



Garden Club's holiday house tour offers food for thought

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By **Lee Gugliada/Get Growing**

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, N.J., recently hosted "Deck the Halls," a holiday house tour featuring homes decorated for the holidays emphasizing the use of fresh and dried plant material. Visitors easily came away with ideas for decking their own halls.

At the DeBrueys' home, visitors were greeted by a pair of "tuteurs" (a French trellis shaped like an obelisk) decorated with ropes of greenery. Fresh floral designs on the back of each chair in the dining room added to the festive décor, while sugared fruits and iced vegetables glistened in the kitchen, and a gold-and-copper-trimmed swag of fresh greens festooned the mantel in the living room.

At the entrance to the Shields' home, visitors were greeted with candlelit glass cylinders filled with cranberries nestled in evergreen-draped pedestal urns on either side of the walkway.



On a shelf above an oven, a quintet of dried alliums soars above a row of orchids.

The black Colonial front door sported a large wreath ringed with blue spruce and circled with strands of strung cranberries (coordinating with the urns) and Granny Smith apples. Variegated aucuba, large pine cones and juniper added color and texture to this welcoming entry.

In the dining room, miniature fresh green trees and moss-covered boxwood wreaths adorned the windowsills, while the butler's pantry was brightened with an ice bucket overflowing with red tulips and a display of rosemary wreaths suspended in tall glass cylinders.

In the kitchen, the Shields' theme of "A Bountiful Christmas" was evident in the edible designs, where a trio of green candles, each inserted into a large artichoke was surrounded with red cranberries and green ivy.

**View full size**

Pinky-red hypericum berries star in this festive centerpiece.

Assorted fruits and vegetables, including Portobello mushrooms, red cabbage, tomatoes, kiwi, grapes and oranges, were used with broad leaf evergreen and conifers to brighten up a corner of the countertop.

SOARING ALLIUMS

On a shelf above an oven, a quintet of dried alliums soared above a row of orchids, drawing the eye upward, while on the kitchen table, a large red tray encompassing a group of hollowed-out cauliflowers bursting with white carnations wowed visitors.

Beneath an oval gold and glass table in the living room a tray was used as a container for a large centerpiece of blue spruce, boxwood, pine, arborvitae, red, blooming Christmas cactus and oversized decorative gold balls. Placing the arrangement on the floor allowed plenty of room for guests to place their wine glasses on the table and still be able to enjoy the design.

In the family room, three tree forms were covered with wooly lamb's ear leaves and placed in the center of wreaths of white pine, vines and red roses.

On exiting the home, tour goers were treated to a patio table decorated with large ears of corn and several containers of flowering kale, and chairs decorated with swags of white pine branches tied with strings of cranberries. The grand finale of the theme of "A Bountiful Christmas" was a holiday tree of bare branches placed in a red watering can.

White pine branches enhanced the design, which featured an edible feast for the birds. Peeled apples, oranges made into baskets and dried slices of oranges all were hung above an assortment of flat tins of a variety of bird seed.

SIZE DOESN'T MATTER

Eastern white pine branches and a ring of pine cones at the base circled a pedestal urn planted with a dwarf Alberta spruce tree at a townhouse on Cowperthwaite Square. The residents of the Perley family adopted "Great Things Come in Small Packages" as their theme and proved that even smaller residences can make room for holiday decorations.

A delicate small arrangement of mixed greens and red carnations decorated a secretary, while wrapped packages decorated with gold-sprayed sweet gum balls and another with golden pine cones sat waiting for the "giftees" to open. A small, flat circle of bay leaves served as a resting place for some gold-sprayed acorns.

**View full size**

Photos/Lee
Gugliada

ree forms are covered with wooly lamb's ear leaves and set within wreaths of white pine, vines and red roses to create a decidedly different display.

The centerpiece on the dining room table was created with a cone-shaped, wet oasis on which several hundred pinky-red hypericum berries were inserted with their leaves placed behind them serving as a background. This hypericum tree was placed in the center of a fresh boxwood wreath decorated with dried heather, red carnations and roses.



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A candlelit glass cylinder is filled with cranberries and nestled in an evergreen-draped pedestal urn.

A small nest arrangement of white roses, juniper berries, and assorted small-leaved evergreens featured gilded egg ornaments and a votive candle. A row of white lighted glass cubes rose above a swag of white pine and magnolia leaves on the mantel and white poinsettias brightened the hearth below.

Before departing, a peek at the elegant powder room revealed a festive stone wall hanging of a woman's head creatively decorated with fresh eucalyptus leaves, red carnations and white freesias.

