

November 14, 2013

News Release

For Immediate Release

Tablescapes series explores holiday tabletops, dining traditions

Dinner hosts, party planners and anyone interested in presenting a fancy meal are invited to attend the Thanksgiving and Christmas Tablescapes series Friday, Nov. 15, and Friday, Dec. 13, at the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center, in Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park, 2400 S. Scenic Ave., Springfield.

Host Peter Longley, horticultural interpreter at the Botanical Center, guides participants through designing a formal table setting for a memorable Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, including building a floral centerpiece and arranging china, silver, glassware, linens and holiday décor. Each presentation includes a fictitious menu, poetry, readings and anecdotes related to the season. Presentations are followed by seasonal refreshments.

Longley dresses the part and acts as both gracious host and instructive guide as he assembles the tabletop. Longley brings to the table his experience serving as estate manager for Ireland's Tullamaine Castle and cruise director for the Queen Elizabeth 2, where he orchestrated gourmet dining events and social gatherings.

The Thanksgiving Tablescape, Friday, Nov. 15, 6 p.m., includes a cornucopia theme based on Thanksgiving traditions.

The Dickensian Christmas Tablescape, Friday, Dec. 13, 6 p.m., includes a Victorian Christmas table set to a fictitious menu inspired by Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol."

Reservations are required and seating is limited. Admission is \$10 and includes refreshments. For reservations, call the Springfield-Greene County Botanical Center at 417-891-1515.