



JERRY ZOLYNSKY/artist photographer

This garden in Bingham Farms has a thrive, under the owner's careful nurturing, in the shady setting.

## Walk primrose path to a woodland garden

By Carmine Brooks  
special writer

**I**T TOOK HER five years to do it, but Gertrude Mann's garden in Bingham Farms is one of a kind. It has "micro atmosphere" that is "organized wild."

The Mann garden is one of six that will be open to the public on Monday, June 3, the first garden tour sponsored by the Franklin Garden Club.

In 1978 Gertrude and Russell Mann were the first to build in a 24-home residential area on land that was formerly Outland Stables. A private drive into the subdivision is aptly named Outland Trail.

The neighborhood has two parks for use by the homeowners. The central park's west entrance has paths from the street and spotlights leading to the woodland.

**THE MANN** home is adjacent to a common area where paths wind around oak, ash, walnut, hickory, ironwood, choke and wild cherry, poplar and several kinds of maple trees.

"Everyone in the subdivision walks at night and on Sunday," Mann said. "The first thing my grandchildren want to do when they come here is head for the woods."

The roads in the subdivision are undisturbed and privately maintained by the Outland Subdivision Homeowners Association.

Mann is treasurer and she knows when the park's chunk bark paths need attention from the maintenance crew.

It is her first "all woods" garden venture and it is mostly Mann who works to shape the beds and borders, adding plants and finding spots of sun for wildflowers that need exposure.

**JUST INSIDE** the walled-in front entrance of the Mann home is a summer flowering dogwood. Inside the gate is a sassafras tree. Pink star magnolia climbs the garden wall. Clematis decorates the wrought iron gate. An unusual Japanese tree peony will later "have gorgeous white flowers as big as a paper plate," Mann said with pride.

"This is my baby," she said, following a path of moss-edged oakwood rounds. She speaks of her plants with the intimacy of a mother, complimenting them, knowing their needs.

"My maiden hair fern loves it here," she confided.

In her east garden are wild pink geraniums, pink and white violets, borders of myrtle, white striped leaf lamium and beacon silver that can be seen at night.

**HERE THERE** are honesty plants (silver dollar), Japanese hosta with blue blossoms, purple phlox, peonies, astilbe (spirea) with feathery flowers of white, peach and red shades. She has lilies, climbing hydrangea, rhododendrons and selected trees — a red Japanese maple, purple beech and boxwood.

Beds of lily of the valley and myrtle act as borders to boxed-in areas and edged paths. She doesn't like the ground cover to get into other things, she said.

**SHE LED** the way down a primrose path to her north garden where under a huge canopy of trees all sorts of wild flowers have been carefully cultivated. There are red hollyhock, miniature roses, wild columbine, white "dolls eye." More than a dozen types of fern abound.

Tetraploid daylilies will later show shades of yellow from almost white to deep golden hues. Where she could find sunspots through the shifting pattern of overhead leaves, a double yellow kerria absorbs warmth and light.

"There is a lot for people to see," she said. Peachy-pink prairie roses will bloom in summer, she promised. Like poet Robert Frost's strong mothers, "the little wild flowers keep coming on," she said.

**WHEN THE** house next door was being built, Mann rescued endangered trillium from the bulldozers and replanted them in the woods. May-apple and mandrake, Jacobs ladder, Jack-in-the-pulpit, both true and false Solomon's seal share the shade.

She patiently explained to this amateur gardener that true Solomon's seal flowers are under the leaf and on the false, the bell-shaped flowers run up and down a notched stem. And she can give the generic name — polygonatum.

In the woods are lacy-leaved meadow rue, wild honeysuckle, native dogwood, elderberries, blueberries and a huge euonymus.

**"THE BIGGEST** chore is to get rid of the seedlings," she confided. "As soon as I get the ash from last year's dropping pulled out of the formal garden, then comes the elm seed, then we get a snow storm from the poplar trees."

Because of the ferns, the wooded area needs a lot of bone meal and peat, she commented.

Admiring the first flowering in four years of a double file viburnum with white sterile lace cap flowers, she said. "That turns me on. It likes the sheltering. I like it better than dogwood."

"My garden is my psychiatrist. If things go badly, you will find me out here," Gertrude Mann said.

## Garden tour announced

The six gardens on the first Franklin Garden Club tour, Monday, June 3, will be open 10 a.m. to noon and 2-4 p.m. A salad lunch will be served noon to 2 p.m. at the Franklin Community Church for \$5.

Tour tickets, \$5, are tax deductible. Ad-

vance tickets may be obtained by calling Phyllis Young, 851-0498 or Rita Buschman, 644-8858.

Profits from the tour will go toward scholarships for needy students pursuing college degrees in horticultural sciences.

By Bonita Bornstein  
special writer

Someone jokingly remarked, "In terms of distance, Chicago is a suburb of Detroit!"

