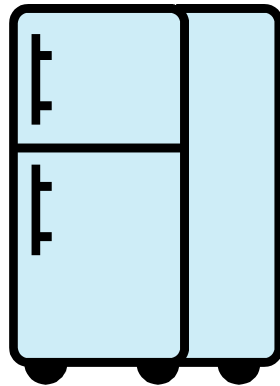
Several sources predict record heating bills, whether you imbibe in fuel oil or natural gas, so if you need one of those, set aside extra funds and combine that action with using less heat however you can manage.

According to The World Bank, the exceptional drought in the U.S. has caused prices to rise across all non-rice grains: wheat, corn, and soybeans. Wheat prices in many parts of the world are up over 50%, corn up 45%, and soybeans up 30% (all since the beginning of June, 2012).

Now, you might think, that's okay, I can live without corn and soybeans. However, those products directly influence the price of meat and eggs, as well as many cooking products—vegetable oil, cereals, cheeses, and milk and butter.

You need only to look to foreign sources of news to see that there were food riots in North Africa and the Middle East this year; NPR news (Oct. 2 2012) gave coverage of findings from the New England Complex Systems Institute in Cambridge, Mass., which has developed a mathematical model to predict waves of food riots. With international wheat at \$9. a bushel, and corn at \$7.56, this research group is predicting a third wave of rioting, larger than the Arab Spring event.

American taxpayers once footed the bill for storage of “a year's worth of grains” (that was disputed as too much, or not enough, depending on which side of the argument you sat on) in silos and warehouses, to protect prices and availability should there be a lasting drought or national disaster. There was waste, and control issues—as with all storage—but despite the problems, it was there as a backup. Those stores are now gone; a “just in time” inventory system means grocery stores have only a 3-day supply (remember the Washington, D.C. stores that ran out of food in 2010, and again in 2011). What you have in your pantry is cheaper now than it will be later, and when there's bad weather or gasoline supply problems, it will be all you have.



Hidden Places and Filing Cabinet Superiority

I recently visited a 1920s cottage-style house in northern Ohio, and a friend and I went room to room admiring all the little cupboards and storage spaces. Some builder with a strong sense of cabinetry and space-saving, had done an excellent job of finding a place to tuck in a cabinet just about everywhere.

The kitchen cabinets went all the way to the ceiling, no wasteful dust-catching shelf up there. Between studs in the walls in the bathroom, there were narrow shelves for toiletries, a built in cupboard for towels and linens, a drop chute for dirty laundry to fall to the basement into a hamper and not take up space in the bathroom.

Other friends have dandy cupboards above the steps to the basement, for storing the seasonal decorations, some have racks on the back of doors to hold shoes. Those hanging plastic loops for holding shoes, does a nice job holding hats and scarves and house-slippers in the hall closet.

I've always wanted a “captain's bed” with drawers and cupboards underneath it, figuring that's 2' x 6' x 5' of storage (60 cubic feet), for zip-locked bags of grains and beans, jugs of syrups and molasses. Some folks hang up their blankets and bedding in the closet, and use the trunk at the foot of the bed for bags of rice and bottles of vinegar, instead.

Food storage does best if it is cool and dark, some folks will even put quart jars in a brown paper lunch sack, or lay a bit of dark fabric over rows of canning jars on a shelf, if they are where sunshine can reach. Big tin potato chip buckets are hot property in places that have mice, because it's the only container they can't get into, I've even seen big five-gallon plastic buckets that rats have gnawed their way through.

One friend has those heavy-duty plastic bags that you attach your vacuum to, and suck all the extra air out, and let me tell you, seeing a down comforter or sleeping bag after that's been done, brings to mind beef jerky or the packages of seaweed in the Asian grocery!

But the best kind of storage “container” that is sturdy, and can be found at all sorts of secondhand venues, is the file cabinet. Metal, or wood with metal runners, these are made to hold heavy papers, and I regularly see them for as little as \$5 and \$10. Sometimes they even have locks (you can order new keys from the locksmith). It's simple to organize supplies in these—bottom drawer, lamps, fuel, candles, weather radio, matches; next drawer up, syrups and oils and wax. Drawers can be designated for grains, or beans, or spices. I bet you could get a three-day supply of everything in one four-drawer cabinet, and include a bathtub bladder to fill at first sign of an emergency, and don't forget the first aid kit. Attach the whole cabinet to a dolly and it can leave with you in a hurry. It fits through any doorway and a single person can get it down the steps; a simple winch would help you get it into the back of a van or pickup, even by yourself.

