

Fish tank garden — a winter project

This is the season when birds (those with wings, not our two legged migrants) are and have been migrating to southern climates.

Robert Murphy gives a good insight into the total process. Experiments with some species prove that the young which have not migrated north before and would not know the landmarks will end up at the northern home. Light seems to be the answer as they have to gather insects for their daily food. Twelve hours of daylight wouldn't be enough. Their urge to migrate north is awakened by richer ultraviolet rays of the sun, their reproductive mechanism is awakened.

Barn swallows winter in Southern Brazil but will return to the same northern barn to reproduce year after year. The robins are still chirping and we know they will be back early to enjoy our Spring.

As we begin our winter hibernation you might like to develop a growth of



down to earth

Alice Burlingame

plants within a glass globe, fish tank, or what have you. Following this technique you can make a composition using some of the stones you couldn't resist collecting at the beach. Look in your garden for some moss, and maybe some small cuttings from your indoor collection.

The high humidity within a glass means very little water and fertilizer are needed. Stones on the bottom assures drainage. A small piece of interesting bark is a plus. A small piece of appropriate sculpture is easy to come by. Place your "masterpiece" under a

table lamp for guests to admire. It is a wonderful project to work with a home-bound friend.

Those gardeners who follow the writings of Doc Abraham might like a repeat of his recipe for eliminating white fly on your house plants. Mix: 1 teaspoon of Tabasco, 1 teaspoon of liquid washing detergent, and 1 cup of rubbing alcohol. Mix and spray on the affected plants. Don't breathe the mix. Again I will add my "oldie" — on my fluorescent cart I just drape a flea collar over the gravel, easily purchased from many stores. Haven't noticed white flies since its placement.

Your evergreens will benefit if you give them extra water prior to the winter close-in. If you have a large tree which needs

cutting down, midwinter is an excellent time to do it. Your skilled tree services won't be so busy and the falling tree won't do as much damage to the turf.

The stumps can be pulled out by a bulldozer, burned out, chopped out or rotted out. The cheapest way is the latter. Cut the stump off at the ground level, cover with soil, keep moist and nitrogen fertilizer can speed up the breakdown. Drill some vertical holes in the stump before covering with soil. A stump axe will remove stumps quickly.

WE ARE GETTING are getting attractive colors in colous hybridizing and remember when in the house, if you have rooted some cuttings, they will need maximum sun (south is best). Pluck out some of the side stems and they can be rooted. Be sure to remove all leaves beneath the water line to avoid rotting.

If you want a rose garden next spring, prepare the site now. Roses should have six hours of sunlight. Drainage is an important criteria for success. Don't plant a site near a willow tree because there will be too much moisture for the roses.

Echo Park opens tots' registration

Echo Park School located at 32220 Franklin Road, Franklin, is now accepting applications for the mother-toddler program, starting in January. The Echo Park mother-toddler program is designed for parents and their children aged 18 months to 2 1/2 years old.

The class meets daily in a large well-equipped room. Children have an opportunity to explore large and small muscle toys, listen to stories and explore the use of art materials. This class is an introduction to group experience for a child.

Echo Park also announces a new two day program designed to meet the needs of the 1 1/2 year old child. This program will start in January; applications are presently being accepted. The child entering this program must be 2 1/2 years old by January 1, 1983.

For more information or to make an appointment to visit the school, call 851-1866.

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Thomas, Cranbrook Academy of Art. The exhibit includes work by more than 40 metalsmiths from throughout the United States, the Philippines and Canada, and is a joint effort by the Michigan Silversmiths Guild and Eastern Michigan University.

It is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. Ford Gallery is near Ford Hall near Cross Street on the university campus.

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