

Build Holiday Memories The Active Way

Tell, Hear, See, Smell, Taste, Touch, Feel, Do

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PRESCOTT (Lebanon Co.) —

About 1,100 women gathered at the Lebanon County Extension Holiday Programs this past week. The annual workshop, offered three days and two evenings, has become a favorite with women searching for ways to build holiday memories with families and friends.

"Give more presence rather than presents," said Karen Sando, mother and former extension home economists.

Long after the presents are forgotten, children will recall the times spent reading favorite Christmas stories or making holiday decorations together.

Rebecca Escott, Lehigh County home economist and columnist for *Lancaster Farming* said, "By giving generously of your imagination, thoughtfulness and love and a small investment of your time, you can bring pleasure to others with no strain on your budget. Such presents can bless the lives of others long after the holidays are over."

Escott encourages note and letter writing as way to express emotions that may be more difficult to convey in person.

Classic and newly-released books about the holidays for children are often treasured gifts, especially if the sender reads the book aloud on a tape for the children to listen whenever desired.

Christenna Stamm demonstrated how to use crystal dishes and mirrors to decorate. Many of her ideas can be adapted to the crystal pieces you have on hand. For example, she took a strand of lights, bunch them together and put them inside an inverted clear glass bowl. Another bowl was set on top and filled with fruit and greens.

If you make your own wreaths and swags from grapevines, birch or willow branches, tie the ends and scraps with string and use as firestarters in the fireplace.

Floating candles were used inside stemware pieces arranged on square mirrors. By adding greens, marbles and star garland, the arrangements added depth and sparkling imagery.

Susie Iezzi of Hillside Herb Farm told how decorations can be made to be enjoyed by both birds and people. She uses all natural materials in wreaths, trees, and other decorations. These are then hung on trees and fences for passerbys to enjoy and birds to eat. Here are some of her ideas.

Bluebird Betty

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup raisins
- ½ cup shortening
- ½ cup water
- 2 cups flour
- ½ teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup nutmeats

In a medium-size bowl, combine flour, baking powder, and baking soda. Set aside. Boil sugar, raisins, shortening, and water for 5 minutes. Add liquid mixture to dry mixture. Mix well. Add nutmeats. Spoon into well-greased 8x8-inch cake pan. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes at 350 degrees. Serve in pieces on feeder tray or ground feeder.



Susie Iezzi

- ### Feed the Birds Wreath
- 30-inch grapevine wreath
 - 30-40 willow branches (10- to 12-inches long)
 - 30-40 birch branches (10- to 12-inches long)
 - 12 bittersweet branches (12- to 14-inches long)
 - 1 bunch barley
 - 1 bunch wheat
 - 1 dozen strands millet
 - 1 dozen dried sunflower heads
 - Hot glue gun and sticks
 - 24 gauge florists wire
 - 1 large bow

Tuck the willow and birch branches into the grapevine base, secure with hot glue gun. Tie small bunches of barley, wheat and small branches of berries to wreath with florists wire. Weave in strands of millet. Hot glue sunflower heads onto the wreath. Tuck pieces of wheat and barley into any spaces that are empty. Attach a bow at the top of the wreath, with florist's wire. Replenish millet, wheat, barley and sunflowers when needed.

Arletta Schadler told the audience how to make "Give It Away Goodies" from the kitchen. Here are some recipes you can use in your holiday gift giving.

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The simplest arrangements are sometimes the most dramatic. Here, Arletta Schadler, extension home economist, glued rose hips to the top of a grapevine basket and filled it with apples.



Program participants examine a grapevine tree decorated with dried flowers.



Enjoy this tree during the holidays then place it outside for the birds. The tree is decorated with all natural materials such as bittersweet, barley, wheat, millet, orange and apple slices.



Use mirror imagery with greens, a strand of lights bunched together and placed under an inverted crystal bowl, clear marbles, candles, and golden star garland. Dazzle Dirt or Crystal Way, can be purchased from craft stores to add iridescence.