Ways to Recycle an old drawer

- hang on the wall in the kitchen, it will hold jars of spices
- hang on the wall in the bathroom, for small jars of toiletries
- use it under a seat in your vehicle, to hold the first aid kit and other Timely items—spare folding umbrella, trash bags, gloves, etc.
- line it with a pretty placemat and set it in the middle of a table, as a “bowl” catch-all for mail, keys, and pocket contents
- use a small drawer as a divider or container inside a trunk or in a larger cupboard, to help organize and keep items separate
- add a wood cover and leather hinges, and it’s a case for valuable papers
- hinge two drawers together, line them, and it’s a dandy display case to Stand up on the table at the craft show or market
- put matches and lighters and other “dangerous” things into a drawer and then up on a high shelf, to keep them away from children
- they make dandy trays for organizing your seed packets
- Use as a heavy-duty tray to carry jars and cans up and down the steps
- stack from largest to smallest, kitty-corner, to create a side table (just turn the top one upside down, for a surface). Fill them up, too!

Modesty, continued

So I go around and around, balancing that problem I have with judging people, against what I choose for myself. Yes, I try to be friendly to everyone, whether it’s a scary-looking biker dude on the highway that I help get their motorcycle up into my truck and take them to a gas station, or the woman wearing clothing that bespeaks of another religious tradition. I work hard at not being any less friendly to the crackhead asking for money in downtown Detroit when we lived there, as I am to the hard-working vendor at a market or show. But I know I don’t have a “poker face,” what I feel invariably shows on my countenance, in my body language, in my voice, try as I might to see everyone as an equal child of God.

There’s no denying, I like to gravitate over to the older women at a gathering, I like to sit with my knitting or sewing in a hotel lobby and wait for a likeminded soul to bring their coffee and sit with me. I make eye contact in thrift stores with women who have a cart full of sheets and curtains like my own, and ask, “Do you use your stuff for sewing, too?” and have made friends that way. We all want to be with our own kind, we want to be with folks who believe as we believe, look the way we look, dress like us, eat like us, live like us, pray like us.

It is a good exercise to sit with a girl-child and say, what is Modesty all about? I am thinking now of the woman with the long skirt that stood in front of a backlit podium during a reading at church and everyone could see through the fabric, oh my. Or the Renaissance Center in Detroit, which has open escalators and stairs all over the place, and these—and the open cutouts on the floors—all have clear plastic or glass sides, so as women are going up and down, men are below . . . Beware of those situations or your long full skirt won’t do the job you ask of it. I always wore bloomers when I had to go there.

We’ve all seen “what cannot be unseen” when there’s been somebody’s skirt caught up in their waistband, or a man’s zipper fly left down after a restroom visit, all you can do is quietly lean in and suggest a wardrobe adjustment. (If a man has his zipper down, I ask husband to go mention it). Sometimes a woman’s blouse can pop a button, shoes can trail toilet paper from the floor of the restroom, and I’ll never forget when I found a sock hanging half way down out of a wool jersey knit skirt while I was leaving a restaurant, static electricity doing its share to make me turn red as a hot pepper knowing it had been like that for hours.

Modesty isn’t just your clothes, it’s how you stand and wear them, if they are fastened, if they fit. It’s your voice and your words, your actions as a Christian. Modesty is just as much about a kind smile, as a long dress; just as much about breaking bread with others, as donning a cap.

Like most things in life, with Modesty you just do the best you can do, take advice when it’s offered, and pray for some guidance from Above—to help you discern for yourself what pleases the Lord. And it doesn’t hurt to check a mirror as you go out the door.

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
1 Timothy 2: 9-10

“The aged women likewise that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children” Titus 2: 3-4

This Month’s Crazy Idea

So, I’m watching my gas and electric bill go up and up, while I’m wearing slippers and a sweater over a turtleneck and it’s just October. My electric bill always goes up when the days get shorter outside than my days are inside; when you wake three hours before first light and are up three hours after sunset, you either have lights and lamps or bump into things in painful ways.

So I was thinking, in addition to all the exploration of new energy sources and scientific tinkering with solar, better light bulbs (another rant there) and low-flush toilets, **I’d like to suggest that about 10% of our national budget for energy alternatives be spent on learning and teaching how NOT to waste energy in the first place.** Less packaging. More buses and trains for people and mail and packages instead of planes. Free classes to teach people how to weatherproof trouble spots in their homes. Smaller schools located in neighborhoods, eliminating bus transportation, up to the sixth grade. Teach children the philosophy of using and wasting less, so we grow a generation of concerned ecologists, and incorporate it into science, health, and literature classes for all ages. Pull licenses of companies that produce “timed obsolescence products” and give awards to those who make sturdy, long-lasting, repairable items.

