

CREATIVE LIVING

D

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Save summer scents by making potpourri

Now is the time to preserve the beauty and scents of summer by making a potpourri from flowers that are blooming in the garden. Many people make dry potpourri, but most will last for years and years. Potpourri comes from the French, and means "rotten pot." Early potpourris were made from rose petals mixed with salt, made into a cake that was cured with fixatives and spices. The potpourri we are making is similar to those old recipes.

In Biblical times, people who lived in the desert supposedly kept small bags of potpourri in their clothing to keep insects away. Greeks placed the bags behind each guest at banquets, and early Egyptians put potpourri in graves. In medieval monasteries, monks kept potpourri bags near the infirmary, believing that they would speed the recovery of their patients.

As society became more sophisticated, each member of royalty had their own special fragrance. When a family had created their own "blend," everything from candles, soap, ink, linens and clothing was scented with that fragrance. In 16th century England, a "stillroom" was often built where ingredients for potpourri were mixed.

Today, fragrance is still an important part of our lives and you can create your own personal blend.

Scents-able advice

This concoction isn't pretty, but smells divine and is worth the effort. Choose a glass or ceramic container that is opaque, with a wide mouth. It will need to have a cover that fits tightly - a large cork is ideal - so that the fragrance will stay "bottled" until YOU want to release it. Look through your cupboards for a suitable one, in antique shops, flea markets, etc. Sugar bowls, soup tureens, rice bowls with lids, ginger jars and mustard crocks are some suggestions.

Begin with a container that is at least a two-quart size; when the potpourri is finished it can be transferred to smaller jars.

If the rose petals, other flowers and leaves are too wet when they are picked, lay them on a screen for a day or so until some of the moisture evaporates. They aren't to be completely dry.

- Ingredients:
- 1 quart or more rose petals
 - 2 cups fragrant flowers or your choice (I especially like lavender)
 - 1 cup fragrant leaves, such as rose geranium, lemon verbena, rosemary or lemon thyme
 - 1 tablespoon powderedorris root - a fixative - available at Kala's in Eastern Market or craft shops where potpourri ingredients are sold
 - ¼ cup non-iodized salt
 - ¼ cup each: ground allspice, ground cloves and brown sugar
 - 2 crushed bay leaves
 - 2 tablespoons brandy - added last.
- Put all the ingredients into the container, sprinkle with brandy, cap tightly. Stir daily with a wooden spoon for three or four weeks. The fragrance can be "brightened," if necessary, with a few drops of brandy as the years go by.

Planting plans

It's still time to plant crops for fall harvest. Choose the quicker maturing ones - information is given on the seed packets. The bush varieties of snap beans will mature before frost.

See FIGLEY, 8E



MARTY FIGLEY

Undercover: A covered container is perfect for moist potpourri.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Taste next week:

- A visit to the Haig Galleries in Rochester, with pieces from around the world.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



At the fair: Carolyn Dulin of Rochester will be among the area artists in this year's Ann Arbor Street Art Fair. Dulin will show her clay art. Other local artists in the Street Art Fair and the State Street Area Art Fair are from Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, Farmington Hills, Rochester, Rochester Hills and West Bloomfield.

Artists set for Ann Arbor fairs



By LINDA ANN CHOMYN
SPECIAL WRITER

Oakland County residents are among the prominent artists featured in the Ann Arbor Art Fairs, one of the largest art festivals in the country. Almost 1,000 exhibitors will fill the streets of downtown Ann Arbor, displaying works in a variety of media.

expected to descend on the area to enjoy art, music, theater and food at the four-day festival running 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Wednesday to Friday, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. The annual summer rite is really three separate fairs in one: the Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, the State Street Art Fair and the Summer Art Fair sponsored by the Michigan Guild of Artists and Artisans.

The Ann Arbor Street Art Fair, located on South and East

University avenues and Church Street, celebrates its 35th year as the original juried show. Out of 2,000 applications received this year for 189 booths, 190 artists (75 of them new) were selected from 38 states.

"Our main mission is high-quality, cutting-edge art. We've come a long way from 35 years ago when they said you shouldn't put art out on the street," said Susan Froelich, coordinator.

Indeed, the art fairs have come a long way since then. The first fair covered only two city blocks. Today, it spans 22.

