

## Lebanon County Extension Workshops Told 1,200 Women

# Give A Holiday Memory

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**LEBANON** (Lebanon Co.) —

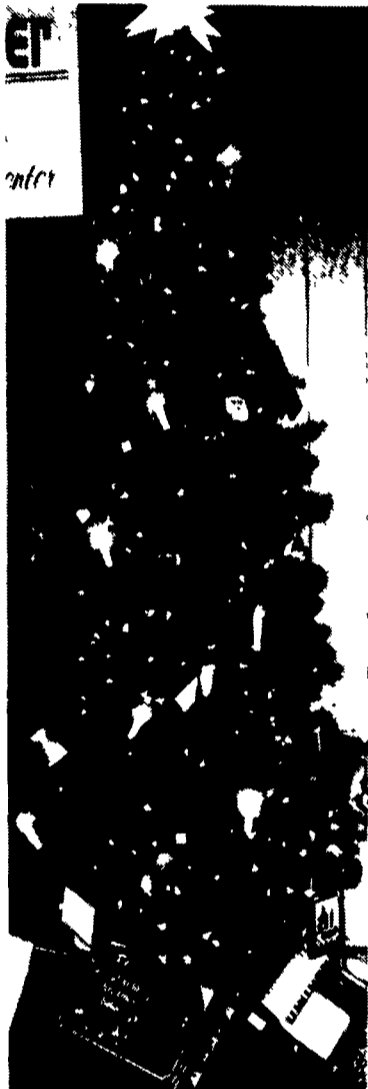
More than 1,200 women packed the holiday workshops sponsored by Lebanon County Cooperative Extension held Tuesday through Thursday at the Prescott Fire Hall.

Holiday ideas abounded for decorating, cooking, and gift giving.

To start off the program, Dennis Mellot of Floral Design Studio in Lebanon returned this year with easy, skillful, creative ideas for decorating.

### Creative florals

To give a large basket, holiday flair, set several different heights



Participants learned the proper way to trim fresh and artificial trees. Give the tree depth by setting ornaments in tree and use 100 lights per foot of tree. "The more you put on a tree, the better it looks," the demonstrator said.

of poinsettias in a plastic container that fits in the bottom of the basket. Tuck moss across the tops of the container, extending over the baskets edges. Water as one plant.

### Formal design

For a formal design, take a pedestal cake place, place an upside-down cone-shaped Oasis on top. Completely cover with greens, ivy, and fresh flowers with one-inch stems.

### Fireside baskets

Paint a fireside basket in off-white. Arrange a dried arrangement inside using, dried mushrooms, stones, cockscomb and other dried materials. The arrangement should be tucked inside the basket so that it captures the viewer's interest to keep looking.

Mellot said that he rarely uses ribbon. Instead he uses fabrics, preferably shiny materials that reflect light. "Metallics are really in," he said.

Mellot often sprays paints dried materials to get the color he prefers. He also covers greens such as boxwood with a high gloss polyurethane that reflects the light and helps preserve the greens.

An exquisite European funeral wreath, designed to set flat on the floor and view it from looking down, was made for the holidays.

Take a chip and dip dish. Set a pineapple on top of the dip dish that is centered. Place an oasis in a semi-circle and place around the dip dish. Fill with flowers and greens.

For a centerpiece option, create a landscape design with two tall

tapers and a votive candle inserted. Use a flat dish. Cover bottom with stones and moss. Let water gather in the stones at the bottom to give the effect of a pond.

"Never throw away a Christmas tree," Mellot told the audience. He showed how he made a tall topiary by using the trunk of his last year's Christmas tree. He covered a large ball of Sahara with chicken wire and then inserted cockscomb and greens.

### Gifts of time

Michele Rodgers, assistant regional extension director, focused on making gift-giving personal rather than expensive. She said, "The joy of giving comes when we see delight on the face of the loved one when the gift is opened."

She suggested coupon gifts of babysitting, meal for friends, offer to plan and pay for a dinner party, decorate a cake, freezing or canning fruits or vegetables, gardening help and others.

"Select a special gift of a cherished item such as a heirloom, and give it with a written description of how the item came into your possession, how it was used, what you remember about it, and the family history.

She taught the audience how to make a marble bead necklace using eight pony beads and seven marbles. Cut a fabric bias strip 32-inches long and 2-inches wide. Stitch the bias strip into a tube with right sides together, using 1/4-inch seam and leaving a one-inch opening near one end of the bias strip.

Turn tube right side out.



Michele Rodgers, assistant regional extension director, taught the audience how to make a marble bead necklace and a quillow that appears to be a pillow but opens into a lap robe when unfolded.

Drop a marble into the tube and push to approximately 13-inches from the end.

Thread a pony bead over the tube on both sides of the marble-tightly against marble.

Continue dropping in a marble, then thread pony bead until all are assemble. Close opening with whipped stitching. Tie behind neck.

### Trim a tree

Country Market-Nursery Holiday Center of Palmyra gave ideas for trimming fresh and artificial trees. They suggest using specialty lights

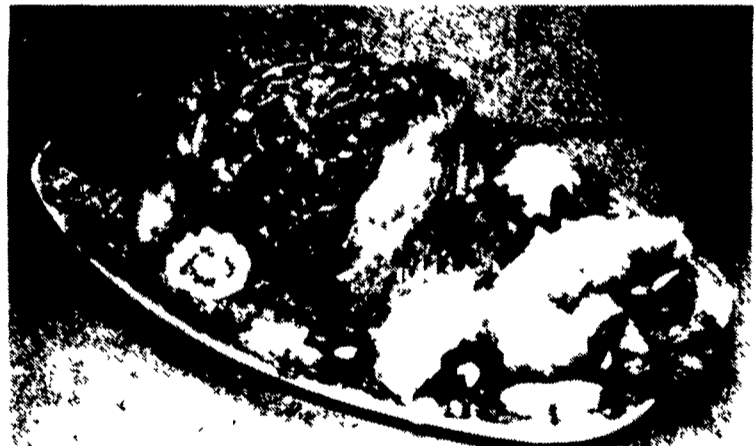
with heavy cord so that the cord can be wrapped around the branches starting at the top and going down. They recommend using 100 lights per foot of tree. Give tree depth by setting ornaments in tree. "The more you put on a tree, the better it looks," the demonstrator said.

### Just for sew

Hetty Wengert presented ideas for making and tying scarves to dress up outfits. To make a scarf rosette, cut a fabric strip (Turn to Page B18)



Kids can have fun helping decorate these trees, which are really inverted ice cream cones.



Alletta Schadler, extension home economist, prepared this baked ham and stuffed sweet potatoes to show how food can be garnished for the holidays.



Dennis Mellot of Floral Design Studio in Lebanon demonstrated creative floral designs. Notice the centerpiece in the center that uses carrots to cover the container and the fireside basket with a dried arrangement.



Country Market-Nursery Holiday Center of Palmyra had several Christmas displays arranged around the room for participants to examine.