

# Floral Designs By Carolyn Martin Incorporate Freeze-Dried, Latex, Parchment, Silk, Dried Materials

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
 Lancaster Farming Staff  
 LITITZ (Lancaster Co.) —  
 Walk into Carolyn Weaver's home any day and you will find strawberries, raspberries, brussels sprouts, broccoli, carrots, artichokes, and pomegranates on her kitchen counter.

don't wilt, rot or mold. Take a whiff of the aroma of what smells like freshly picked berries, and you will know that these are not artificial reproductions. They are the real thing — freeze-dried, which is an increasingly popular method of preserving vegetables and fruits for display.

These picture-perfect vegetables

Carolyn does not freeze dry the



The arrangement on the entrance door to the Weaver home reflects the season.



Carolyn Weaver uses freeze-dried, latex, dried, silk, and parchment materials in her floral arrangements.

produce, but she does artfully arrange it with dried, latex, parchment, and silk flowers and greenery.

Latex is also a fairly new medium used for flowers. The latex flowers are quite realistic in appearance but have a rubbery texture, which makes them extremely durable.

A versatile designer, Carolyn creates country, formal, traditional, Victorian, and oriental-line arrangements.

Although she does arrange-

ments in all sizes, Carolyn prefers large arrangements as they are more eye-catching and dramatic than the miniature and medium-sized ones.

She uses brass, pewter, glass, wicker basket, grapevine, elm, crocks, and ceramic containers.

Carolyn's expertise in flower arrangement began as a teen-ager when she took an evening flower arranging workshop at Stauffers of Kissel Hill. A year later, she applied for a job there and was employed with the understanding

that she would stand behind the flower designer for on-the-spot training.

Soon Carolyn was doing Williamsburg arrangements, pressed flowers under glass, and free designs.

After five years, Carolyn quit her job to devote full time to raising the three children that she and her husband, Ron, had. Matthew is now 19, Jennifer, 16, and Andrew, 14.

While not employed in flower (Turn to Page B4)

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