AUGUST – Maryland, My Maryland-State Symbols

Materials:

- Bottle shaped container OR low bowl container
- Rudbeckia (black-eyed susan) flowers, oak leaves (either fresh or dried), acorns,
- Pictures of Baltimore oriole birds & small MD flags.
- Small clear labels (e.g., Avery 18860) and white or ivory business cards (Avery 8376 or 8371);
- toothpicks or bamboo sticks for birds and flags; use glue or tape to attach
- IF using low bowl container, use wet Oasis for the arrangement.
- Scissors, pruners, glue gun or tape, stapler. Thin 8x11in. binder with tabs (6) optional for printouts.

Preparation:

  - Rudbeckia hirta
  - Quercus alba
  - Flag of Maryland
  - Baltimore Oriole
  - List of U.S. state flowers, trees and birds
- Staple pages together OR assemble into small binder with tabs.
• Assemble the oriole and the state flag picks:
  o access the Microsoft Clipart collection at www.office.microsoft.com. Search and download to Word: select Baltimore Oriole, Maryland flag showing the Calvert & Crossland (Mynne) family heraldic emblems.
  o Print each on clear address labels (Avery 18860).
  o Attach each to one Business Card (Avery 8376 or 8371) and cut into two pieces.
  o Glue or paste long floral pick or bamboo stick to back.
• Collect flowers, tree leaves and accessories. Derwood Demo Garden should have black-eyed susan flowers available in summer.
• Put flowers in clean container with water as soon as cut. To make flowers last longer, recut stems and place in conditioning water. One suggested home brew for conditioning: 1 gal. water, 3 TBL sugar (food), 1 TBL vinegar (pH adjuster, helps flowers take up sugar), 1 TBL bleach (bacteria-retardant) OR use a commercial conditioner.
• Collect containers: bottles or low bowls. IF using bottle, glue acorns in a pattern either at the bottom or in a spiral. If using low bowl, cut & moisten Oasis and insert into bowl.

**During Program Participants Will:**

1. Remove foliage from the stems of the black-eyed susans.
2. Select number of oak leaf stems for the container.
3. Insert the bird and flag picks.
4. On the low container, it will be possible to arrange leaves and acorns around the edges.

**Discussion:**

• Naming the Maryland State Flower, State Tree, State Bird, Butterfly and the State Flag with details of the history of each. Wikipedia provides good discussion for the State Flower (Rudbeckia hirta) and the State Tree (Quercus Alba).
• The history of the Wye Oak is available from the following website: [The Quiet Giant, The Wye Oak | Forest Service | Maryland ...](www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/trees/giant.asp)
• Talk about the flower and the tree leaf and acorn as the fruit of the tree and what to look for on the oak tree as it changes color in the fall season.
• Invite the attendees to name the state of their birth and ask if they know its flower, tree or bird. Provide answers as needed.

INSPIRATION PIECE: (see below)