

Keep mums sheltered at night

You are invited to a tea with an English country theme 12:30-2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16, at the First United Methodist Church, 1589 W. Maple, Birmingham.

Kay McNaul, author, lecturer and co-founder of the Kingwood Herb Society in Mansfield, Ohio, will be the speaker. Several varieties of sandwiches, condiments and desserts will be served.

The tea is being sponsored by The Southern Michigan Unit of The Herb Society of America. The unit planned, planted and maintains the formal and kitchen herb gardens at Cranbrook and the herb garden at the Morris House in Detroit. It also supports a scholarship fund.

The culinary portion of the National Herb Garden in Washington, D.C., was donated by this unit. The National Herb Garden in the Washington Arboretum is a must place to visit when you are in the area.

To reserve a place at the tea table, call 739-0435 or 645-0895. Donation is \$8.

Come and introduce yourself to me -- I like to meet our column readers.

Several weeks ago I attended my first Garden

Celebrating miniature week

"Come Dream with Us" is the theme of the first National Dollhouse and Miniature Week, Oct. 10-17. The Miniature Makers' Workshop, 4515 N. Woodward, Royal Oak, will be celebrating all week and is hosting the annual Wee Bees' Miniature Show Oct. 16-18. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and noon to 4 on Sunday.

Included in the exhibition are dollhouses, furnished with scaled miniatures, room boxes with both contemporary and traditional themes, collectible miniatures, hand crafted by recognized artists and dolls made to scale.

An imaginative room setting, in which the artist, Betsy Robinson of Birmingham, has placed hand sculpted, dressed and painted dolls; a collection of miniature horses, with intricately tooled leather bridles, pulling sleighs or carriages; and an old time miniature traveling puppet theater are among the treasures on display.

Twelve-year-old Melissa Welther has several pieces of needlepoint and plastic canvas furniture she made in the show. Her mother, Sue, is a character member of the Wee Bees.

The Wee Bees, a local chapter of N.A.M.E. (National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts), is a non-profit organization. The admission charge is \$1.50.

A portion of the money collected will go to the club's 1987 philanthropic endeavor, the Adam Walsh Fund. In addition, the Wee Bees offer their services to various museums and institutions, using their

expertise to refurbish dollhouses and displays. For information, call 549-0633.



down to earth
Marty Figley

Writers Association of America annual meeting in Akron, Ohio. One of the many gardens visited was Kingwood. It is a lovely spot and well worth a stop when you are traveling in Ohio. The gardens and ponds are beautiful and serene. Many varieties of ducks and waterfowl make their home at Kingwood and are fun to watch.

Valley Brothers, Inc., Barberton, Ohio, was another fascinating stop on the itinerary. The corporate headquarters is housed in a converted 75-year-old dairy barn on the former estate of O.C. Barber.

Pithe handmade quilts hang from the rafters and walls to add to the ambience and warmth to the home of the world's largest scientific flowering and foliage plant producers. What a place to have an office.

We were privileged to see new varieties of hibiscus and garden mums, which are constantly being developed. Look for them when you visit a garden center. We learned that hibiscus can be grown indoors as well as out. More about this lovely plant later.

Mums are now showing a prolific bloom in our gardens. To ensure continuous bloom until a hard frost appears to finish them off, a shelter of plastic, burlap, heavy cloth or thick paper may save the plant from early frost damage.

These shelters should be erected on sticks or poles as canopies or tents, a few inches above the flowers so that the material doesn't actually touch the blooms. If it touches the blooms, it acts as a frost conductor rather than an insulator. Drape the covers all the way to the ground and remove them in the morning.

If you have enjoyed a mum in a plastic pot and wish to plant it in your garden, do so at least a month before the first hard frost. In a sunny well-drained location. Water consistently from below. A soluble fertilizer, applied 1/2 solution now is recommended. Dead-head flowers for continuous bloom.

After the mums are killed back, clip them to 4-5 inches. After the ground is frozen apply a straw, oak leaf, pine needle mulch or use pine boughs. In the spring, after the second year of bloom, when the new plants are 4-6 inches out of the ground, lift and divide.

Spring planting of mums is a good way to ensure healthy, flowering plants for the following fall. A general purpose garden fertilizer, 5-10-5, is recommended at the time of planting. . . about a tablespoon per plant is sufficient. Include liquid fertilizer in the first watering. Fertilize again in mid-July.

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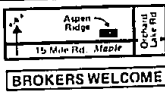
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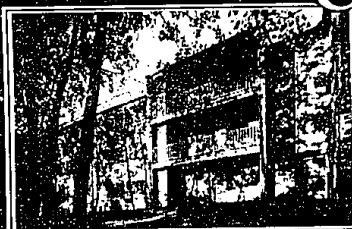
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DIVISION Head, transferring from east, has all cash and wants West Bloomfield home in good condition.

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