

creative impressions

This column appears regularly. Send news items to Creative Impressions, Creative Living, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150.

● PIPELESS ORGAN
Classic Claviers of Farmington has announced that the Detroit Symphony Orchestra has selected the Galanti Præludium III "pipeless" organ to use for its upcoming concert.

The orchestra, under Neeme Jarvi's direction, will perform the Camille Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 3.
Performances are scheduled for 8 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 7, 10:45 a.m. Friday, Feb. 8, and 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9, in Orchestra Hall, Detroit.
Organist will be Marilyn Mason, University of Michigan School of Music Organ Department chair.

Also on the program is the Violin Concerto No. 1 by Shostakovich and the world premiere of the Napchak Sinfonia Antiqua. Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg will be violin soloist.
For tickets, call 833-3700.

● DANCE TROUPE
The University of Michigan's University Dance Company will present "Trailblazers and Troubadours: Forty Years of Modern Dance" as part of the Power Series 90/91.

This program of lyric dances by influential choreographers plays today through Sunday at the Lower Center for the Performing Arts, Ann Arbor.
It features two classes of modern dance repertoire: Jose Limon's 1956 masterpiece "There Is A Time" and Lucas Hoving's 1964 "Fearus".
The dance troupe also will present three new works by U-M's dance faculty members Jessica Fogel, Peter Spurling and Vera Embree.

The program then refers to both the founders of the modern dance movement and the newer, younger choreographers finding their own voices by working from traditions established for them in the past.

Curtain time is 8 p.m. Feb. 7-9 and 2 p.m. Feb. 10. For tickets: 764-0450.

● OPERA FOR KIDS
For the second year, the University Musical Society of the University of Michigan is presenting two opera performances for fourth grade school children.

In collaboration with the New York City Opera National Company, 2,800 children and their chaperones will see specially constructed and adapted performances of Mozart's "The Marriage of Figaro" at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 14, in the Power Center for the Performing Arts.

For most of these children, this Youth Opera Program marks their first exposure to opera. For "The Marriage of Figaro," children will be coming from such communities as Canton and Plymouth.

To prepare students for this experience, educational materials are sent to participating teachers so that children are ready to listen to the performers, watch the set changes and perhaps even sing with the performers or participate onstage in one of the scenes.

● ARCHITECTURE LECTURES
A series of monthly lectures on Detroit-area architecture given by noted architecture and history professionals will begin Sunday, Feb. 17, at the Scarab Club in the New Center area in Detroit.

The first lecture will be "From Peacocks to Sunflowers: The Queen Anne Aesthetic Style," and will be given by Dorothy Kostuch, associate professor of art history at the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit.

Registration for each program begins at 3 p.m., with lectures starting at 3:15. Sponsored by Preservation Wayne, the Scarab Club and the Center for Creative Studies, the series will cover both residential and commercial structures and inter-

ior and exterior ornamentation, with local noteworthy examples.
Cost for each lecture is \$5 for members of Preservation Wayne, Scarab Club and the Detroit Area Art Deco Society and for students and faculty of the Center for Creative Studies. General admission is \$7.
Call 577-3559.

● YOUTH SYMPHONY
The Metropolitan Youth Symphony, consisting of 250 young people in three orchestras led by prominent music educators, will present its winter concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 24, at Orchestra Hall, Detroit.

The hardworking musicians, ranging from fifth through 12th grades, come from 50 communities. The string orchestra will be conducted by Jacqueline Coleman, Detroit Country Day School middle school music program department head and director.

Her group will perform selections from Hopak by Moussorgsky/A. Ishin, Hungarian Dance No. 5 by Brahms/Isaac, "Send to the Clouds" from "The Little Night Music" by Sondheim/Forslund and Allegro in C major from Quartet No. 4 by Mozart/Isaac.

Richard Phippo, concert orchestra conductor, is a cellist and teacher/conductor at Wayne State University. His musicians will play Symphony No. 8 in G major, opus 88 by Dvorak from the original score.

Alan McNair is concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Rochester Symphony and orchestra director at Troy High. His symphony orchestra, selected as this year's Orchestra of the Year for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival, will play Symphony No. 5 in E minor by Tchaikovsky.

Tickets are \$15 box seats, \$10 main floor, \$8 lower balcony. Call 644-8105 for more information about the volunteer youth symphony. The symphony raises money for facilities rental and other expenses.

● SILENT AUCTION
The Detroit Area Art Deco Society, a Michigan non-profit group, in cooperation with Detroit's Historic Scarab Club, will host its first silent auction at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Feb. 25, at the Scarab Club, 217 Farnsworth.

Tickets are available in advance at Duke Gallery, Birmingham, and Deco Doug's, Royal Oak, or at the door. Vintage attire is encouraged. There will be a cash bar and hors d'oeuvres.

The auction will feature an array of art deco objects, collectibles and gift certificates ranging in value from \$25 to \$500.

"The art deco society uses these funds to promote and preserve the buildings and art of the early 20th century," said committee chair Tom Rusinov.

"Detroit was one of the truly great cities of the world in the 1920s and 30s and preserving and educating people in its beauty is a big job. We use this once-a-year event to help cover the equipment and expenses that we incur in all of the programs that we sponsor throughout the year."


