

Lebanon Flower Club Holds Flower Arranging Workshop

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— When it comes to flower arranging, you can never stop learning, according to the consensus of members of the Lebanon County Flower Club.

A hands-on workshop was held for members on June 16 at Cornwall Manor Community Center. Fellow-member Keiko Smith of Annville taught the workshop. Keiko said that she has been studying flower arranging for 50 years.

After some brief instructions on line designs, members chose materials from bucketfuls of fresh cut flowers and greens to arrange in containers that they had brought from home.

Keiko said although the use of Oasis to hold flowers in place works fine for individual use, flower pin holders are used more often in flower shows that are judged. She demonstrated the use of various sizes and shapes of the pin holders. If pin holders seem inclined to tip over, anchor them with another pin holder placed upside down and slightly overlapping the base holder.

One of the best ways to hide the base holder is to arrange leaves around the edge of the container. In her demonstration, Keiko used leaves from peony and pussy willow bushes.

She said that leaves from any bush or plant may be used, but new shoots from the stems should be removed as they have a tendency to wilt. Big leaves with stronger stems work best when placed



Blooms from clematis vines and lamb's ear form the focal point for this right angle arrangement.



This striking arrangement uses peony leaves, ornamental grasses, allium, and baby's breath.

around the base.

She reminded the class to remember to place leaves at the back of the arrangement even if it will not be seen because the added material adds depth to the arrangement and the focal point of an arrangement generally is at the bottom of the arrangement.



These lilies and irises were arranged in a low container by Phyllis Conto, who in keeping with the rules, had the highest point reach twice the width of the container plus the depth.

Keiko freely uses shears to continually trim stems and leaves to conform to the shape and design that she wants.

In trimming leaves from large stems, a brown wooden stem will look white when trimmed. Keiko uses a dark Magic Marker to color the exposed part.

It is important to cut the stems of larger branches with care so that the stem will draw up water. Stems should be cut at an angle or split in half.

"Stems should always be cut under water and placed in water immediately," she said.

Ferns and soft leaves work better in mass arrangements. While large leaves work best in line arrangements.

The height of an arrangement should be twice the width of the container plus the depth or a bit higher. A table centerpiece should not interfere with eye contact between guests at a table. To find the best height for a table arrangement, Keiko suggested one sit on the dining room chair, prop your elbow on the table and measure from the elbow to no more than the tip of your nose.

Containers generally influence the shape of the flower arrangement. The most often used designs are crescent, horizontal, vertical, right or left angle, hogarth curve, fan shape, circle, oval, and triangle.

Because member Lilly Hershey wanted to do something different, she chose a low odd-shaped container and used driftwood in her arrangement. To keep the driftwood in an upright position, she fastened the driftwood to a tin coffee can lid with a screw. She used stones and pin holders to anchor the lid to the bottom of the container.

"Always think of triangle shapes and place flowers at those points," Keiko said.

Scale, color, and balance are important in an arrangement. Large flowers look out of proportion if placed in a small vase. To maintain balance, avoid top heavy designs. Color is often achieved by a sense of color combination.

Imagination adds variety arrangements. Look beyond the flowers growing in your yard to bushes, trees, and weeds and wildflowers in meadows. Some of the unusual plant materials that members used were meadow tea, clematis, canteberry bells, ornamental grasses, fever few, and weeds.

If more information on the Lebanon Flower Club is desired, call (717) 273-7039.



Members of the Lebanon County Flower Club participated in a flower arranging workshop.



Lilly Hershey adds the finishing touches to an arrangement in which she used driftwood and an unique flower container.



Kay Yoder prefers to make mass arrangements.



Tom Pedla holds the arrangement he made for a special spot at home.



This right angle flower arrangement shows how effectively the base of the arrangement can be covered with a pleasing design.



A member examines the flower arrangement she made to see if it conforms to the rules taught in the workshop.