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Enjoy Your Back Yard!

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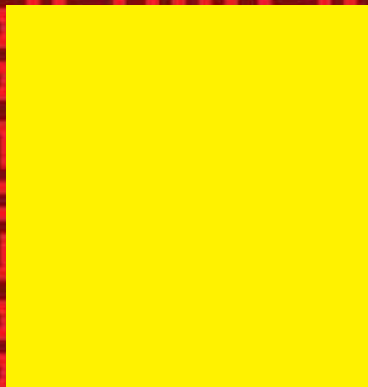
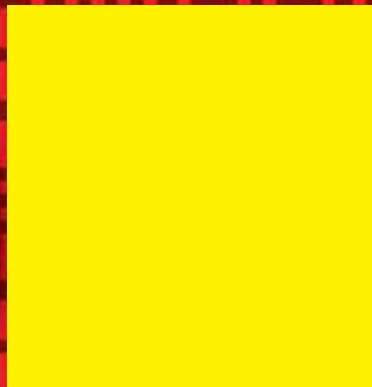
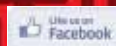
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about the cover



Pictured on our spring cover is Lulu Gorelick, daughter of Rael and Gabi Gorelick, in a yard treated by The Mosquito Authority. See related story page 10. Photo by Rick Haithcox, cover design by David James.

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SPLAWN
AMPLIFICATION



Catching Up With Taylor Smith At

The Southampton Racquet & Swim Club

By David Hamrick

GA!: Taylor, congrats to you and Elke on your success at Southampton! I'm sure it has taken a lot of hard work...

Taylor: Thank you! There has been a lot of blood, sweat and tears put into the club, but in only 3 short years the club has come so far! From improved programs for both tennis and swimming, to a complete face lift on the entire club grounds, it's basically a whole new club. As projects settle down we can start to focus on the member experience and all the little things that make being a member of a club like Southampton so special.

GA!: What has been the best or most surprising part of your journey at Southampton?

Taylor: The people, for sure. From our amazing staff to all of our special and unique members, they represent such a bright reflection of our local community. With neither my wife Elke nor myself being from the area, there was certainly a bit of culture shock when we first arrived, but getting to know all the great people in this area has truly been a blessing.



GA!: Swim season is coming up-tell us when the pool opens and about swim team availability, etc.?

Taylor: We can't wait. That first warm spell and we're ready to jump in the



water, but the pool officially opens on May 18th! Just a week later and swim team kicks into gear with practices and meets. The swim team is a special summer experience that every kid should have the opportunity to experience. We have over 100 kids on the team and more are always welcome...

GA: You have a recently refurbished gym downstairs?

Taylor: We do! and it's a great bonus to membership. With a full array of cardio and strength equipment it covers all the bases when it comes to your fitness. We even have a super star personal trainer Brian Shears if you're looking to take it to the next level.



GA!: Obviously you guys are known statewide for your tennis programs, and the fact that Elke was a top 50 ranked player..tell us about some successes with that program...

Taylor: Southampton has always been known for our adult programs and league tennis. If you're serious about the game, you should consider Southampton. But we have also focused on the kids and have clinics, lessons and camps year round to develop the next crop of tennis enthusiasts. The summer camps are a great way to introduce the young ones to the game. Elke is also coaching high school and took the girls team to runner up in state last year!

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THE MOSQUITO AUTHORITY

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By David Hamrick

GA!: Fellas, you guys have a very family focused image-tell us about the families involved in your company...

Ryan: Being married and having 4 kids, I wake up every morning with family on my mind. I have to - because my 4 year old is usually jumping on my head. This service has allowed us to enjoy family time in our yard all summer and all day long. We don't have to run into the house at dusk because a mosquito just carried my youngest child away.

BJ: I'm also married and my wife is a teacher. My wife enjoys our pool during summer months now more than ever due to our service. She is enjoying that peaceful time while I'm out helping our customers. That must be nice.



The BJ Bacha & Ryan Hahn families.

GA!: When is "mosquito season"?

Ryan: While there is no definite start and stop time, mosquito season typically runs from April-October. However, we have started as early as the beginning of March and sprayed as late as Thanksgiving.

GA! How did you get into this business?