● MISSION FURNITURE
Bruce Scopo of Birmingham will discuss the origin, concepts and people involved in "Mission Furniture: The Arts and Crafts Movement in America," 7-10 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 27, at Henry Ford Museum, Dearborn. Call 271-1620 to register.

Discussion will focus on young Frank Lloyd Wright, William Morris and Gustav Stickley. Through slides and examples, special attention will be given to identifying makers, understanding the market and finding pieces of your own.

● CRAFT SHOW
Five Overlandland residents will take part in the Creative Studies Slow Sunday, March 3, at Botanic's of Garden City, 32550 Cherry Hill, be-

tween Merriman and Venoy:
● Livonia — Rose Stebbins, country dried flowers, Victorian silk floral arrangements.
● Westland — Marcel Zycik, children's clothing; Jeanne Schmidt, soft sculpture.
● Garden City — Barbara Gentile, clay miniatures.
● Plymouth — Val Davis, Debbie Jorday, country painted wood and cloth dolls.
Sixty displays will feature country folk art, Victorian crafts and early Americana.
Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$2.

children younger than 12, free. Lunches and refreshments will be available. No strollers are allowed.
● STUDENT EXHIBIT
Visual arts students at the Creative and Performing Arts in Livonia will display their paintings, drawings and prints March 14-23 on the second floor of Jacobson's at Laurel Park Place in Livonia. Store hours are 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday and Friday. Call 523-8841.




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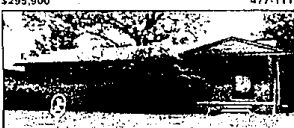
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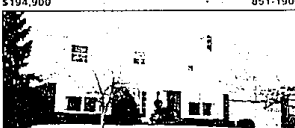
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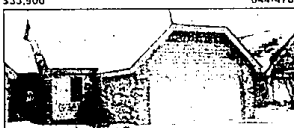
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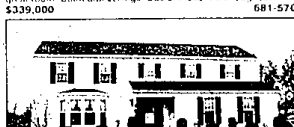
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Houseplants

Soil and fertilizer are basics

Our final topic on caring for houseplants concerns soil and fertilizers.

Soil holds roots firmly and supports the plants. It also holds water and nutrients so that they can be absorbed by the plants through the tiny root hairs, which keep the plant healthy and growing.

Fertilizers are best used with discretion for most houseplants. When growth is slow and when light levels are low, they should be used very seldom, then used with restraint when new growth appears.

If plants are not growing well or have stunted growth, wilt, and/or are plagued with stem and root rot, perhaps new soil is all that is necessary to give the plants a boost. Soil that provides good support and drainage, one that is light and porous enough to allow good air circulation, and one that is sterile, is ideal.

Specific plants have various needs, i.e., each needs coarse well-drained soil, such as cactus and orchids.
Others, such as ferns, prefer one with more organic matter, while most grow well in a commercial mixture which includes perlite, sand or other coarse materials. A top grade mix will give the best results.

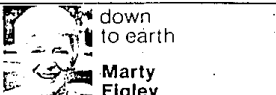
Some of the newer ones contain watering agents (such as Hyponex) and hold more moisture in the soil eliminating frequent watering.

SALT CAN build up in the soil when hard water is used to water, and if frequent shallow waterings are applied.

I fill a gallon container and let it "air" for several days before watering to let it settle, and then I also know it is the proper temperature. Over-fertilization also can cause salt buildup. Too much salt causes plants to dry out and the feeder roots to become burned.

Whenever your plants have brown tips and margins on many leaves, bud and flower drop and stunted growth, either re-pot or at least water thoroughly to leech out those salts. When watering, allow it to run out the drainage hole and then pour out the excess after about 10 minutes.

Remove any diseased parts of the plant before re-potting, divide if necessary. Choose the next larger size pot.
Put some gravel or shards in the bottom of the



down to earth
Marty Figley
new container, add a shallow layer of soil, then, after you have carefully removed the plant from its original container, and being careful not to injure the tiny feeder roots, set that container into the larger pot, and fill with soil.

WHEN THE smaller pot is removed, there will be ample room to position the plant in the new container. Pour soil around and over the roots and gently firm it with your fingers. Water well.

Plants need three basic nutrients for good growth: nitrogen (N), phosphorus (P) and potassium (K). These are the main ingredients in fertilizers, along with traces of other nutrients. Nitrogen encourages good leaf growth. If the green leaves turn pale or yellowish between the veins, plants could be suffering from this deficiency.

Those low in phosphorus, necessary for root and flower production, may have stunted growth and a reddish-purple color in seedlings and older leaves, especially along the edges and between the veins.

Leaf scorch and yellowing of the tips and edges of the lower leaves and then those above, is caused by potassium deficiency, which gives the plants vigor, strengthens the stems and helps in flower production.

I am going to add 1/2 cup of Kricket Krap to 100 percent organic fertilizer to my 20 pound bag of potting soil when I re-pot my plants. Then fertilization will be done for awhile.

The company recommends using a small amount of fertilizer for container plants when plants are in a growth period or flowering. To receive their catalog, send \$1 refundable with your order, to Bricker's Organic Farm, Inc., 824 Sandbar Ferry Rd., Augusta, GA 30901.

Marty Figley is a Birmingham-based garden writer.