

December 11, 2023 Member Meeting  
WHAT YOU WILL NEED TO MAKE THE HOLIDAY CENTERPIECE WITH PHYLLIS STRAW

**SUPPLIES FOR THE MAKING THE CENTERPIECE**

1. A container – preferably square – each side should measure from 4” to 6” OR a round Container with a diameter of 6”
2. A piece of oasis to fill the container and extend about  $\frac{3}{4}$ -1” above the rim of container. Note the oasis should be soaked the night before the meeting. Place in a large bucket of cool water. Do not submerge. Let it soak up the water and it will slowly submerge.
3. A flower shears or garden clippers
4. A knife (serrated works well)
5. A pair of nitrile gloves if you are sensitive to tree sap
6. A thorn/leaf stripper/remover if you own one

**AMOUNT OF GREENS REQUIRED:**

**Note: *EVERGREEN CLIPPINGS – EACH CLIPPING CAN BE TRIMMED TO THE LENGTH OF THE DIAGONAL MEASUREMENT OF THE CONTAINER. A FEW CAN BE CUT SLIGHTLY LONGER.***

**BROADLEAF EVERGREENS:** At least 4-6 PIECES for the base. Select from one of the following:

- Rhododendron
- Magnolia leaves (can often be found reasonably priced at Trader Joe’s)
- Pieris Japonica
- Hellebore leaves
- Boxwood
- Euonymus
- Eucalyptus

**NEEDED EVERGREENS:** A mix of a few varieties 3-4 PIECES each from the list below:

- Pine
- Spruce
- Fir
- Arborvitae
- Cedar
- Juniper

*Please avoid Hemlock*

**EMBELLISHMENTS:** Select some of your favorites from years past (suggestions below) that can be added to enhance your arrangement.

- Pinecones/Berries (artificial)
- Small ornaments
- Small figurines (birds, reindeer, angels etc)
- Small branches
- 3-4” Picks (with wire attached) for the enhancements

**Instructions For Creating The Stay and Make Holiday Centerpiece  
With Phyllis Straw NGC Master Judge**

**PREPARATION**

1. Begin by arranging all your supplies and materials on a table in front of you. They should be easily reached. The plant material should be trimmed and organized by type.
2. Insert your pre-soaked oasis into your container. Make sure it extends 3/4<sup>th</sup> to 1 inch above the container.

**FIRST LAYER OF DESIGN -USING THE BROADLEAF EVERGREEN**

1. To create the first layer, you will use one of your broadleaf evergreens and you should have 4-6 pieces to create the base. Phyllis is using hellebores.
2. Visually create an "X" on your oasis and insert your first broadleaf piece into the first side. Press it all the way into the oasis.
3. Turn the container 180 degrees and insert the second piece into the second side to mirror the position of the first piece.
4. Next insert the other two on the remaining sides; again, pressing all the way in and positioning to mirror the opposite side.

**SECOND LAYER OF DESIGN -USING THE NEEDLED EVERGREEN**

1. Starting with the hardest needled evergreen that you have (Phyllis is using blue spruce) you will place four in the design at opposite ends (again using the "X") so they are in the space between the broadleaf evergreens. Place them about 1 inch from the edge. *Note: The needled evergreens are placed so they are coming upward rather than out creating a cup shape.*
2. Trim and remove any needles that would be in the water before inserting them into the oasis.
3. Using a second variety of needled evergreen (Phyllis is using juniper) you will place each one behind the broadleaf piece moving an inch toward the center. Again, mirror the place on opposite sides.
4. Next select a third variety of needled evergreen (Phyllis is using Norway spruce). These will be placed moving into the middle leaving a small circle about an inch in diameter.
5. Again, mirror the placement on each side of the design.
6. Next select the same variety that you used in Step 3 (Phyllis used juniper) and insert 3 (it is getting crowded) in the middle -still on an angle.
7. For an upright finishing touch insert one to three of the previous spruces used (Phyllis is using Norway spruce) to stand upright in the middle.
8. To finish the design, use a soft needled evergreen (Phyllis uses white pine) inserting one in the very middle and then using a few more very small pieces to cover holes that you find while moving around the design.
9. **CONGRATUALTIONS! YOU HAVE NOW CREATED AN ALL-GREENS CENTERPIECE AND THERE IS SPACE REMAINING FOR EMBELLISHMENTS!**