

CREATIVE LIVING

D

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Indoor gardening project is quite a dish

Before you rush out into the garden to get a leg up on the season, rush out to your nearest garden shop and buy the makings of a dish garden. This will help get some of the garden fever abated until time for outdoor chores.

A dish garden is an easy project; the makings are readily available, and the result will make a nice addition to your indoor plant collection. You can choose a container to match your decor and the plants that appeal to you. Blooms come in different colors. Members of the cactus family, Cactaceae, are from the hot, dry regions of the Americas and are especially suitable for dish gardens.

All cacti are succulents; the name comes from the Latin *Sucus*, which means juice. They have reservoirs in the leaves, stems, flower tubes and sometimes roots for storing the "juice" or moisture.

There are around 2,000 species in the cacti family — some have spines, others don't. All cacti have special cushions or sunken areas called areoles on the stems from which the spines, flowers and leaves grow.

I constructed the dish garden pictured by using all desert cacti. I did use one succulent, a small aloe. Desert cacti have the same cultural requirements, and it's important that the plants have the same needs. The plants are readily available for purchase.

The Latin names are tongue-twisters. Some common names are Scarlet bugler (silver torch), Peruvian apple (curiosity plant), Blue barrel (devil's tongue), Golden barrel, Urchin — the list goes on and on. I have found that many of the plants aren't specifically labeled, so I'll leave it to you to find the proper name if you wish.

Dish design

Choose a low dish about 5 inches deep and 10 to 12 inches across, with drainage holes. Five small plants will fit into this size with room for a little painted figure. I used three pewter objects to add interest.

Place a layer of broken shards or gravel and several pieces of charcoal in the bottom of the dish. It is imperative that you do this if the container has no drainage holes.

A potting soil that allows good drainage is necessary and can be bought with the right formula for these plants. An inch or two of the potting soil goes in next, then gently set the plants in a pleasing manner on the soil. Wear gloves or use a piece of cloth or paper towel to protect your hands from the spines.

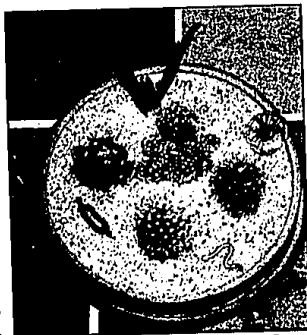
Carefully add more soil, firming it around the plants with a small tool — a pencil, a narrow piece of wood or the like. A small spoon will allow you to get the soil close to the base of the plants without getting it on them.

A layer of coarse sand spread around the plants will make a more "desert" look, and the tan color will make the plants show up better.

Watering

Water until the soil is well damp. You may

See FIGLEY, 8E



MARTY FIGLEY

Dishing it out: A dish garden makes a nice addition to a plant collection.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in *Creative Living* next week:

- A preview of the 22nd annual International Glass Invitational presented by Habitat Galleries in Farmington Hills.
- A visit to one of the private antiques collections to be featured on a tour as part of the Birmingham Antiques Festival.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Director has high hopes for art center

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The Creative Arts Center of North Oakland County is a landmark in many ways.

It is in a structure at 47 Williams in Pontiac that was built in 1898 and was Oakland County's first public library.

Executive director Judith Toth and the staffers and volunteers at the facility want the community-oriented art agency to be a landmark in other ways too.

"We want the center to be a beehive of activity, with people participating, not just looking," said Toth, who has been executive director since August.

The Creative Arts Center provides a variety of programs for young people, such as Confetti Camp — a bilingual/bicultural summer program in which students ages 8-14 discover

new cultures through dance, theater, visual arts and other activities — and the Peace Begins at Home poster contest for fifth graders.

It offers scholarships — a \$1,500 award to a graduating high school senior to study the arts in college, and scholarships to children for programs at the center. Instructors from the facility visit schools and work closely with teachers.

Exhibits are presented at the center. The most recent was "Trained/Untrained," a display in honor of Black History Month. An exhibit of about 120 works by Oakland Community College students is scheduled in April, along with another show in the fall and a marketplace in December. Gallery talks and tours are offered as well.

High hopes

But Toth is looking to expand the

center's activities. She urges anyone who would like to help or learn more about it to call the Creative Arts Center of North Oakland County at (810) 333-7849.

"We need to reach more people and increase the visibility of the center,"

The center recently added "North Oakland County" to its name, reminding the public that its offerings extend beyond Pontiac.

"We serve as many children from Waterford and Avondale and West Bloomfield as we do from Pontiac."

Art important

Toth is a Bloomfield Hills resident who taught at Cranbrook Brookside School's art department as a visual study specialist. Second to fifth grade students in her film, video and photography program learned about the news media and commercials.

Art is important, Toth declares, as

it helps a student's self-worth and sense of pride, helps different cultures understand one another and provides an outlet for expression.

"It's such an important learning tool."

"We've become totally desensitized. For people to be able to kill a child for a leather jacket or a pair of shoes . . . Art can help heal these wounds."

Challenges, goals

Funding is Toth's biggest challenge.

"I don't think anyone would say anything else in these times."

"We need more local support . . . (local businesses to recognize) we are a real jewel in this city."

