



DAYLILIES

The Christmas Countdown Begins

this issue

Tis the Season **P.1**

Studio Picks: This Month's Faves **P.2**

Great Reading! Recommended Reads **P.2 & 3**

More Thoughts from the Blog **P.3**

Halloween Specials **P.4**

"Never ask whether you can do something. Say instead that you are going to do it, then fasten your seat belt."

Julia Cameron

"The difference between artists and other people is that artists have a sketchbook."

Mary Bergs

The Daylilies studio is a very busy place these days! The [website](#) continues to be refined and changed (for the better, we hope), the blog was recently moved and our [Etsy](#) shop will be up and running soon.

If all that were not enough, somewhere in the middle of October, it was decided that a new (creative) Christmas gift idea would be posted on the Daylilies [blog](#) every day until December 25th. Our Christmas Countdown officially started October 26th, and, as I write this, we have posted 6 ideas so far – all things that you can do to give homemade and handmade this year.

After the first post, I have to admit that there was some panic at the thought that we would need 2 months worth of ideas (by Christmas, we will have posted 45 things that you can make and give this season – did I say 45????), but after the first week, I have come to the conclusion that although we might run out of time, we will not run out of ideas. Our idea folders are bursting! And every idea that is offered seems to breed yet another idea here in the studio.

Today, for example, work with paper cutting has led to a great idea for t-shirt designs. I don't know if this will make our countdown to Christmas

gift idea list, but either way, I really can't wait to get my ideas down on paper and try them out. And just in case you have a busy life that doesn't give you much time to make handmade gifts this year, we promise to include good ideas that don't take a lot of time, materials or new skills to learn.

Oh! And before I forget – the studio is really excited about our Small Purse Challenge. We hope you will join us! Just download the free pattern, make the purse (it would make a fantastic Christmas gift too!), and email me the pictures of your finished purse. When you do, I will send you a gift certificate for 50% off any purchase of \$25 or more. More details of the Challenge can be found on the [blog](#) or on our [Facebook](#) discussions page. The Challenge is open until early January 2010

I do hope that if any of the ideas on the blog inspire you, that you will pick up a pen, paintbrush, needle, pair of scissors, (or whatever it is you need to pick up) and give it a try. And, along the way, if you have any questions or comments about any of the ideas, visit our discussion group on [Facebook](#), add a comment to our [blog](#), or email me [directly](#).

Debra O'Connor

Great Reading! Recommended Reads...

For Adults:

This month, my recommendation for great reading is not just one book, but rather a whole series of magazines. This month I picked up my very first issue of Threads Magazine. I was hooked from the very first article. The writers at Threads not only know A LOT about sewing, but offer up the information in an easy-to-read format with clear and concise instructions. It didn't seem to matter which issue I picked up – the information was timeless and the articles were relevant – even when the magazine issue itself was two years old! If you have any interest in sewing, I highly recommend this magazine. It certainly is worth the read (and sometimes it even has patterns too!)



Studio Picks: This Month's Faves!

There are a lot of favourite products in the studio this past month, but the most favoured of all is the Stockmar beeswax wax decorating strips.

Why?

Well...we were in a really tight spot – out of time and needing to do something creative fast so that we could get the day's blog posted. Not only that, but none of us were in the creative mood and nothing was going well.

It was a very bad day.

But then Christopher mentioned that we hadn't worked with the Stockmar beeswax decorating wax strips yet, so we grabbed the opportunity to give them a try.

And things couldn't have turned out better. These wax strips are quick and easy to use. The wax strips

are easy to cut with scissors or cookie cutters. They come in great colours, and they are just a great way to add a personal touch to an otherwise plain candle.

These wax decorating strips also easily stick to a lot of other surfaces too – this is a great way to add colour, shape and interest to boring storage tins.

And even though these strips aren't specifically modelling wax, they still warm up in your hands so they are easy to form and shape as you need for your individual project.

As with any Stockmar product, the beeswax decorating strips are harmless to health and to the environment.

Choose wax decorator strips for a quick creative project with your kids this holiday season. A candle makes for a fantastic teacher's gift, especially when made especially for them!

Important Changes and New Things

Please make sure that you have adjusted your RSS feeds and bookmarks – our new blog address is:

www.dayliliescreative.wordpress.com

Also! Make sure to watch for big changes with our website coming soon.

And... we are looking forward to the opening of our [Etsy](#) Shop mid November. Shop for our finished blog projects there!

