

RYE DRIFTWOOD GARDEN CLUB

Holiday Wishes from The Rye Driftwood Garden Club

Due to the current Covid 19 situation, Rye Driftwood Garden Club will not be holding meetings until further notice. Please visit our website <http://www.ryehgardenclub.org/> to get the latest update on our Club's activities and news.

It's that time of year when people get together and celebrate the holidays in many different ways. For the Rye Driftwood Garden Club, we usually kick off the season with our annual Holiday Greens Workshop and Sale in early December. It's always such a joyful time when many of our members have fun creating holiday décor using fresh greens and dried material from their own backyards. Since we are unable to hold the sale this year, we thought we would look back on the bustle behind the scenes and share a few ideas for creating your own lovely arrangements at home.

The Workshop takes a lot of planning and preparation. Throughout the fall, Club members gather dried materials and get together in November for a spray-painting party to jazz up some of the materials collected from our gardens. A group of us meet a few days before the workshop to create the fresh boxwood trees. Other members are busy making hand-made bows, baking delicious treats, or collecting holiday treasures to donate.

Our Club "elves" assemble for the workshop right before the sale using all the items collected and made ahead of time. Some of the materials from our yards are fresh-cut pines and fir, holly, winterberry, boxwood, birch branches, and native dried material along with other interesting finds. There are boxes of festive containers, ornaments, shiny picks and bows for us to brighten up our arrangements. We let our imaginations go to making all types of creations including wreaths, swags, centerpieces, candle rings and whimsy designs. We then lay everything out to sell at our Holiday Greens Sale. The proceeds go to our landscape grants and scholarships, speaker programs and ongoing gardening projects around Rye.

Here are a few photos and simple suggestions from our Club to help inspire you to create your own holiday arrangements at home.

Plan ahead by cutting native dried materials and winter branches in your garden. Some things that work well are flower scapes from daylilies, seed heads from coneflowers, black-eyed susans and even native weeds. Let them dry for a few days and then spray them gold, silver, white or a bold red. Something as simple as a hosta leaf sprayed gold or tree branches sprayed white can be a beautiful accent. Raid your holiday ornaments and check out your favorite hobby or consignment shop for festive containers, shiny picks, and bows. Just before creating your arrangements, scour your yard for greens and berries. Then put on some cheery music and have fun creating!

*The Rye Driftwood Garden Club wishes you all a
healthy and peaceful holiday season!*



