

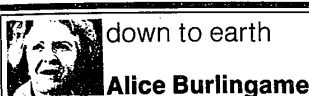
Pruning hydrangeas tricky

This is an excellent time to begin to prepare your garden area where you plan to plant bulbs. Don't be hasty about spreading some leaves over the surface.

Note I said: "Begin to prepare" because you should delay your planting until the weather has settled on a cooler cycle and those rodents have picked out their winter apartments. How they would like to settle where you have planted your bulbs in case they should become hungry.

If you have children in your household, have them assist you and show them a picture of what they will see next year. They will never forget their shared experience.

This is "leaf-kicking weather." Many of this consider this weather cycle our favorite because we do not feel under a



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

strain you feel to have your garden in prime condition for a special event like Memorial Day.

Many flower arrangers like to take a ride out of town and pick up Osage oranges for processing to look like a flower. Dr. James Wells reports from Cranbrook that there is a hedgehog of them on the southeast corner of Long Lake and Coolidge.

Some of you are dissatisfied with the flowering of your hydrangeas. Greg

Patchan has this advice to share: They don't always flower the next year after transplanting.

HYDRANGEAS PERFORM best in half shade, you can stretch it to three-quarters shade. Heavy fertilizing isn't good either, and poor soil can prevent flowering. Oakleaf and the blue and pink flowering types set their buds the year before. Peege, most common and good type, and Hills of Snow hy-

drangeas form their buds on new growth, therefore, you could prune them in early spring.

Root pruning is a good idea to force flowering on many large plants. About 18 inches from the central trunk, insert a garden edger as far as you can force the tool. That will wake them up.

You call tell that fall is settling in as the Snow Birds are packing up for their southern winter. On Highway 61, about 10 miles from Charleston, S.C., I know I would surely stop at the Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, which has now become landscaped for interest 12 months of the year.

Previously travelers only thought of Magnolia Plantation as being beautiful in early spring as the snow birds journey north to reap our best season.

Seamstress shows how to design with sheets

A seamstress will share her ideas in decorating with sheets and towelings when "Patsy Price Designs With



PATSY PRICE

Sheets" comes to Farmington Community Center Oct. 24.

The event begins at 9:30 a.m. and is the fourth Fabulous Friday in the series.

Patsy Price, owner of "Designs With Sheets" in West Bloomfield, advises "to think sheets when you are about to redecorate or accessorize your home." "The cost of the fabric is minimal, the size eliminates seams for creating tablecloths, drapes or bedspreads, and the wash and wear qualities make sheets easy care," she says.

Mrs. Price will demonstrate how to fashion table skirts, window treatments, slipcovered folding chairs, tented ceilings, shirred bedroom walls, bridge-table covers and goose down comforters.

Cost for the 2-hour session is \$7 per person. Register by calling the center, 477-8404.

Fabulous Fridays continue on Nov. 7 with Diana Fowler and her "Chocolate Molding" demonstration. Early registration is suggested for this event.

The Center is located at 24705 Farmington Road, north of 10 Mile.

Comedy relief carries opera

By MARY DOERR

The beauty of Mozart's music shown through in Michigan Opera Theatre's production of "Don Giovanni." The story of Don Juan, the world's greatest lover, well known even in Mozart's day, was used by him to display his genius in the great solos, duets, trios and sextets, musical forms he introduced to the art. Sung in English, the performance included fine scenery and costumes typical of 17th century Spain where the story is set. Though there were some obvious weaknesses in the performance despite the credits of Italo Tajo, director, and Mark Flint, conductor, the dramatic weaknesses in the second act may, in fact, relate more to the opera itself.

In the title role, Andreas Poulimenos created a character that wasn't particularly likeable. But then one isn't supposed to like this womanizer who moves so easily from conquest to conquest.

Unfortunately for Poulimenos, Mozart saved his great solos for Don Ottavio, but Poulimenos's voice was adequate to complement the arrogant character he so effectively portrayed. Robert Guarino revealed the purity of his tenor voice as he effortlessly sang his two famous arias "On her peace of mind" and "Meantime go and console my dearest one."

The first solo, so well staged in front of the curtain, was, sadly enough, sung to the clamor of backstage scenery

changes, as was the famous trio of the ballroom scene and Fernandez's coloratura solo of the second act.

WILHELMINA FERNANDEZ sang the part of Donna Elvira. The upper ranges of her voice were exquisite and vocally speaking she was the audience's delight. Not only was her singing precise, but she is blessed with an expressive face which she used to display Elvira's heartbreak over the faithless Don Giovanni.

Donna Anna was sung by Carolyn Val-Schmidt. Overwhelmed by anguish over her father's death in the first scene by her would-be assassin, Don Giovanni, Ms. Val-Schmidt portrayed the daughter with slow moving and regal gestures that made one wonder if she was more in grief over her father or Don Juan. Due to her lack of volume, she failed to excite the audience despite her well-controlled soprano.

Neither she nor Guarino projected in the first few scenes.

Carrying the show with his comic relief was Pierre Charbonneau taking the part of Leporello, Giovanni's servant. The jokes were reserved by Mozart's librettist Da Ponte for Leporello, and Charbonneau carried it off well.

review

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Basketry ornaments created in workshop

Scott Smith, professional craftsman, brings his artistry to Farmington Community Center in a 6-session workshop "Basketry Ornaments" beginning Oct. 28.

Smith is a Greenfield Village instructor who is responsible for the development of the 19th century Basket Shop there.

The new class will teach students to make Christmas tree ornaments using basketry techniques, ornamental trees and bells using reeds and other basket materials.

Hours are 7:30-10 p.m. Fee is \$28 plus materials.

Registration is taken by calling the center at 477-8408.

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