

Winter still has it's hold on February. Use this month to catch up on writing friends, organizing your files and planning for the new garden.

In the Garden

Create a garden journal for the new year. You can start from scratch or use a premade journal. Even a decorative calendar can be used to keep track of your growing season.

Simple Craft Idea

Brighten up the gloomy days of winter with a decorative candle. Put an inch of sugar in a pint-size canning jar and add a tealight candle. Wrap twine around the neck of the jar and tie into a bow. Hot glue on several small pinecones. Make one or a bunch.

Good Read this Month

The book pick for the month is all about celebrating. Katie Jacob's book **So Much To Celebrate** is a wonderful book for entertaining your family. It's filled with delicious recipes and styling ideas by season.

Fun Outdoor Activity

Is there snow outside? Try a winter activity such as snow shoeing, cross country skiing or hiking. Or just get outside and build a snowman.

Planning Ahead

It's still cold outside but you can work on some of your garden tasks indoors. Sort your leftover seeds and label them. Also repair any damaged tools.

Inspirational Quote

Despite the forecast, Live like it's Spring. Lilly Pulitzer WWW.PINECONECOTTAGERETREAT.COM

Recipe to Make

This is the month to indulge in chocolate. For Valentine's Day make this Chocolate Buttermilk Cake with Fudge Icing. You'll be coming back for more. Click here for the recipe.

Vintage Decor

Look for vintage outdoor winter equipment to display this month. It could include old sleds, ice skates, skis with poles and snowshoes. Display these on your front porch along with a winter blanket or two.

To Stay Organized

Are you living with clutter? Start with one small area and begin to make a change today...your kitchen counter, desk or bedside table. Just choose one small area and stay focused on that task, even if it takes a week or two. Once you finish, move onto another small area.