

Plant sale at Cranbrook

By MARTY FIGLEY
STAFF WRITER

Cranbrook Gardens' 22nd annual fall plant sale will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 25, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 26.

Cranbrook Gardens is at 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Free parking is available at the Christ Church parking lot across Lone Pine Road. Take the shuttle to the sale. For more information, call (810) 645-3149.

A Cranbrook harvest of many items will be displayed in a pleasing setting. Members have been busy making and fashioning the ever-popular potpourri mixes, fine wreaths of natural materials, grapevine trees and other garden gifts.

Several items will be offered for the first time, including eucalyptus scops for the bath, unusual candles and small decorative angels, some playing musical instruments, to enhance a greenhouse or home.

Tasty breads, vinegars, herb mixes and more will whet the appetite. "Cranbrook Reflections," the award-winning collection of recipes, is to be sold at a special price.

Antique and unusual bulbs will again be offered for sale in the greenhouse, along with orchids, ferns, live topiary and other tropicals.

All the items will be welcome additions to the home and are suitable gifts for the upcoming holiday season.

Proceeds from the sale will be used to maintain and improve the 40 acres of gardens and grounds surrounding Cranbrook House, once home to Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Scripps Booth, and for the upkeep and improvement of the greenhouse.

This year's proceeds are earmarked for improvement to one of the herb gardens and to install heating in the Little Studio, which houses the Alice Weisell Butlingame Library, on the East side of the house. The studio is the building with an angel wind-vane on the roof.

The herb gardens are a surprise and a favorite of many visitors to

Cranbrook Gardens. Although they were designed and installed more than 20 years ago and are maintained by members of the Southern Michigan Unit of the Herb Society of America Inc., they are an integral part of Cranbrook Gardens.

SMU members donated 100 working hours to these gardens during this past season.

"Our unit is honored to be able to participate in a garden of national renown, such as Cranbrook," chairwoman Laura Principe said.

The formal garden is the most photographed and familiar to the public. It has seen several changes as it has grown and been developed.

The herb plants are set in a pleasing pattern and brick walks lead visitors through this lovely garden.

A statue of Ecloa (so named by Henry Booth to represent Eclogues), sits in the center of one bed and watches over all the plants.

The other garden, called the "upper garden" because it is above the formal one, will be improved with a sprinkler system and a French drain. A French drain is constructed with large pipe that is perforated in the top horizontal portion to allow water to enter. The pipe is sunk in a bed of gravel that is buried in the ground. Water will then be channeled into the present drainage system beneath the existing terraces. Brick walks will be installed over the tiles.

The unit members are excited about the improvements being done to this garden, and a completely new garden has been planned as the result.

"Eight unit members have each designed a section of the new garden with exciting plant varieties," said unit garden chairwoman Judy Cornellier.

"We anticipate that this garden will be a wonderful beginning for our members and the public to learn about herbs — some old, some new."

Cranbrook House and its 40 acres of gardens are a part of the Cranbrook Educational Community.

Illustration from page 1D

— those born in the 1950s — looked to their ancestors for inspiration, General said.

That generation it seems to me began looking into our grandfathers' generation."

Family magazines — including Harper's, Scribner's, Collier's, the Saturday Evening Post and the

Figley from page 1D

buddles, purple cone asters, Maltese Cross, feverfew, hibiscus and more are happily sharing space. A tall, 35-foot ornamental pear towers over all. A large Pudding' stone from Hillman, Mich., is a focal point.

Last spring another bed held yellow parrot tulips ringed with marigolds. They have been replaced with ornamental cabbages and kale that he uses for centerpieces or gives to friends. As flowers finish their show in other garden areas, color is provided with the versatile annuals, as many gardeners choose.

Yellow Fiesta marigolds border one side of a bed of voodoo lilies, which reminded me of palm trees. They can grow to 40 inches tall.

Howard cuts them down in November, digs up the large bulbs (from 5 to 12 pounds), washes them off and removes 10 to 20 bullets from each. They are stored in a 60-degree Fahrenheit basement in boxes, where in February they send up a "stink flower."

Garden magic

"They bloom with no water, soil or anything — that's why they're called a voodoo lily or mystery lily. When they smell too bad I cut them off."

In the spring he sets them in the ground, about six inches deep, where they develop the foliage and provide an interesting conversation piece.

Behind the stand of voodooes is an herb and vegetable garden. I saw chives, tarragon, sage, rosemary, oregano, lovage, thyme, peppermint, rue and scented geranium. Veggies include tomatoes,

Ladies' Home Journal — grew as vehicles of mass education and entertainment at the turn of the century. The recent invention of photo engraving, which reproduced drawings and paintings in high quality and at a greatly reduced cost to publishers, made illustration popular.

peppers, cucumbers and white pumpkins.

Soil

Good soil is necessary, Howard said. The soil on the property was like clay, so he removed it and replaced it with a foot of topsoil and peat. Every couple of years he brings in more peat to restore the soil.

Once a month he uses a 12-12-12 granular fertilizer over the whole garden and waters it in. If he thinks the plants are slow to flower, he uses a 5-10-5 instead. He fertilizes the lawn only in the fall and stops fertilizing shrubs around July 15. "I cause I don't want them going into the winter soft." Once a week well water is run through soaker hoses laid on the ground for irrigation, if it doesn't rain.

Many wood sculptures by artist Don Harvey of Cadillac are strategically placed throughout the gardens to add a touch of whimsy.

