

Herb fanciers host symposium

The Southern Michigan unit of the Herb Society of America will sponsor a symposium, "Herbs from the Past to the Present," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, April 8, at North Congregational Church of Southfield.

Speakers will be Richard Miller, extension entomologist and professor emeritus, Ohio State University; Ellen Elliot Weatherbee, director of adult education, Matthei Botanical Gardens; Deborah Silver, Golden-Walsh Nursery; and this columnist.

The topics are: "Herb Pests, Their Identification and Management," emphasizing no-chemical controls; Miller, "Wild Plants, Quality Foods and Effective Medicines," Weatherbee; "Landscape with Native Wildflowers and Herbs," Silver; and "Decorating with Herbs," Marty Figley.

A limited number of basil and thyme plants will be available along with a large selection of books. I've looked through some of the books that will be available at the symposium and here are several



down to earth

Marty Figley

that caught my attention.

"THE GARDEN Design Book," Anthony Paul and Yvonne Rees (Salem House, \$34.95), contains hundreds of photographs of gardens by contemporary designers. These ideas can be adapted to large or small spaces. The emphasis is on extending living areas into the garden. Designers such as Richard Haigh, Annie Wilkes, Gilles Clement, Wolfgang Oehme and James van Sweden are among those whose concepts are pictured.

Two books by Adeline G. Simmons (owner of Caprilands Herb Farm in Coventry, Conn.) will be available. In "Herbs Through the Seasons at Caprilands" (\$19.95 hardcover, Rodale Press) Simmons writes in first person of gardening, lore, crafts and gives specific herb recipes. There are ideas to celebrate the seasons — a spring May Day party, a midsummer party featuring mints, a Halloween festival with tips for preserving and enjoying the bounty from the garden, and winter, the time to dream.

"Country Wreaths from Caprilands" (\$19.95, hardcover, Rodale Press) gives suggestions for wreaths from bridal to Victorian, garlands and even recipes for pot pourri to be attached to the wreaths. Along with the whys, wheres and how-tos are descriptions of herbs and flowers used for these creations.

"The Herb & Spice Cookbook... A Seasoning Celebration" by Sheryl & Mel London (\$21.95 hardcover, Rodale Press) includes innovative uses of herbs and spices. Some of the famous chefs interviewed share their recipes and give information about their restaurants and use of herbs.

Jimmy Schmidt of the Rattlestone Club of Colorado is one of them. A mushroom with lemon thyme concoction, used as an herb omelette or salad, sounds tempting and the orange-ginger chicken with sugar snap peas is delicious. The chapter on Vegetables will make your mouth water.

Funds raised by the symposium support scholarships on a regional and national level and provide gardens. The local unit provides plants, support and maintenance of the formal and kitchen herb gardens at the Cranbrook House, Bloomfield Hills.

For information on the symposium, call 737-9470 or 681-1925.

Michigan Chorale to sing in Europe

The Michigan Festival Chorale will make a European Concert Tour, July 6-23 with stops and concerts in Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy and Yugoslavia.

Michigan Chorale is directed by John Dvoras, director of university choruses at Oakland University and music director at Kirk in the Hills of Bloomfield Hills. Fred Rohrbach, associate conductor of the Chorale, is music director of the Redeemer Lutheran Church of the Redeemer and guidance counselor at West Bloomfield High School.

The elites the travelers will be visiting are Frankfurt and Dinkelsbühl.

Germany, Salzburg and Klagenfurt, Austria, Split, Zadar and Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia, Florence and Venice, Italy, Lugano and Lucerne, Switzerland and then Freiburg, Heidelberg and Rudesheim, Germany.

The Chorale will give approximately 10 concerts. The tour is sponsored by Festivals Abroad and welcomes people other than musicians who wish to make the trip.

The cost, \$2,400, includes round trip air fair, land transportation, hotels, two meals daily and some incidentals.

For information, call 626-2515

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