

Festival of Trees opens Saturday

Did you save some bulbs for forcing to bring early spring into your home? Now is the time to prepare the pots for forcing hardy bulbs for bloom in March and April. Hardy bulbs are those that can stand or need a cold period during dormancy. This cooling period of 14-15 weeks between 35-50 degrees F. is necessary for root development and later leaf and flower growth. After this time when the pots are placed in a warm area in filtered sunlight, the

blossoms will be a delightful sight in three to four weeks. A loosely packed well-drained soil is best for bulbs in pots. Although fertilizer shouldn't be applied when bulbs are planted for forcing, they already contain all that they need, when foliage begins to show, a solution of one-fourth the recommended amount at each watering until the foliage begins to yellow, is recommended by Ortho Products. They are one of the companies

that make a food especially for bulbs. To learn more about bulbs and other specific groups of plants, a series of six books called Taylor's Pocket Guides, are small, easy-to-carry-to-the-garden ones that zero in on subjects such as Bulbs for Spring, For Summer, Modern, Old-Fashioned, Roses, and Perennials for Shade, For Sun. Published by Houghton Mifflin, each is \$4.95 (paper) and packed with information about

where, how, why and when, to put and care for particular plants, diseases and pests, and many color photographs with descriptions and growing tips. A new tool on the market to check the temperature of the pile is a long-probe thermometer (which, by the way can be used to measure the root temperature of plants so that they can be protected from frost). Researchers report that the ideal temperature for efficient decomposition



down to earth
Marty Figley
is about 160 degrees so that harmful pathogens in the decaying matter can be destroyed. This thermometer is 20 inches long, which makes it different from a conventional soil thermometer. It is stainless steel and is available for \$17.99 postpaid from Flora & Fauna, P.O. Box 578, Gualala, Ca. 95445, or call (707) 884-4919. They also manufacture wonderful garden ornaments, a regular soil thermometer, sun dials, faucet handles and chimes, that would make welcome gifts, which can be found in garden catalogs and retailers. At the Festival of Trees, the Riverfront Ballroom of Cobo Center will be magically transformed into a wonderland with trees, wreaths, vignettes, and a gingerbread village, produced by many area florists, individuals and clubs. The gift shop and Santaland with

activities for children is always a favorite spot. I will be demonstrating wreath making 2-4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 19, so come say "hi." The Herb Unit to which I belong is participating for the first time this year and we have been busy making ornaments. Hundreds of people, organizations, and businesses are involved in Festival of Trees.

The Festival opens Saturday and runs through Nov. 26, excluding Thanksgiving Day. Hours are: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Wednesday, until 8 p.m. Nov. 24-26. Admission charge. Tickets at all Ticketmaster Outlets. The Evergreen Endowment Fund at Children's Hospital of Michigan is the sole beneficiary of Festival of Trees. The Fund was established in 1985 to fund research into the causes and cures of childhood diseases.

LIVONIA - Four bedroom, 3 1/2 bath colonial. Neutral decor, fieldstone fireplace in family room, rec. room, sauna. Fenced yard, maintenance free exterior, attached garage. \$154,900. 642-0703

FARMINGTON HILLS - Ideal family home on a beautifully treed cul-de-sac. Very private dock and patio overlooking main commons with tennis courts and walking/jogging trails, 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, library, family room, finished lower level. \$214,900. 553-8700

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FARMINGTON HILLS RANCH - A bit of country, custom area. Spacious, like new condition with 3 (or 4) bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, family room, basement, 2 1/2 car garage, possible 1st floor laundry. \$129,900. 553-8700

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WIXOM AREA A wonderful location is one of the fine features of this spacious three bedroom home. Master bath, central air and full basement. Beautifully landscaped yard which is private and backs up to natural area. Close to expressways and close to all conveniences. Recently reduced! \$114,900. CONTACT DEBBY 363-8307.

COMMERCE LAKEFRONT. The gorgeous three bedroom home on main lake has been completely redone, carpet, windows, etc. Room for expansion. Enjoy the sandy beach and very private lot. Waited lake schools. ENJOY PEACE AND QUIET in this secluded home. \$189,900. CONTACT SANDY 363-8307.

WEST BLOOMFIELD. This newer ranch in an exclusive area is quite the nature lovers delight. This beautiful home has three bedrooms, 1 1/2 baths, central air, fireplace and circular paved drive. West Bloomfield schools. Priced to sell at only \$124,900. CONTACT DEBBY 363-8307.

TRADITIONAL BAY FRONT. Quality through out this three bedroom, three bath, true family home. Also featuring hot tub, formal dining, custom kitchen, two fireplaces. Great beach area for family swimming and enjoyment. Priced at only \$299,000. CONTACT BARI 363-8307.

LIKE A CONDO ON THE LAKE. This two bedroom lakefront is like brand new, huge dock, doorwall. Room for a garage. This Lower Strata frontage is perfect for singles, young couple or the empty nester. Low maintenance. Lots of trees for privacy. \$192,900. CONTACT NAN 363-8307.

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