A Monster Hiding in the Hibbard’s House

There’s a monster hiding at the Hibbard House
This I know, and must warn you
For I have seen their burdened clothesline,
And what I see makes me very confused.

There’s a critter, he must live in the basement
And he has the legs of a centipede
For there’s usually thirty-five pairs of socks
And there’s only she, and he.

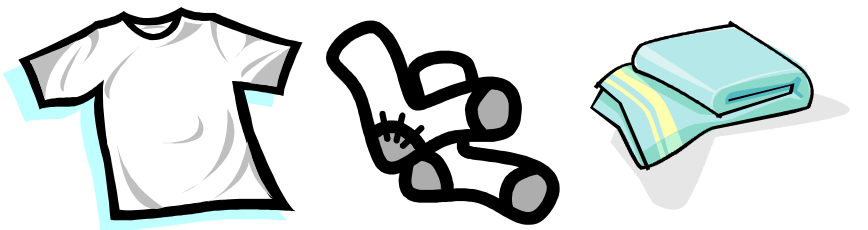
Or maybe the monster is in the attic,
With cobwebs all through his hair
For come washday Valerie’s hanging
Every towel she has, out there.

Or he lives under the kitchen sink cupboard
And drools all over dish cloths
Because for a woman who uses a dishwasher
See seems to wash those quite a lot.

Whoever the monster may be,
A sense of humor has he,
For all of the husband’s shirts
Have been stained by mustard squirts.

Should I knock on their door, and tell them?
Do you think they don’t already know—
That there is a monster living in their house
And he is dirtying all those clothes?

Valerie Hibbard



Editor's notes

Owners: Craig and Valerie Hibbard. Expenses covered by Editors. Ads selected by Editors and given freely, and we reserve the right to refuse any ads. Email comments to valerie@plainandpractical.com, or mail to: 216 S. Plum Street, Marysville, OH 43040. We’d like to hear your comments. You may read PNP free on the web at www.plainandpractical.com, or order print copies by writing or emailing the editors. Valerie sells her things on Etsy, at www.apronsrecycled@etsy.com, and has a blog for diary entries, at www.plainandpractical.typepad.com

A Few Plain and Practical Resources for Self-Sufficiency

Need something for the Home, or Clothing?

- Lehmans, 877-438-5346, or write for a catalog, 289 N. Kurzen Rd., Dalton, OH 44618.
- Healthy natural soaps and salves, Cindy High, 905 Egeler Lane, Dexter, MI 48130
- Gohn Brothers, Box 1110, Middlebury, Indiana 46540-1110, toll free number 1-800-595-0031. All sewing done by local seamstresses to your measurements, at very reasonable prices for good quality.
- Prayer caps, Plain and Simple Head coverings, Bayley Thompson, P. O. Box 185, Bagdad, KY 40003.
- Aprons, Dresses and Coverings, Mennonite Maidens, <http://www.mennonitemaiden.com>, or orders by phone, 703-622-3018 or 304-492-5590. Wide variety of all offerings, reasonable prices.
- GVS, clothing for the entire family, baby supplies, toys, stationary, sewing supplies—many hard to find items. Highway 5, Versailles, MO 65084.
- Sisterthreads is a group of three Christian women who sew together in the daughter's house amongst her four children, one of which is special-needs. Although they focus on quilts, they also do a variety of purses and organizers for knitting needles, crochet hooks and other sewing items. By mail: Sister Threads, P. O. Box 91, Herrietta, MI, 49638, or telephone, 231-389-0253.

Need something wholesome to read?

- The Budget, a Mennonite rural newspaper, P. O. Box 249, 134 N. Factory Street, Sugarcreek, OH, 44681. Several editions, so ask for information, 330-852-4634.
- Keepers At Home magazine (Plain homemakers) \$13 year/4 issues. 2673 Township Road 421, Sugarcreek, OH 44681
- Quaker Hill Farm, children's books, P. O. Box 10, Harrisville, MI 48742 (recently featured on Animal Planet!) Quaker Anne has all kinds of good things made from her farm, web site is www.quakeranne.com
- An Encouraging Word, P. O. Box 374, Covert, MI, 49043, \$20/year includes yours and one gift subscription.
- Plain Interests newspaper (Plain lifestyle), 420 Weaver Road, Millersburg, PA, 17061. Monthly, \$16 yearly.
- Young Companion, Pathway Publishers, 2580N=250W, LaGrange, IN 46761, scripture-rich moral stories for young people, many are reader-contributed. They also produce Family Life, as well as Blackboard Bulletin, and I recommend all three as suitable literature to leave around where you find yourself spending a few moments in the day, they are uplifting, spiritual, and helpful. \$23 annually for all.
- Pendle Hill, 338 Plush Mill Road, Wallingford, PA 19086. Quaker literature resource.