More Thoughts from the Blog: Digging Deeper into October's Ideas... *Candles*

It may seem that we have spent a lot of time focused on candles in this issue of the Daylilies newsletter – and maybe we have – but we feel that candles and candlelight play an important part of the festive season. Not only do they look beautiful as a centerpiece, but candles embody the light and warmth and celebration of all things Fall and Winter. The funny part of spending so much time in talking about candles here, in the newsletter, is that we really didn't spend all that much time talking about them on the blog in October. Although we did spend some time making a candle wrap at the end of September, we didn't even look at a candle again until we tried the Stockmar beeswax decorating strips

late in October.

Although we have largely ignored the humble candle, in the spirit of the season of candle light, we thought that we would offer some more ideas for fabulous updates to a basic candle here.

The Painted Candle

Did you know that it doesn't take special candle paint to paint on a candle? All you need is a good paintbrush (the right size for your project) and acrylic paint. Any brand will do – as long as it is acrylic.

There is no need for anything else – use your own design, grab a copyright free design off the internet, or buy a copy-able image from one of your favourite artists, transfer it to your candle and get painting.

'Paper Cutting' Wax

Early this month, we posted a paper cutting project on the blog. When we thought more about making plain candles great, we couldn't help but think that the same techniques could work well with candles. While the obvious (and easiest) answer is to cut wax strips as you would paper and wrap the candle with these 'paper cut' wax strips, there are also other ways to get the same look. Once you choose your pattern and transfer it onto your candle, this design can be painted on, or carved into the face of the candle. Or – transfer your design onto foil instead – cut out the design as you would cut the paper, and wrap your candle! Simply beautiful!

Great Reading!
Recommended
Reads...

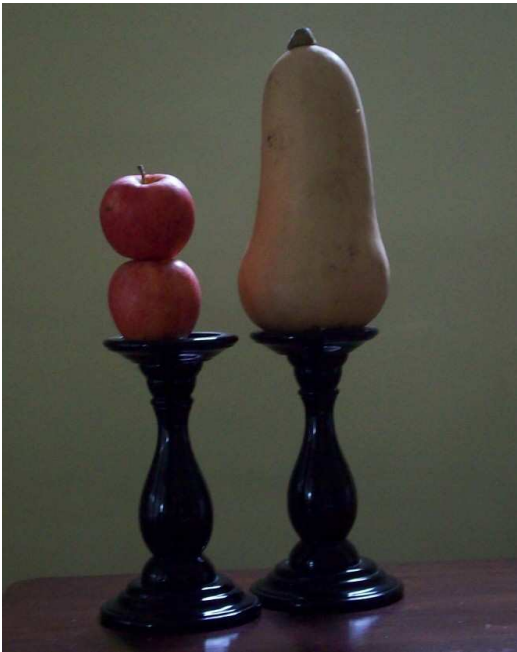
For Kids:

This month, a good friend let me borrow her copy of *The Little Hands Art Book* by Judy Press. Written for children aged 2-6, this book offers great ideas to get young children creating!

This is 156 pages of creative fun and includes everything from glue projects, 'Button Down Cardboard Shirt' and Paint projects, 'Paper Bag Pumpkin' and clay projects, 'Meatballs and Spaghetti' – and more! There are certainly more than enough ideas here to keep you and your children busy for many rainy days. And – just in case the projects aren't enough, this book also includes an appendix filled to the brim with clay, dough, and paint recipes... and more!



10 Ways to Make Mid-Week Supper Fun & Creative



1. Eat dessert first (or at least make it seem that way)! Serve up a beef & potato pie (or chicken and rice or veggies) with a side dish of baked apples.
2. Make it an all fingers meal – no forks here! Or, for a real change, make it an all spoon meal.
3. Make your own pizzas.
4. Switch it up - Use red or green pasta instead.
5. Don't settle for Alphabet noodles – grab some Christmas shapes or other shapes and make up stories as each spoonful brings different shapes and groups of shapes.
6. Make the table a living sculpture – put fruits and veggies on pedestals for an interesting centerpiece.
7. Pack the picnic basket and throw out the blanket. Who says you can't have an indoor picnic on a Tuesday? Grilled cheese never tasted better!
8. Serve soup from vintage tea cups.
9. Cover the table with paper and hand out crayons. An impromptu after dinner cartoon drawing competition can take the doldrums out of mid week.
10. Add some flowers for a beautiful table. Especially if supper is just quick and routine.

How to Find us:

www.dayliliescreative.com

www.dayliliescreative.wordpress.com

daylilies@daylilies.com

www.facebook.com/daylilies

www.dayliliescreative.etsy.com

519.744.4048



DAYLILIES