

Built A Holiday Memory

Tips From Lebanon County Extension Workshops

BY LOU ANN GOOD PRESCOTT (Lebanon Co.) — Holiday planning is just beginning. To give homemakers a boost, the Lebanon County Extension presented an array of festive, exciting ideas to personalize holiday traditions.

Consisting of seven workshops held November 7 through 10, the program drew approximately 1,200 people.

Read on for a sampling of the seasonal thoughts and touches shared by the speakers **Gift and Decorating Ideas From Your Hands Meant to Touch Their Hearts**

Denise Ecenroad demonstrated some gift ideas that participants could make. Here are some of her decorative suggestions:

- Scherenschnitz, the art of paper cutting, is an easy, attractive way to make heirloom gifts. She recommends using parchment paper for the actual shape, but the background can be made from fabric or other paper.

- Make a stiffy bow by cutting a 4-inch wide piece of fabric. Brush on fabric stiffener on both sides of material. Allow to dry 20 to 30 minutes but no longer or it will become too stiff. Form fabric into bows or rosettes for decorating baskets, flowers, wreaths, and other projects. Silk flowers can be dipped into the fabric stiffener solution to give them a porcelain look. Spray paint them in desired color.

- Make country curtain tiebacks by gluing miniature clothspin to back of wooden shapes.

- Wrap gifts in clear cellophane paper and tie with a holiday bow.

- Personalize a ceramic mug by mixing a small amount of detergent and ammonia in large bowl of water. Soak the mug in this mixture for 15 minutes. Remove the mug from bowl, being careful not to touch the area to be painted, and rinse under hot water. Let dry. Trace a design on the mug. With model paint, paint words or design on mug. Dry 48 hours. To make the mug dishwasher proof, place it in 215 degree oven for 15 minutes. Keep area well ventilated.

Elegance with ease

Holidays usually mean guests, and with time at a premium those special touches that say, "We're glad you're here" are tough to create. Lois Donley demonstrated numerous quick ways to make foods festive.

One way that is sure to thrill the little ones is the gelatin cutouts.

Cranberry Apple Gelatin Cut-Outs

12-ounce can frozen cranberry juice concentrate, thawed
 1½ cups apple juice
 3 envelopes unflavored gelatin
 Lightly grease a 13x9-inch pan. In medium saucepan, combine juices. Sprinkle gelatin over top; allow to soften 1 to 2 minutes. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Stir constantly to dissolve gelatin. Pour into prepared pan. Refrigerate until firm. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters or cut into squares. Makes 48 squares.

Potpourri of Decorating Ideas
 Steven Stiles created a centerpiece, demonstrated a wreath and showed how to put a new face on your old basket to create a holiday mood.

- Revitalize old baskets by braiding paper twist and gluing it to the rim of the basket and handle or by gluing moss and dried flowers on the rim. Baskets can be filled with potpourri, hand towels and soaps.

- Eucalyptus swags can be made by dividing the eucalyptus into two bunches. Join the resulting two bunches at the stem ends with wire. Lay dried flowers on top and wire them to it. Add the paper twist bow where the branches meet.

- Mantel decorations can easily be made by inserting greens in three blocks of oasis. Intersperse candles, cones, and Christmas balls among the greens.

Nature's Gifts

"The woods and the fields are alive with interesting material with which to craft creatures, angels, flowers and stars," said Christenna Stamm. She said that the best time to pick dried materials is at the peak of maturity before plants have dried out from weathering.

Her naturally decorated Christmas trees had milk weed pod birds, angels, and teasel reindeer. Gather milkweed in late summer in its green pod state. Peel back the outer skin exposing a fuzzy whitish pod.

- Milk weed pod bird - glue a half pod to each side of a whole pod. Tips should face one direction. Hot glue a chicory nut on for a head.

- Teasel reindeer - head and body are teasel. The head should be one half the size of the body. Antlers are dried lilly stems. Legs and neck are twigs. The tail is a pussy willow. The nose is a little red pepper berry.

- Milk pod flowers - glue together five milk weed pods that have been cut in half. Spray paint the pods and glue a small pine cone on for a flower center.

- String dried cranberries alternately with dried apple pieces.

