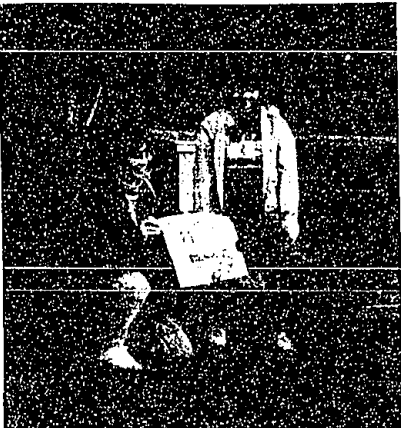


TRAVEL

Wish you were here



Australian adventure: The Turse Family of Farmington Hills shared their Observer newspaper with a kangaroo on their vacation to Australia. Shown in the photo are Nida and Anna Maria (standing). This photo was taken in Cairns. The other members of the Turse Family are Daniel, (father), son, Daniel (a former Observer carrier), and Juliana (daughter).

Gardens in Irish Hills 'Hidden' gem

By DAWN NEEDHAM
SPECIAL WRITER

Owned and operated by Michigan State University, Hidden Lake Gardens in Lenawee County in the tiny village of Tipton, is a virtually undiscovered treasure. The land in the Irish Hills area was donated to MSU by Harry Fee of Adrian, a businessman with an interest in horticulture. He purchased Hidden Lake, and about 200 surrounding acres, in 1926, intending to farm, he found the rolling, rocky Irish Hills area was not conducive to conventional farming, explained Hidden Lake Gardens' coordinator of education, Tina Podboy Laughner. He then turned the place into a

nursery, but when the Depression hit, the wealthy Fee closed so he wouldn't compete with people who really needed the money, Laughner explained.

In 1945, he entered into an agreement with MSU "to preserve the area for the benefit and education of the public," Laughner said.

Fee chose MSU — then known as Michigan State College — for its agricultural connections and its horticulture department, to which he frequently turned for advice about his ventures.

This year is the 50th anniversary of Hidden Lake Gardens' affiliation with MSU, and a celebration is being planned Saturday, Oct. 14.

In those five decades, Hidden Lake Gardens has grown to about 765 acres through accumulation

of contiguous property.

Hidden Lake Gardens is more like a beautifully landscaped park than a conventional public garden. There are five miles of hiking trails, picnic areas and a six-mile one way paved drive that gets used by walkers and drivers alike.

The fall color displays attract many visitors, and AAA calls weekly to monitor the percentage of fall color for a list of the automotive club compiles. Laughner said Hidden Lake has "great fall color" from maple and sassafras plantings, as well as serviceberry and Virginia creeper, two of the first plants to change color in autumn.

Hidden Lake Gardens is "designed for four-season interest," Laughner said. In the winter, some access is limited, depending on snowfall, but visitors can walk

anywhere.

Visitors to the gardens, on M-50 west of M-52, first approach a gatehouse where they pay admission and receive a map. From there, it's an individual decision on how to proceed. Sticking to the main loop of the drive, first you go through a huge expanse of lawn and evergreens, beyond which is a pond constructed by Fee.

The drive continues around Hidden Lake. The lake has a pair of resident swans which had eight cygnets this spring; seven are still alive, Laughner said.

At the north end of the lake, visitors can park and choose a hiking trail. The first quarter-mile is extremely level asphalt, eight-foot wide, that's even accessible for wheelchairs. Past that is a wooded area that opens into a panoramic view.

How to get there

Hidden Gardens is in Lenawee County. Take I-275 south to US-12 west to M-52 south to M-50 west. It's on the north side of the road.

Hours: Open 365 days a year, 8 a.m. to dusk through October, and 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. November through March. Admission is \$1 per person weekdays, \$3 holidays and weekends.

■ The Visitors' Center sells a limited selection of candy bars, chips, pop and juice; visitors are encouraged to pack lunches for picnics.

Lectures visit Baltics, Egypt, Rome

The Southfield Cultural Arts Division of the City of Southfield begins its World Travel and Adventure Series 7:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 13 when Raphael Green takes visitors on a trip through Baltic Nations in "Cruising the Baltics."

This film story of Baltic Nations will be presented in the City Council Chambers in the Southfield Civic Center, 2600 Evergreen Road, Southfield. Tickets for all seven events in the series are \$24. Individual tickets are \$4 per event, and can be purchased at the door. Call (810) 354-4717 for more information.

■ "The Giant Obelisks in Egypt and Rome," a lecture by Donald Bailey of the British Museum in London, will begin 4 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 11, in 91 Manogue Hall at Wayne State University.

A reception hosted by the Greek and Latin department will follow in the French Room on the fourth floor.

The lecture is the first of five that will be presented in mid-October by Bailey and Catherine Johns, keepers of Greek and Roman antiquities at the British Museum. All lectures are free and open to the public. The remaining schedule:

■ Wednesday, Oct. 12: "Classical Architecture in Egypt," Bailey, 8 p.m., Detroit Institute of Arts Lecture Hall.

■ Friday, Oct. 13: "Roman Buildings at Hermopolis Magna in Egypt," Bailey, 4 p.m., Angell Hall at University of Michigan.

■ Sunday, Oct. 15: "Roman Luxury Goods: Jewelry and Silver Tableware," Johns, 2 p.m., DIA.

■ Monday, Oct. 16: "Roman Treasures from Britain: Hoards from Hoxne, Thetford, Mildenhall and Elstow," Johns, 4 p.m., Angell Hall at UM.

For more information, call Norma Goldman at (313) 577-6582.

In his lecture at WSU, Bailey, an archaeologist and art historian, will discuss the monolithic stone needles, how they developed in Egypt and why and how they were brought to Rome.

He also will describe how they were moved — particularly how the giant obelisk in Rome was moved from the Circus of Gaius and Nero on Vatican Hill to its

present position in the center of the embracing arms of the Piazza of St. Peter at the Vatican in Rome.

Norma Goldman, retired professor of Greek and Latin studies, raised \$5,000 for expenses.

"This series is as good as a trip to London and Rome," she said.

The series, sponsored by several offices of WSU, the DIA and UM, also enjoys wide-ranging public and private support.

The WSU lecture is sponsored by the College of Lifelong Learning, Interdisciplinary Studies with the Colleges of Liberal Arts, Engineering, and Fine, Performing and Communication Arts.

WSU, the DIA and UM sponsor the series. To meet the expense of bringing such distinguished lecturers, the following also contributed: the WSU vice president for research, the WSU Library, the Simons-Michelson Co. and Woodward Parking. The WSU marketing department designed the red bus poster.

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