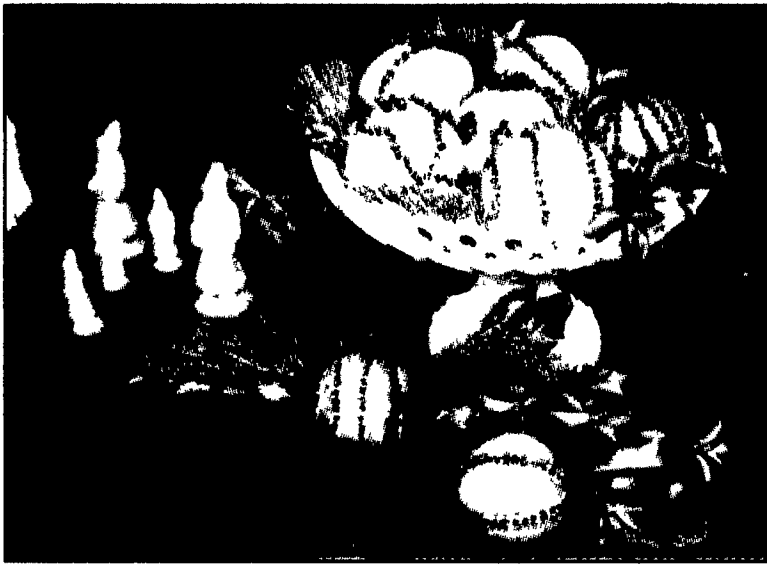




Christenna Stamm demonstrates using a square of aluminum window screen to form a container filled with greens, dried materials, and handcrafted metallic-painted stars.



This old-fashioned way to preserve oranges for holiday decorations and create a spicy aroma throughout the room is to insert whole cloves. Look at these for simple to make patterns to duplicate.



Cathy Stewart shows parents some of the tree decorations that children can make with a little bit of assistance.

## Festive Ideas To Duplicate Or Adapt

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
*Food And Family  
Features Editor*

**EPHRATA (Lancaster Co.)** — Most creative people like to study craft and decorating ideas, not to copy but to adapt. They might want to incorporate some materials they have on hand or fashion it to fit a particular place.

A great place to find ideas are at the annual holiday programs Penn State Cooperative Extension recently conducted in several different counties. Photographs and ideas featured in this story are from the holiday programs featured by both Lebanon and Berks county extension recently.

Christenn Stamm used a 36x36-inch square of aluminum window screen, two 6-foot lengths of 6-strand copper ground wire, and 32-gauge steel wire to form the wire screen basket shown in the photograph at left.

The wire-screen basket can be spray painted gold, copper or whatever color desired. Insert a plastic or glass container inside

to hold a fresh or dry arrangement. Look at the photo for ideas but incorporate materials from your own backyard or from inside your house.

Stamm inserted metallic hearts and stars that she made by cutting out the shapes on heavy white paper. Spray with silver and gold metallic paints. These can also be made as ornaments by attaching silver or gold thread to hang.

Christine Van Meter demonstrated how to make the elevated buffet arrangement. Fill a clear

glass vase with pine cones. Attach an 11-inch round plastic dish to the vase using two-sided tape. Fill with a variety of greens and dried materials. Make sure some of the pieces drape over the edge of the container.

Setting a holiday table can cause homemakers frustrations. Gloria Steward, interior designer from Wyomissing, shared several ideas. She recommends using a 60-inch round table so that everyone can face each other and

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Fill a glass vase with pine cones, top with a arrangement using an 11-inch round plastic dish for a spectacular buffet arrangement.



Kate Holland recommends that people join Master Gardeners for creative ideas using items from nature.

## Children's Christmas K.I.S.S. Keep It Simple And Sweet

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
*Food And Family  
Features Editor*

**FREDERICKSBURG (Lebanon Co.)** — "At our house, we K.I.S.S. a lot," Cathy Stewart said of holiday preparation.

K.I.S.S. stands for "keep it simple and sweet."

As the mother of Ian, 6, and Jillian, 2, and as a former nursery school teacher, Cathy knows the importance of spending time with children. "Almost everything I do is something that the children can help me do," she said.

"If the activity isn't fun for children, stop it. The important thing is the time spent together doing special things."

Cathy is a strong believer in allowing a child to make things his or her way.

"Don't fix what they make," Cathy said. "My son made a turkey with six feet. It's a special table centerpiece that we get out every Thanksgiving, and I love it."

Cathy, a stay-at-home mom, and her husband Andrew, a dentist, believe in the importance of



Sandra Parker Hall, Lebanon County Extension, recommends making gingerbread houses with children and finding special books to read to children during holidays.

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