

Children's Garden Club  
Volume #7, Sheet #8  
August 5, 2006  
Pressed Flower Placemats  
Sherwood's Forest Nursery & Garden Center  
2651 Barrett Station Rd.

## Welcome to the August Meeting

I would like to thank you all for coming and especially Dave For hosting this month's meeting. I would also like to thank Lexi and all the staff for preparing for this month's meeting. From our last month's meeting we were talking about how well you're hanging baskets were doing from our May meeting here. How many of you brought them with you to show? How are your Butterfly shrubs doing from last month?

Today's project is more fun than educational. The big advantage is you can preserve some of your summer growth, memories, and what you learned to get those beautiful flowers/plants. This project you will be doing today has been around for a long time, plant/flower presses. For centuries at herbariums all over the world, plant specimens have been collected and pressed for identification, recorded history, storage using plant/flower presses. Herbarium collections look way beyond the aesthetics of a plant. They capture more of the science of plants by collecting recording every possible aspect of the plant leaves,

stems, root system as well as data on habit and environment. This is extremely valuable for identification and taxonomy purpose in the botanical world, world wide. Who has visited the Herbarium at the Missouri Botanical Gardens? Our Missouri Botanical Garden Herbarium is known world wide and has some of the largest and best selection, a great library of books with drawings and recorded data.

To make or do plant/flower in presses you can either put the flowers and plants in a press or – how Lexi has suggested as a same day project.

Supplies: Clear adhesive – contact paper  
Ruler, scissors,  
Collection of plants – flowers  
Imagination

Collect large and small – long and short  
Flowers and plants (flowers, leaves, blades etc.)  
The more variety the better!  
Use fresh flat or pliable items – dried leaves tend to crumble and fall apart.  
If you wish do them at home you can add glitter and confetti, cut out color paper into shapes or stripes

Lay out a sheet of contact paper sticky side up  
Arrange items on the sheet leaving some space open  
(the open space helps the sheets stay together)

Once the contact sheet is to your liking lay another piece – slightly larger on top sticky side down.

Use the ruler to push air bubbles out working from the center to the edges. Make sure all bubbles are worked out and gone.

Now, once all bubbles are gone, begin to trim off the excess on the sides.

If you wish to add some frill use pinking shears to add to the edges.

You now can use this under your plate at each meal, or as a Sun catcher and the reflections can also make interesting designs on the wall.

Suggested Flowers, Plants, leaves ---

Ginkgo leaves, Japanese maple leaves, Hydrangea blooms, Ornamental grass blades, red wood leaves. Petunias blooms, vinca blooms, palm fronds, fern fronds, coleus, euonymus leaves, rose petals, etc..

Now enjoy and remember next February for the Builders Home & Garden Show this can be a entry in the Horticultural Youth Craft Class 4 . FYI Show Dates are February 22 -25, 2007.

See You back here next month September 9, 06  
Topic will be Dish Garden.