"It has grown and grown every year. We want to educate the public about art in an environment where people feel comfortable, even those who know nothing about art. We want to provide a friendly and intimate atmosphere," said Froelich.

Throughout the fair's run, artists will demonstrate their particular medium at 20 different booths marked with bright blue banners. Visitors will be able to watch a potter at work on the wheel or a painter communicating his ideas to canvas.

The 27-year-old State Street Art Fair will feature 200 nationally prominent artists on Maynard, Liberty, William and North University in the heart of the State Street Fiberarts Guild is at the intersection of State and William. In addition to the art, entertainment will be provided throughout the fair and at Liberty Plaza on the corner of Division and Liberty.

Entering its 24th year, the Summer Art Fair on State Street

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Center offers floor samples

Hundreds of floor samples from the showrooms of the Michigan Design Center in Troy will be on sale to the public 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, July 16, and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, July 17.

Shoppers will find incredible savings of 60 to 70 percent and more off showroom list prices. Admission is \$3, with a portion of the proceeds going to benefit HAVEN, Oakland County's domestic violence shelter and counseling center.

MDC is at 1700 Stutz, north off Maple between Crooks and Coolidge. It is open to the trade only, but consumers are welcome in the company of their interior designer, architect or builder. For complimentary de-

signer referral, call 649-4772.

MDC, the resource market for the interior design profession, houses 40 showrooms offering the finest and largest selection of interior furnishings from the world's premier manufacturers. Sale merchandise will be displayed in special areas, and while showrooms are closed, they are lighted for window viewing.

All merchandise will be sold as is, and all sales are final. Payment must be made by cash or check. There is no charge for take-with items; other delivery arrangements can be made at customer's expense. A delivery service is available, and delivery must be accepted within 10 days.

Exhibit proposals sought

The Paint Creek Center for the Arts seeks slide proposals of strong innovative bodies of work for six one-person exhibitions in 1995.

All entries must be hand-delivered or mailed to the PCCA by Tuesday, Aug. 30. A one-time per year entry fee of \$15 entitles entrants to receive all PCCA exhibition mailings and calls for entries.

For more information, write

MariaLuisa Belmonte, Exhibition Director, Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine, Rochester 48307, or call (810) 651-4110.

Entries will be judged by an exhibition panel of Gerry Craig, art director of the Detroit Artists Market; Matthew Hanna, artist; Matthew Holland, artist and assistant professor, Center for Creative Studies; and Gilda Snowden, artist and assistant professor, CCS.

Orient expression



In exhibit: Barclays, 280 Merrill in Birmingham, features "Japanese Woodblock Prints by Goyo, Master of the Neo Ukiyo-E" this month. Call (810) 645-5430.

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.

EXTENDED DEADLINE

The new deadline for our High Hopes Sunflower Contest is Thursday, Sept. 1. Watch for details in the July 28 Garden Spot column.

ART APPLAUSE

"Medicine Woman," a piece by Carolyn Dulin of Rochester, was accepted for "Feats of Clay VII," a national ceramics competition and exhibition that ended last month. Of 847 works entered

from 46 states, just 70 pieces were selected for the honor of exhibit. Dulin was a merit award and purchase award recipient.

'SEA ART' . . . SEAFOOD

Chuck Muer's Gandy Dancer restaurant will host the "Sea Art . . . Seafood" benefit at the close of the Ann Arbor Art Fair, 6-8 p.m. Sunday, July 23, at the Gandy Dancer, 401 Depot in Ann Arbor. A catered dinner for 10 will be raffled. The event will benefit the Michigan Eye Bank and Transplantation Center. Tickets per person are \$50 for dinner, \$20 for

a raffle ticket and \$80 for dinner and a raffle ticket. All of the ticket proceeds will be donated to the eye bank. For tickets, call the Michigan Eye Bank at (800) 247-7260.

Works by metal sculptor Sandy Osip are displayed at the restaurant through July 23, courtesy of the Hill Gallery, 163 Townsend in Birmingham. Osip will donate 50 percent of the proceeds from her art sold during the exhibit to the eye bank.

Osip is an award-winning artist who received a corneal transplant in 1984 to restore vision lost in a 10-year battle with keratoconus, a progressive eye disease. She was educated at Wayne State University and the Cranbrook Academy of Art. Her sculptures are permanently on display at Cranbrook, the Detroit Institute of Arts and the Fort Cass station of the People Mover.