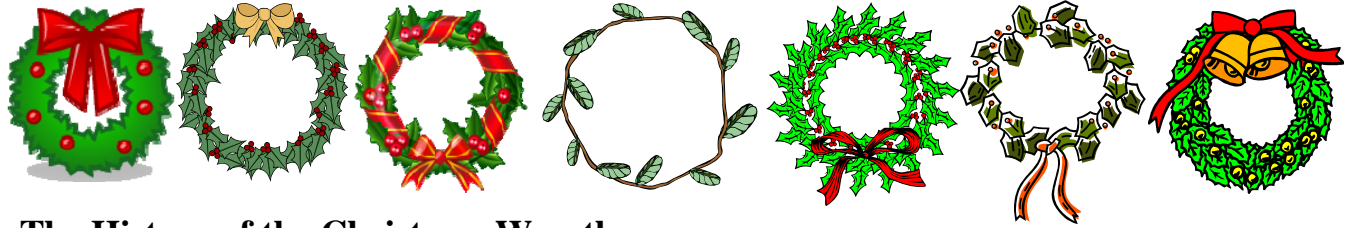


# The Village Garden Center's November 2010 Garden Club Newsletter



## The History of the Christmas Wreath:

The English word wreath comes from the old English word, writhen, meaning to writhe or to twist. Holiday wreaths have long been made by twisting or bending evergreen branches into a circular

Did You Know...During World War II it was necessary for Americans to mail Christmas gifts early for the troops in Europe to receive them in time. Merchants joined in the effort to remind the public to shop and mail early and the protracted shopping season was born.

shape. The Ancient Greeks, and Romans, used evergreen leaves and garlands to make headdresses that were awarded as prizes to Olympic athletes, military heroes, kings, and others. Athletes received wreaths of Laurel, military heroes received wreaths made of olive branches. Members of the aristocracy began

adding jewels and precious metals to these headdresses, creating what became the crown. The word crown comes from the Latin word corona which means wreath or garland. The bible associates wreaths with joy, triumph, and honor. In Christianity the holiday wreath represents the circle, and likewise is given as a symbol of eternity. When made of evergreen leaves and braches the wreaths symbolize everlasting life with the green color symbolizing hope and new life. It

**Garden Club Meeting**  
**Saturday, November 20th 10am**

was somewhere during the 15<sup>th</sup> century that the

### GARDEN CLUB SPECIALS - December 30% off

(garden club members only)

- Holiday Garden Flag with red on it (limit 1)
- Fresh Christmas Centerpiece (limit 1)
- Artificial or Fresh Christmas Wreath (limit 1)

wreath began to be used as a hanging decoration. Some believed that hanging a wreath was a sign of victory, be it political, personal, or religious.

Evergreen plants, such as holly, ivy, and pine, which stay green all year, have long been used to create holiday wreaths. Such greens as holly, ivy, and mistletoe have special meaning since they not

only stay green, they bear fruit during the harsh winter months. Anciently people symbolized these plants to represent the promise of new or everlasting life. The people of northern Europe and Romans decorated their homes with evergreen boughs during their Winter festivals. Sprigs of holly would also be exchanged as tokens of good will for the coming new year. The early Greeks and Romans brought green boughs indoors as a living reminder of natures vitality. The Victorian era brought an appreciation for lavish arrangements from greens such as ivy, hemlock, yew, laurel, and bay.

### Holiday Open House

November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Save 15% Storewide  
during our Open House

Did You Know...In 1907, Oklahoma became the last US state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.

Traditional Christmas wreaths are a symbol of faith. Since wreaths are a circle with no beginning or end, they symbolize God's eternity and mercy during the Christmas season. When Christmas wreaths are decorated with evergreen leaves and branches they symbolize everlasting life and God's everlasting love.