

'Motor City Madness' at flower show

By MARTY FIGLEY
Special Writer

"Motor City Madness" is the theme of this year's Flower Show at the Pontiac Silverdome, presented by District 1-The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc.

The ticket price, \$6.50 for adults and \$3 for children ages 6 to 14, includes admission to all of the activities during the Home and Garden Show. Discount coupons are available at participating Amoco stations and Elias Brothers' Big Boy Restaurants. Hours are 3-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 27; noon to 10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 28; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturday, March 1; and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, March 2.

People who specialized and worked to improve a particular flower such as the carnation, tulip or dahlia in the 18th and 19th centuries were called "florists," although they may have worked at another occupation. When they gathered at their local meeting places and exhibited their finest specimens, the flower show was born. So, hundreds of years later the tradition is still in full force, and at no better place than the popular Silverdome location.

"Motor City Madness" suggests many ideas on which Federated Garden Club members have based their memorable displays. The Design Division, "The Motor City - Something for Everyone," features such titles as "Assembly Line," "Theater District" and "Can You Find Your Way Through the Ren Cent?" Also in this division, "Children's Zoo" and others, staged in miniature houses, are always interesting to see.

The Horticulture Division, "Gardening in the City," is open to any amateur grower. These must be ready for judging by 10 a.m. Feb. 27. House plants of all shapes and sizes will be displayed, along with herbs, dish gardens and terrariums, forced branches, hanging plants, African violets, orchids and others.

Special Exhibits Division, "Home-town Proud - The Diversity of Culture," includes education exhibits "Trees of Michigan," "Ikebana" and others. Among Artistic Crafts are "Art and Flowers," "Eastern Market" and "Living Wreaths." There is also a division for children and it's always interesting to see what they create for their interpretations of "Michigan State Fair" and

"Detroit Zoo." For Flower Show information, call Nancy Goulette at (810) 347-6853.

And that's not all! The list of speakers is outstanding and facilities have been set up to accommodate slide presentations. Among the speakers are master gardeners; hosta, rose, herb, bulb and composting specialists; and TV hosts. Other subjects, which will be presented by experts, include garden color, bird and butterfly gardens and perennials.

See the accompanying complete list of presenters and subjects.

These garden seminars will take place on the arena level in a room situated in the tunnel. Watch for direction signs.

The Michigan Home and Garden Show, in the main section of the Silverdome, features 15 life-size gardens displaying the latest trends in architectural accents and landscape design. For Home Show information, call (616) 530-1019.

'Buckeye Rosarian' to speak

The next meeting of the Metropolitan Rose Society will be 7 p.m. Friday, March 7, at the Royal Oak Community Center, 3500 Marais, near Crooks and 13 Mile.

The topic for the meeting will be "The New Roses for 1997." Speaker will be "The Buckeye Rosarian," George Hartley. He will have handouts of his "A Walk in the Rose Garden."

Hartley's frequent appearance on WJR-AM's Saturday morning garden show has made him popular with rose

growers not only in Michigan but in Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Canada as well. He is both a lifetime judge and consulting rosarian, a member of the National Consulting Rosarian Committee of the American Rose Society in Shreveport, La., and current chairman of consulting rosarians for the Great Lakes District of the American Rose Society.

Chase away your winter blues and attend the meeting and discuss your rose problems with Hartley.

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