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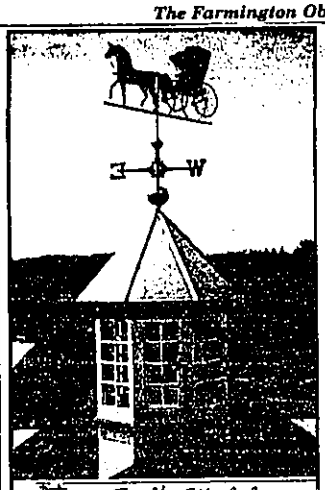

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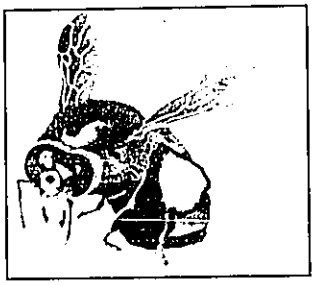
Garden experts advise on style

By Marty Figley
Special Writer

Two nationally known garden lecturers, Ruth Rogers Clausen and Page Dickey, will present "Create Your Own Garden Style" 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, April 13, at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham.



Gardeners of all levels will learn about the latest garden design elements and preview new perennials as well as see new ideas of combining these plants in the garden. The seminar is sponsored by English Gardens Nursery and Plant Sales.

Registration fee is $48 and includes a continental breakfast. Call the Program Department at (810) 644-5832 to reserve your place.

Clausen is a graduate of Kent State University who also earned a diploma in horticulture at Studley College in England. She has spent 25 years in horticulture, for commercial firms as well as for public institutions.

She is the author of "Perennial Gardening" and the co-author of "Perennials for American Gardens." Clausen is a horticultural consultant for Reader's Digest Books and for Country Living Gardener, and teaches at the New York Botanical Garden.

Clausen, a resident of Westchester County, N.Y., is a horticultural botanist, author, garden designer and lecturer. Her presentation, "Enhancing the Garden with Winning Combinations," will examine plant combinations for continuous interest. Shade- and sun-loving plants and those with interesting foliage textures will be the focus of her talk as participants learn how to best display them in the garden.

"One of my personal favorites is the combination of white peonies and white Bowman's Root, a native American perennial. The delicate peonies contrast with the bold and sturdy Bowman's Root," she said.

A gardener for 35 years, Dickey, author, lecturer and garden designer, is also a resident of Westchester. She is the author of "Duck Hill Journal: A Year in a Country Garden." Her American cottage style garden has been featured in House & Garden and Vogue magazines. She has been published in House & Garden, House Beautiful and Brooklyn Botanic Garden's "Plants and Gardens." Currently she writes a regular garden column for Elle Decor. She is past chairman of the New York chapter of the Herb Society of America.

Her garden is divided by hedges and paths into "rooms" such as the white garden and herb garden, and features a plethora of flowers accenting its formal lines. Her presentation, "On Designing Your Garden," will focus on basic design, including structure, focal points and axis, and formal and informal gardening. She will relate how to personalize a garden with entryways, accessories and art, and will present vertical garden ideas.

The speakers and representatives from English Garden will have a panel discussion on practical garden tips and soil preparation, fertilizing and transplanting.

The Community House is a non-profit organization that offers educational, social and cultural programs, child care, employment assistance, meeting rooms, banquet and catering services and group travel activities.

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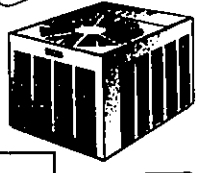

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