

Academy Garden Club Thymes

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ACADEMY GARDEN CLUB OF LENOX

OCTOBER 2025

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Horticultural Column

Foraging for Decorations for Fall

By Harriet Wetstone

Some of the best of the Lenox Academy Garden Club meetings are those in which we all get going on a project. Whether it is making boxwood designs, or flower arrangements, or wreaths, it is really fun to experiment with making something from nature with friends, learning from each other, sharing ideas, or coming up with something new. Our October meeting will be one of those. We will be creating arrangements using plant material we can easily forage from our gardens or from a roadside, or from the woods.



The idea for this came from our program committee. We always enjoy Chris Ferraro, and so we decided to ask her for a talk on planning for the fall using grasses and husks and branches and cones, whatever can be gathered in the fall.



Chris was delighted to be on our schedule but didn't have such a talk on her list. She offered to talk to us about something else, but I persisted. I thought she had to be able to share some ideas, she knows so much about plant material from every season.

"I'll tell you what," she said, "Have your members gather whatever they think would work, bring it all to the meeting, and see what you all can create. And I will come, not as a presenter, but as an observer and a photo documenter, and your meeting may end up as the crux of a new lecture on creating Autumn Arrangements."

So that's it. We will have Chris's seasoned eyes and encouragement and do her a favor all in one. I think this will be a lot of fun!

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Reaching out to the trusty internet (trusty at least on a topic like this one), I gathered a lot of ideas for us, although nothing terribly startling! **Wild grape vine**, easily available in the woods for making wreaths and baskets, **dried grasses with their clouds of seeds**, **branches with autumn leaves** still attached, **cat tails** of any variety, **flower stalks with dried flowers** still attached, assorted **evergreens with cones**, or a variety of **cones** just on their own, **bare branches** with interesting shape. And don't forget **husks** and **seed pods** and **berries** and **fruits**! All of these have the potential to be interesting bouquets and arrangements alone or in combination.



But there are also interesting ways of enhancing plant materials: they can be sprayed with gold and silver or color, they can be gathered with ribbon and twine, they can be braided into ropes, they can be shaped with wire or coaxed into interesting shapes with chicken wire. Our imagination can go wild.

One of the interesting artistic traits is that where one object can just be an object, an artistic arrangement of ten or twenty of those objects becomes something pleasurable to look at.

Here are some websites that provide great food for thought:

<https://www.outdoorapothecary.com/wild-flower/>

<https://mostlovelythings.com/easy-foraged-arrangement-for-fall/>

<https://www.thepondsfarmhouse.com/transform-foraged-treasures-stunning-fall-floral-arrangement/>

So come to our meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 6:00 PM, at the Lenox Community Center. Bring a bag of stuff that you have gathered, a container or vase, and ribbon if you have it.

We will have wires, chicken wires, spray paints and poster paints, and bags full of stuff we have gathered.



Come – enjoy the fun!