

Holidays

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knife. Carefully transfer to screen or rack. Let air dry. Turn several times.

If you plan to hang the ornaments, make a small hole with wire or soda straw while dough is still wet. Do not heat, that will cause them to puff. They are not meant to be eaten, although they are not harmful.

For sewing a homespun Christmas, Denise Ecenroad, Myerstown, demonstrated machine applique. Her applique tips include:

1. Reduce tension to practically zero for all machine applique.
2. Use a sharp needle, not one that's been on the machine for a year.
3. Use quality thread rather than your five for a dollar discount brand.
4. Batting can be used, but Thermolan Fleece gives a nicer finished appearance.
5. Pressing as you sew results in a professional look.

Ecenroad, a mother of three, displayed keepsake tree ornaments that she makes for each of her children as a yearly remembrance. Her handcrafted ornaments included items that were stenciled, cross stitched, stuffed, and quilted.

Another local craft enthusiast, Christenna Stamm, demonstrated stencilling for the holidays. Stamm said the secret for neat, professional stencilling is to keep from overloading the brush. She said always brush paint out on a paper towel

until consistent in coloration and that a different brush should be used for each color. If the brush is washed out, the water will drip into the bristles and make discolorations or smear the design.

She demonstrated three stencilling methods:

—Dabbing requires hitting the outside of the stencil with the brush and then brushing it towards the center.

—Swirling requires holding the brush straight at all times and taking the brush in a circular pattern around the stencil edges, then brush in a circular pattern in the opposite direction.

—Sponging requires dipping a sponge in paint, blotting on paper towel and then dabbing completely around outside of design before working in towards center.

If using oil paints for stencilling, let each color dry for four hours before using another color on the design. Stamm showed stencils she painted on wood, fabric, paper and baskets.

Floral Designer Dennis G. Mellot of Lebanon started the program by exhibiting his turnip wreath that is guaranteed to catch the attention of bypassers. Mellot spray painted the turnips black and then coated them with polyurethane to protect them. Placed on a gold-colored wreath, it makes a startling doorway display.

Mellot suggest that textures and colors be interspersed with glitter or glass that reflect light in arrangements for eye appeal. From

flower shows Mellot gathered "that using house plant material in designs is the up and coming thing." He also stressed the importance of using odd numbers in arrangements to make them more pleasing to the eye.

To assemble a topiary plant, start with a pot (the larger the topiary, the larger the pot required). Cut two circular pieces of wood to

sit firmly in the pot near the top and bottom. Drill a hole in the center of the wood slabs for the stem (which is a broom stick for the large doorway ones or a tree stick for smaller ones) to slide through. It should fit snugly. Fill pot between the wooden slabs with sand or stones to give weight to the pot. Firmly attach ball of chicken wire to top of stem. Stuff with fresh greens and

trim with clippers if needed to form nice round ball. Add lights, artificial snow or other materials as desired.

During lunch time, the audience had a chance to try stencilling and wiring pine cone wreaths. Ribbon bow making was conducted by members of the Flower Club and the Lebanon Valley Quilters Guild displayed quilted items.



During the lunch hour, Denise Ecenroad demonstrated machine applique.

New Appetizer Recipe Leaflet

"Appetizers for Any Occasion," is a new recipe leaflet from the American Dairy Association. Featured are recipes with an ethnic flavor such as Near East Pita Pockets, Mexican Pasta Squares and Crispy Italian Chicken. Also included are recipes that use products native to the United States ~ Cranberry Creme, Blue Cheese Artichoke

Spread and Tarragon-Garlic Dip. A variety of dairy products are used. Suggestions on what types of appetizers to serve at a gathering are also provided. For your copy, please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope (#10) to: Appetizers for Any Occasion, MAMMA, 216 Carroll Building, 8600 LaSalle Road, Towson, MD 21204.

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