**CONTEMPORARY
CHRISTMAS**

"A Contemporary Christmas" was the inspiration for the contemporary home of the Huber family where a large green pear was suspended by a red ribbon from a group of cinnamon sticks placed across the rim of a cylindrical glass container on the kitchen table. Clear glass pebbles and variegated holly with red berries added interest and color to the base.

GARDEN NOTES



View full size

A stone wall hanging of a woman's head is decorated with fresh eucalyptus leaves, red carnations and white freesias.

December 21 marks the end of fall and the beginning of winter. Examine your landscape now when trees are bare to think about what new features, such as a new path or possibly a new shade tree, you might want to add to next year's garden.

Lee Gugliada is past president of the Great Kills Garden Club and past director of First District Federated Garden Clubs of New York State.

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Liz Dwyer (left) and Kris Luka, chairpersons for Deck the Halls Holiday House Tour scheduled for Dec. 4, discuss ongoing plans for this exciting event.

Gardening, decorating, service to highlight Rake and Hoe house tour

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield has a long term reputation for their service to the community and their donations to worthy causes. Their Deck the Halls Holiday House Tour, scheduled for Saturday, Dec. 4, has been in the planning stages for many months.

The club members are also continuing their service to the community by maintaining the gardens at the northside of the Westfield Train Station, the Miller Cory House Museum, and the Shadowlawn Pocket Park. They will also be taking care of the Clare Brownell Wildflower Garden at the Reeve House, home of the Westfield Historical Society.

Another Rake and Hoe service project for this fall will be the making of ornaments for the annual December tree decorating at the Jardine School. The ornaments and a simi-

larly themed holiday book will be given to the children for their library. Committee members will also be making bedside flower arrangements and donating gift bags filled with goodies for the veterans at Lyons Hospital.

The Rake & Hoe Junior Garden Club, which meets once a month, has members between first grade and eighth grade. They are having a busy fall by planting more daffodils around town, learning about Monarch butterfly migration, and helping to clean up the Westfield train station garden. They are also learning the basics of flower arranging, which will help them make flower arrangements for the teachers at the Jardine School of the Union County Cerebral Palsy League and the upcoming New Jersey Flower Show in February. There is still

room for new members; call Mrs. Siano at 233-4150 for more information.

Members of the Rake and Hoe Garden Club, who are good cooks as well as good gardeners, have just published their new cookbook, *Well-Seasoned*. This is a collection of recipes for the five seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter, and holiday. The books can be purchased at the boutique at the upcoming Deck the Halls Holiday Home Tour on Dec. 4. They will also be available from members of the club.

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield's membership is diverse, spanning all ages, interests, and occupations. Federated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and the Garden Club of New Jersey, the Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield, NJ has between 50 and 70 members all of whom share one thing in common: a love of flowers and gardening. Contact Maryann Pietruszki, club president, at 908-789-9254 for information.

Prime Time

Entertainment & Dining Guide of Suburban News

Rake and Hoe Club 'Deck the Halls' Holiday House Tour set for Dec. 4

WESTFIELD — One of the homes in the upcoming Holiday House Tour, sponsored by The Rake and Hoe Club of Westfield, is the Huber home, mid-20th-century split colonial on Knollwood Terrace. This lovely home was renovated and converted to a contemporary home with open floor plan and with an Asiatic feel. The floral décor seen throughout this home on Saturday, Dec. 4 will be dramatic and eye-catching, and will enhance the clean lines of this home with a very modern background. A generous use of deep red will highlight each area in striking contrast to the neutral tones of the home's furnishings.

The tour will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Holiday House Tour is always an exciting event for Westfield and the surrounding communities. The garden club members decorate four lovely homes in Westfield for the holidays. Each home has a different theme and will include a variety of fresh floral arrangements. Other homes in this year's event comprise a stylish condominium on Cowperthwaite Place, a traditional central hall colonial on Tremont Avenue, a distinctive Tudor home on Kimball Avenue, as well as the Huber home.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 per person before the event from a club member, Christofers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Caldwell Banker, or Williams Nursery, and at the door for \$35 per person. The entrance ticket is for all four houses as well as the boutique at the historic Reeve House of

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HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS—This lovely contemporary home on Knollwood Terrace in Westfield will be one of the homes on Rake and Hoe's Deck the Hall Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 4, 2010 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SUBURBAN NEWS

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2010

Deck the Halls' Holiday House Tour is set for Dec. 4 in Westfield

WESTFIELD — Members of the The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield are planning their Holiday House Tour for Dec. 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This Holiday House Tour is always an exciting event for Westfield and the surrounding communities, as well as members of garden clubs throughout the state. This, their main fundraising event, happens every four years. The garden club members decorate four lovely homes in Westfield for the holidays. Each home has a different theme and will include a variety of fresh floral arrangements. Other homes in this year's event comprise a stylish condominium on Cowperthwaite Place, a distinctive Tudor home on Kimball Avenue, a contemporary home on Knollwood Ave, as well as this lovely colonial on Tremont Ave.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 per person before the event from a club member, Christoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Coldwell Banker, or Williams Nursery, and at the door for \$35 per person. The entrance ticket is for all four houses as well as the boutique at the historic Reeve House of the Westfield Historical Society, which will include refreshments, holiday floral arrangements, small gift items, kits for making arrangements at home, topiaries for outdoor decorating and, new this year, our "Porch Pots," perfect to take right home and place next to your doormat.

