

Make A Holiday To Remember

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LEESPORT (Berks Co.) —
What makes a holiday to remember?

Gifts, food, the perfect tree, photos, decorations, or sharing with others?

How about a little bit of all these. That was the message at the Berks County Cooperative Extension's Holiday program. To accommodate all those who wanted to attend, the day-long program was repeated several days at the 4-H Community Center in Leesport last week.

In the spirit of sharing, participants brought items to donate to the Greater Reading Food Bank, which will be distributed to the needy, and donated money to the Berks County Extension Home-maker's Scholarship.

Grace Kline of the Sewing Guild of Berks County explained how to make many handcrafted items for gift giving and decorating. Directions and patterns for many of the articles are available in a booklet (while supplies last) at the Lebanon County Extension office. Here are directions for the Snowman pair.

Antiqued Wooden Snowman

Both large and small snowmen need:

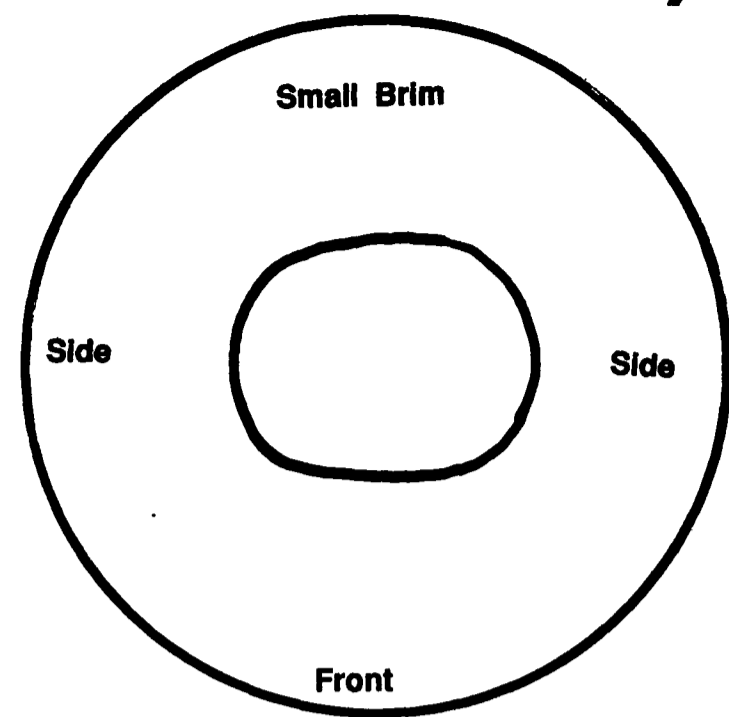
Twigs for arms
White, black, and orange acrylic paint

Water based antiquing medium
Twine, yarn or gold braid for band on hat

Trace pattern onto pine board. Cut out snowman and hat block with jig saw or scroll saw. Sand all edges until smooth.

Drill holes for nose, buttons, armholes and in hat block and top of head. Use pattern to check angle for arms and hat. Sand over holes and remove sawdust.

Sand one end of 1/4 -inch dowel to a point for the nose. Paint with orange paint. Use two coats. Let dry; paint with antiquing medium. Leave on 5 minutes then wipe off.



These delightful snowmen can be made with the instructions and patterns that appear with this article.

Paint snowman with two coats white paint. Let dry between coats. Apply antiquing medium to snowman. Leave on for 5 minutes then wipe off with cloth.

Press nose into face of snowman, leaving about 1/4 -inch sticking out.

Paint axil pins with black paint. When dry, press into body of snowman.

Insert dowel into hat piece and other end into head.

Cut out hat pieces from felt. Glue hat top piece to top of hat block. Pull hat brim piece over hat top. Adjust folds in hat top and glue in place. Tie twine, yarn or gold braid around hat and make a bow.

Fringe ends of wool and tie around neck of snowman.

Photo memories

Karen Darby Zalewski shared ideas for taking and storing photographs for memories.

For picture albums, use acid-free paper and plastic-free PVC; otherwise pictures will fade or discolor.

In addition to pictures of the family opening gifts, at the dinner table or decorating the tree, snap some of the family preparing for Christmas such as baking Christmas cookies and cleaning the house.

Try journaling by including both factual and emotional information as captions for pictures.

Dave Reber, owner and designer of the Country Greenery, demonstrated how to make a fresh flower arrangement for the table and a dried and silk arrangement for a grapevine wreath.

When making wreaths to place outside, do not use glue as it loosens from temperature changes.

Christmas trees

Herbert Wetzel, retired extension agent, told of the types of trees available and the pros and cons of using each one.

Needle retention of Scotch Pine, Eastern White Pine, and other pines are excellent.

Needle retention for spruces such as Colorado Spruce, Norway Spruce and White Spruce is not as good as pines or firs.

Fraser Fir, Balsam Fir, and Concolor (White) Fir have excellent needle retention.