A mere five hours by car or 40 minutes by plane, this dynamic and beautiful city on the lake should be considered "a stone's throw away" at least during five days in May. For at this time, Chicago becomes the undisputed world center for art.

The Chicago International Art Exposition (CIAE), the largest juried, world-class art forum of its kind is an unparalleled "happening."

Held this past May 9-13 at Chicago's 72-year-old historic landmark, Navy Pier, the Expo brings the most prestigious galleries of the world together in one spectacular setting, itself the most awesome work of art — Lake Michigan against the backdrop of the Chicago skyline.

Here, the two long warehouse arms of the Pier stretch two miles out into the sun-dappled turquoise-green water culminating in a central rotunda, famous for its stunning hatch-marked, cast-iron bracing beams.

**NEVER MIND** that the pipes are rusted and the plaster crumbling, for this is a trade fair of the

highest quality, a delightful fun-filled blend of fast food and fantastic art.

This year, 150 exhibitors included 50 foreign galleries from London, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Berlin, Munich, Barcelona, Tokyo and 100 of the finest galleries from the United States, with 15,000-20,000 pieces of art for sale.

Every media was represented — painting, sculpture, watercolor, graphics, photography and even the video of Nam June Paik, with prices ranging from \$30 to \$500,000.

**THE SENSE** of enthusiasm was shared by dealer and viewer as visual senses were stimulated by the great 20th century masters such as Picasso, Leger, Mondrian, Kandinsky, Klee and Dubuffet as well as the modern American artists, Frankenthaler, Mohr, Hockney and Francis to name just a few.

Sounds of the European dealers negotiating in their native language contributed to the international aura and excitement.

Chicago, as host, was represented by 24 galleries; Alice Adam Ltd. and Richard Gray Gallery were both instrumental in helping to develop the show six years ago. The Chicago Imagists, Ellen Lanyon, Phyllis Bramson, Roger Brown were represented as well as the bag-lady artist, Leo Godle.

Essentially, the finest galleries in the country brought their best work. Birmingham's Sheldon Ross and Donald Morris galleries contributed to the show's quality.

**ROSS AGREED** that the entire experience was remarkable, that Navy Pier Expo is the best show of its kind and that it is high quality in ever aspect.

Because the show draws connoisseurs and collectors, Ross met a collector of Saul Steinberg who recognized two fine well-documented Steinberg pieces. He not only bought the two works, but sent other collectors to the Ross booth because he determined that Sheldon Ross Gallery was so fairly priced.

The very attractive Donald Morris installation boasted a new Perlestein oil and watercolor, an Avery oil and watercolor, Lester Johnson oils as well as the superb museum quality African pieces that were recently on exhibit in the gallery.

**FLORENCE MORRIS** believed that this year there was a larger attendance, more serious interest and more international dealers. She agreed that this is the most outstanding trade show, mainly be-

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## Chicago holds big art bash on Navy Pier

## Area homes open for visitors on June 2

A tour of six unusual homes in the Birmingham-Bloomfield area will be held noon to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 2.

The tour is sponsored by the Detroit Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, AIA, and the Michigan Chapter of the American Society of Interior Designers, ASID. This is the first time these two professional design organizations have joined together for such an event.

The bus tour will leave from Seaholm High School at Cranbrook and Lincoln, Birmingham. On the tour will be three AIA houses and three ASID houses.

The three AIA residences encompass a wide range of ideas and life styles. The first was designed and partially constructed to replace a smaller residence. There are many energy-saving devices in this innovative, contemporary structure built with a modest budget.

It takes advantage of passive solar technology with a 15-foot-high greenhouse to collect heat during the winter and a front roof set 80 degrees to the winter sun for installation of an active solar system when it becomes feasible for this area.

The second, a condo, is an example

of a renovation to a one-story single family residence. A dramatic use of two-story glass adds a greenhouse effect to the elevation creating a link between interior and exterior.

The third home was designed in the 1930s by a Canadian architect. He used glazing and developed terraces and patios to take advantage of the natural beauty of the wooded valley and river in an urban setting.

The three ASID houses are also very different.

The first, built in 1972, is an eclectic mixture of contemporary, Deco and Louis XV.

The second, built in 1948, was destroyed by fire and rebuilt using the original foundation.

The third looks much older than its 34 years because the designer/owner used reclaimed materials — bricks, pine floors from warehouses and hand-hewn beams from Vermont. Inside and out, this is a country setting — in the heart of Birmingham.

Tickets, \$9, are available at Pierson Interiors, Somerset Mall or by writing to AIA Detroit Chapter, 555 E. Jefferson, Detroit, 48226.

For information, call 985-4103, Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Many energy-saving devices were incorporated into the contemporary residence at right. It also has an art collection of local and international works as well as originals by the owner. The traditional living room, above, is also part of the AIA-ASID sponsored tour and exemplifies the contrasts and variety among the six homes.