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NORTHSIDE BEAUTY—Built in 1926, this traditional center hall colonial is one of the elegant residences that will delight your eyes at the Rake and Hoe Garden Club Holiday House Tour on Dec. 4. This Northside home, with its theme of "A Bountiful Christmas," will be decorated with sumptuous evergreen garlands, rich burgundy accents, elegant white and green floral designs and "bountiful" seasonal treats. It is a lovely holiday home which will call to mind many joyful Christmas memories.



Christie Storms for The Westfield Leader and The Times
RAKE AND HOE HO HO... The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield held its "Deck the Halls" Holiday House Tour last weekend, featuring innovative ideas for holiday decorating. Pictured above is a Victorian Christmas Tree comprised of hand-crafted ornaments alongside a sleigh full of elegantly wrapped packages at a Kimball Avenue residence. See article on page 19.

PHOTO BY CHRISTIE STORMS

RHGC's Holiday Home Tour Offers Creative Inspiration

By CHRISTIE STORMS

Specialty Writer for The Westfield Leader and The Times

WESTFIELD — Anyone tired of pulling out the same old boxes of the same old Christmas decorations year after year could have benefited from attending the Rake and Hoe Garden Club (RHGC)'s "Deck the Halls" Holiday House Tour this past weekend.

The tour featured four homes with refreshing and innovative ideas in holiday decorating along with plenty of helpful docents to explain how they were achieved.

Each house had its own theme customized to the décor throughout. RHGC members incorporated two small rakes and hoes at each residence as part of a contest, and visitors who could locate them all entered a drawing for three prizes.

On Kimball Avenue, a Tudor home provided an elegant backdrop for hand-

made decorations with a Victorian flair.

Pressed Queen Anne's lace "snowflakes" along the window glass added charm to the study, while across the hall, nosegays in wallpaper cones enhanced the grand Christmas tree alongside an antique-style sleigh filled with elegantly wrapped packages.

The dining room featured gold place settings topped with glittering green ornaments filled with flowers and glued to small round mirrors.

Four Christmas tree-shaped topiaries glistening in gold and copper stood proudly along the kitchen island, while floral and fruit arrangements sparkled, dipped in a combination of three kinds of glitter and beads.

Each hand-cut pineapple ornament on the family room Christmas tree took an hour to create. The intricate patterns were an example of the German art of "Scherenschnitte," or "scis-

sor cuts."

Outside, pinecones and ribbons created an impressive cascading wind chime over the patio table.

The contemporary style of the Knollwood Terrace home inspired bold holiday décor with clean lines and modern flair. Brilliant red floral arrangements popped against the home's neutral Asian-inspired style.

Irene Greenstein, publicity chair, said each room on the tour was assigned a "team" to decorate it.

She and her team crafted several hundred origami birds and floral ornaments for the Christmas tree, which featured modern round lights. A square wreath and a trio of gold stylized trees further enhanced the living room.

In the kitchen, pears suspended from ribbons inside glass vases served as a unique centerpiece among table settings dressed with evergreens and chopsticks.

Club member Barbara Straight said many of the dried flowers throughout the tour were grown at members' own residences. Most of the arrangements were also for sale.

The town house filled with antiques on Cowperthwaite Square was dressed for the holidays in charming, old-world style. The living room tree featured ornaments comprised of pressed ferns, dried artichokes and pomegranates and was topped with a sunburst of dried allium, while hand-stamped wrapping paper adorned presents.

A red cone tree of hypericum berries nestled against a boxwood wreath of blue thistle, lavender and roses created a striking centerpiece in the dining room.

Scrumptious gingerbread houses led the way between the kitchen and family room to a table-top tree featuring gilded blown eggs.

Dozens of white poinsettias surrounded the rich, dark mantel, where glass blocks housing small LED lights glowed, wrapped up like presents.

A majestic evergreen wreath accen-

tuated with green apples and berries welcomed guests at the front door of the stately Tremont Avenue home.

Inside the traditional center hall, the grand staircase banister was draped in evergreens, fruits and graceful bows.

