

Weaverville Garden Club Centerpiece Workshop:

As gardeners, many of you are already familiar with the concept of a four season garden, or plants that shine in each distinct season here in WNC. We happen to live in a uniquely diverse place for all season exploration. For winter interest, think Lenten Rose, Witch hazel, Persian ironwood, budding branches, vines and evergreen ground cover.

Many think of a centerpiece as flower focused, however, there is just as much joy to bring into the home from your winter landscape than the other seasons. The materials may not be as obvious, but when you start looking, you may be surprised at how much there is to use.

Creating a table-center in winter:

Greenery-

Look for various evergreens with an assortment of shades of green. I like to use at least three.

Texture-

Search for large variation in texture, think juniper, Christmas fern, and rhododendron.

Repetition-

A pleasing design, much like the garden, involves repetition. Take advantage of this when creating a centerpiece or arrangement.

Odd numbers-

The eye likes odd numbers, so consider using groups of 3, 5, and 7's.

Negative space-

Perfect symmetry is ideal for some of us, but the most catching designs take advantage of negative space and A-symmetry

Extras-

Look for pieces of natural material to stand out in your arrangement, give it height, a focal point and interest. Think branches, pods, dried fruit, feathers, and dried grasses.

The most important thing in a successful design is to **enjoy yourself**. Keep it light. Keep it fun. Allow your materials to breathe. If it seems difficult, take a break, walk away and continue at a later time.

Start with some foundation greenery, you can also use the branches of this greenery for an anchor as well, building on it with various greenery until it is time to add some focal points and branches or height. Turn your vessel as you go so it will look full from all sides. I generally begin with an assortment of 3 types of greenery.

Follow with a few branches and focal pieces, such as pods, pinecones or dried fruit.

Step back and add more greenery where needed.