Want to stop and get bulk food on your next trip?

- Clintonville Community Market, 200 Crestview Road, Columbus, Ohio, 43202, 614-261-3663
- Yutzy's Bulk Foods, 614-873-3815, 6010 Converse Huff Road, Plain City, Ohio 43064
- Countryside Bulk Foods, 4230 West Pike, Zanesville, OH 43701, telephone 740-450-1595
- Bulk Food Depot, 5457 Radford Road, Athens, OH 45701, 740-594-5053.
- Apple Hill Ltd., 8690 Vermilion Road, Amherst, OH 44001-9475. Telephone 440-965-7077
- Coon's Candies, 16451 County Highway 113, Harpster, OH 43323, telephone 740-496-4141
- American Harvest 51323 County Road 16, Coshocton, OH 43812, 740-622-2855
- Swiss Village 309 S. Broadway St., Sugarcreek, OH 44681, telephone 330-852-2896

Need supplies for Making it yourself?

- handspun yarns for knitting, soy candles, black walnuts for dyeing: Beverly Thorne, 1941 S. Camp Ten Road, Elmira, MI 49730.
- Leather: Scrap Leather, lacing, and hides, all American leather, Real Leather People, P. O. Box 251, Sonora, KY 42776 or 270-369-8880 or sales@realleatherpeople.com
- Make your own brooms—Broomcorn and supplies at R.E. Caddy, Box 14634, Greensboro, N.C. 27415, 336-273-3609.
- Sewing Supplies, Home-Sew Inc., P. O. Box 4099, Bethlehem, PA. 18018-0099, 1-800-344-4739, homesew.com.
- Linen and wool fabrics, 1-888-546-3654, FabricsStore.Com, 6325 Santa Monica Blvd., Suite #102, Hollywood CA 90038
- Countryroad Fabrics and Gifts, 2195 N 700W Shipshewana, Indiana, 46565, good resource for fabrics, snaps, prayer caps, and more.
- Knit Picks, P. O. Box 870760, Vancouver, WA 98687, 1-800-574-1323. Fine quality wool and wool blend yarns—their natural color, dye your own selections are especially well priced. Many sock yarns, patterns, and superior quality needles. Online also.
- Raw Wool for Spinning at \$2-4 pound, also well priced natural roving, and shepherd's supplies, Mid-States Wool Growers Co-op, 9449 Basil Western Road, Canal Winchester, OH, 43110-9278, 614-837-9665, call for hours and directions.
- Wm. Booth, Draper. 18th century reenactment supplies, I get my linen thread, horn thimbles, and other well-made, old fashioned items from this resource, 2115 Ramada Drive, Racine, WI. 53406, or <http://wmboothdraper.com>, or 815-648-9048.
- Discount fabric, Guhl's, 710 E. Main Street, Jackson, Ohio, cash only, closed Sundays.

Self-Sufficiency and Preparation Supplies

- Bathtub liner for 100 gal. water storage—Water Bob, from Way Safe Florida, Inc, 14175 Icot Blvd, Suite 100, Clearwater, FL 33760 1-800-966-8044, approximately \$25. Available on Ebay as well.
- Seeds to store, \$55 for small garden, non-hybrid—Baker Creek Seeds, 2278 Baker Creek Rd., Mansfield, MO 65704.
- Archery supplies—Obsession Archery, 8289 Burden Rd. Machesney Park, IL 61115, 815-877-1212
- First aid supplies—a number of professional-level kits from \$71 to \$415, First Aid Supplies Online, 1-800-874-8767

Honey and Honey Products: Honeyrun Farm, 9642 Randle Road, Williamsport, Ohio. 43164, 740-225-2462. Candles of the rolled beeswax as well as poured, beeswax in all amounts for sewing and crafting, honey straws, honey and combs.

Smart Scrappy Little Organizers

Most of us at one time or another have had to fuss with a jar of crochet hooks, a handful of small tools in a jumble-box, a tangle of thread in a drawer, or shoved loose travel items into a suitcase to be well-tangled when the destination is reached. My advice is that you make two—one for you and one for a friend. Use tin lunchboxes, old suitcases or briefcases, denim pants, and scraps you have left over from other projects.

