

ISSUE

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DAYLILIES

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Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.

Stanley Horowitz

"Those who wish to sing always find a song."

Swedish Proverb

23 More Days...

November has turned into December and the fall leaves have turned into snow flakes. That, and the Daylilies studio has been buzzing with activity! In the past month we have posted 27 unique Creative Christmas Gift Ideas, hosted our very first Christmas Gift Making Workshop, and we have finally gotten our new website up and running.

Whew!

And, with only 23 more days to Christmas, there is still a lot to do in a very short time. In the spirit of giving handmade and homemade this year, and in the spirit of last minute and the Christmas rush, most (if not all) of the Creative Christmas Gift Ideas posted on our blog this month will be fast & phenomenal. Our goal is to help you give creatively in 2 hours or less – quicker than a trip to the mall! Be sure to check out the [blog](#) daily for new ideas every day (Monday to Friday) to Christmas.

In the middle of all the Christmas hustle, we are also really excited to pause and look at plans for Daylilies in the New Year. We had so much fun with our very first workshop, that we are looking to schedule more workshops beginning in January. Whether it is a session on transforming vintage goods, knitting, smocking, jewellery making or drawing, we hope that you will consider joining us! Keep watching our Facebook page, blog and/or website for details. And... if you would like to us to run any particular workshop, just let me know! I also wanted to take a moment and say that it is a wonderful privilege for me to see and hear about all of the great creative projects you are doing.

From everyone here at Daylilies, we wish you a very happy, joyful, creative, and merry Christmas this year – and we look forward to a very creative New Year!

Debra O'Connor



Great Reading! Recommended Reads...

For Adults:

Christmas is the season for cards – isn't it? I love to see which cards my friends and family picked out this year as much as I love picking out the perfect card to send.

Although I have never really gotten into the spirit of making all my Christmas cards, I really did think seriously about it after I tried [Mexican Papercutting on the blog](#) this past month. For this reason, this month's recommended reading is *Mexican Papercutting: Simple Techniques for Creating Colorful Cut-Paper Projects* by Kathleen Trenchard. Not only does this book show you how to do the wonderful art of Mexican papercutting, but it also offers some great suggestions for projects too.

Whether you want to make greeting cards or holiday decorations, Mexican papercutting may just be what you are looking for!



Studio Picks:

This Month's Fave
is the [Yo-Yo Kit!](#)

Everybody loves a yo-yo, don't they?

And just what could be better than a design-your-own-yo-yo?

We just don't know.

The day that we spent trying out the new yo-yo kits was a very fun day around the studio (one of the best yet!). And we believe that this is one of the best projects for kids of all ages. This yo-yo kit is a no-tool-required, solid-wood kit. It is easy, fun, solidly built for lots of hours of play, and provides growing children with creativity and fine motor skills development.

And just why is this yo-yo kit our December's *favourite* product? Well, we would be remiss if we didn't say that it makes a great stocking stuffer (it is December, after all), but we also love this product because it is a fabulous family project during the long snowy school holidays.

Just decorate the yo-yo as you want, click the 3 pieces together and wrap on the string. It is that easy – and the resulting yo-yo is fun and personal to you.

And, if this project wasn't easy enough, anything goes while decorating these yo-yos. They are solid wood, so decorating these toys can be as simple or complex as you want. Bring out the crayons, markers or paint... or even grab the scissors and glue and decoupage some Christmas wrap or cut up Christmas cards onto your yo-yo for some seasonal fun.

And then, just when the creative project is finished, the fun of playing with the yo-yo has just begun!



Did you know?

Not only does the Daylilies website have a new look, we also would like to announce Free Shipping* for all Canadian orders.

* Regular Parcel only – be sure to order early to ensure delivery for Christmas!

More Thoughts from the Blog: Digging Deeper into November's Ideas...

Candy, Cookies & Other Gifts from the Kitchen

One of our most popular blog posts in November was the [post on candy apples](#). And for good reason too – not only did they look great, but they were very tasty and easy to make.



They are also one of the best ideas listed on the Daylilies blog for Christmas gifts this year.

But what if you don't want to give candy apples? Here are some other easy, pretty, tasty and heartfelt gifts that can come from your kitchen. (From-the-kitchen gifts are a great option for thoughtful, last minute, and budget conscious gifts.)

While the studio staff here would ultimately reach for the chocolate, candy or cookies as a first resort for gift giving,

we would also like to suggest that a fabulous gourmet mustard, a beautiful jar of homemade soup (your favourite kind), your famous homemade blend of muesli or granola, or a jar of 'designer' ice cream syrup, would make any gift-getter's mouth water. Add a little creativity and your own special recipes and you have everything you need to create a great gift.

Mustard?

Mustard is one of those really easy recipes that is perfect for adding a little creativity. Have you ever just glimpsed at the mustard shelf in your local gourmet store? There are literally hundreds of kinds and flavours of mustard. To make some of your very own, try one of my favourite mustard recipes (taken from [CDKitchen](#)):

2 tablespoons yellow mustard seeds -- coarsely ground
1/4 cup brown or yellow mustard powder
1/4 cup cold water
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar -- or cider vinegar
1 teaspoon salt

Grind the mustard seeds to the texture you desire. Mix the mustard powder and ground seeds with the water. Let sit for 10 minutes. Add the vinegar and salt; blend well. Refrigerate overnight before using. (Put in sterilized jar to give.)

Experiment with the recipe by adding your favourite flavours, or keep it plain and gift it in a gorgeous glass bottle with a nice handwritten label.

Syrup?

Basic sugar syrup is as simple as sugar and water – and this makes a great blank canvas for your creativity. Choose to add chocolate, nuts, cinnamon or even fruit or cream to make your own special syrup recipe.

Want inspiration? The strawberry syrup recipe at [Allrecipes](#) is a great start:

1 cup of sugar
1 cup of water
1 ½ cups of mashed strawberries.

Bring ingredients to a boil and let simmer for 10 minutes until thickened. Put in sterilized jar for gifting.

Great Reading! Recommended Reads...

For Kids:

The recommended read for kids this December is *Kids in the Holiday Kitchen: *Making *Baking *Giving* by Jessica Strand and Tammy Massman-Johnson. This book is filled to the brim with great holiday activities, recipes, projects (and more) for children aged 4 and up (with adult supervision required, of course). And – the photographs by James Baigrie also included in the book are not only stunning, but make you want to taste every recipe! So, grab your kids and some aprons and get cooking! With a lot of fun, and a little creativity, you'll have some awesome memories (and maybe a Christmas gift or two to give away as well).



Winter Creative Fun Fun Ideas for Enjoying the Season



1. Snow Art Day! Grab your snowpants, your kids, and some spray bottles filled with food colouring. Start with colouring in angel snow prints and move on to 'painting' pictures across the snowy landscape. The whole world is your canvas!
2. Treasure Hunt. When your kids (or loved one) are busy doing other things, sneak outside and 'hide' some treasures (candy, toys, carrots – it could be anything!) in the snowy landscape of your backyard. Send the 'hunters' out with a treasure list. Think of it like an easter egg hunt, only in December.
3. Take a picture walk. Bundle up and take your camera out to find the prettiest picture of the day (week, month...).
4. Who says your snow man can't be a cowboy (or cowgirl)? How about a surfer dude? Give your snowman a new identity and have some fun. Cowboy hats, boots and a bandanna will make you and your kids look at snowmen a whole different way. (So will a surfboard and a bottle of sunscreen).
5. Build your very own sled (for adults or with adult supervision). What makes the best sled? Wood? Cardboard? Garbage bags? Duct tape? Prizes for the best ride!!!

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