

HORTICULTURE HAPPENINGS

A Publication of the Colonial Williamsburg Landscape Department

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Between decorating the town, giving decorating workshops, putting the gardens to bed, removing leaves, selling decorations to visitors, and trimming trees for fireworks, our holiday wishes are late this year. However, it's never too late to send well wishes to our dedicated volunteers, generous donors, and supportive coworkers that help us provide an attractive landscape to tell America's enduring story. Thank you for helping us preserve our historic gardens and arboretum.

Laura Viancour, Landscape Director



A core group of landscape staff and volunteers create the decorations that adorn more than 200 buildings in the Historic Area.

DECORATING WORKSHOPS

This year we offered a variety of DIY workshops so guests could take a little bit of Williamsburg home with them. Guests had their choice of three decoration workshops:



Behind-the-Scenes



Wreath Decorating



DIY Apple Candles



WREATH SALES

This year visitors were once again able to purchase handmade Colonial Williamsburg Christmas decorations. Landscape staff and volunteers created a variety of wreaths and centerpieces that were then sold outside Shields Tavern during the Thanksgiving and Grand Illumination weekends.



Doorway Decorations Contest

The Residents' Doorway Decoration Contest began in 1937 to encourage residents to abandon modern decorations for an old-fashioned look. Initially only **blue ribbons** were awarded, but as the holiday season lengthened, **purple ribbons** were awarded midway through the season to recognize those that kept their decorations fresh. Three years ago, the Trade Shops were given the option to create their own decorations, with the winner in that category receiving a **green ribbon**.



This year, a new category (**yellow ribbon**) was created in memory of long-time employee, Debra Lees. The Debra Lees Creative Award recognizes a decoration made by a member of Landscape's design team. This year's winner was Market Square Tavern (top two photos). Debra received over a dozen blue ribbons with her creative and whimsical decorations that she made every year with cookie dough. The bottom row of photos are Debra's decorations from three different years.