Small red wreaths wrapped each candelabra arm of the crystal chandelier above a full-length tablescape of luscious florals and golden trees in the dining room. Square boxwood wreaths hung in the windows while round ones were secured to the back of each dining chair with satin ribbon.

White magnolias and winterberries mixed with white pine in the living room highlighted the room's raised panel fireplace mantel and crown moldings.

The family room Christmas tree featured white willow branches weaved throughout its boughs, and the bookshelves displayed a festive Santa collection.

The RHGC's Junior Club of elementary and middle school-aged members, decorated the patio, fastening evergreen swags behind each chair with a string of decorative cranberries.

Kris Luka, who co-chaired the event with Liz Dwyer, said this fundraiser is traditionally held every four years. This year, a portion of the proceeds will go to the Clair Brownell Memorial Wildflower Garden at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House.

The Reeve House was also the locale for the tour's "Celebrate the Season" boutique, where visitors could enjoy refreshments and shop for items such as unique floral arrangements, seasonal greenery, handcrafted cards, ornaments and gifts.

Ms. Luka expressed appreciation for Linda Winter and Linda Parker, who coordinated the boutique this year.

"We want to thank all the members for all their hard work," she said, adding that the RHGC hopes to plan another holiday home tour for 2014.

SN 12/2/10

Rake and Hoe Club's Holiday House Tour

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Rake and Hoe Garden Club members decorate four lovely homes in Westfield for the holidays. Each home has a different theme and will include a variety of fresh floral arrangements. Homes selected for this year's event comprise a stylish condominium on Cowperthwaite Place, a traditional center hall colonial on Tremont Avenue, a distinctive Tudor home on Kimball Avenue, and a contemporary home on Knollwood Ave.

Tickets can be purchased for \$30 per person before the event from a club member, Christoffers Flowers, Baron's Drug Store, Caldwell Banker or Williams Nursery, and at the door for \$35 per person. The entrance ticket is for all four houses as well as the boutique at the historic Reeve



House of the Westfield Historical Society, which will serve refreshments and sell holiday floral arrangements, small gift items, kits for making arrangements at home, topiaries for outdoor decorating and, new this year, our "Porch Pots," perfect to take home and place by your doormat.

Members of Rake and Hoe, who are good cooks as well as good gardeners, have just published their new cookbook, Well-Seasoned. This is a collection of recipes for five seasons: spring, summer, fall, winter, and holiday. The books will be displayed at the upcoming Deck the Halls Holiday House Tour, and will be on sale at the boutique, the Town

Book Store, and from members of the club. Proceeds will fund the club's many community projects and the Claire Brownell Memorial Garden at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve house.

Please contact Maryann Pietruszki, club president, at 908-789-9254 for more information.

Rake and Hoe Announces Holiday House Tour Date

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historic Reeve House of the Westfield Historical Society, where refreshments will be served and

participants may purchase holiday floral arrangements, small gift items, kits for making arrangements at home, topiaries for outdoor decorating and, new this year, "Porch Pots" to take home and place by one's doormat.



HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS...The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield will decorate this historic Tudor home on Kimball Avenue for its Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. It features a wooden shake roof, which has been authentically restored and has won recognition from the Westfield Historic Preservation Commission.

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Proceeds from the holiday house tour will fund the club's many community projects and the Claire Brownell Memorial Garden at the Reeve House. For more information, call Maryann Pietruszki, club president, at (908) 789-9254.

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Photos/Lee Gugliada

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X

Millburn-ShorthillsPatch

ORGANIZATIONS

Westfield Holiday House Tour

Posted by Irene Greenstein

Where: 314 Mountain Ave, Westfield, NJ 07090

Date: December 4, 2010

Time: 10:00am-4:00pm

Members of the The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield NJ will present their Holiday House Tour on December 4, 2010 from 10 a.m to 4. p.m. This Holiday House Tour is always an exciting event for Westfield and the surrounding communities. The garden club members decorate four lovely homes in Westfield for the holidays. Each home has a different theme and will include a variety of fresh floral arrangements. Homes in this year's event comprise a stylish condominium on Cowparthwaite Place, a traditional central hall colonial on Tremont Avenue, a distinctive Tudor home on Kimball Avenue, as well as a modern home on Knollwood Terrace. Their new cookbooks and many other lovely items for the garden will be sold at the Westfield Historical Society's Reeve House at 314 Mountain Ave. Tickets can be purchased in advance at Christoffers Flowers, Baron's Drugs, Coldwell Bankers, or Williams Nursery as well as from members of Rake and Hoe. Admission is limited to adults and children over the age of 12.

• **Features:** Open to All

Website: <http://www.rakeandhoe.org>

Phone: 908-233-8519

Email: kluka@comcast.net

Price: \$30 in advance/\$35 at the door

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