

Savoring the Moments



Scrapbook Heaven 🍷

OK, now we're positive scrapbooking is a popular pastime. We found an entire store devoted to the craft! And it's no little hole-in-the-wall, either. **Al's Scrapbook Barn in Ft. Myers** is a large, well-laid-out scrapbooker's dream that is crammed full of supplies, ideas, and knowledgeable employees with years of scrapbooking experience. Here you'll find entire sets around specific themes, with matching pieces that can be purchased individually. Themes include cartoon characters, "My Guy" and "My Girl," water, and seasonal sets. Al's Scrapbook Barn also features some of the best-selling brand names in scrapbooking today, including Scenic Route, Karen Foster, Chatterbox Flair Designs, and Apple Gate Production page kits. Perhaps even more of a find than a store full of scrapbooking materials is the range of classes offered. Sessions include beginner consultations by the hour, Crop Nite, paper piecing, Disney layout, the Dead Journaler's Society, and Addicted Scrapbookers Support Meeting. We were informed that the classes are extremely popular and fill up fast. *Al's Scrapbook Barn, 11763 Cleveland Avenue, #34, Ft. Myers, 239-277-0800, alsscrapbookbarn@earthlink.net, www.alsscrapbookbarn.com*

Ah, preserving the memories.

Aided by modern technology and innovative ideas, these days we're given a world of choices to achieve our goal of never forgetting the moments that count. Herewith, we've chosen to explore two of the most basic and popular means for doing so: scrapbooks and photo albums. What you'll find offers a virtual guarantee of memories staying intact forever. —by Julie Clay

Family Photos 🍷

As far as photo albums go, **Arundel's** offers a variety of attractive ways to collect photos, including individual albums devoted to specific family members. Grandmas get to show off the little ones with albums designed to hold four-by-six-inch pictures. Sized to fit conveniently into a handbag, these brightly colored collections are embossed with "Grandma's Show & Tell" on the cover and a baby-quilt print as the background. Baby gets his or her own cuddly, washable, terrycloth Baby Gund album. Titled "Look at Me," it is not much bigger than four-by-six inches and holds twelve photos with a two-by-two-inch window on the front and a gold-star background. Others that are similarly sized are designed for the family pet. Red ones with a rawhide bow tied to the front are titled "Good Dog," and "Nice Kitty" albums come in blue with a neon green bow. Arundel's also features journaling albums with lines at the bottom of each page for entering notes to describe the featured photo. These come in several styles, including a wood-colored, textured cover and a green-tree print. *Arundel's, 1626 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239-472-0434*



Island Albums >

When it comes to scrapbooking on Sanibel, **Three Crafty Ladies** is pretty much home base, offering just about everything you need to create beautifully preserved memories. A good place to start is with a scrapbooking kit by Carol Wilson Fine Arts, Inc. If you're new to scrapbooking, it can give you a good idea of the kinds of materials used along the way. This particular kit also comes in an island seaside theme that encompasses island life with images of sailboats, shells, sand-castles, beach hats, and flip-flops. Also found at Three Crafty Ladies is a large selection of quality individual pages in many rich tones by The Paper Loft and other manufacturers. Collected Memories of San Diego offers several basic, expandable scrapbooks embossed with lighthouse "stamps," palm trees, orchids, and pink flamingos. One glance at the wall and you might be a little overwhelmed by the choice of wooden stamps and stickers, but somewhere in there lies just what you're looking for to complete your perfect scrapbook. *Three Crafty Ladies, 1620 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel, 239-462-2893, crafty-ladies@webtv.net*



< Digital Memories

When it comes to any retail item, you can always count on **Brookstone** to take it to the next level, and we were thrilled to find a couple of those newfangled digital photo albums there. PictureBook has created an album that holds ten thousand photos with a 5.6-inch, full-color LCD screen on which to display them. The album also connects to a TV for easy viewing on a larger screen, has a slide-show feature, and comes with a rechargeable battery that lasts three-

and-a-half hours. It's also compatible with memory cards from most digital cameras. PictureBook also features a leather cover that flips up to show (or show off) your collection. Other digital photo albums found at Brookstone look like simple photo frames but contain the same characteristics as PictureBook. Two sizes are available in black: 5.6 inches and a smaller version. The smaller version also comes in a rosewood finish. These albums offer either landscape or portrait orientations (or as they used to say, horizontal or vertical). Digital photo collections take on a new light with the talking photo cube alarm clock. The size of an average alarm clock, this gadget of the future features a photo on each of three sides of the cube and a clock on the fourth side.



One is able to record a personalized voice message to enhance the photos. Finally, a voice-recording photo collage framed in brushed aluminum holds five photos. A ten-second voice message may be recorded for each photo. What is most amazing is that the recordings last ninety-nine years, even when the batteries run down! And you're still putting pictures in plastic sleeves.... *Brookstone, Bell Tower Shops, 13499 S. Cleveland Avenue, Ft. Myers, 239-481-7711*