

OU student will intern

Susan DeYoung of Farmington Hills has been selected as a participant in the Oakland County-Oakland University Student Internship Program.

The internship program, established by the university and the county, is supported by a federal grant to the county.

OU students earn a salary, continue their education and gain job experience in their field of interest.

A number of OU students have gone on to permanent work in the county with the experience they gained while on an internship.

For additional information on the Oakland County-Oakland University student internship program, call 377-3210.



Careful skiing can add to the fun of plowing through a crisp new snowfall. (Staff photo by Randy Bors)

Park program offers tips on skiing safety

With the rise in popularity of cross country skiing comes a need to consider safety.

Learn about winter safety on skis during a public interpretive program at Independence Oaks County Park on Jan. 10.

Participants will learn about the physical dangers associated with cold weather and how to prepare themselves for safe skiing, according to Oakland County Parks naturalist Kathleen Dougherty.

The program begins at the Twin Chimneys Shelter at 10 a.m.

A cross country ski tour will follow the discussion. Participants should dress warmly and bring their own equipment. (No rental facilities are provided at the park. The program will take place regardless of snow conditions.)

"Basic Cross Country Skiing" is the first in a series of cross country skiing interpretive programs at Independence Oaks. Other programs include: "Astronomy on Skis" on Jan. 19, and "Owl Search on Skis" on Feb. 13.

More than 16 kilometers of groomed trails are available for open skiing at Independence Oaks daily from 8 a.m. to dusk.

Independence Oaks is located on Sashabaw Road, two miles north of I-75 in Clarkston. For more information, phone 858-9903.

Birds need cold weather friends

Editor's note: Down to Earth columnist Alice Wessels Burlingame was ill last week and unable to write her usual column for the Eclectic. This is a reprint of a column which appeared in the paper a year ago.

Every year, your columnist reminds you that birds are not only entertaining, they are a gardener's best friend as they fly around the garden eating insects.

You just don't count them the day you want them to help you garden. These cold days you can provide food and evergreens for shelter from the wind.

We suggest that you retrieve Christmas trees and stand them up with a proper support near your bird feeder.

It's easy to place suet from your meat trimmings or the butcher in a knitted bag for birds to peck at.

Large pine cones packed with suet or peanut butter with seeds in the mix can also be hung from a tree branch. Some ornithologists hesitate to give birds peanut butter for fear the "goo" will stick to the roof of their mouth and choke them.

IF YOU want to have a wide collection of birds, go the sunflower route. You will attract chickadees, white and red breasted nuthatches, cardinals, blue jays, tufted titmousses, goldfinches and more.

It's really fun to grow your own sunflowers and harvest the seed. You really get a lot of seed from one flower head. This is an idea for those who have a summer place up north — let's call it occupational therapy.

Birds enjoy fine white sand for grit. Some birds like coarse salt. Place containers of these where



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

they will not become messy during wet weather.

You can secure from the Cooperative Extension Service, Michigan State University, Bulletin No. E759. This tells the bird story with pictures of the construction of feeders as well as identifying silhouettes of flying birds.

The publication also provides a list of trees and shrubs to attract birds. This is a good time to clip out the column information which will be helpful to you next spring.

IF YOU plant everbearing strawberries, you can expect fruit early the first spring which will continue to nearly frost time — enough to make fruit salads interesting.

Ozark Beauty is a favorite. This choice will give high yield from a small space. Remove the runners and place the plants as close as 12 inches apart. They are interesting when planted in ornamental containers.

A lot of us have fluorescent light carts. The question is often asked about starting outdoor plants early under artificial light.

If those seedlings are to be planted outdoors after the 20th of May, you back up six weeks and only start them at that time.

The reason is that if you start vegetable and flower seeds too early they become leggy and have difficulty adjusting to the outdoors due to their height.

Now that it is so popular to grow geraniums from seed, you might want to start them in peat pots. After they are around one inch high, place in a sunny window. Don't give them too much water or they will get stem rot.

Right now enjoy your garden catalogs. Even though you order too much seed, just consider it winter therapy. Gardening can be a growth experience for you, too.

So how about ordering something that sounds good and is a newcomer to you? The joy of gardening is to grow extras to share. Remember, gardening isn't all work.

Shared flowers and vegetables have the power to bring more goodies, unexpectedly, to your door.

New Year gala benefits Renaissance concerts

Anyone wanting to get in on the beginning of a New Year's tradition will have their chance this Thursday.

The first benefit for Renaissance Concerts, Inc., which puts on the Nightcap with Mozart Concerts, Concerts a la Carte and other cultural events, is planned to start 1991 on a good note.

Violinist Misha Rachlevsky said the idea for the New Year Party came from Tom Tomoff, chairman of the board of Renaissance Concerts.

"We're going to start a new tradition," vows Rachlevsky.

The party will be at iBrowse Bookstore, 33086 Northwestern Highway, north of 14 Mile, next to Dunham's and will go from 10:30 p.m. until it ends in the wee hours.

"We'll have great food, wine, drinks and two casual concerts," Rachlevsky said. "Proceeds will benefit Renaissance Concerts, Inc., allowing us to keep prices down."

Rachlevsky hinted there will be "priceless" prizes like last year's calendar and other surprises.

There will also be dancing. If the party is a success, Rachlevsky adds, "We'll celebrate New Year's again in June."

The price for all this mirth and music is \$12.50 per person and the event is open to the general public.

Rachlevsky says iBrowse is the probably the largest bookstore in Michigan, with 36,000 titles, so "if anyone gets bored they'll have lots of reading material around."

They'll also have health foods prepared for iBrowse by the Natural Foods Cafe.

"I hate food which is good for you," Rachlevsky said. "But theirs is tasty."

Reservations are limited but may be secured by calling Renaissance Concerts at 851-8934 or going to iBrowse, where tickets are available.

Orchestra to give concert

Michael Lim of Birmingham will be the concertmaster when the Michigan Youth Symphony Orchestra performs at Hill Auditorium in Ann Arbor at 3 p.m. on Jan. 18.

The orchestra, under conductor Robert Culver, is sponsored by University of Michigan school of music and extension service. Since its beginnings in 1949, it has trained approximately 3,000 musicians, many of whom now with professional orchestras throughout the world.

The orchestra will perform "Scherzando" by Rimsky-Korsakov, "Symphony No. 4" by Dvorak and "Columbian Overture" by Kabalevsky. There is no admission charge.

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