BJ: I'll take this one. Ryan called me one afternoon and asked me if I like mosquitoes. I laughed and asked him if he was serious. He then asked what I thought about eliminating mosquitoes in my yard. I laughed again and said, "yeah right." He then told me about a franchise that was available in our area that would help people get rid of their mosquitoes. Although I was skeptical, I told him I was in. The rest is history.



GA!: You guys seem like a savvy business people that put your values first- but why the mosquito business?

Ryan: I guess to us it's really about customer service. It's customer service first, and then mosquito control second. Our business would not grow the way it has without happy customers. We go above and beyond to ensure that they are happy.

BJ: Yes... and we also really dislike mosquitoes.

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GA!: What is the number one best thing about The Mosquito Authority?

BJ: Like Ryan said, our customer service and our relationships with our customers. I enjoy meeting new people and truly helping them take back their yard. I look forward to feedback at the end of the season and hearing how much different this summer was with our service than last summer without.

GA!: We assume you have competitors-how are you different?

BJ: I think there may be one or two out there. To be honest, we don't spend a lot of time worrying what the other companies are doing. There just isn't enough time in the day for that. Our focus is primarily on our customers and figuring out how we can do our job better, more effectively, more efficiently and how we can continue to grow our business.

GA!: Is your treatment safe for pets and plants?

Ryan: The treatment is a commercial grade pesticide. As with any pesticide, there are always precautions. Before we got into this business, we did some research on the products that we were going to be using. In a nutshell, the product that we use is similar to the ingredients that you find in flea and tick shampoo for dogs. We have a lot of happy pet owners that don't have to worry about heartworms for their dogs. We advise our customers to keep their pets in for 30 minutes after we spray just to be safe.



GA!: Do you offer other products or services?

BJ: We do. Our barrier spray treatment is our bread and butter but we offer misting systems- installation and upkeep. We also offer fire ant control. We don't want to get too far away from the goal and that is mosquito control. That is what we love and that is what we do. We also offer Organic alternatives to our barrier spray treatment.

"After lots of research, I tried Mosquito Authority and it was heaven. We go outside play anytime of day/night and no mosquitoes and no worries about West Nile Virus. My kids can catch fireflies and do not need to be sprayed with repellent and are not covered in itchy bites".

—Kristy Jenkins



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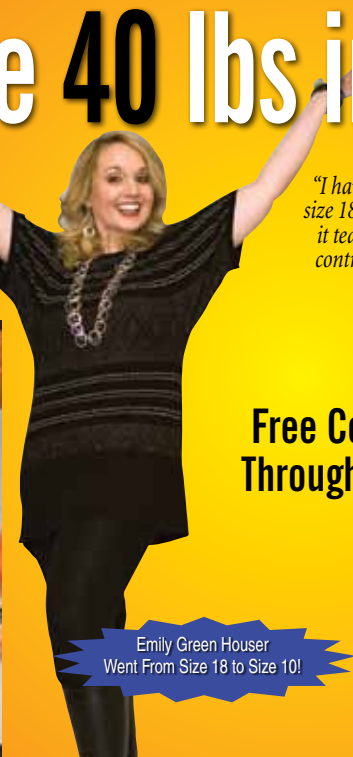


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A Road Less Taken



This month I want to tell you about a food adventure I took in March. I traveled to Sonoma County and the surrounding area. In addition to enjoying great wines, we spent a day travelling to an area I had not visited in my previous trips to Northern California Point Reyes. This trip was an amazing drive through the lush farm country of California. To my surprise we discovered several Cheese Factories (think Pt. Reyes Blue) and a range of delicious cheeses many of which we find here locally.

Purchasing some fresh baked bread and triple cream brie, we hoped to enjoy a French lunch later in the day. Continuing on, we ended up at Pt. Reyes Lighthouse watching grey whales, sea lions, a bobcat, deer and a plethora of birds (but that's for later in the story).

Travelling back from Pt. Reyes Station, up the eastern side of Tomales Bay we came to Hog Island Oyster Co. It didn't look like much but on a lark we checked it out. This turned out to be the best choice of the day! Beyond the oyster processing area where they were sorting, cleaning and bagging oysters to ship worldwide, there was a small stand serving the freshest oysters I have ever eaten.

