

## Trip to Kent, England evokes awe

There comes a time when you wrap up your summer pleasures and chores and face the elegance of a Michigan fall with its beautiful colorings.

I've been reviewing an experience I had this summer. A garden writer in England had me in tow savoring the English countryside. When he suggested going to Christ Church in Kent, I consented due to my interest in all facets of our Cranbrook Educational Community.

Mr. and Mrs. George Booth, Cranbrook founders, were inspired by that cathedral in England and called their church at Christ Church, Cranbrook.

You touch the massive construction stones with awe, aware that Pope Gregory sent the Benedictine Monk, Augustine, to England in 597 A.D. to introduce Christianity in England and it took place right here. Bit by bit, through the ages, the structure grew.

TODAY, it is immense, most having been built in 1103 A.D. with many additions being made since. In the 13th and 14th centuries, the stained glass was completed. As time passed there were fires, wars and murders (Archbishop

Thomas Becket), and Henry VIII stripped the church of gold and jewels and walked off with them.

There is more stained glass in this structure than in all other English cathedrals combined. Air, rain, sun and wind have touched this massive example of art, with carvings created by masters through the ages. Forgive me for going on about this experience, but isn't "Down to Earth" a sharing of the beautiful?

Knowing that many of our readers travel up north or have second homes there, I would like to point out that shredded pine cones have a strong plus quality as mulch for a garden. In their chemical composition they have all of the attributes which scientists describe as excellent fertilizer. If you have a shredder in which to grind them, either up north or here, break them up for use.

IF YOU have occasion to be up north, give your colleagues a bag and send your folks on a walk. If I didn't have a shredder, I would be inclined to place the cones in trenches where enrichment is needed and cover them

with soil or heaps of leaves to enrich the earth. On second thought, you might be creating a mini forest. Well, that is your problem, but the goodness of the cones will help the soil.

This time of year, the accent is towards indoor plants. Many people who have a boys plant complain about the lack of flowers. Specialists in this plant report that it isn't how old the specimen is, but whether it is large and has many leaves.

Spring and summer are ideal times to make cuttings. Hoya Bella is a prolific bloomer and has many flowers. This vining plant likes to grow up rather than trail. Many of the specimens have interesting leaf coloration. Allow the soil to partially dry out between watering. Don't break off where you have a flower or you will be removing next year's flowers.

If you have a household cat who likes to get in the soil of your potted plants, just sprinkle pepper around the perimeter of the plant and your troubles will be over.

Many of you have planted new trees this year, and the rodents like to nibble on the bark. Also run scald can damage new plantings. Be sure to wrap the trunk with a tree wrap or a vinyl coil.

## Balalaika concert slated

The Balalaika Orchestra of Detroit will appear in its second concert at Orchestra Hall at 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16.

The orchestra is the oldest continually active balalaika ensemble in America. Its first concert was in 1926.

The musicians, under the direction of

William Goldes, will perform a repertoire that includes traditional folk music ranging from the sad, but beautiful Russian lyric to the wildly exuberant gypsy dance.

Orchestra Hall is at 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit.

## Local artists show at Krasl Art Center

Paintings by five local artists are on display through October at Krasl Art Center in St. Joseph.

The exhibit, "Five Viewpoints," began when the art center director asked Marilyn Spencer to find four other artists with varying approaches to their work to show with her.

Those in the exhibit, in addition to Spencer, are Corinne Weissmann, Janis Wagner, Nancy Thayer and Barbara Keidan.

Hours are Monday-Thursday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday until 4 p.m. Saturday until 1 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m., 707 Lake Blvd., St. Joseph.

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