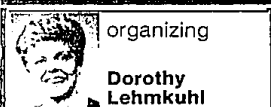


Creative Living



(C)1E

Monday, May 23, 1988 O&E



organizing

Dorothy Lehmkuhl

Q. I'm well organized but out of space. I have a small kitchen and limited storage for other things like linens, cleaning supplies, etc. Since I cannot afford renovations or a bigger house, are there any tricks to using my space better?

A. Yes, there are. Since you say you are well organized, I assume you are not a saver. Just the same, try first to pare down even more, following the No. 1 Storage Rule: Organize before increasing space.

That done, open your closet and cupboard doors, stand back and peruse the use of your space carefully. How much of the back wall of your storage area is visible? Storing short items on tall shelves — leaving lots of space between the items on the shelf above — is a waste of space.

If your shelves are adjustable, buy and install extra shelves. If they are, use step shelves. A step shelf is an extra shelf inserted between existing ones. These can be installed by several methods. A variance of the old "brick and board" trick can be used by placing bricks, blocks or tin cans to support a board at each end.

FOR SMALL SPACES, buy inexpensive vinyl-covered wire-rack step shelves in the housewares department of your local hardware or discount store. (I bought mine at Dammans).

Step shelves are especially useful for doubling-decking china, glassware, canned food, flat baking dishes, bowls, bath towels, sweaters, etc. On a deep pantry shelf, a step shelf can be placed across the back, for instance. Utilize under-sink cavities and other larger areas such as pantries or linen closets.

Plastic baskets can be used in conjunction with step shelves. On a closet shelf, for example, a rack can be placed across all or a portion of the width. Baskets hold small items (perhaps gloves, scarfs, etc.) can be placed on and/or under the step shelf.

This also works well for storing potatoes and onions, first aid equipment, pet supplies, tape, cosmetics, sewing notions, carpentry supplies or numerous other small items kept in large undivided areas.

Also try removing long flat items from horizontal spaces and storing them vertically.

Winging it

Gardener finds pesties are for the birds

By Jane Wilczewski
special writer

WHEN I SEE a tomato horn worm, my first impression is "Oooh, yuck." Since I'm squeamish about crawling things, my second impression is one of fear. I act upon that fear by digging up my whole tomato plant and dumping it into the nearest garbage can.

Next, I usually pour a bit of gasoline on the contents of the can and attempt to rid the tomato plant and myself of that caterpillar forever. A bit drastic, I'll admit, but that was my routine until recently.

Not wanting to use harmful poisons on my backyard garden, I often encountered those repulsive green crawlers. I knew that my tomato plants were doomed when I heard the clicking sound of the tomato horn worm in the garden. Yes, tomato worms do make clicking sounds!

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH, I'd decided. Between insects and worms, if I was going to sample the fruit of my labor, I had to find a natural way to rid my plants of such pests. Primitive man followed nature's ways, and he survived without insecticides. I'm sure he observed and used all the clues that nature had to offer. I decided to try and do the same.

My investigation led me to the value of birds as one of nature's clues. They are better than insecticides at removing insects. Birds can reach under the leaves of plants and other places that sprays miss.

Since most birds are insect eaters, I began to try to attract and keep them around my yard.

I discovered that bluebirds prefer caterpillars as food. They also eat locusts and other insects, and they injure nothing.

SWALLOWS HELP form a protective barrier over the garden. They scour the sky for nocturnal bugs and make sweeps just above the ground for others. The swallow has a larger throat than most birds, so their open mouths, like a net, trap insect life in the air.

Probably the greatest friend to the home gardener is the purple martin. Long ago, the American Indian discovered the value of these birds in controlling insects that plagued them. The Indians hung gourds with openings about their camps for martins to use as nesting places.

The birds must have liked this arrangement, because now they choose bird houses in preference to natural places. They love those community-type bird houses. Thirty or more martins will nest there on flies, wasps and other unwanted insects.

Once spring arrives, you might look for the bright black and orange oriole. Their basic diet is caterpillars, pupae, and moths. These birds are a friend to trees also. The oriole will feed their young those large tent caterpillars that defoliate trees.

THE FLYCATCHER also picks caterpillars and eats thousands of aphids.

The birds I've mentioned so far are skittish when man is around. However,

there are some varieties that are very friendly to the gardener. Foremost of these are the wrens. Wrens like to eat insects that belong to the order of Hemiptera, which includes leafhoppers, plant lice, scale insects, whiteflies, and true bugs. The wrens, being small themselves, find it worthwhile to pick up the tiniest of insect eggs. Wrens are cavity-nesters and will take to boxes or bird houses placed in fruit trees where you want them to work.

