

Horticulture expert talks at Cranbrook

James R. Buckler, Smithsonian Institution horticulture director, will lecture about famous world gardens at 10 a.m. April 15, at Cranbrook Institute of Science, 500 Lone Pine, Bloomfield Hills.

Buckler, who has traveled extensively throughout Great Britain, Italy, France, Holland and Switzerland to study historic homes and gardens, will share his experiences with garden enthusiasts.

In addition, he will describe the plans he formed for the development of the Smithsonian Museums as horticultural showplaces.

Since 1972, the Smithsonian's Office of Horticulture has evolved under Buckler's direction to include nearly 100 employees, a 35,000-square-foot greenhouse/nursery complex, landscaping of most of the 13 major Smithsonian Museums and many Bicentennial projects,

including a new four-acre Victorian garden and a 19th century conservatory.

Known nationally as a knowledgeable horticultural speaker, Buckler also teaches courses for the Smithsonian Institution Associates Programs. He is current director at the national level of the Professional Grounds Management Society and a member of many professional societies.

Buckler was graduated with bachelor's and master's degrees in ornamental horticulture from the University of Maryland.

Tickets at \$3.50 can be reserved by calling 645-3147. The lecture is sponsored by Cranbrook House and Garden Auxiliary. All proceeds go to the upkeep of the 1908 Albert Kahn-designed house and surrounding 40 acres of gardens.

Speaker to spell out Gesell method of child development

Stephanie Riley, a member of National Lecture Staff, Gesell Institute of Child Development, will speak at 8 p.m. Tuesday, April 15, in Nardin Park United Methodist Church, 11 Mile and Middlebelt roads.

As the guest of Nardin Park Community Nursery School, she will speak on "Tools Your Child Needs for a Successful Year in Kindergarten."

The Gesell Institute has been working with children for about 60 years. The principles discovered and defined by the institute have been used by educators, pediatricians and psychologists to determine a child's rate and stage of growth.

The institute emphasizes the importance of developmental readiness for primary school entrance, neither by chronological age nor IQ.

"Since children develop at different rates, it is the developmental level which determines a child's ability to perform the work at any given grade level," said Mada Briggs, director of the nursery.

"Developmental evaluation and

placement can reduce learning disabilities and promote positive school experiences," she continues.

"The institute research has shown that at age 5, possibly 50 percent of average normal children are not ready for the usual reading program and do not as yet have the cognitive skills for formal learning."

MRS. BRIGGS said it was her hope that the free program, given by the nursery school as a community service, would help all parents understand developmental readiness.

"Since many schools in the area have introduced the Gesell developmental placement method in their systems, the presentation should enhance understanding of the theory," she said.

Ms. Riley is a mother of four, director of Lowry Early Childhood Center and an instructor in Early Childhood Education at Oakland University.

She has a bachelor's degree in physical and elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education.

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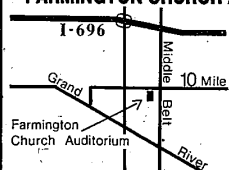
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