

BY PATTY GROSS
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"If there are things you want to do bad enough, you will do them."

Charlotte Schaeffer of Charlesville, Bedford County, lives by that statement. Charlotte is considered by many to be tops in the craft field. By popular demand, the leader of projects in the county garden club and Bedford Extension Service programs, also demonstrates her craft-making ability in the Bedford County schools.

"You can do anything you set your heart to doing," admits Charlotte. "Through doing, I learned and increased my knowledge so that I was able to share with others."

Charlotte recently shared her knowledge with Extension homemakers at an open house for the holidays. The Bedford County group used the theme "Herbs & Spice and Everything Nice" to decorate the stone colonial home of Norma and Dan Pejack in Rainsburg. Nearly 400 people, in one day, toured the house which dates back to 1805.

The optimistic Charlotte was one of the chairpersons for the activity. She says they stay within their theme and decorated every room in the dwelling with greens, spices, fruits, quilts, old fashioned crafts and antique toys.

For Charlotte the beautiful decorations come easy. Her specialty is feathers. Charlotte explains that her husband and adult son and daughter work together on her projects. "A family of hunters and friends come in handy when you need feathers," grins Charlotte.

Charlotte herself is a hunter of deer and rabbit, but must depend on others for the turkey, duck, goose and pheasants.

The gorgeous colors in the ringneck make it the Bedford County woman's favorite. Charlotte prefers the birds to be skinned and then she salt cures the hides. She uses the tail, wings and clumps off the hide to glue onto styrofoam cones.

Miniature feathered wreaths and wall hangings with the beautiful fanned tails are favorites of her friends. Charlotte keeps her scraps cleaned up by fastening individual feathers to wire with floral tape, which turn into wisps of lovely flowers.

In her most recent wreath project, Charlotte even used the feet of a turkey as an unusual wildlife display.



Charlotte Schaeffer, right, looks over the Christmas tree which will soon come down until another festive season. The Bedford County woman and other Extension homemakers decorated the home of Norma Pejack, left, of Rainsburg for an open house.

"Do something with yourself"

Craftmaker urges others to be creative

"Christmastime is my favorite time to make decorations," explains Charlotte. Her home is filled with feather creations, but she says they don't take all of her time or money.

In addition to her artistic talent, she has a great love for cooking. The orchard on the 160-acre beef and dairy farm comes in handy too. Apple, cherries, peaches, pears, grapes, blueberries and chestnuts are other proud hobbies.

Charlotte says making displays doesn't have to be a large investment. "Feathers are my own special thing, but not everyone has access to them," admits the homemaker. "I teach people to use what they have at their disposal. Everyone can gather goldenrod or grow spices. You grow what's needed or gather it in the woods."

Charlotte suggests that if you want to debut your craft career in a small way to try a straw wreath. She goes on to say that you should make a cardboard ring and fasten sections of straw to it with fishing line. Once completed attach "anything"

for highlights. Charlotte points out that it's beautiful, easy and inexpensive. "There are so many things year round that you can do

with a straw wreath. Compromise with what you have. There is a rule you should follow; in anything that you do, mechanics is

most important," emphasizes Charlotte. "If you don't do a good job of putting it together, it won't look good for very long."

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Charlotte and Norma decorate the Pejack home along with other Bedford County women using the theme "herbs and spice and everything nice."

Homestead
Notes