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SWEET,
OTHERS THINK WE'RE ALL
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STAFF

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Mary-Carel Verden | <i>Publisher/Creative Director</i> |
| Gary Cox/Cox & Co. | <i>Art Director</i> |
| Henry Verden | <i>Editorial Director</i> |
| Ann K. Fulton | <i>Advertising Director</i> |
| William C. (Bill) Lubing | <i>Managing Editor/Contributing Photographer</i> |
| Kate Gillman | <i>Artist and Magazine Production</i> |
| Beth Wachter | <i>Office Manager</i> |

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Telephone: (608) 877-0766
Fax: (608) 877-0688
Email: sales@bountifulcupboard.com

Advertising Sales Reps needed.

Please call (608) 877-0766 or email sales@bountifulcupboard.com.

Visit us online at www.bountifulcupboard.com.

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Making New Friends

When we put together issues of *Bountiful Cupboard*, we usually begin by thinking about the places and special foods that fit the season. That's where we start, but what always ends up being the real story is the fascinating people we meet.

I can't tell you how much fun it is to meet the charming people behind these stories. When we sit down with them, we learn so much that we want to keep them talking for hours and hours. They love what they do, they are passionate about their food and equipment, and they are eager to share their information. Like the staff of *Bountiful Cupboard*, they believe it's important to find the best ingredients, preserve the stories, treasure the historical foods and recipes, discover new sources, and improve on good products to make them better.

The people in this issue are a great example of this. I feel so fortunate to have had a chance to learn about apples from Ken Weston. I have a new appreciation. There's something almost magical about biting into an apple after Ken tells you its story. Close your eyes as you savor the tart, rich taste and unusual aroma of a Cort Pendu Plat and you can imagine ancient Rome swirling

about you, or let a bowl of Chenango Strawberry apples sit out on the counter and you are transported to Victorian times by the delightful aroma of a truly natural "air freshener".

We were also charmed by Lisa Strange and Lori Erickson at the Cranberry Discovery Center who were eager to tell the story of each product in the store, as well as educate us on cranberry history and production. And our story on Local Choice Farm Market makes me long for a chance to chat with Rosie Zimmer and Cheryl Hoepfer about the great products they carry and produce.

You are also among the people we love to learn from! This month's Food Finds is filled with recommendations that readers have sent us. Thanks for the great information and please keep it coming.

When you visit local stores, farmers' markets, and orchards, don't miss the opportunity to talk to the people there. Ask them for help, tell them you met them in *Bountiful Cupboard*, and they will be happy to share their wealth of information, recipes, and stories. Have fun — we sure do.

Mary-Carel Verden

Publisher and Freelance Foodie

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