

Merry  
Lane

# Celebrate

The **stockings** are hung  
by the chimney with care,  
but the best **gifts** we see  
are the smiles and the  
laughter.

DECEMBER

FAMILY KEEPSAKES  
AND VINTAGE  
COLLECTIBLES FILL  
THIS HOME WITH  
SIMPLE DELIGHT.

# Homespun



WRITTEN AND PRODUCED BY **DENISE GEE** PHOTOS **KIM CORNELISON** STYLING **MATTHEW GLEASON**

# Holiday



**STOCKING FEAT**  
Donna Damon hangs old-style stockings for each member of her family. Taking a no-fuss decorating approach, she writes names on tags from an office-supply store then uses decorative scissors to scallop the ends.

**DECKED OUT** Donna has no formal design plan for the tree ("I really just want to spark an emotional reaction," she says), but she's methodical about the gifts under it. "I think of gift wrapping as dressing a table—everything should coordinate," she says. "A nicely wrapped gift really makes a difference in how people approach a present."



# 1

## THE ORNAMENTS ON DONNA DAMON'S CHRISTMAS TREE

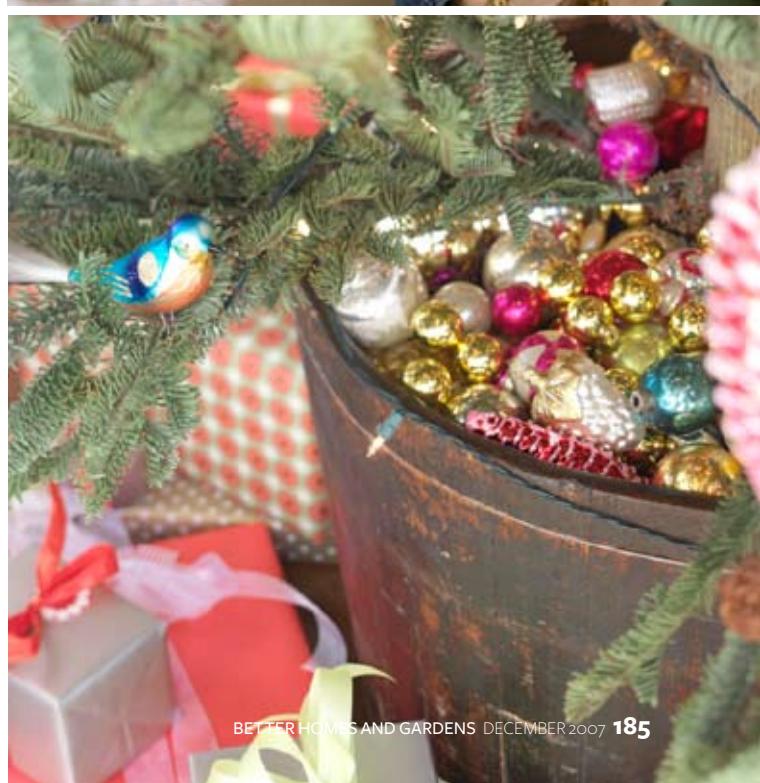
are a comforting mix of keepsakes. There's a pair of mittens once worn by one of her two grown children and a large, folksy jack-o'-lantern. "I'm all about uniqueness—how something catches my eye, how it makes me happy," Donna says.

The common denominator in both Donna's holiday and everyday decor is age—or at least things that look old. "When you're surrounded by old things, you're surrounded by history," she says. "You really feel grounded and truly at home." As an antiques dealer, she may be strict about finding finely crafted pieces, but in her Dallas home Donna relaxes the rules. Her decades-old Santa Claus collection, for example, is a mix of old and new figurines, all of which remind her of happy times in her life. "Everything I buy has to be something I love—something that will tell a story," she says.

At the center of it all is the 9-foot tree in her living room. Tucked in the boughs along with a vintage clock face and that pumpkin (a reminder of another of Donna's favorite holidays) are holiday cards and old family photos. "I love to see the looks on my grandchildren's faces when I say, 'That was your mommy when she was your age,'" says Donna. "Those are the kinds of gifted moments you can't buy." ☙

**OPEN ARMS** "If I like something, I'm not too concerned about where it came from or when it was made," says Donna, above, with her husband, Walter, and two of their grandchildren.

**BARREL OF BAUBLES** Donna stands her artificial tree in an antique barrel, right, then uses her overflow of ornaments as shimmery filler.



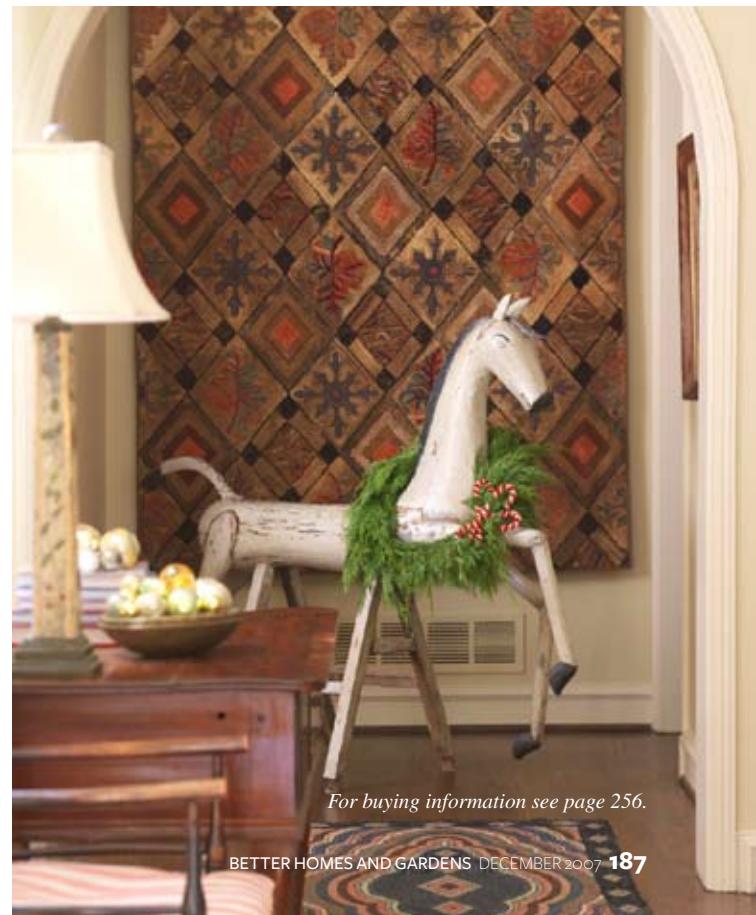
“If you have a favorite collectible or decoration  
you should enjoy it. That’s why I add holiday  
decor to almost every room in my house.”

DONNA DAMON





GLAD TIDINGS (clockwise from top left) Trees made of delicate goose feathers dyed green hold lightweight ornaments. In the dining room, touches of silver and gold—in a tree-shape centerpiece of old glass ornaments and a spray-painted magnolia leaf wreath—are elegant sparks against the painted armoire. A cedar wreath with fabric candy canes puts an antique horse in the holiday spirit. Donna's mix of new and old Santas appeals to her for "their clever outfits and facial expressions. They all have real personality."



For buying information see page 256.