



PHOTO BY PAT HANSEN

## 'BEAUTY & BRAUN'

Post and rope are represented by reclaimed barn wood. Foliage and natural materials in her display are familiar Midwestern colors and textures.



PHOTO BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON



PHOTO BY JOANN LAMBERTZ

## 'FROG EYES'

Bog with frog is Audrea Hecht's inspiration for the almost hidden pincushion protea blossom.



PHOTO BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON



PHOTO BY JEANIE SHAFER

## 'SHORE HOLD'

Orange lilies have clay color. Found driftwood is the focal point. Goldenrod gives prairie feel, according to Audrea Hecht, floral designer.



PHOTO BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON

## November Plant Tips

Sonnie LaCombe is a floral designer at Monta's Framing and Design, 209 W. 3rd St. in Yankton. She has 23 years of floral design experience that includes Grundy VA to Augusta GA. She entered floral designs in the past two "Art In Bloom" for the Mighty Mo' photo shows. LaCombe shares a few things to keep in mind for wintering houseplants:

- When moving plants to allow room for your holiday decorations, remember that all plants require some light. Flowering plants prefer stronger light; green plants will tolerate low light conditions.
- Avoid placing plants near direct sources of hot or cold drafts. A sudden change of temperature from opening doors, windows, or heat sources can damage plants.
- Now is a good time to give your plants a cleaning. Over time indoors, the leaves accumulate dust. Remember not to scrub the leaves. Use a sponge dampened thoroughly with room temperature water and wipe leaves clean. Don't forget to wipe undersides of leaves also. If pests are detected, add a little soap to your water and that should help take care of them.
- With heated room air, you may find areas that may dry your plant soil more quickly. Keep an eye out and adjust your watering, but not too much.

## Plant Exchange: Blog With Us!

This blog is an interactive site for people of our plant Zone 5a region to exchange ideas about flowers, vegetables, and other plants. Want to read some past Plant Exchange features you missed? Want to share a comment about people and their plants or read other's comments?

- Consider perennials, trees, and shrubs recommended by a nurseryman as "tried and true" for this region.
- What are plant tips for fall?
- See yard décor and landscaping ideas of gardeners in the region.
- Tell us your favorite plants that withstand heat, cold, and drought.
- See region-hardy trees selected for a nearby state park. Find out how trees are managed in a low-maintenance nursery.
- See how the City of Yankton makes compost for home use.
- Learn about the status of cottonwood forests along the Missouri River.
- Check us out at the web address: [brendakjohnsonplantexchange.wordpress.com](http://brendakjohnsonplantexchange.wordpress.com)

## Dibbles And Bits

- How do commercial growers process plants from cuttings to ready for market? Plant Exchange readers may recall last month that Evelyn Schindler shared a method for growing plants from cuttings at home. Steps at home or on the large scale require cuttings to be planted in a moist soil and air environment until roots grow for best results. Commercial process is surprisingly similar. See the steps from cuttings to mature "Proven Winners" plants, shown on this YouTube video referred by Danielle Ernest of Proven Winners: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bhrozrlgk>
- Is fall color missing from your yard? Many plant for spring color but fall color is also an option. Cranberrybush viburnum, witchhazel, Bottlebrush buckeye, Oakleaf hydrangea, and Birchleaf spirea are hardy plants for our zone that have fall color and other features. See more options in October Garden Gate magazine in the Yankton Community Library.
- Fallen leaves have many uses: After the hard freeze, use chicken wire enclosures around tender plants. Fill with autumn

leaves for insulation. Mulched leaves make great compost for flowerbeds that you can apply directly to the beds and wait for them to decompose before adding more. Express your creativity with fall leaves and seed heads in a vase. More ideas in the October *Garden Gate* Magazine.

