

RED FEST/GREEN TREE

FESTIVAL SPOTLIGHT

Glass artist Dale Wayne got the idea to use plastic bottles from her sculptor father, who was using them in his work. Some acrylic paint and a lot of glitter later, Wayne had created a gorgeous bouquet of plastic blooms. They were colorful, beautiful—and perfect for decorating a Christmas tree.

She proposed the idea to the Orlando Museum of Art in 2008 and “They were receptive to it,” says Wayne. She ended up creating trees for the Festival of Trees that year and in 2009, and made an all-red one to tie into this year’s theme of “Red Hot for the Holidays.”

To create the tree, Wayne bought acrylic paint in every shade of red she could find, plus 40 pounds of glitter. A trip to Atlanta’s floral market yielded a bounty of unusual centers for the blooms. She’s hoping to avoid the problem she ran into last year, when the six-foot-wide, fully decorated tree wouldn’t fit through the door. Wayne had enlisted

the help of her students at The Geneva School in Winter Park, where she works as the Director of Visual Arts, to create the recycled decorations. When they couldn’t get the tree out of the classroom, Wayne had to wrap it tightly in a tarp and squeeze it out the door.

This year, Wayne’s tree will be featured along with dozens of others, as well as a variety of vignettes decorated and donated by Orlando-area designers and businesses. Each year, the Council of 101 organizes the Festival of Trees to benefit the Orlando Museum of Art, where the event takes place from November 13-21. The 24th annual festival includes something new: Growing Forest is a collection of medium-sized trees available for purchase. Old favorites, such as Entertaining by Design, have been kicked up a notch this year. Attendees can buy tickets for a dollar each for a chance to win a number of tempting items, including fantasy table settings, gourmet gift baskets,



a “Red Hot Holiday Road Trip” and other seasonally themed goodies.

The festival also includes special children’s events, a holiday boutique and garden shop, and even a tempting gingerbread village made of sweetly decorated homes that are available for sale.

For tickets and more information, call 407.896.4231 x254 or go to www.omart.org.

DIY: ECO-FRIENDLY ORNAMENTS

Want to decorate your own tree like Wayne’s? You can purchase her colorful ornaments for \$24 each at the Festival of Trees or online at www.dalewayne.com, or you can make your own. Here’s how.

MATERIALS

2-liter soda bottles or water bottles, embossing heat gun (optional), rubbing alcohol, acrylic paint, scissors, glitter, wired floral picks, hot glue gun suitable for gluing plastic

PAINTING

1. Rinse out bottle and remove label. You do not need to get every bit of it off.
2. Clean bottle with rubbing alcohol to help the paint adhere better.
3. Paint the bottles with acrylic paint.
4. Roll bottles in glitter while paint is wet.
5. Let dry completely.
6. Cut the bottles. (You may also paint after the cutting process.)

CUTTING

1. Pinch the uncapped bottle to start your first cut.



2. Cut off the bottom of the bottle.
3. Create your shape. There are endless possibilities, including petals, strips or spirals. (If you cut the spiral wide, you can go back and cut it a second time, creating two instead of one. To help them dangle well, keep cutting spirals until you are relatively close to the mouth of the bottle.)
4. Manipulate plastic by hand or with heat. Petals can be bent back and pinched to stay in place. If you want to add to the glass-like look, an embossing gun will ripple the plastic into a more organic shape. Hold the gun fairly close to the plastic and work in a well-ventilated area, preferably outdoors.

FINISHING

1. Nest two bottles together.
2. Thread two wired floral picks into the center of the bottles. Hot glue the bottles together if necessary, or use part of the pick and wire them together.
3. Hot glue extra petals and embellishments.
4. Attach the ornament to your tree. Use the ends of the wired pick to wrap ornament to the branch.