



Three new collections are on display at the Norton Public Library. The egg collection (below) of Maxine Wiltfong, Norton, is in the front display case. The collection includes alabaster eggs in multiple colors, crystal eggs and three Delft-style eggs. Cynthia Kendall has earned many awards during her years as an Avon prod-

ucts representative. The “Mrs. Albee” statuettes (left) are achievement awards for meeting sales goals. Bonita Slipke and her children Landon, Rachel and Raelynn have combined their respective collections of Precious Moments figurines (above). — Telegram photo by Carolyn Plotts

Norton library shows off new exhibits for spring

By LIZA DEINES

The Easter Bunny may be gone for the season but he has left behind a few mementos at Norton Public Library.

A beautiful collection of eggs has been arranged by Maxine Wiltfong in the front display case. Alabaster eggs of every color in the rainbow center the exhibit and are surrounded by crystal, painted, cloisonné enamel, and cut glass examples of “chicken fruit”. Three Delft-style eggs in blue and white nestle in a clutch while a lazy pink egg character in pink and white saddle shoes lounges in a corner. A little quiz betrays the fact that a bit of school teacher still lingers in Maxine’s heart.

Cynthia Kendall has been selling Avon products in Norton for several years.

She shares her award statuettes of the historic Avon representative, Mrs. Albee. Modishly garbed fashion figurines, 12 to 14-inches tall, illustrate what the stylish Avon lady wore in past years. Each figure is elegantly costumed in period dress and somehow an Avon bag, bottle or box has been cleverly worked into the design. Mrs. Albees are achievement awards that can only be earned by meeting sales goals. Mrs. Kindall shows a dozen of them, which indicates a lot of cosmetic sales.

A family exhibit of Precious Moment figurines completes the spring case displays.

Bonita Slipke and her children Landon, Rachel and Raelynn have cooperated to show a variety of the sweet-faced little people that have made Precious Moments such a popular collectible over the years.

Some are tiny little models mounted on wee spun glass carousel ponies, others are large dolls tucked into velvet Christmas stockings. Among the figurines are a little bowler, two gentlemen in military garb, a student puzzling over an abacus and many others involved in all facets of life. A bell and a Bible, a box and a book go to show there are Precious Moments surrounding us every day.

In the art department this season are some large paintings that truly require every bit of space the library’s small gallery can provide.

Deborah Groves Pipes of the Lazarus Gallery in Logan works on a large scale in the expressionist mode. The nuances of colors and backgrounds require extended thought and interpretation by the viewer.

This is not cozy, comfortable art but deep, emotional works that capture the heart in every brush stroke. An unusual charcoal on fabric portrait of the artist’s grand-

parents reveals more detail with each re-examination and a nearby triptych could offer a new experience each morning. Be sure to allow enough time to appreciate this local artist’s offerings.

An evening walk through daffodils and flowering trees could bring you to the library in a pleasant way. Come view the exhibits, check out a garden book and give yourself an inexpensive spring treat. And if you have a collection you’d like to share, talk to Mary Luehrs to schedule a time.



Farmers may look at ways of fertilizing

Not too long ago, many farmers had a “honey wagon” to haul manure from their cattle pens to the fields. This appealing job would usually be the chore of a teen-age son or daughter.

Today, however, finding farmers using “honey wagons” is a little more difficult. They have become scarce because applying nitrogen and phosphorus is much easier and more efficiently done when using liquid fertilizer. And liquid fertilizer does not have that ... let’s say ... very appealing smell that comes from spreading manure.

In light of the recent increase in fertilizer prices, though, farmers need to re-evaluate spreading manure to meet the needs of their crops. Manure can be an outstanding source of nitrogen, phosphorus and organic matter.

An excellent source for manure, if you don’t have cattle, would be the large feedlots in the area. With the current environmental constraints these large feedlots are under for storing manure, they are typically happy to provide farmers with as many tons of manure as they need.

A number of factors have to be weighed before getting the manure. How will it be hauled to the field? What will be used to spread it? Is the manure going to be in liquid or solid form? Who is going to have the “privilege” of spreading it? Distance from the feedlot will play a role as to whether it is economical. Once these factors are worked through, many farmers

About ag
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may take a second look at manure fertilizing.

To provide assistance in evaluating manure quality, K-State has developed a publication entitled “Estimating Manure Nutrient Availability.” This describes how much nitrogen and phosphorus is in manure that comes from dairy or beef cattle and hogs, and provides a detailed nutrient credit worksheet to use with both solid and liquid manure.

All in all, spreading manure is definitely not the most glamorous job, but it may save you some big dollars on the input side.

To find this publication, go to www.oznet.ksu.edu/agronomy-block2/ and click on the Production and Pests icon, or stop by your county extension office to pick up a copy.

Brian Olson is Kansas State University extension agronomist for Decatur, Gove, Norton, Sheridan, and Trego counties. E-mail bolson@oznet.ksu.edu if you have any questions or would like to see a newspaper article on a specific crop production topic. For more information, contact the county extension office, 877-5755.

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