

Meadow Brook Hall digs in for landscape display

BY MARTY FOGLEY
STAFF WRITER

Matilda would be pleased. Meadow Brook Hall, a historic 100-room mansion and former home of Matilda Dodge Wilson, is now a self-sustaining cultural institution of Oakland University in Rochester. The mansion was completed in 1929, but the grounds were never landscaped.

The Meadow Brook Hall Landscape and Garden Show will take place Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7, outdoors on the grounds of Meadow Brook Hall, which is the perfect place to see plants being grown and where gardens really exist. In this setting the plants will be shown to their best advantage.

"The Meadow Brook Hall Landscape and Garden Show has the makings of becoming one of the most popular consumer landscape shows in the metropolitan Detroit area," said Larry Wright, president of the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association. He and Kim Zelinski, horticulturist for Meadow Brook Hall, are co-chairmen of the event.

This event will introduce a variety of landscape ideas, showcase new products and services, and allow the public to talk with MDLA members and learn the benefits of dealing with "green industry" professionals.

This is the beginning of the historic landscape restoration of Meadow Brook. It will be an ongoing project for many years, as the plans for the gardens are extensive.

In addition to seeing the beautiful new gardens, visitors will be able to talk to the designers, ask questions, and attend workshops and demonstrations.

They will see the newest in home gardening equipment, study several gardens under construction, buy items for home gardens and choose from a selection of more than 1,000 books.

Large trees will be planted during the two days by Global ReLeaf personnel. Representatives of the Michigan Lawn Sprayers Association, the Arborists Association, master gardeners and the Federated Garden Clubs will be ready to talk with visitors.

All of these activities have been planned by Vera M. Sullivan, MDLA director of consumer affairs. Some of the workshops include deck construction, paver installation and recycling.

A health walk from the parking lot to the show will feature health trivia facts, sponsored by Crittenton Hospital.

Lectures will be given both days by prominent speakers who are experts in their field. (See related listing.) Each talk will last approximately 50 minutes. The featured speaker is TV's "Victory Garden" host, Jim Wilson, who will autograph his books "Masters of the Victory Garden," "Landscaping With Container Plants" and "Landscaping With Wildflowers."

Scott Kunst, landscape historian and preservation planner, is coordinating the designs for the gardens and has been studying the original landscape plans so that the new gardens around the mansion and on the grounds will use heirloom plants, garden necessities, paths, fences, etc. in the styles and types of gardens appropriate to the buildings and the 1920s.

Eight landscape contractors, all MDLA members, have agreed to create a garden for a specific area by donating the material and their time and expertise to construct the gardens.

They are: Alexander Nursery Inc., Arbor-Olin Inc., Eaton Nursery, English Gardens, Mueller's Sunrise Nursery Inc., Northwind Farms, Landscaping Inc., Ray Wiegand's Nursery Inc. and Superior Scope Inc.

All of the irrigation supplies and a fountain for the event have been donated by Century Rain Aid of Madison Heights. The name of each garden and the company will be identified by a permanent hand-painted color sign, donated by The Sign Studio, Wixom.

The newly formed Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will maintain the gardens. It is a division of the Federated Garden Clubs.

The dates for next year's show have been set when additional gardens will be designed and installed throughout other areas of the grounds.

Meadow Brook Hall is at Exit 79 (University Drive Exit) off I-75. Entrance fees are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12. Children under 6 are admitted free.

Coupons for \$1 off are available exclusively at all English Gardens and Bordin's Better Blooms.

Gates open at 8 a.m. Parking is on the grounds for \$2. All the events, after the gate admission, are free. Tours of the mansion and cottage have an additional charge. Proceeds will benefit the landscape restoration at Meadow Brook Hall.

For information, call Diane Andrews at the MDLA Office, 646-4992.

Garden show speakers slated

This is the schedule of speakers for the Meadow Brook Hall Landscape and Garden Show, Saturday-Sunday, June 6-7:

SATURDAY, JUNE 6

• 9:30-10:30 a.m. — "How to Have a Beautiful Lawn," Tim Dospel of Atwood Lawn Care Inc., Lawn Sprayers Association of Michigan past president, Michigan Turf-grass Foundation board of directors.

• 10:45-11:35 a.m. — "Antique Gardens: History of American Landscape," landscape historian Scott Kunst, professor of historic landscape restoration, Eastern Michigan University.