What's New for Quilters

Hetty Wengert explained how to make a Christmas wall hanging.

•Cookie Cutter Applique Wall Hanging

Cut six 8½ -inch squares (solid colored material)

Cut four 2¼ x8½ -inch sashes

(the print fabric between the squares)

Cut three 2¼ x28-inch sashes (same print fabric, top and bottom)

Cut out six of your favorite cookie cutter patterns using your favorite Christmas fabrics.

Cut backing material and quilt batting slightly larger than the finished top size.

Applique one cut-out to each 8½ -inch square. Piece together the six squares and sashings. Baste your pieced front, batting, and backing together. Quilt around the applique and any additional effect you desire. Bind the edges of the quilted piece.

Sew a piece of fabric 2x20-inches wide to the back of your finished piece. This forms a pocket for the hanging rod.

"Steaming" Through the ages

Margaret Sowers, extension agent, encouraged the audience to build positive esteem in others during the holiday season. An important way of building self esteem is through communicating. Sowers suggested using positive statements such as: "neat work," "nice job," "thank you for picking up the papers," "thank you for being so patient," "I'm proud of the way you did that," "you certainly are creative," and "I'm glad you're part of the family."

She warned against plastic compliments that are said sarcastically, patronizingly or that are grandiose..

Actions such as smiles, handshakes, listening, and spending time together will communicate positive messages.

Beyond the kitchen door

Alletta Schadler, extension home economist, entertained the audience by demonstrating cooking in her humorous manner. In addition to making canned pumpkin bread and canned applesauce cake, Alletta hollowed out miniature pumpkin and put dip into it.

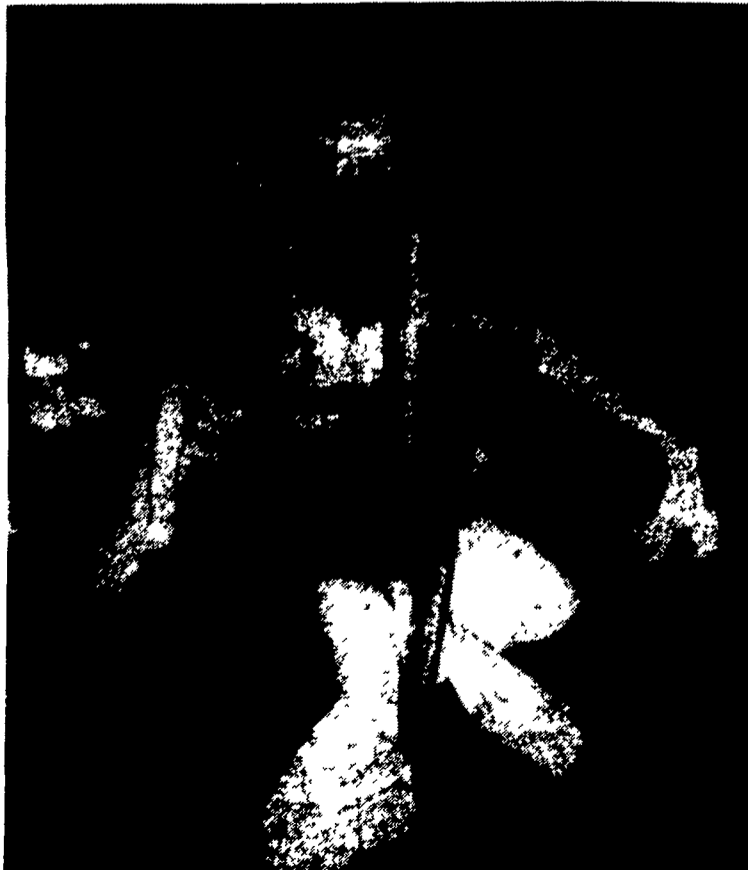
She made both a regular version of pumpkin spread and a lean ver-



Hetty Wengert shows that preprinted fabric can make an attractive Christmas wall hanging that is easy to make for beginning quilters.



Christenna Stamm decorated a Christmas tree with milk weed pod birds and teasel reindeer.



Steven Stiles demonstrated using a variety of greens and branches to give baskets a holiday touch.



Denise Ecenroad displayed her gift and decorating ideas meant to touch others hearts.

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