

Invent your own wreath for a festive holiday statement

BY KYM POKORNY
OSU Extension Service

Wreaths hung on the door with care call out a festive "Happy Holidays."

Share that message in a special way by making your own circle of cheer with plants clipped from the garden or gathered from friends and neighbors.

"A good part of the fun of making your own wreath is going around the neighborhood, collecting plants and talking to people," said Susan Hoffman, who has been a master gardener with Oregon State University's Extension Service since 2012.

Be sure, she added, to ask before you clip.

At the entry to almost every store, simple wreaths are stacked up for sale. They're made with some greenery, a bow and perhaps a lonely pinecone. And they're not cheap. Those fashioned by your own hands cost almost nothing and are limited only by imagination and available plants.

Some of the plants used at a recent master gardener wreath-making affair at the Benton County Fairgrounds included long-lasting selections like traditional Douglas fir, fragrant incense cedar and red-berried holly. Other types of fir and cedar, as well as yew, blue spruce, boxwood, laurel and lavender were there for the taking. For color, texture and ber-



ries, the wreath-makers added nandina, pyracantha and purple beautyberry. Of course, there are many other options.

"You can use absolutely anything you want," said Jana Tindall, a master gardener and organizer of the event.

If a wreath seems too intimidating, a swag is a very simple alternative, Hoffman said. Just gather up some plant cuttings, tie the stems together, add a bow and decorations and that's the end of that. Even easier is a bouquet of plants for a centerpiece. In a vase, place a piece of florist's foam soaked in water and stick in your choice of plants. In a clear vase, hide the foam with moss, lichen, small pinecones or red and/or green marbles found at craft stores.

"They're really easy and quick," said

Tindall. "You can make them in less than half an hour in time for a party."

To make a wreath is not much harder, though it takes more time. One piece of advice from Tindall - have a table available. Bending and kneeling can be hard on the back and knees.

How to make a wreath from the Benton County Master Gardeners:

Tools and materials

Clippers

Needle-nose pliers

Wire (at least 22 gauge)

Wire or grapevine frame

Gloves

Plant clippings

Pinecones, small pieces of wood, bows, ribbon, Christmas tree decorations (optional)

Instructions

Design wreath by laying out in a circle on the table, using heaviest-textured plants in the back. Or, if you'd rather, design as you go.

Transfer background layer of plants to frame. Leave wire on the spool it came on. Twist one end of wire to the frame with your fingers or pliers. Wearing gloves is recommended.

Wind wire around the plants and frame in a clockwise direction, pulling it tight to keep plants from falling off. When you've come back to where you started, twist

Please see **WREATH**, Page 10A

Disc tells stories of CG's past



'Reflections' contains O'Keefe's newest topical tunes

Cottage Grove's historical organizations have teamed up to aid the efforts of one local musician.

Well-known singer/songwriter Ron O'Keefe, who has penned topical tunes aimed at ending an ongoing drought and inspiring healing after the tragedy of a school shooting, said he teamed with the Cottage Grove Museum, Historical Society and historian Marie Longfellow to write the six songs that became the compilation "Cottage Grove, Oregon: Reflections."

Gold mining, the Mt. David Oil Well scheme, logging and covered bridges are among the titles on the six-song disc, and

O'Keefe said some of the songs have been given to local teachers for use with their summer music programs. O'Keefe's wife, Patricia Hardy, added background vocals, in addition to creating its cover art. The album was recorded at Bobby Selover's home studio, and \$3 of each CD purchased will cover recording costs.

"Reflections" can be purchased for \$5 at the Bookmine, the CG Museum at the corner of Birch and H Streets, Books on Main and the Bohemia Gold Mining Museum, with \$2 going to the organization where the disc is sold.

Shop Local. Shop Cottage Grove this Holiday Season!!!

Order Your Christmas Ham NOW!

Please place order no later than 12/18/15 \$8.00 per pound

Pick up Mon. 24th by 12 pm

Big Stuff Barbecue 942-3999
733 East Main

The Flower Basket and Gift Boutique

35% off all Christmas Regular Priced Gift Merchandise

Can not be applied to in-house accounts. Valid 12-16-15 to 12-23-15

119 S. 6th Street • 541-942-0505

HOMESTEAD Furniture

COFFEE/END TABLES SET OF THREE STARTING AT \$219 A SET SEVERAL SETS IN STOCK TO CHOOSE FROM

615 Main Street • Cottage Grove • 541-942-8711
homesteadcg.com

We have what you want for Christmas! Top Quality Brands

Everything For Your Outdoor Needs!

HORNER'S INC.

STIHL Sales and Service

79132 Hwy 99N. Cottage Grove, OR 97424
(541) 942-5781 Fax (541) 942-5404
Email: horners@epud.net

Slippers for men, women, and children

MINNETONKA

SCHWEITZER'S CASUAL WEAR
Work & Western Wear

AL, NORMA & TIM SCHWEITZER/Owners
541.942.4249

730 E. Main Street • Cottage Grove, Oregon 97424

Give a Gift Certificate!

TORERO'S FAMILY MEXICAN RESTAURANT

541-942-1155 1205 Hwy 99 North Cottage Grove, OR
541-746-5766 5705 Main Street Springfield, OR

Twin Timbers Premium Christmas Trees Noble, Grand, Nordman

Trees are shaken and bailed. Cutting assistance onsite. Enjoy hot beverages and candy canes in our gift shop.

Senior and military discounts
541 214-8550
82234 Hwy 99 S. • Creswell
www.twintimberschristmastrees.com

637 E. Main Street • 541-942-6143

Kalapuya Books

FREE BOOK ALWAYS with \$15 purchase

Books, local art & Gifts

CELEBRATE LOCAL POSSIBILITY

DONATE NOW!

Maximize your donation by donating to Cars for a Cause by Dec. 31st. We accept cars, trucks, RVs, boats & motorcycles CALL NOW!

• Helps those in need in Lane County
• Charitable donation
• We do all the paperwork

St. Vincent de Paul
2315 Hwy. 101 • Florence • 541-997-8460

Holiday Gift Guide