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## Plant Exchange

# Photo Show Inspires Floral Art Designs

Share tips from your plant experience, give us a tour of your plant site, or send your questions related to outdoor or indoor plants to [news@yankton.net](mailto:news@yankton.net) Attn: Brenda Johnson or write to P&D, 319 Walnut St, Yankton, SD 57078, Attn: Brenda Johnson.

BY BRENDA K. JOHNSON

Eighth annual Mighty Mo' Photo Show and second annual "Art in Bloom" featured photographs and floral displays inspired by them at the G.A.R. Hall in Yankton on August 3rd. Yankton Area Arts and South Dakota Arts Council sponsored the events with assistance from Yankton Town & Country Garden Club. Public was invited to select a show photograph and then create a floral display inspired by the photo. Thanks to Yankton Area Arts Association and each photographer for allowing their entries to be shown with Audrea Hecht's floral designs so that readers may see the source of her inspirations.

### FLOWER DESIGNER EXPRESSES HER TALENT

Audrea Hecht, manager, floral designer, and purchaser at Pied Piper Flowers, 15th & Broadway in Yankton participated in the "Art in Bloom" for the Mighty Mo' Photo Show for the second year.

"I couldn't choose to do just one, so I chose and arranged three," Hecht said. "I really try to accent or bring out something you maybe didn't see (in the photograph) the first time you looked at it."

### "SHORE HOLD" BY JEANIE SHAFER

Hecht discussed what inspired her in the photographs for her floral displays. "Every person looking at the photograph may see a different thing. I looked twice before I saw a sailboat in the distance. I chose orange lilies to show clay in the riverbank. I found the driftwood, but the cotton bolls (with cotton balls inside) and some flowers came from market, as far away as Australia. Blue thistle brings in the water. Goldenrod has a wispy prairie feel. It adds spark. I don't want my arrangement to overtake the photograph."

Hecht incorporated significant photography details into her floral display. Diagonal lines became lightly added sticks, but the driftwood remained the focal point as in the photograph.

### "BEAUTY & BRAUN" BY PAT HANSEN

"This photograph has a watercolor feel," she said. "I saw the

riverside pier with post and rope. I used berries, lotus pods, button yarrow, blue thistle, mushrooms, and greenery to bring out the textures in the photograph." She saw the post and rope as prominent and incorporated reclaimed barn wood.

"Growing up in this area," she said, "I love to design tropicals. But in the Midwest, you look for comforting home-like familiar pieces." She says that as she designs, she feels with the eyes first.

### "FROG EYES" BY JOANN LAMBERTZ

"It's boggy. You can barely see the frog eyes," she said. "I used glass for this arrangement that you might see in a terrarium. Umbrella fern shields the pincushion protea, a perfect blossom—almost out of sight, like the frog. Reindeer moss is serene and calm next to water that glistens."

Once she envisioned the display, she went to work. "Putting the display together doesn't take long. Big thing is not to over-think," she said. "Of course every designer learns differently. Some are step-by-step and others have a vision that they run with. Sometimes I do both, such as how to portray a big event and convey the feeling through flowers."

### CAREER WITH FLOWERS

"I just fell into this work. Jim and Kathleen Piper were awesome teachers," she said. Kevin and Lisa Opshal are current owners and Hecht has celebrated her 26th anniversary at Pied Piper Flowers.

"I started here right out of high school. I grew up on a farm in northeast Nebraska, the same farm place as my grandparents. My grandmother was quite a gardener; she was into flowers. There was always something we could pick to bring inside throughout the year—Lilacs, irises, hollyhocks, sunflowers, leaves and branches. I didn't realize it would lead to a career some day."

Her first corsage was memorable. "I was about nine. Lilacs were blooming. I taped three or four together with masking tape and gave it to my mom to wear to church for Mother's Day. And she wore it, bless her heart."

"Years later my grandmother told me 'I always knew you'd work with flowers someday.' The great thing about working with flowers is you get to do something different every day. You're always bringing joy, even with sympathy work; it's from the heart. Flowers are integral to the events of human life."

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