



A FRENCH SEAL OF QUALITY

Print This Article E-Mail This Article Advertisement hp invent

Backyard Recipes: Recipes • Web-Only Recipe: Corn Salad

From State Dinners To Backyard Barbecues Ex-White House Chef Walter Scheib Savors Father's Day at Home

By Candy Sagon Washington Post Staff Writer Wednesday, June 14, 2006; Page F01

Father's Day 2005: Walter Scheib, still smarting from being asked to resign as White House executive chef, ponders his next career move.

Father's Day 2006: a cookbook contract, a rewarding private chef business, a new slim physique -- maybe getting fired isn't so bad. Says Scheib, "I haven't had this much fun since I was a culinary student. Everyone should do something new when they turn 50."

On Sunday, Scheib plans to spend Father's Day doing one of his favorite things: fishing with his sons, Walter IV, 18, and Jim, 15. His wife, Jean, a caterer, will do most of the cooking, but he'll probably make Southwestern-style baby back pork ribs, a White House favorite with two administrations, and spice-rubbed grilled chicken.



(Mark Finkenstaedt - Mark Finkenstaedt Ftwp)

It will be a welcome lull in what has become an extremely busy second career for Scheib, 52. Like many Washington insiders who find themselves forced out of government jobs, he has turned to the private sector and found even greater rewards. "It's gotten to the point where he needs an assistant," notes his wife.

MOST VIEWED ARTICLES Arts & Living On the Site Updated 9:16 a.m. ET The End Is Near, But First, This Commercial Jerry Lewis Suffers 'Mild' Heart Attack ABC News Anchor Woodruff Visits Newsroom From State Dinners To Backyard Barbecues Set to Verse: Donald Hall Is New Poet Laureate

RSS NEWS FEEDS XML Top News XML Arts & Living What is RSS? | All RSS Feeds

E-MAIL NEWSLETTERS View a Sample and Sign Up Washington City Guide Movies Travel At Home Manage Your Newsletters

WHO'S BLOGGING? Read what bloggers are saying about this article. Penguins on the Equator Full List of Blogs (1 links) Most Blogged About Articles On washingtonpost.com | On the web POWERED BY Technorati

SAVE & SHARE

Advertisement NOTHING CAPTIVATES A CHILD LIKE GROSS BODY NOISES. Touch wonder. SCIENCE CENTER Cool experiments. Dinosaurs. The human body. Outer space. All-new, hands-on, childlike wonder guaranteed. At Baltimore's Inner Harbor www.marylandsciencecenter.org 601 Light Street, Baltimore, MD 410-685-5225

Advertisement DELL PCs. WIRED FOR LIFE. Inspiron™ E1705

Scheib, hired by Hillary Rodham Clinton in 1994 for his New American-style cooking, ruled the kitchen at the White House for 11 years until first lady Laura Bush decided to make some changes early in her husband's second term.

[Tag This Article](#)
[Saving options](#)
Powered by [Del.icio.us](#)

Entertainment Marketplace	
Arts/culture	Casual Restaurants
Caterers&meetings	Cosmetic&beauty Services
Fine Restaurants	Museums
Music	Nightlife
Romantic Ideas	Theater/dance

In typical Washington-ese, it was announced that Scheib was resigning "to pursue other interests." At the time, he had no idea what those interests might be.

He previously had been executive chef at the Greenbrier, a posh resort and spa in West Virginia, and he knew he could always go back to being a hotel chef. "But I also figured that if I wanted to try something new, this was the time to do it," he says.

The first six months after leaving the White House "were tough," he admits. Although he says that he wasn't surprised that Bush wanted to install her own chef, he hadn't wanted to leave. It was a prestigious job, it paid pretty well (just under \$200,000, thanks to overtime), and unlike most restaurant chef jobs, it allowed him to spend time with his family.

"My sons were 3 and 6 when I started, and I got to see them grow up. I felt really lucky," he says.

His sons also enjoyed their father's status. Recalls his oldest son, Walter, a senior at Gonzaga College High School, "Kids at school would always ask the same three questions: 'Have you been to the White House? Have you met the president? Do you get to eat really good food at home?'"

The answers: Yes, yes (both Bill Clinton and George Bush) and yes.

While unemployed, Scheib says he began thinking about -- what else? -- writing a book. A cookbook, actually, with the health-conscious, seasonal recipes he had honed during his White House years.

He also wanted to start a private chef business and trademarked the name "The American Chef" for the venture. His plan was to cook dinner for people in their homes and give cooking demonstrations to business groups.

He assumed people would want to learn about food and cooking; what he discovered, he says, "is that people really just liked chatting with me about White House life. My agent told me, 'Don't teach. Tell stories.'"

Now, for fees ranging from \$5,000 to \$15,000, he does everything from speeches to catering to team-building exercises for corporate clients such as Lockheed Martin Corp. and Yahoo Inc.

He also was hired by Whole Foods Markets to create 20 or so seasonal American recipes for a booklet that will be available free in nearly 30 of the chain's mid-Atlantic markets this month (Scheib is scheduled for an appearance and tasting at noon Saturday at the Tenleytown Whole Foods Market in Northwest Washington). His "Iron Chef America" smackdown with San Francisco chef Cat Cora will air on the Food Network in mid-July.

An added benefit to all this work: Scheib has lost 20 pounds. "I'm actually exercising less, but I'm not snacking as much as I did when I was at the White House," he says.

His schedule this fall "is already crazy," with appearances as well as publicity for his as-yet-untitled cookbook, due out in January.

In the meantime, there's Father's Day to enjoy this weekend. For families looking for an easy grilled feast, Scheib recommends making crowd-pleasers such as ribs and chicken -- both of which can be partially prepared ahead of time -- and simple salads that showcase fresh produce from area farmers markets.

FEATURED ADVERTISER LINKS

[Refinance Rates As Low As 2.9% - FREE QUOTES!](#)

[\\$200,000 loan for \\$917/mo. Bad credit OK](#)

[For College Graduates, Reduce Your Student Loans](#)

[Seating Charts, Tim McGraw Tickets w/ Faith Hill, Pavarotti Tickets, NASCAR Tickets](#)

[ReNu, Celexa, Car Accident, Vioxx, Bextra](#)

[\\$145,000 Mortgage for Under \\$484/Month!](#)

[Promotional Pens, T-shirts, Custom Hats](#)

[Cool Gadgets, Great Deals, Visit CircuitCity.com](#)

[Get Free Checking with direct deposit](#)

