



BY KEN ABRAMCZYK
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Spring doesn't officially arrive until March 20, but thousands of flowers will be blooming at the Home & Garden Show through Sunday at the Pontiac Silverdome.

Members of the Livonia Garden Club and other garden clubs, including Farmington, expect to help create a springlike mood through their floral arrangements on display at the show.

The Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan will "jazz up" cut-flower arrangements by focusing on the songs of great jazz musicians such as Miles Davis and Hoagy Carmichael.

Members of the Detroit district of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan are participating in the Standard Flower Show to help educate and stimulate public interest in horticulture.

'Tweaking' talent

These floral fantasies range from the traditional to the bizarre. Entries will be judged for special awards.

"It tweaks our talents and creativity," said Angie Wilkie, a Livonia club member and master gardener. Wilkie placed first and second last year for her arrangements.

Livonia club members expect to enter arrangements in the petite, designer's choice, and award of distinction categories. One category includes a fresh flower design.

"It's pretty contemporary," Wilkie said. One of her entries, "Tea for Two," is a tea tray with a flower arrangement and fresh flowers. Since the decorations are made with fresh cut flowers, many won't be completed until today, the first day of the show.

Club member Nancy Sunnar hoped to develop a "Stormy Weather" theme.

"You try to think up new ideas and be creative," she said. "It's like an art. It's composing in an artistic way."

All for show

Show visitors can see the arrangements along with magnificent blooming gardens. Twenty gardens will be planted with thousands of blooming annuals and perennials, flowering shrubs, mature trees, waterfalls, reflecting pools and fountains.

Show organizers say 1,000 cubic yards of soil will be brought into the Silverdome for the gardens; That's the equivalent of 48 semi-truck loads full.

"The Michigan Home and Garden Show is a whole life show that hits you where you live," said Mike Wilbraham, show manager. "You can lose yourself in the gardens and enjoy a bit of summer."

Growing trends

Nationally renowned gardeners and landscapers will be on hand to answer questions. Homeowners who want to learn how to create similar gardens within their own landscapes can learn how — for free — during seminars on the show's Garden Stage.

For example, Tom Huggler, a writer, conservationist, former educator, author of 18 books and videotape producer, will present his seminar "Wildflower Gardening" at 2 p.m. Sunday. Joyce Wardwell, herbalist, author

Gardeners jazz up arrangements at Michigan Home & Garden Show

and founder of The Plant People, discusses "Herbs Anyone Can Grow" at 7 p.m. Thursday and 2 p.m. Friday.

Jeff Ball, who appeared as NBC's *The Today Show* gardening expert for eight years, will talk about lawn-maintenance problems during his presentations on "Beautiful, Green & Easy Lawns," 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday.

Christa Suggs, a local water gardening guru, will present "Water Gardening — Secrets to Getting Started," at 6 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Sunday. Scott Day introduces show patrons to Hydroponic Growing, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Friday.

Master gardeners from Michigan State University will take the garden stage Saturday at 4 p.m.; and noon Sunday.

What's Michigan Home & Garden Show

Where: Pontiac Silverdome
Show hours: 3-10 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22; noon-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 23; 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 25.

Tickets: \$7 adults, \$3 children, ages 6-14, no charge for children, 5 and younger.

Seminars for Homeowners
■ Glenn Haage — "The Only Way to Stop Ice Dams," 6 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday; and "When Is the Job Done Right? Making Sure Your Builder Conforms to Accepted Trade Standards," 8 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday.

■ Joe Gagnon, the Appliance Doctor — "Consumer Investigations that Affect Your Daily Lives," 5 p.m. Saturday; and — "Tips on Do-It-Yourself Repairs," 4 p.m. Sunday.

■ Murray Gula, president of the Michigan Construction Protection Agency — "Lien-Free Projects, Making Sure Your Renovation Doesn't Put You in the Poor House," 8 p.m. Thursday; 3 and 7 p.m. Friday.

■ Michigan Concrete Homes Council — "Concrete Home Construction," 6 p.m. Thursday, noon Saturday, and 2 p.m. Sunday.



Tea for two: Angie Wilkie, a member of the Livonia Garden Club and master gardener, hopes to create a springlike mood with her "Tea for Two" arrangement of daisy chrysanthemums on display at the Home & Garden Show at the Pontiac Silverdome. Wilkie said the Livonia Garden Club created six displays for this year's show.



Winners: Wilkie's arrangement won a first-place award last year which featured records and a ginger flower. She also received a second-place award for another display. Members of local garden clubs in the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan create arrangements each year for the show.



Tulip time: Visitors will see thousands of flowers in 20 gardens displayed at the show, which runs through Sunday.

INSIDE

JOE GAGNON

Clean up crumbs

Keep your toaster and garbage disposal clean to stop bacterial growth, says the Appliance Doctor.

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HARRY JACHYM

Sound barriers

A house full of noise can be aggravating, but homeowners can correct it by following a few suggestions.

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HOMETOWN LIFE

Vintage Farmington

From muddy trails, to plank roads, to gravel streets, Farmington grew from farm country to a major urban area.

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