

Plants from page 1D

in there, to me it's a topiary, it's beginning, it's going through that training process, and I enjoy that," Salerno said.

Salerno has found that particular herb cultivars adapt well to topiary. Rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), Myrtle (*Myrtus communis* "Microphylla") and Santolina (*Santolina chamaecyparissus*) have been trained and are ready for the sale.

In addition he has used Sweet Bay (*Laurus nobilis*), French Lavender (*Lavandula dentata*), Heliotrope (*Heliotropium arborescens*) and several scented geraniums.

The year-old topiaries for the sale will be treated as a gift item, growing in a clay pot, hand-tied with raffia to bamboo stakes. An attractive care tag will be attached.

Salerno became interested in topiary after he bought a small one for a gift. He said, "I could do that," and did. He still has those two original rosemary topiaries — now 25 inches tall, full and lush — that he began training five years ago.

Patience required

Patience is necessary when forming topiaries, although the goal is to get them to the desired height quickly (18 to 25 inches) so

they can start branching out.

"In the growing process I eliminate any branches that are interfering with the bamboo stake when I'm tying the plant to it; the rest of the plant I keep cut back maybe to an inch along the stem. It needs that foliage to feed the roots."

"Then I start gradually removing the branches from the bottom up as the head is filling out. If you remove all the foliage at the beginning, the trunks will get spindly looking."

Salerno has found that the roots spread quicker and the foliage grows well when the plants are transferred directly from two-inch pots to six-inch ones. He reasons: If he bought a plant and put it in the ground there would be room for the roots, so why not give the roots room in a six-inch pot from the beginning? It has worked.

He prefers natural-looking containers for herb topiaries and insists on drainage holes in each one. He has drilled holes in those that didn't have them. He wants the creation to look like a total piece, a little bit of an art form.

Taking care

Care of a topiary is like that of any other plant when it's outdoors. Give it good, bright sunlight, but make sure it's watered

all the time. If you think it needs water, water it. If the top half-inch of soil is dry, it needs a drink.

Indoors they prefer a cool, very sunny spot with no direct sun. The more light the better, especially in the wintertime. Water the same as when they are outdoors.

Salerno's topiaries are watered until water runs out to allow chemicals and salt buildup to leach out. Plants are fertilized with fish emulsion according to package directions.

Young plants are generally fertilized once every month in June, July and August; once or twice a year in the summer and very early spring. Salerno wants to maintain the health of the plants and if they continue to grow and need pruning, he doesn't fertilize.

Each year the large plants are removed from the pots, and root-pruned if necessary, to keep them to size. Before slipping the plants from the pot, he cuts the soil about an inch from the rim with a butter knife, then cuts an inch or two off the bottom, adds extra soil and replaces the plant in the same pot.

The plants go outside in the summer to a bright but sheltered area and are gradually introduced to this new location. This takes a couple of weeks or so to get them acclimated. In the fall this procedure is reversed when the plants are returned indoors for the winter.

A mixture of 1 tablespoon baking soda, 1 teaspoon Ivory soap to a quart of water sprayed on the plants, out of direct sun, helps prevent powdery mildew on rosemary. To control white fly and aphids, a mixture of 3½ tablespoons Murphy's Oil Soap to 1 gallon of water is used, when necessary.

In addition to the topiaries, all kinds of wonderful houseplants will be available at the sale, as well as many wreaths and other imaginative crafts. A bee, the Booth family symbol, has been painted on canvas shoes and straw hats. Culinary items will tempt.

Park at Christ Church Cranbrook and take the shuttle to the sale. All proceeds benefit special restoration at Cranbrook Gardens and Greenhouse.

Send calendar items about Oakland County art gallery exhibitions to The Eccentric, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009. Send items about Wayne County exhibitions to The Observer, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48150. Attention: Creative Living editor.