• Noon to 12:50 p.m. — "The Challenge of Urban Pest Management," horticulture agent Gregory Patchan, Oakland County Cooperative Extension.

• 1:15-2:05 p.m. — "Landscaping With Wildflowers," Jim Wilson, horticulturist, prolific garden writer and "Victory Garden" TV host.

• 2:30-3:20 p.m. — "Ornamental Plant Material for the '90s," Douglas J. Chapman, horticulturist and administrator, the Dow Gardens in Midland.

• 3:35-4:25 p.m. — "Old Garden Roses," Detroit Rose Society past president Paul Branch, author of numerous articles on historic roses.

• 5:50 p.m. — "Unique Landscape Plants," Keith Alexander, co-owner of Alexander Nursery Inc., Mount Clemens, speaker.

endist in dwarf, rare and unusual landscape plants.

• 6:15-7:05 p.m. — Melinda Jones, state coordinator of Global ReLeaf of Michigan, a grass-roots, not-for-profit, volunteer organization. The group concentrates on urban and rural reforestation through joint tree plantings with community organizations and cities.

• 7:50-8:20 p.m. — "Fountain Flower Bed," Margaret "The Girl" personal and scenic view, Weigand's Nursery, Mount Clemens, and former horticultural consultant, St. Clair County Cooperative Extension.

SUNDAY, JUNE 7

• 9:30-10:20 a.m. — "The World of Mini Roses," Rick Robertson, Great Lakes Rose Society district director, American Rose Society life judge, American Rose Society-Honorary.

• 10:45-11:35 a.m. — "Antique Gardens: History of American Landscape," Scott Kunst.

• Noon to 12:50 p.m. — "Professional Lawn Care: What You Should Know," Tim Dospel.

• 1:15-2:05 p.m. — "Landscaping With Container Plants," Jim Wilson.

• 2:30-3:20 p.m. — "Perennials in the Landscape," Steven Still, professor of ornamental horticulture, Ohio State University, author of "Herbaceous Ornamental Plants."

• 3:35-4:25 p.m. — "Unique Landscape Plants," Keith Alexander.

Exhibit spotlights religious art

Ecclesiastical art from all over the United States is on display to May 31 at Historic Trinity Lutheran Church, 1345 Gratiot Ave. near Eastern Market in Detroit.

Historic Trinity has hosted five regional religious art exhibits. But this year the show has a national format.

For more information, call the church office at 367-3100.

THE JUROR for the exhibit is Roy Stude, president of the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills. He selected religious art spanning a wide variety of styles and media, including painting, drawing, printmaking, collage, sculpture, metals and fabrics.

The display includes everything from liturgical vestments and communion chalices to abstract painting and sculpture. The common theme among all the works is they have some kind of spiritual significance.

Many of the items on display are for sale. The exhibit is open to the public 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday, except for Memorial Day. Monday, May 25. Other hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and noon to 3 p.m. Sunday.

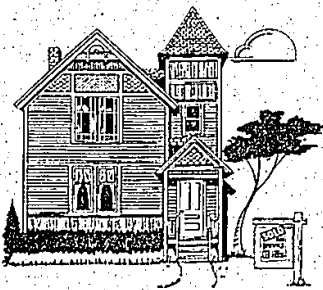
A light luncheon may be bought 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays. Luncheons at other times for groups of 25 or more are available by reservation.

HISTORIC TRINITY'S building is also open for viewing as part of the art exhibit.

The church is constructed of carved granite and limestone, with a slate roof and floor, hand-carved oak woodwork and magnificent stained glass. More than 3,000 figures and symbols, chosen from the Bible and church history, are portrayed in the interior and exterior of the building.

Group tours of the 16th century pier and clerestory gothic cathedral style building may be scheduled through the church office.

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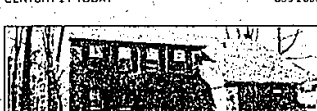
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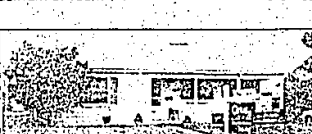
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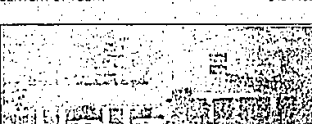
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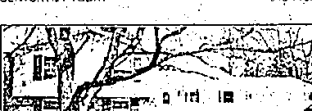
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