



Corte Madera Women's Improvement Club

WREATH-MAKING WORKSHOP

Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2008 • 11 am-12:30pm

During this workshop each participant will make one 12" wreath to take home. You can use the techniques learned in this workshop to make a wreath for any season, for yourself or as a gift. The format will be to "work along with" rather than a demonstration followed by hands-on activity. We will have some wreaths and pictures as models. You will probably also learn a lot from seeing what other people do at this workshop, too!

TO BRING: You'll need to bring a variety of materials: some that you'd like to use for your own wreath and some to share. You should be able to find many of these materials around your neighborhood; you don't need to make extravagant purchases! Discovery and invention is part of the fun of creating your own masterpiece!

- **A shopping bag full of your "primary" wreath material:** good candidates for primary material are denoted by asterisks, below. You'll want to bring enough to cover the basic wreath (a shopping bag)
- **A variety of accent materials:** anything that's not asterisked!
- **IF you have them:** plant pruners or scissors (for cutting twigs), wire cutters, gloves, floral wire, toothpicks
- By no means should you bring everything – BUT don't *limit* yourself to this list – try something new! The items suggested below are ones that often work well, but there may be a lovely item out there to try!
- **A few tips:**
 - Fresher is generally better – if things are too dried out, they tend to shatter.
 - When in doubt, cut longer stems (it's easy to trim, but impossible to extend a branch)

FRESH STUFF: Best cut day of or day before, but scope out places to cut:

- *Eucalyptus foliage
- *Evergreen foliage (cedar, redwood, pine, fir, juniper, etc)
- *Manzanita
- *Bay foliage (I'll bring a lot of this)
- *Ivy (doesn't last too long)
- *Magnolia leaves
- Berries: red/orange: pyracantha, cotoneaster, holly etc. don't overlook dark berries, like privet
- Rosemary
- Lavender
- Leathery sages; Mexican Sage (purple)
- Holly foliage (very prickly, but nice for accents)
- Lambs ears
- Colored fall leaves: oak, liquid ambar, pistache - best if not too dry
- Small citrus fruits (orange kumquats are particularly nice)
- Succulents: heavy, but can work if small and in moderation

DRIED MATERIALS: Best if they have stems, but we can wire them if not

- *Twig bunches (some people like this bare look)
- *Grape vine curls
- Grasses
- Seed heads (small sunflowers - w/ stems, *Nigella*/Love-in-a-mist, poppy pods, etc)

- Small ears of corn
- Pine, redwood, fir cones (small)
- Eucalyptus nuts
- California pepper berries (pink)
- Curly willow
- Small cattails

CAN BE DRIED: but better if sort of fresh (tend to shatter when too dried out)

- Statice (available on the marsh, if you know where to look)
- Sea Lavender
- Strawflowers
- Rose hips

OTHER DECORATIONS/EMBELLISHMENTS:

- Ribbons, bows, raffia
- Sparkly things
- Small floral picks/ plastic charms
- Small holiday decorations
- Small birds and/or feathers
- Silk flowers & leaves
- Holiday card cut-outs
- Origami figures
- Cut paper snowflakes
- Glitter
- Battery-powered lights
- Metallic (gold/bronze) spray paint or snow