"I weed every Saturday morning — I'm the official weeder," Lill said.

Howard removes spent blooms every week to 10 days.

"This is a pleasure because you've worked on it yourself, designed it — it's an emotional high," he said.

"People are missing so much of life when they don't take that little extra effort."

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 963-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Qualities

Keller (1866-1924) was technically skillful and had a painterly quality. The longer you look at his art, the more you see. The pieces are full of charm and energy.

All of the works and books in the Meadow Brook display were loaned by Keller's family, daughter Edith Keller Johnson, grandsons Earl Page and Tom Page, granddaughter Sally Mats and great-granddaughter Susan Girbach.

"All (of the works) are very much alive," Mats said when she and Johnson visited the gallery earlier this month. "You can almost hear voices, music, sounds; you can almost feel."

True to life

Keller, who studied at the Munich Academy of Art, shows anatomical knowledge in his human figures. You can see the muscles in the graceful, bare arms of the women in "High Society Party" — one woman at a piano and another standing nearby. The legs of George Washington in "The Father of His Country at Play" are also shapely.

Keller's realism came in part from his real life models. Some were family, friends and staffers who posed for him; others were strangers who were unaware they had caught the artist's eye.

"If he would see an interesting looking character (he would sketch the person)," Johnson said. "He kept a file of all of these."

"He drew from life. He used the people around him as models," Mats said.

Facial expressions and gestures are true to life. In the charming piece showing Washington dancing with a little girl, he isn't the stoic presence usually seen — he is touchingly delighted in the dance.

The youngster at the piano in "No Applause" is disappointed that her grandfather in her small audience has fallen asleep — you wish she would play again so you

could give her some praise. One of Keller's daughters was the model for the girl.

"I was too young. I couldn't sit still long enough," Johnson said. "I was fidgety. The keppie doll (on the piano) was mine."

In "Our Christman" a couple gaze into the fireplace as two of their young children play with gifts. The couple's thoughts are with another son who is in the war, as signified by the star hanging on the wall. The woman's hand holds that of her husband, who has his arm around her shoulders. Your heart goes out to them.

Another work has a circus setting, including clowns, but there isn't any levity here. A young man is proclaiming his innocence in the theft of money. You can feel his sincerity and his trepidation, just as you can feel the anger that is barely contained in the ruddy-faced man across from him — note the clenched grip of the latter's fist and the deep red of the end of his cigar.

Keller is strong in details. His wife, Johnson's mother, researched the pieces for him. "She would make sure that the setting was correct," Johnson said.

Books line shelves. Stacks of papers fill desks. A cascading spill of flowers in "Midsummer Night's Dream" looks like a great tapestry. The somber woods enclose Heister and Dimmesdale in a scene from "The Scarlet Letter."

Volunteers sought

The Creative Arts Center, 47 Williams in Pontiac, is calling for volunteers for its Las Vegas Night fund-raiser, scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 6.

Helpers are needed to deal and man tables, help in set up and facilitating the smooth operation of the event, solicit sponsors and sell tickets. For more information, call the center at (810) 333-7849.

30-Year 4Max ARM

5.95% rate

8.498% APR

Most adjustable rate mortgages can jump 8% over the life of the loan. Ouch. Not the case with our 4Max ARM, which can jump no more than 4%. And as a homeowner, you'll save money with lower monthly payments the first year. Ahhh, much better.

Typical APR (annual percentage rate) includes interest on loan and other fees, and is based on a \$200,000 loan with an 8% loan-to-value ratio. The APR may increase after closing. Interest rates and terms are subject to change at any time without notice.

Birmingham: 540-2100
Plymouth: 416-0000
Waterford: 608-0000

ORBIT LAKES MORTGAGE CO.
A Subsidiary of Orbit Lenders Bank



The Ultimate Family Dream Home!!! in Franklin

25335 RIVER
(S. of 14 Mile, E. of Franklin Rd.)
Fantastic home on nearly 2 acres in Franklin. Beautiful views from every window. 5500 sq. ft. of every feature one can imagine. Indoor pool, self-contained indoor suite, whirlpool, sauna, large rooms throughout. Purified water system, sophisticated security system and much much more. Home Buyers Warranty includes everything!

Offered at... \$775,000

Real Estate Co., Inc.
REALTORS®

Call Phillip Katz
for Private Showing
(810) 681-5700 or (313) 584-0800

THOMPSON-BROWN

RESIDENTIAL DIVISION
"Call us for a career in Real Estate"
"Providing Quality Real Estate to Your Grandparents and Parents Since 1924"
(810) 539-8700



BEST BUY IN FARMINGTON HILLS.
Dramatic entrance to this 2 bedroom, 2 bath, with high ceilings. Magnificent view, 1st floor laundry room, full private basement, garage. Quick occupancy. \$120,000.



FOR SALE OR LEASE. In-town Royal Oak Duplex. Rent \$650/8700. each side. 2-3 bedroom units. \$132,000.



SPECTACULAR CONDO Immaculate, neutral decor, upgrades, Florida room, large to move into first floor ranch condo. Includes bedroom walk-in closet. Quiet, secure, walk to downtown Farmington shopping. Underground parking. Best included in maintenance. Must See! \$49,900



WOW! Newly painted and decorated ready to move into first floor ranch condo. Includes all appliances, microwave and washer & dryer too! Don't miss this one. Farmington Hills. \$64,900