Grabbing a dozen on the ½ shell and an order of four barbecued, we popped a bottle of sparkling J Rose. The sun in our faces, sitting at a rustic table right on the bay, we slurped oysters and quaffed bubbly. All I can say is wow what a great way to spend an afternoon. Two dozen ½ shelled fresh Hog Island oysters and another dozen barbecue later the J was done and we were ready to travel again. Finishing the day driving through Bodega Bay, made famous by Alfred Hitchcock and Tippi Hedren in 'The Birds', we looked at many of the movie locations. Luckily for us, the avian population was very well behaved and it was a great finish to a beautiful day.

I wanted to re-create those delicious grilled garlic chipotle oysters, so getting a couple of dozen gulf oysters locally we mixed up a batch based on the recipe from <http://hogislandoysters.com/node/206>. What I found out is the fresh oysters are moister so the recipe needed to be modified a bit.



*1/2 lb (two sticks) unsalted butter softened to room temp
1/4 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup bourbon
1/2 cup of white wine
1/2 cup minced garlic
Half of (10 oz) can of chipotle chilies in adobo sauce, chopped*

Mix all ingredients and refrigerate, shuck your oysters and get the grill hot. Place oysters on the half shell with a spoonful of the chilled butter mixture on top. Cook till the butter melts and bubbles around the oyster. Be sure to have some crusty bread handy to sop up all the great juice.



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Jodi Kines –Jodi has a degree in Interior Design from Winthrop University, and is the owner of Plan-It Design, LLC in Belmont, N.C. Contact Jodi jodi@planitdesign.us



The Home Stylist

By Jodi Kines

With Spring officially upon us, and warm weather just around the corner, many of my clients are asking how to bring a splash of spring indoors, how to spruce up their spaces by infusing a little (or a lot of!) color!

For Big Impact

First, consider your color scheme. For the most impact, choose a complimentary color scheme for your space. Complimentary colors are opposites on the color wheel, such as blue and orange or purple and yellow. Complimentary combinations often have an electrifying effect on the space. Using colors that are direct opposites on the color wheel intensifies their impact; the two colors play off each other to create a dynamic and vibrant look. The key to a successful complimentary color scheme - one that pops without feeling overwhelming - is the careful proportions given to each color. Choose one color to dominate and a second to support; a third color (typically a neutral) can often be used as an accent. For instance, if you have a room that is heavy with warm golden-yellow tones (on the walls for instance), you would want to accent the space with cool blue-grey tones mixed with neutrals.

When it comes to implementing your color scheme, obviously, paint can make a HUGE impact on space! For an update that's not too permanent, try bathing one wall in an accent color and leaving the adjacent walls neutral. In the family room, this focal wall is usually the fireplace and/or tv wall while in the bedroom it's often best to focus on the wall with the headboard. This can be a great way to accent one focal point in a room as well as infuse the space with a bold new look. Similarly, don't be afraid of wall covering! Wall papers are making a huge come back on the design scene and many of the patterns are delicious bold graphics that make a statement in any space.

Even if you prefer to keep your walls neutral, paint can still be your key to color infusion in your space. Consider painting existing furniture (or fabulous thrift store finds) with a fresh color. Adding an emerald green or turquoise blue to an existing chest of drawers, end tables or a coffee table can make them stand out against a neutral background of softer wall and fabric colors in the room.



While paint is a wonderful and economical way to add some vibrancy to a space, soft furnishings like upholstered furniture, window treatments and rugs are another way to add interest by layering a space with color and pattern. To perk up a tired family room, bring in a new upholstered ottoman in a bright, bold print and accent with new window treatments in solid, complimenting color. To add interest to a muted



bedroom, add a side chair or bench upholstered in rich, vibrant tones or bring in a fresh, bright area rug in a colorful, bold pattern to anchor the room with color and interest. Don't be afraid to select

a bold piece and decorate around it, using the colors and patterns within it as inspiration for your space.

For a More Subtle Approach

Again, start by considering your color scheme. While higher-contrast, complimentary color schemes make a bold impact, analogous color schemes use colors that are next to each other on the color wheel and can be a more subtle way to infuse color and interest into your space. Analogous color schemes are often found in nature, are harmonious, and pleasing to the eye (often a combination of warm tones – reds, oranges, pinks or all cool tones – blues, greens, violets). One key to a successful analogous color scheme is ensuring you have enough contrast (mixing rich royal blues with pale turquoise or deep emerald greens with softer, sky blues).