If you want to attract birds to your yard, you must remember that only a small number of birds are attracted to artificial bird houses. However, all birds are attracted to water. Some birds like to flutter and preen in the shallows of a birdbath. Others, like the brown towhee, are like the Baptist who insist on total submersion. Another extreme is the bluebird who won't wet his feet but likes to bask in a fine mist.

IF YOU WANT to attract birds to your garden, just remember to vary the water supply. You can't depend on stagnant water in a basin or birdbath. Birds have favorite times for their bath and drinking. Doves, for example, take all of their water supply at sundown. The gardener who wants to attract more birds than his neighbor, should have some form of water available at all hours.

It's good common sense to encourage helpful birds by giving them some food during the winter months.

There are a few undesirable birds to have around your garden. The house

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finch may be destructive in large numbers. It is responsible for more fruit damage than any other bird. Jays eat fruits and nuts and drive away other birds. They will destroy the nests and eat the eggs of useful birds.

Observation is the best tool to determine a working relationship with birds. Also the members of your local Audubon Society will help you in identifying the beneficial birds that frequent your garden.

Now, if there's such a thing as a helpful caterpillar, FORGET IT!

Jane Wilczewski is a free-lance writer who lives in Westland. She's also been a backyard gardener for years and is familiar with the problems they encounter.

Here's a new-home inspection checklist

The Builders Association of Southeastern Michigan (BASM) offers these tips as a new home inspection checklist:

OUTSIDE

• Grading: Does the ground around the foundation slope away from the house? Does water accumulate in puddles? Are there signs of erosion? Is the shrubbery placed at least two - three feet

from the foundation? Are the basement window wells clean and grveled?

• Roof structure: Are shingles flat and tight? Is flashing secure in place? Do gutters, downspouts and splash blocks drain away from the house? Exterior Appearance: are all windows and doors sealed and protected by weatherstripping? Are trim and fittings tight? Are

there cracks? Does the paint on surface and trim cover smoothly?

INSIDE

• Doors/Windows: Are all doors and windows properly sealed? Do they operate easily? Are the doors and windows the type specified in the contract? Is all glass in place and not loose or cracked?

• Finishes: Is painting satisfactory in all rooms? Even closets and stairways? Is trim and molding in place?

• Floors: Do carpet seams match? Is the carpet tight? Are there any ridges or seam gaps in vinyl tile or linoleum. Do the floors squeak? Are the wooden floors properly finished?

Discovering an arty N.Y.

GEORGE GERSHWIN said it first — Oh, springtime in New York.

For me, there's no place more exciting. I'm going to tell you about some of the places I make regularly when I am visiting the city.

The "Soho" area, which is the south end of Manhattan, has wonderful galleries where you can make a purchase for several hundred dollars or thousands of dollars. Marvelous accessory items for the home — china, linens — are to be found.

On Saturday and Sunday, there is an open air market on many of the streets. Buying and bargaining is a little game you play. It makes me think of the Chinese. They're offended when you don't bargain. It is their pleasure to give you a "good" buy.

Sotheby's at 1334 York is exciting,

particularly if they are having an auction. Here, you may see collections of the rich and famous being auctioned. There is usually a sale in the morning and one in the afternoon.

THE WALLACE Wentworth Gallery, 100 United Nations Plaza, is a must for the sophisticated collector. Here, you will find a large variety of original art: Chagall, Picasso, Andy Warhol, Clyde Linds.

At the Castillon Fine Art Ltd., 159 Madison, you will see an impressive collection of French and American original lithographs at very reasonable prices.

The Broadway Gallery at 2087 Broadway is open seven days. So if you have spent time doing other things, Sunday is available to you to see the work of Raphael Sotter,

designing
waysEve
Garvin

Miro, Calder, Agam, Neiman and many more.

University Place is a street a few blocks long with many antique furniture and lighting galleries. All the shops are open week days — many close on Saturday and Sunday.

The Kentshire Galleries at 37 East 12th, between Broadway and University Place, is internationally recognized as one of the finest dealers in antique furnishings.

Now, when you plan your visit to the "Big Apple," be this article with you. I promise you, you are going to love making these stops.

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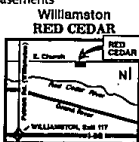
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