



Corte Madera Women's Improvement Club

WORKSHOP: Make a Wreath!

Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009 • 10am-2pm

FREE for members; \$15 for non-members (you can join at the workshop)

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 materials are denoted by asterisks, below. You'll want to bring enough to cover the basic wreath (a LARGE 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

