

Home/flower show opens Saturday

The 1986 Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show, March 15-23 at Cobo Hall of Detroit, will cover a record 400,000 feet of exhibit space. This makes it the largest of its kind in America, slated to attract 500,000 people.

More than 230 exhibitors will be participating and the gardens will cover three acres of floor space.

As landscape architect for the show, James C. Scott of James C. Scott Associates Inc. of Bloomfield Hills, is responsible designing the theme gardens which highlight the show and coordinating the 100-man crew which is building the three acres of gardens in four days.

A 1,400-square-foot Cape Cod-style house will be

erected in Cobo Hall for the show. The design won the American Wood Council's "Design for Better Living" award. Stewart Elliott of Riverbend Timber Framing of Blissfield is the designer and manufacturer of the house.

The house with a base price of \$78,000, has three bedrooms, 1½ baths, a modern floor plan and cathedral ceilings. Instead of nails or bolts, the timber framing is held together with wooden pegs.

The four main gardens in the show are: City of Detroit Department of Parks and Recreation garden, an abstract formal garden of 14,000 square feet with a large copper water fountain in the shape of a tree; National Bank of Detroit Garden, a formal design patterned after those at Williams-

burg, Va.; First Federal of Michigan Garden, a natural setting garden complete with a waterfall and a 60-70 foot stream; and the Standard Federal Savings and Loan Garden, contemporary design with clean architectural lines.

Donna Russell, Mrs. America, will be at the show March 21-23, there will be entertainment every afternoon and evening, the House of Nails contest, a wedding at 2:30 p.m. Thursday, March 20, outstanding floral and home equipment displays.

Show hours are 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sundays and 1-11 p.m. weekdays. Special discount tickets are available at Allied and FTD Florists, Elias Brothers restaurants and Great Scott supermarkets.

Opportunities

Application deadline for artists wishing to be in Art in the Park, Birmingham, is April 30. The event will be held Sept. 13, 14 in Shain Park in downtown Birmingham. For application information, contact Barbara Murray, Art in the Park/Common Ground, 1000 S. Adams, Birmingham, 48011, 645-1173.

Artists may submit slides for the exhibit, "Detroit and Vicinity" at Detroit Focus Gallery. The entry deadline is March 22. Artists Gilda

Snowden and Steve Murakishi will select the exhibition. The exhibit will be limited to 6-8 artists with honorariums provided by the Arts Foundation of Michigan. For information, call 962-9025.

Artist applications for the 16th outdoor fair in Royal Oak are being accepted through March 31. The fair, July 12-13, is held in Memorial Park, 13 Mile and Woodward. For application forms, call 546-1000, Ext. 260.

How to landscape under a tree



down to earth
Alice Burlingame

This is an ideal time to review some of the garden articles you've clipped and saved (gardeners are known to be clippers) and to order seeds and plants from garden catalogs you've received.

For myself, remember, I had a square of land at the back of my domicile which wasn't very productive. The soil must have been blish.

So last fall I coated the surface with two inches of Canadian peat and as soon as there is a break in the weather I want to "frost" the surface with three inches of a good grade of soil.

Believe me, when I buy new rhubarb plants at the market they had better provide lots of good

saucers for me.

WITH THE REMAINDER of the enriched area I plan to grow parsley, lettuce, chives and sundry other small plants for table use. This will be a small productive garden so I think along the border next to the driveway I will put a single row of marigolds, for esthetic appreciation.

If some of you have established trees where often the roots are exposed, why don't you consider perhaps creating a free form pattern by using rich soil around the base of the tree and plant either ground covers or a composition using three boulders in this free form pattern at the base of the tree with ferns, a ground cover or clusters of small flowers.

If you plant violets for your plant interest in the above idea, later they will drive you crazy spreading through your grass — "a word to the wise."

Whether you cut your own grass or have a lawn service, cutting equipment can do a lot of damage to exposed roots around a tree.

In later columns I will be giving you ideas for landscaping around prominent trees in the rear garden area.

EARLY SPRING is an excellent time to begin to plan for a deck to be created at the rear of your property, adjacent to a doorway. If you have this step in mind, I will cover that too, later on.

Maybe between now and next week you can sell your spouse on the delights of a deck and the nice parties you can share with friends and family on it. Let me emphasize the importance of studying the trees on your property, their health and value to your grounds whether in the front, in the rear or at the sides of your footage property.

This is a good time to evaluate where pruning is called for and whether you have to engage a professional forester to aid you in preserving the value of your trees.

IF A NEW selection is called for, you may want to go into a study of the performance through the years of various choices which will be suggested to you.

Trees are an important investment and not cheap. I advise you to study tree selections. You local library will have information for you.

The height of the tree at maturity should be considered at the time of purchase and its habits around the calendar cycle should be inquired about before you make a decision.



To perform on Tuesday

Ruth Slenczynska, pianist who has given more than 3,000 recitals worldwide in her 50-year career, will be the guest artist for an 8 p.m. concert Tuesday, March 18, at Rackham Auditorium, 400 Farnsworth, Detroit. It is sponsored by Tuesday Musicals, opening its second century of concerts. Slenczynska will give a master class at Detroit Community Music School 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, March 19. For ticket information, call 884-2899 or 884-7815.

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