

Trees by the Sea

Artistic Creations Inspired by Nature

WRITTEN & PHOTOGRAPHED BY BETSY A. ENO
VENICE GULF COAST LIVING MAGAZINE

Visually appealing, imaginatively clever, and seemingly effortless are all words that can be used to describe the creations made by the hands of Peter Murfitt, owner of Trees by the Sea. This award-winning artist captures the area's coastal charm by combining handpicked beach treasures with synthetic evergreen trees, swags, and wreaths, transforming them into beautiful works of art that capture the spirit of any season.

Many popular natural elements are used to decorate these enchanting displays including sea stars, shells, coral, sea grass, crabs, sea urchins, and even fish scales. With an artistic eye and skilled hand, Peter forms exquisite flowers such as poinsettias and gardenias using the scales of redfish, gar, and tarpon. He also crafts realistic-looking daffodils, roses, pansies, lilies, chrysanthemums, and magnolias from a variety of personally gathered shells. To create a frosted look, Peter discovered how to soften the deep color of the evergreen by dusting it with a light coat of white spray paint. He then adds a string of white lights before embellishing it. "This technique," he says, "really enhances my coastal collection."

Some of his best creations have originated from customers' suggestions. For instance, the shell flower bouquet which was introduced to the company's product line last year, came at the request of a visitor to his studio. After a successful outcome, Peter added the design to his collection along with matching boutonnieres. "This versatile bouquet can be used for weddings,



anniversaries, or vows renewals," reveals Peter. "These décor pieces are perfect for small tables and make great gifts."

Two special designs have grown in popularity: the ceiling fan shell pull chains and shell flower ornaments. "I have wanted to make shell pull chain ornaments for some time," says Peter, "and the inspiration for the shell flower ornament came when I was thinking of something to create for a friend." Like many artists, Peter enjoys the challenge of trying new things. He loves the process of researching different ideas, hunting for the right pieces, and putting it all together. While the majority of his evergreens are adorned with treasures from the sea, he often steps outside the box, creating customized pieces.

Each year, Trees by the Sea produces 150 decorative trees and 100 wreaths with such exquisite detail, that they are best viewed in person at Peter's studio in Venice or at outdoor art shows throughout Florida, held from October through April. Both locals and out-of-state residents can take comfort in knowing that Peter's same attention to detail transfers to a client's one-on-one studio visit, during which wearing masks and social distancing are practiced. If you're interested in purchasing a Trees by the Sea design as a timeless home addition, one-of-a-kind donation, or special present to yourself or a loved one, you can select a readymade item from the company's website or chat with Peter via phone or in studio to begin crafting your unique masterpiece.



Pull Chain Ornament



Shell Flower Bouquet



Centerpieces



While the trees may look delicate, first-time buyers can rest assured, knowing that their newfound treasure was made to last. Peter assures, "I build them to be strong so they can easily be transported to exhibits, shipped out of state, or packed away without getting damaged." Most importantly, Peter adds, "I want everyone who purchases one of my products, whether for yourself or someone else, to be completely satisfied with the end result, and my goal is to continue to work hard to exceed your expectations."

For more information about this advertorial, to place an order, or to make an appointment to visit the studio, call 941.468.6992 or email icedancer1@comcast.net. To view up-to-date details for the upcoming shows, log on to TreesByTheSea.com.

Centerpiece photos by Trees by the Sea



Trees by the Sea

Award-winning & Hand-decorated

- ~ Trees ~ Wreaths
- ~ Centerpieces
- ~ Custom-designed
- ~ Illuminated

Studio appointments available
Email: IceDancer1@comcast.net
www.treesbythesea.com • 941-468-6992

