

Keiko Smith wins at Lebanon Flower Show

BY SUZANNE KEENE

LEBANON — When Keiko Smith left her home in Japan to move to the United States 20 years ago, she brought along flower arranging skills that she had acquired from her mother and through formal schooling. The Best of Show award she received at this year's Lebanon County Flower Show, held last Wednesday and Thursday, attest to her considerable skill in this art.

In Japan, Keiko said, she learned to make an arrangement and then give it a title to convey the feeling or mood that it suggested when it was completed. But here, she has had to learn a new approach to the art — an approach which requires her interpret a title in her floral designs.

While Keiko claims to be somewhat inexperienced in this aspect of flower arranging, she certainly is not unsuccessful in her attempts to convey a message with flowers. Her Best of Show arrangement, entered in the "Love's Old Sweet Song" class of the Lebanon show, consisted of a bouquet of yellow century lilies, with mahonia as foliage. She incorporated two split bamboo circles into the arrangement to communicate love.

"Love is a hug," Keiko said, forming her arms into a circle as though she were hugging someone near to her.

To express the song idea included in the class title, Keiko placed an opened songbook beside her arrangement.

While the lilies used in her arrangement came from a local greenhouse, Keiko grew the mahonia in her own small yard which contains very little grass. Flowers dominate in Keiko's lawn, creating a colorful scene for motorists driving by her home on Route 934 in Annville.

Keiko says she does not allow her husband to mow what little grass has managed to survive for fear that he will destroy a new plant that she is not yet aware of.

Keiko likes to spend time in her garden, but sometimes finds it difficult to make time in her busy



Keiko Smith recently won Best of Show honors at the Lebanon Flower Show with her arrangement of century lilies.

schedule. One day a week she travels to Baltimore, Md. to attend the Sogetsu School of Ikebana, where she is trained in Japanese flower arranging, an art she has been learning since she was 13 years old. In Japan, Keiko explained, every girl learns the fundamentals of flower arranging.

To finance her way through school, Keiko sells crafts and gives lectures and demonstrations to various groups in the area. She is especially well-known for her holiday decoration ideas and for her work with dried flowers.

Where does Keiko get the ideas that so many enjoy? The library.

"The library is the best place to go," Keiko claims, adding that she is inspired by what she sees in books. However, she continued,

she rarely takes an idea from a book without changing it in some way.

Coming up with an idea is the most time-consuming part of arranging flowers, Keiko explained. The actual process of executing the design takes considerably less time.

Keiko said she likes to work with lumber, cutting it like sculpture to include in her arrangements. Her house, she says, is always cluttered with her numerous projects and things that other people call junk, but which she considers treasures.

She plans to enter next year's show, but can't start on her idea until the new theme is announced. "I really like to participate in the club," she says.



Lancaster Society 1

Nineteen members of Lancaster Society 1 met recently at Camp Hebron, Dauphin.

President Hazel Ulrich announced that the state project is "Making of any Item," whether you use needles, hooks, looms, brushes, hammer and nails or whatever you wish. She also announced that State Farm Women's Day will be held on Oct. 14 at the Farm and Home Center. Rod Hershey will provide the evening entertainment.

The society will again serve Moravian sugar cake at the Lancaster Co. Extension meeting to be held on Oct. 11, 12 and 13.

On Oct. 6 and 7 the society will be boiling apple butter at the Landis Valley Farm Museum Harvest Days. Homemade bread with apple butter and schmierkase will be on sale.

The society will be sponsoring a bus trip to Longwood Gardens and Hagley museum on Sept. 27.

Anyone outside the society who is interested in going should call Amy Brubaker at 733-7425.

The group will participate in a "table setting contest" at Bareville Furniture on Nov. 1. Mary Kurtz and Ann Landis will set a table for the contest which will be judged by customers. Top prizes are \$100, \$200 and \$300.

Berks Society 9

Berks Society 9 held its September meeting at the home of Helen Oxenford, R2 Douglassville.

The county convention is planned for Oct. 6 at the Berks County Ag Center.

The County hoedown will be held on Oct. 13 in the 4-H Building.

Member Peggy Lewis provided

Lancaster Society 22 met on Sept. 11 at the home of Mary Young. The group plans to have a stand at the "Christmas in October" program at the Farm and Home Center.

Lydia Esh and her daughter Susie told the group about the Amish way of life and their traditions. Their talk was followed by a question and answer period.

The next meeting, which will be a "Craft Day" will be on Oct. 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the home of Margaret Lefever.

Lebanon Society 20

Lebanon Society 20 entertained Society 18 at the Ono Fire Hall on Sept. 10. The members and guests introduced themselves and told an amusing story about their school days.

"Round Peg and the Squares" entertained the groups with music and songs. Games and refreshments rounded out the evening.

At a short business meeting, members signed up for committees. Members are reminded to bring a pumpkin to the next meeting at the home of Juliet Wagner.

the entertainment by preparing a few Early American dishes and talking about the food that was grown and eaten when white people first came to America.

The next meeting will be held at the home of Karen Schreier, R2 Douglassville, for a Halloween Party.

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