
6 Chapter 6 HOBBIES & CRAFTS

PROGRAMS

1. Attracting Winter Birds
2. Collector's Luck: Trash & Treasure Day
3. Flowers
4. Greenhouses, Herbs, and Perennials
5. Herbs
6. Journal Keeping
7. Language of Flowers

OTHER PROGRAM IDEAS

1. Adaptive Gardening
2. Birds
3. Cake Decorating
4. Calligraphy
5. Carousels
6. Collectibles
7. Creative Writing
8. Flower Arranging
9. Forgotten Arts
10. Quilts

Sources:

Carousels – <http://www.carousels.com>

National Audubon Society – <http://www.audubon.org>

Local florists

Local bakeries

Local quilting groups



HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Attracting Winter Birds

Description/Summary:

A representative from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources gave a talk on birds in the Northwest Ohio area, emphasizing those found in residential neighborhoods. Emphasis was on how the homeowner could attract birds by providing necessary shelter and food. Recipes for suet balls and seed bells were handed out.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

The library provided a lectern and a table for display material. Also, related books were set out which participants could check out.

Helpful Hints:

This program should be given in early fall and in the afternoon. There are other organizations or contact persons who can provide speakers on attracting birds including the local newspaper's outdoors editor, and the county cooperative extension service.



HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Collector's Luck: Trash and Treasure Day

Description/Summary:

Patrons came to this program to learn about antiques and collectables and were encouraged to bring a favorite item along to be identified and/or evaluated by area antique specialists. Guest speakers and experts included: a deltiologist (postcard collector); an old record specialist; a person knowledgeable about 20th century collectables; an old books and bindings specialist; a collector of antique dolls and miniatures who also spoke on the costuming of old dolls; a coin, stamp, and "papercana" (paper Americana) dealer; an oriental figurines dealer; and a university instructor who taught noncredit courses in antiques.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Chairs and tables for audience and speakers

Microphone and podium

Tables for the items brought in

Library books, book lists, and signs for each guest speaker's table identifying his/her area of expertise

Helpful Hints:

Limit the number of "collectables" the audience is allowed to bring per person. This was a long program (10:00 am to 2:00 pm) so a pot of coffee and hot water for tea and hot chocolate were appreciated by the speakers. A library staff member introduced each of the speakers. A discussion of recommended reference books tied in well with the book display.

HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Flowers

Description/Summary:

This program used flowers as the theme for several activities and is ideal for senior residences and nursing homes. Participant activities included: responding to a roll call by naming a favorite flower, identifying the name of a flower in songs played on a piano, unscrambling names of flowers, and matching seed catalog pictures of flowers with their names listed on a blackboard.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

The chalkboard, paper and pencils, scrambled flower names, catalog pictures (mounted on cardboard), and a list of flower songs to play were prepared in advance. Several library books were brought in as a display which participants were encouraged to browse through or check out. These included gardening favorites such as *Annuals and Garden Flowers* by Proudley.

Helpful Hints:

It is helpful to provide handouts of scrambled flower names in large-type or well-spaced letters for the benefit of those with impaired vision. Words on the chalkboard were written before the program.

Familiar old-time flower songs are best for the tune-guessing part. "I'm a Lonely Little Petunia in an Onion Patch" or "Daisy, Daisy, give me your answer do..." are examples. It is especially fun to do this part at the end of the program so it can develop into a sing-along.

HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Greenhouses, Herbs, and Perennials

Description/Summary:

Three topics were presented (as individual programs) by local speakers who were gardeners and/or nursery employees. They enhanced their talks with slides and appropriate displays. For example, soil samples were brought in for the "Greenhouse" program.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

A slide projector, table for speaker and the various displays.

Books on gardening

Since this was part of the library's weekly coffee program, the coffee urn, paper cups, and napkins were set out also.

Helpful Hints:

When publicizing an on-going program for seniors, be sure to contact local senior residences and ask that the information be included in their newsletter or calendar of events. This is especially important if you are just beginning a regular program series and have not yet established a regular morning clientele.



HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Herbs

Description/Summary:

This presentation consisted of a demonstration of cooking with a variety of herbs. Samples of lemonade, cookies, and herbed butters for breads were prepared by a retired chef who also provided further information on the use of herbs and hints on extending the shelf-life of herbs in the cupboard.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Ingredients, table, cooking and mixing utensils for the demonstration
Prepared goodies, napkins, paper cups, etc.

Helpful Hints:

For this program, lemonade and enough cookies were prepared in advance so that samples could be tasted by everyone. Recipes were printed on sheets that were handed out to the audience.

Hobbies and Crafts

Program Title:

Journal Keeping

Description/Summary:

This program can be presented at senior centers, nursing homes, and apartment complexes as a fun and educational experience. Share information with participants on how journals have been used throughout history. Let them know about different kinds of journals that might suit their personal needs. For example:

- The Log
- The Healing Journal
- The Cathartic Journal
- The Spiritual Journal
- The Historical Journal

Share ways that writing in a journal can improve quality of life. Have craft time to personalize a journal of their own that they can take with them.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Composition books are inexpensive and are nice for using as journals. They can be personalized by cutting out colorful card stock shapes, attaching with glue sticks, and using markers to say "Mary's Journal".

Great information can be found in the following books: *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Journaling* by Joan R. Neubaur and *Eat My Words: Reading Women's Lives through the Cookbooks They Wrote* by Janet Theophano.

Helpful Hints:

Give a handout of journal tips and an ink pen to all participants to begin their adventures in journal keeping. Encourage them to have fun. Let them know it is never too late to start keeping a journal. Everyone has unique experiences and perceptions and their journal can be the perfect place to record these precious happenings. They get to be the main character in this book!

HOBBIES & CRAFTS

Program Title:

Language of Flowers

Description/Summary:

The history and folklore of individual types of flowers were presented in a slide show and lecture to residents of a nursing home. For this 30-minute program, twenty slides were made with a Kodak Visual Maker from color photographs of flowers. As an added feature, a local garden club donated bouquets of fresh spring flowers for display.

Materials/Equipment/Resources:

Slide projector and screen
Table for the donated flower arrangements
Chairs for the audience

A collection of related library books was brought for the audience to peruse after the presentation. One title that was very popular was Lesley Gordon's *Green Magic*.

Helpful Hints:

For this program, the librarian researched the information and produced the slides. A similar program could be arranged using less staff time by contacting a local speakers bureau or garden club