CENTER GALLERIES
Sunday, Nov. 1 — A showing of 30 paintings by Sarkis Sarkisian will continue through Dec. 18. Opening reception for the public 2-4 p.m. Sunday. Sarkisian was director of the Art School of the Detroit Society of Arts and Crafts, now the Center for Creative Studies—College of Art and Design, 1947-67. The exhibit was guest-curated by Elizabeth and Gordon Orest, who have written a biography of the artist. Their selection for the show focuses primarily on Sarkisian's penetrating portraits and vibrant, celebratory still lifes. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, closed Nov. 25-26, at Woodward and Kirby in the Park Shelden Building in Detroit, 874-1955.

WILLIS GALLERY
Sunday, Nov. 1 — Work from 1989 by Bradley Jones will be exhibited from Nov. 21. Opening 5-8 p.m. Sunday. Hours are 3-6 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, noon to 4 p.m. Saturday or by appointment, 422 W. Willis, Detroit, 393-8653.

RUSSELL KLATT GALLERY
In time for the holidays: Gift items featuring poetry. Fun new pieces by Demery and sophisticated designs by raku artist Ed Risak are offered. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 1467 S. Woodward, Birmingham, 647-6665.

CIVIC CENTER GALLERY
The photography of Roland Breech is featured to Nov. 20. Breech excelled in photography classes and has outside experience with the Detroit Public Schools. His personal objective is to become a renowned photographer. Hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 26000 Evergreen, Southfield, 354-4717.

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE
An exhibition and sale of recent paintings by Ruenette Franklin of Bloomfield Hills continues to Dec. 3. Franklin works in a variety

of media and styles. Flower gardens are her favorite subject. She accepts commissions from local gardeners to paint "garden portraits," paintings on canvas or pastel drawings in an impressionistic style. The artist also constructs works out of sculpted canvas, using acrylic and mixed media. Hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 380 S. Bates, Birmingham, 644-5832.

COUNTY GALLERIA
Through Oct. 29 — A juried exhibit by the Detroit Women Painters and Sculptors continues. "Expressions in Realism," works by art block artists Barbara Gasparini, Marcia Lovell, Donald Malone, John MacDermid, Judie Komraus, Victor Lay, P.A. Hicks, Carlene Lagrou, Linda Reber and Wanda Pink, will run Nov. 4 to Dec. 11. The gallery is open to the public during business hours Monday-Friday, on two floors of the Executive Office

Building, 1200 N. Telegraph, Pontiac, 858-0484.

ARIANA GALLERY
Paintings by fashion illustrator and graphic artist Jane McClesney are featured this month. McClesney's extensive work in the fashion field is echoed in her richly colored paintings of today's women. She studied at the Chicago Art Institute and the American Academy of Art in Chicago. Her experience has been much sought after by major fashion designers as well as art departments in colleges in the United States and Asia. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 386 E. Maple, Birmingham, 647-6405.

GALLERY BIRMINGHAM
To Oct. 30 — New works by Jean Marie McKnight are on display. McKnight's strong and dramatic art abounds with positive symbols. The gallery is at 390 E. Maple, Birmingham. Call 540-8505.

Event offers decorating ideas

English Gardens and Fairlane Florist, 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield, will present a preview of the Festival of Trees at its annual holiday open house 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 1.

English Gardens will be decorated with a fine selection of Christmas trees, lights, trim, floral arrangements and fresh cut flowers. As in past years, 10 percent of all purchases will be donated to the Children's Hospital of Michigan Festival of Trees.

English Gardens is a major underwriter of the annual holiday event sponsored by Children's Hospital in Detroit.

"This annual event is an excellent opportunity to see the latest trends and ideas in holiday decorating," said John Darin Jr., English Gardens vice president. "We'll have new ideas, colors and merchandise displayed for 1992. It's an event not to be missed."

The highlight of the open house will be a display of 25 artfully decorated theme trees.

Gardening sessions scheduled

Many different events and activities related to gardening have been scheduled during the fall.