Toth's goals include to continue to present quality shows and deal with

See CENTER, 8E

'Sunami':
This deep red
work by
Muriel Shamus
of Grosse Ile
is one of the
colorful and
dynamic
pieces in
"Image,
Light and
Structure
1994," an in-
vitational
glass exhibition
at the
Oakland
County Gal-
leria in Pon-
tiac. Pieces
in the show
— some
hanging in
air, others on
pedestals or
shelves, in
large and
small sizes
— illustrate
the versatili-
ty of glass.



Glass shines in show

■ The invitational glass exhibition at the Oakland County Galleria in Pontiac illustrates the versatility of glass. Participants include artists from Oakland County.

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER



The medium of glass shows a special luster in a current show at the Oakland County Galleria in Pontiac.

"Image, Light and Structure 1994," the annual invitational glass exhibition, is a glorious presentation continuing to April 28 in the Executive Office Building, 1200 N. Telegraph.

The display serves as both appetizer and a main course for Michigan Glass Month, which is April. It offers samples of the versatility of glass, presenting the medium in colors and shapes that delight and dazzle.

Some of the pieces are suspended in illumination, hanging from the ceiling on the upper level.

Moving

Works by Michael David Myers of Lake Ann are among those that give a sense of fluidity. Myers won an

See GLASS, 8E

Lectures scheduled for B'ham antiques fest

A series of four lectures will give antiques lovers additional pleasure during the Birmingham Antiques Festival at The Community House in Birmingham.

The festival opens Thursday, April 7, with a preview party and runs through Sunday, April 10. A tour of antiques collections in private homes will take place Tuesday, April 5. Admission to the antique show is \$5. For more information, call The Community House at (810) 644-5832.

Tickets are \$12 per person, per lecture, and include refreshments as well as a general admission ticket to

the antiques festival for the same day. They can be ordered by mailing a check to The Community House, Attention: Special Events, 360 S. Bates, Birmingham 48009.

"Antique Jewelry" by Patricia Adams of Santa Fe, N.M., is the first, presented 8 a.m. Friday, April 8, with a continental breakfast. Adams travels from Santa Fe each year to Birmingham for this show because of the high demand here for her Victorian jewelry.

"So You're Going to an Antique Show: The Do's and Don'ts" by Ted Miller of Miller & Schweitzer of

Chicago is presented 8 a.m. Saturday, April 9, with a continental breakfast.

"So many people are intimidated when shopping for antiques," Miller said. "We want to help new antique collectors feel more confident. New show-goers will gain more confidence when they learn to communicate better with dealers."

"Quimper" by Blake Kemper of Shaker Heights, Ohio, is 3 p.m. Saturday, April 9, accompanied by an afternoon tea.

"Many people are concerned about whether or not their quimper is au-

thentic," Kemper said. "I'll show them how to identify their pieces by looking at the signature."

"Antique Prints" by Harry Goldson of Sutton's Bay is 10 a.m. Sunday, April 10, with a continental breakfast.

"Fine original prints are important complements of antique collections," Goldson said. "I'll talk about the origin and evolution of printmaking as a creative process. Fine prints provide an exciting and tangible link to the past as well as a dramatic means of enhancing the beauty of antiques."

Art Beat

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: *Creative Living*, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

T-SHIRT COMPETITION

The Creative Arts Center of North Oakland County is sponsoring a T-shirt competition. The subject is the arts center welcomes the World Cup soccer games to Pontiac. For information, call the center at (810) 333-7849.

Designs must be about 12 to 14 inches square and be related to soccer. They may use four colors but may not use the phrase "World Cup Soccer." Artists are encouraged to incorporate the arts center, Pontiac or Michigan as part of their design.

All entries, accompanied by the entrant's name, address and telephone number, must be either hand-delivered to the center or postmarked by Friday, April 29. Send entries to the Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams, Pontiac 48341.

The first-place award will be \$200 and a free airbrushed article of clothing in the design of the winner's choice. The winning design will appear on T-shirts to be sold as a fund-raiser.

The second-place award will be \$50 and a free airbrushed T-shirt, and the third-place award will be \$25 and a free airbrushed T-shirt. The second- and third-place designs will become postcards.

Airbrushed prizes are courtesy of Just Chill Art Wear.

A DATE TO CIRCLE

"A Circle of Friends for Cranbrook," this year's Broily Day event, will take place Saturday, April 9, at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, 1221 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. Call (810) 645-3300 for information.

Festivities that day are a special benefactor reception to meet honorary chairwoman Judith

Martin ("Miss Manners") at 5:30 p.m., a studio crawl, during which students in the nine departments open their private studios to display, demonstrate and discuss their work, 6-8 p.m.; and a supper dance and art sale and auction, 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets per person are \$75, patron, and \$150, benefactor. Broily Day helps raise graduate program scholarship money.

LEARN ABOUT ART

Are you looking to learn about art? Learn to look at and speak about art through the Art to the Schools Committee, a volunteer outreach program of the Detroit Institute of Arts. Train and grow with the DIA Department of Education staff, then pass your knowledge along to grades four-six in your area schools. Applications to join the fall class for the Art to the Schools program are now being taken. For information, call Nancy Jones at (313) 833-7976.

GRAND DONATION

Jacobson Stores Foundation has contributed \$1,000 to Rochester's Paint Creek Center for the Arts as part of Jacobson's program of local community support.