Even for a more subtle impact, paint is a fabulous way to add a splash of color to your space! Grab a can of vivid spray paint and liven up existing accessories or new found treasures from local thrift stores. Adding a bright blue or green to a set of photo frames, vases, candlesticks or even a lamp can give a room a new pop of color and interest. Imagine a pale blue wall covered in a photo collage of silver-leafed frames being transformed by simply spray-painting those same frames in a bold turquoise or emerald green. It instantly revitalizes the space & creates a dynamic contrast. Now, simply carry that same color scheme around the room by adding a few accent pillows or a soft throw in similar bold colors. Don't be afraid to mix and match patterns and textures for a finished, layered effect.

For a simple spruce up for your bathroom, just grab a few bright, bold towels (I love to look for odd ones that have no mate and are often found on the clearance aisle at local home décor stores); roll them up and display them in a wooden crate to liven up the space with an effortless, casual feeling.

The kitchen may be the quickest, most cost-effective place of all to add an invigorating pop of color. Simply place a bowl of fresh fruit on the table or the countertop. The key to really making this idea pop is to use a bowl (ideally, clear glass or white ceramic for the best contrast) of the same fruits – all lemons, all limes or all granny smith apples for some fresh, vibrant punches of yellow or green tones.



Think Color! to give your home a fresh spring feeling. A color scheme of complimentary or analogous colors using paint or accessories, even with a small amount of effort, can create a large impact. You will enjoy spring indoors as well as outside!



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Spordayr Amplification





Listen closely and you'll hear the quiet streets of Dallas, North Carolina punctuated with the searing riffs of rock guitar any day of the business week. No, Dokken or Van Halen aren't rehearsing for their latest tour nor has George Lynch taken up residence in Dallas. The sound you hear will be Scott Splawn test driving one of his latest creations.

Splawn Amplification was born in 1996 from Scott's desire to have a guitar amplifier that would produce the tones he admired coming from the likes of artist such as George Lynch, Warren DeMartini and Eddie Van Halen. A self-confessed guitar geek from the age of 12, Scott was simply not satisfied with the sounds available from existing gear. He took up the challenge and the first eight years of his business and tonal quest involved modifying amps currently available on the market. As a gigging guitarist, Scott was able to test his mods on the stage and then tweak those sounds to perfection. The natural progression of this quest eventually involved manufacturing an amplifier of his design in-house, beginning in 2004, with locally available materials and suppliers.

Splawn currently offers seven unique models of amplifiers and eight different configurations of speaker cabinets. What sets these amps and cabs apart from the competition, in addition to their signature tone, is the ability of the customer to spec a multitude of custom options. A true custom shop, Splawn has recently introduced a line of Super Strat inspired guitars made right here in Gaston County.



Assisting Scott in his musical endeavor is a staff of like-minded musicians who are equally talented in their own specialties. Brian 'Tree' Smith handles all of the raw fabrication duties of the amp chassis, speaker cabinets and guitars. Brian Eisinger meticulously covers the amp head shells and speaker cabinets in a dizzyingly array of custom tolex colors and patterns. Mike Qualls is responsible for assembly of the raw amplifier components and shipping duties of all of the finished products. The crew is rounded out with Dal Haynes who is on the road with artist relation duties.

Splawn Amplifiers can be found on the local scene as well as stages world-wide. One look at the artist page on their website will testify to the fact that some of guitar doms best seek out Splawn's wares. The amps and cabs are favorites of quite a few national artist including Killswitch Engage's Adam Dutkiewicz and Joel Stroetzel, Dokken's Jon Levin, Stryper's Michael Sweet and even Steve Stevens of Billy



Idol fame. This high-profile players list goes on and grows daily as word of Splawn Amplifiers quality and dedication to tone spreads.

Scott is quick to point out that his success has come with the help and support of family, friends, dedicated customers and God above. In this day of out-sourcing and overseas manufacturing, Splawn Amplification stands out as a local music related business who continues to rise above.

B. T. Jones

For more information about Splawn Amplifiers please visit;

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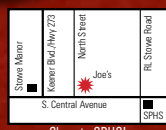
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