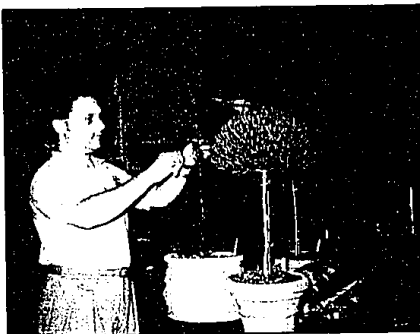
The Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1460 E. Jefferson, one-half mile east of the Renaissance Center, offers a Holiday Dried Flower Arrangement Workshop 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 4. Call 259-6363 for reservations and parking information.

The Detroit Garden Center will present a Holiday Wreath Workshop 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. Call 259-6363 for reservations and parking information. The \$35 class fee covers all materials.

the Friends of the Matthaei Botanical Gardens.

The Detroit Garden Center, 1460 E. Jefferson, one-half mile east of the Renaissance Center, offers a Holiday Dried Flower Arrangement Workshop 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Nov. 4. Call 259-6363 for reservations and parking information.

The Detroit Garden Center will present a Holiday Wreath Workshop 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 14. Call 259-6363 for reservations and parking information. The \$35 class fee covers all materials.



Top topiaries: Gerald Salerno of Rochester is an expert when it comes to herbal topiaries.

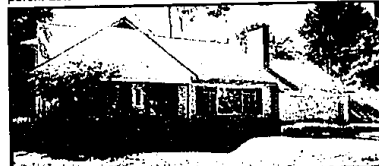
HOMES OF QUALITY ARE OUR SPECIALITY!



CITY OF BLOOMFIELD HILLS
Beautiful estate located next to Cranbrook. Decorative woodwork, moldings, 6 panel doors, 5-6 bedrooms, library, family room, garden room. Phone for further amenities. B-03765



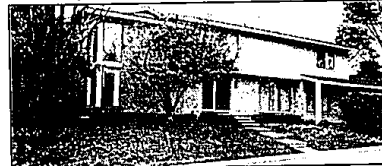
FANTASTIC BUY
Beautiful wooded lot in Westwood Estates. Built by Coleman and Moss. Family room with fireplace, 5 bedrooms, library, covered porch. Lots of newer features. Reduced. \$229,000 B-06719



BEVERLY HILLS
Great 4 bedroom cape cod freshly decorated with contemporary flair. Hardwood floors, upstairs newly carpeted, updated kitchen, brick walk and deck. \$179,900 B-06485



CRANBROOK - CHRIST CHURCH AREA
Lovely elevated setting of 1.5 acres. 5 bedrooms, 5 full and 2 half baths, kitchen with decorative tile-work, antique fireplace and fixtures. Quality millwork throughout. \$1,350,000 B-07022



BEST BUY
Pebble Creek townhouse with two-story cathedral ceiling and fireplace in great room, loft library, newly painted throughout. All appliances included. Move-in condition. \$118,000 B-06807



PINE KNOLLS
Elegant condo in premium location with private backyard. Shows like a model. Library, large bright kitchen, master bedroom with vaulted ceiling, great room and more. \$174,900 B-06629



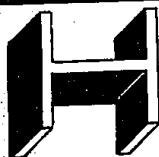
FRANKLIN RAVINES
Dramatic two-story foyer, first floor master, great room with high ceiling, hardwood floors, bay windows. Walk-out lower level. Backs to woods. Bloomfield Hills schools. \$795,000 B-06745



QUALITY CUSTOM HOME
Open floor plan with special attention to detail. Hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, neutral decor, ceramic countertops, ceramic tiled foyer. Lots of storage space. Troy. \$269,900 B-06671



MANOR IN THE HILLS
Desirable first floor unit in a premium location. Two full baths, formal dining area in great room, breakfast area, den with wet bar. 1837 square feet. Priced right! \$129,900 B-06685



Hannett, Inc. Realtors

646-6200

2511 W. Maple at Cranbrook

bloomfield hills, MI 48301

open Monday through Friday 8:30-5:30 p.m., Saturday 9-6 p.m. and Sunday 10-6 p.m.

★ ★ ★ Estates Club
★ ★ ★ club for the world's leading real estate firms