Considerable money is spent on chemical additives each year to prolong the life of the tree. Wetzel said, "Save your money because several floral and tree preservatives were evaluated and showed using water alone works just as good if not better. No commercial products gave better results than distilled water."

Holiday baking
Alletta Schadler, Lebanon County Extension home economist, in sharing recipes for holiday baking, ask, "Have you ever had a flop and wondered why?"

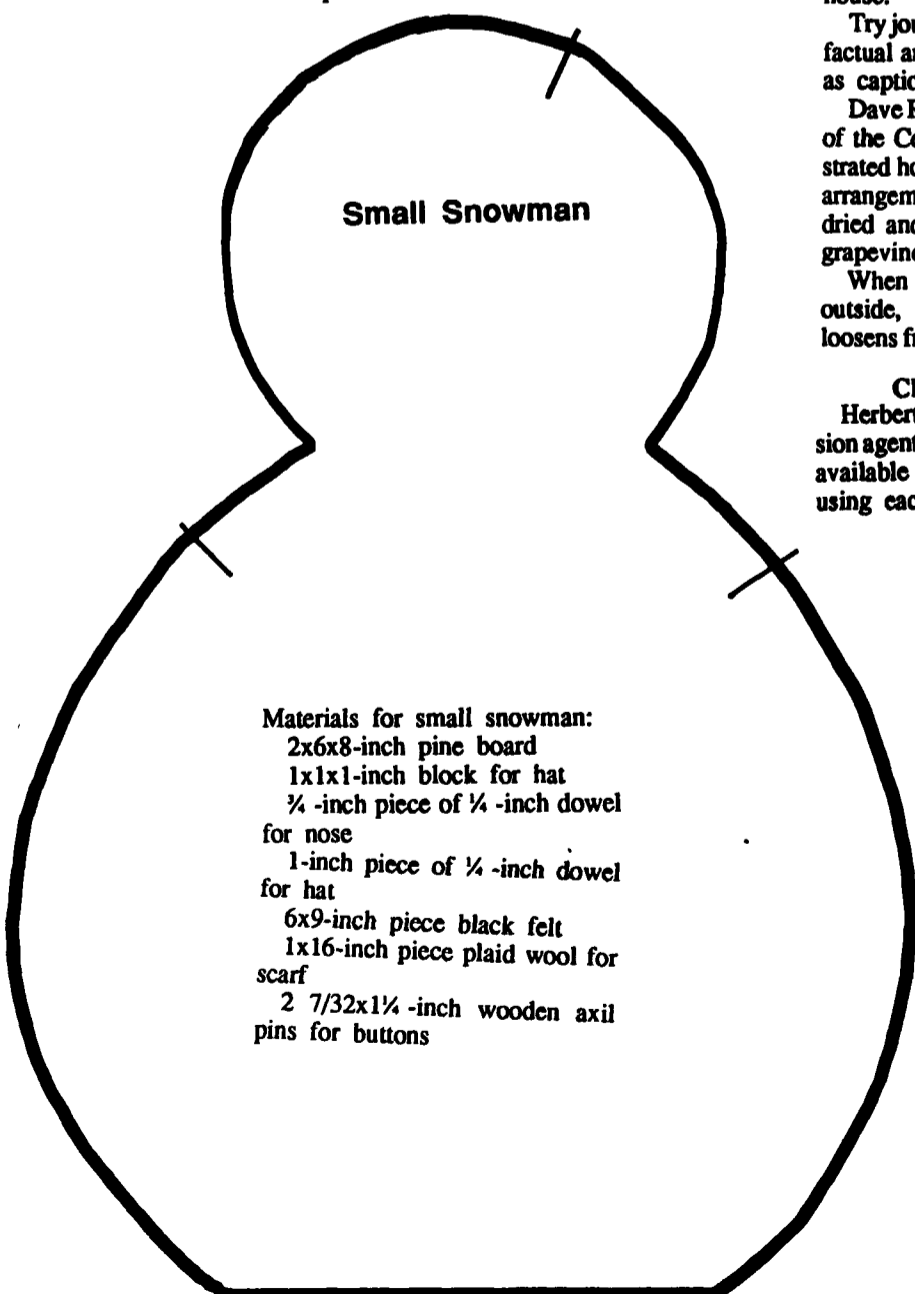
When you make substitutions, it's important to know why things work or do not work, she said.

"Baking can be a wonderful experience, very satisfying to create products that have just the right texture, appearance and flavor."

Of the following ingredients, here is a condensed version of what Schadler said:

Fat: changing the form or type of fat in a recipe can have significant effects on the texture. Other al-

(Turn to Page B15)



Materials for small snowman:
2x6x8-inch pine board
1x1x1-inch block for hat
1/4 -inch piece of 1/4 -inch dowel for nose
1-inch piece of 1/4 -inch dowel for hat
6x9-inch piece black felt
1x16-inch piece plaid wool for scarf
2 7/32x1 1/4 -inch wooden axil pins for buttons



Members of the Berks Quilter's Guild display projects that members learn to do during monthly meetings.