

# Soil testing program ends April 20

Oakland County residents can get soil tested for nutrients through the "Soil Test...Don't Guess!" program, which ends Sunday, April 20.

The program is sponsored by Michigan State University Extension in cooperation with Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority and participating retailers.

Bring one cup of soil to a participating retailer. The \$12 fee includes basic nutrient test, organic matter analysis, pH, and transportation to the MSU laboratory. A written analysis is sent to the customer by early May. Participating stores in southeast Oakland County

include: C.G. Wilkop Landscaping in Troy, Damman Hardware, English Gardens, Telly's Greenhouse & Garden Center in Troy, and Uncle Luke's Feed Store in Troy and Auburn Oaks Nursery in Rochester Hills.

A soil test is the first step in determining how much and what type of fertilizer is needed for the plants you are trying to grow. The over-application of fertilizer has been linked to water pollution in the Rouge and Clinton rivers.

For sampling instructions and a complete list of stores, contact SCOWA weekdays at (248) 288-5150.

## MODERN

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though the (addition) was included all along.

"It's important to me to have the integrity of the original architect."

Aiken commended Steve Zumborg of the company, lead design and project manager, for his work.

Aiken made a wood model of the house to show what it would look like with the addition he had in mind.

McGovern said the company used the model to help with the design.

John Aiken coined a phrase, "modern mission style," to describe the house and the way it is finished. He explains this as including a little bit each of Frank Lloyd Wright, mission, Arts and Crafts and contemporary elements.

Among its features are 30-degree angles, in steps, corners and where wall and ceiling meet. Tiny square inlays are decorative touches in furniture and on surfaces.

### DINING ROOM

The addition, which is now the dining room, is a modern mission showcase. It allows views of part of the 1-3/4 acres of the property on three sides.

"People have their second home up North. We felt we have more nature here in our neighborhood."

In the center of the room, on an area rug and under recessed lighting, is a custom-made cherry table by an Ann Arbor craftsman. A sideboard, designed in Royal Oak, is along one side, under a row of horizontal windows.

At one end is a cabinet designed and built by Aiken, featuring interior lights and glass shelves. On either side of this piece is a vertical Anderson window topped with a Frank Lloyd Wright



PHOTOS BY STEVE CANTRELL/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The lower level of the addition serves as John Aiken's woodworking shop. Aiken, a talented woodworker, made a wood model of the house that the McGovern firm used to help with the addition design.

"People have their second home up North. We felt we have more nature here in our neighborhood."

John Aiken homeowner

style pattern in stained glass; small windows angled to match the slope of the ceiling are above the cabinet.

A row of large windows fills the third wall.

### WOODWORKING SHOP

The 400-square-foot wood-working shop is below the dining room.

It features special electrical outlets, noise insulation and a central vacuum system that keeps the wood dust out of other areas in the house.

"As I grew out of that little tiny space the projects grew, too," Aiken said. "I began to get orders from different people in the family."

From rocking horses, he was making such large pieces



Gail and John Aiken of Bloomfield Hills enjoy the extra room the addition provides.

as a cherry entertainment center.

Aiken did the finish work himself. This included installing a wall of hidden cabinets in the living room.

The ash veneer panels, which open and close with a push, hold a variety of items including books, a computer and a desk.

The living room is contemporary in tone, with

furnishings from Ligne Roset in Birmingham, Roche Bobois in Chicago and other stores.

It features an arrangement of an Italian sectional sofa, table and lamp; narrow light poles; and black chairs. A small fireplace is along one wall that is covered with mirrors.

mlk/mk/3oe home.com.net (248) 991-2569

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