

# Now's the time to start tuberous begonias indoors

When tuberous begonias are featured in a garden, they take center stage with their large blooms in colors such as white, pink, red, orange, apricot and yellow.

February is a good time to start the tubers indoors and perhaps plan a garden around them where they will delight all who are fortunate to see them. Choose firm tubers and place them round end down (the roots emerge there, and along the



down to earth

**Marty Figley**

## Landscape workshop set

Detroit area landscape industry professionals, designers and architects are invited to learn new design techniques and improve their drawing and specifying skills at a full-day workshop.

The program is set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Oakland University in Rochester. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. To register or request a brochure, call 1-800-347-6565. Space is limited. Topics include residential and

commercial design, bedding and specifying, and drawing-detailing. The creative use of low-maintenance perennials and ornamental grasses will also be discussed. The symposium is sponsored by Pepper Grove Nursery of Lapeer, Mich.

Ken and Mike Miller have concentrated their work in specialty garden design utilizing natives, perennials and choice woodies to create multi-dimensional designs for both commercial and residential clients.

sides) in a shallow container in a soil-less mix. Space them 3-4 inches apart. The depression in the tuber is where the leaves and buds will emerge and this area, just peeking out of the soil, needs to be kept dry to prevent rot. Keep the growing mix evenly moist. Place the trays in bright, indirect sunlight with temperatures around 70 degrees. In about a month plump pink buds will appear followed by the leaves.

Now they can be transferred to 5-6 inch pots in a soil rich in humus. Equal parts sandy loam, peat and well-rotted compost or manure is ideal. Transfer the sprouting tubers to the same depth as they were in the flats. They now need lots of light, but not too much direct sun. An east window will do. Don't allow the temperature to go below 60 and 65 degrees.

They can be planted in the garden

go into dormancy. When the leaves turn yellow and fall off, lift the tubers, clean the soil off, dry in the sun for several days until they're hard and dry and store them in an open flat at about 45-60 degrees. Keep them dry to prevent decay.

**THE SECOND MICHIGAN Home and Garden Show** begins at 3 p.m. Feb. 28 in Silverdome, Pontiac. It continues through March 3, when the doors close at 6 p.m. Over 250 exhibitors will inspire you with a wealth of ideas for the do-it-yourself gardeners.

On Friday, March 1, I am privileged to be one of three speakers at a special three-hour seminar, beginning 1 p.m., repeated 6 p.m. I will be presenting "Happiness with Herbs" and will share many facets of herb growing, crafting and cooking.

The second speaker, Denis Carroll, landscape designer at English Gardens, and a graduate of Michigan State University's school of horticulture, will explain what, where and when to plant perennials. Color with these plants also will be included.

"The Geranium Cowboy," John Wendland, senior grounds keeper at Oakland University and also a certified master gardener, will share his vast knowledge accumulated through 25 years of working with over 5,000 geraniums. All of us will pass out information sheets for you to take home.

General admission is \$5 for adults and \$2.50 for children, six to 12. Tickets can be bought at the door or from Ticketmaster. Attendance at the Friday seminar is included with the general admission. I'll look for you!

## Antique show set

The Southfield Pavilion Antiques Exposition featuring American, European and Oriental antiques and fine art will be Feb. 22-24 at the Southfield Civic Center.

National antique dealers, experts and authors will be exhibiting and selling their antiques collections. Dining and free parking are avail-

able. Hours are 2-9 p.m. Friday, noon to 9 p.m. Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday.

The \$5 admission charge is reduced to \$1 if you present an ad or listing of the event. One admission is good for all three days of the show. Children 12 and under are free.

## PCCA auction set

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts will hold its "Fun" Raising Auction at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 9, at the Rochester Hills Golf and Country Club, 655 Micholton (between John R and Rochester Road). Evening festivities include live

and silent auctions, complimentary beverages and gourmet treats.

All proceeds benefit programs at the non-profit Paint Creek Center for the Arts. Tickets available at PCCA or at the door. For more information, call 651-4110.

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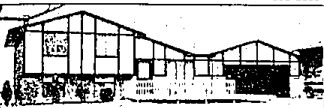
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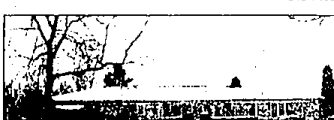
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