

Levy from page 8D

There are many sleek silver contemporary designs that must be considered for display as well as use. The designers are as prestigious as Eilif Saarienen of Cranbrook fame. I would count myself lucky to own his coffee urn, sugar bowl and creamer. Charles Rennie Macintosh created a fascinating massive sterling candlestick in the early 1900s. It is as modern as if designed yesterday.

Knowing wood

In pursuit of wood, investigate pieces called "Treen." Shaped and turned out of one solid piece of tree root it is exquisitely grained. These items are rarely large. Also seek out wooden tea caddy boxes that oft times were trimmed with ivory. They are generally 18th or 19th century, but there are good reproductions. Remember the Boston Tea Party? Tea was a precious commodity and respectfully treated with tender loving care.

Wooden snuff boxes were also very important to our predecessors, and should be researched to comprise a collection. Wooden barley-twisted candlesticks with wonderful brass bobèche cups make captivating additions.

Another incredible antique accessory box is fashioned of tortoise shell. The

very special ones are trimmed with silver and/or ivory. They are usually beige and brown in coloration, but some have been dyed red. Antique show dealers inevitably have several on display. Beware of the dyed ones; they may not be genuine.

If you have never seen a "porcupine box," inquire regarding same. Their quills are lined up side by side, the ends imbedded in black edging. The boxes come in many sizes and shapes, usually with a lift-top cover. They are especially decorative and make for good conversation.

A visit to the DuMouchelle Galleries at 409 E. Jefferson will open your eyes. After you learn the difference between good, bad and indifferent through a lot of answered questions, your tastes have become more educated. Reproductions will never again satisfy you. Heaven help you, you are addicted!

Naomi Stone Levy, a Franklin resident, is an interior designer and a former secretary of the American Society of Interior Designers. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1897. Her fax number is (310) 644-1314.

Don't forget the birds

While you are enjoying the many treats that abound this holiday season, don't forget to share some goodies with the birds. Decorating a tree for our feathered friends and other wildlife is an activity the whole family can enjoy.

Ideas for edible "decorations" that you can make and place on the tree include stringing popcorn, fresh cranberries, thick fresh orange slices, peanuts in the shell, dried apples or dried figs on heavy string, packing pinecones with suet and birdseed; and/or hanging fresh crabapples by the stem, rice cakes, baby dried corn bundles, dried ears of colorful corn with husks or red seedless grapes tied up in bunches. In addition, peanuts in the shell and whole walnuts can be scattered under the tree.

Natural rough brown string, ribbon and raffia can be used for hanging and decorations. Also consider decorating with lengths of natural wool or string. The birds will use this material for nesting in the spring.

"Decorating a tree for the birds is fun and easy activity," said Chris Gardner, owner of the Wild Birds Unlimited store at 2626 S. Rochester Road in Rochester Hills. "Just select a live, grow-

ing tree — preferably an evergreen or other tree that does not lose its leaves — that is strong enough to support animals other than birds, like squirrels, that come to dine."

You will also want to select a tree somewhere near a window so that once you have completed your decorating, you and your family can sit back and watch as the many beautiful birds and creatures come to enjoy their holiday treats.

For more ideas on how to "treat" the birds and other wildlife this holiday season and in the following winter months, call a certified birdfeeding specialist at Wild Birds Unlimited, (810) 852-5220, or stop in to see how easy it is to bring a whole new world of entertainment to your back yard.

Wild Birds Unlimited is part of the original and largest franchise system of backyard birdfeeding and nature specialty stores, with more than 200 locations throughout the United States and Canada. Wild Birds Unlimited specializes in expert information and offers an exclusive line of products designed specifically for the hobby of backyard birdfeeding.

New works displayed at Ford Estate

The Henry Ford Estate has acquired several historic appointments and artifacts for the 1995 holiday season themed "The Spirit of Christmas."

"We are excited to announce that several newly acquired pieces will be on display during the 1995 Christmas tours," said Mark Braden, manager of business operations for Henry Ford Estate on the campus of the University of Michigan-Dearborn. "The needlepoint chairs, new gathering room layout and the communion set will add greatly to the visitor experience. Return visitors will appreciate the significant work we have done since they were here last Christ-

mas is a very special time at Fair Lane, and we hope everyone comes to visit for a tour, a meal or both."

The items include hand-carved wooden nativity figures purchased by Henry and Clara Ford during a trip to Oberammergau, Germany, in the 1930s; a communion set with a silver engraved footed paten, a silver chalice with knob stem and glass jar with a silver screw top all bought by Henry Ford for Clara; and recently acquired needlepoint highback chairs and loveseat.

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