

Silverdome blooms for annual flower show

DOWN TO EARTH



MARTY FIGLEY

When they gathered at their local meeting places and exhibited their finest specimens, the flower show was born.

From this modest beginning, these popular occasions have sprouted up all over the world. Consequently, the Pontiac Silverdome will be "blooming" again Wednesday-Sunday, March 3-7, when District 1 of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc. presents its 1993 spring flower show, "The World is Our Home."

This District 1 Flower Show is taking place in conjunction with the Michigan Home and Garden Show, where a variety of gardens, designed by professional landscape designers, will present the latest trends in outdoor garden-

ing. These include Janet Marcunovich of Perennial Favorites, who will give a seminar, "Perennial Garden Design," 7-8 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 27.

Tickets are \$6 adult, \$3 children 6 to 14. The price includes both events and all lectures. Discount coupons are available at Marathon service stations and Elias Brothers Big Boy Restaurants.

Show hours are 3-10 p.m. March 3-4, noon to 10 p.m. March 5, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. March 6 and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 7.

Class competitions

Members have been working diligently and the public will be in for a treat, enjoying the creativity and green thumbs of the participants. Designs are in 18 classes with titles such as "Bed and Breakfast," "Sunrise in St. Croix" and "Scenes from the Desert," which will compete for ribbons.

Each entrant must follow specific design rules. Twenty-one judges from around the state will select the winners. These honors include the Award of Distinction, and Tricolor, Creativity and Petite awards.

The horticulture division fo-

cus on many areas in this subject. House plants, forced bulbs, potted herbs, topiary, living wreaths, dish gardens, orchids, cacti and succulents as well as forced branches and evergreen branches will be displayed and entered into the competition.

Special exhibits include displays that are educational, those that show the public the activities and civic contributions of a club, and a display of Japanese design by Ikobana International, Chapter 85. In this division, wreaths for the door and decorations for the mantel to celebrate special occasions will delight and give ideas to patrons.

Innovative entries are sure to come from the junior exhibitors, those youths from first grade through junior high school. The competition will be hot.

Awards given

Three local District 1 awards will be given, said flower show chairman Joan Doy, a member of the Livonia Garden Club for 16 years, who has held positions on the local and state level. These are in addition to the regular club awards.

The first, the Ann Gehrke

Award, will be given to the exhibitor whose design best depicts the theme of the show. Gehrke was an outstanding creative designer and judge. There will be two sweepstakes awards, one in design and one in horticulture, given to the entrant with the most blue ribbons in each of these two divisions.

Demonstrations and seminars are scheduled every hour from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. March 5-6, and from noon to 4 p.m. March 7. Many speakers are members of District 1 garden clubs.

Scheduled speakers

Master gardener and flower show judge Sally Ouellette is with the National Council of Garden State Clubs and American Flower Arrangers Guild, Unit 50. Jean Moran is a flower show judge, design instructor and community involvement chairman. Her organization is with the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc., American Flower Arrangers Guild, Unit 50, and Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild.

Nancy Passfield is past president, Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc., and a member of

the Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild. Ann Cline is president of the Iris Club of Southeastern Michigan, an accredited judge with the American Iris Society, and assistant regional vice president, Region VI, American Iris Society.

Elaine Gunderson is a flower show judge, National Council of State Garden Clubs Inc., public relations chairman, Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc., and a member of the American Flower Arrangers Guild. All of these speakers are members of the Hill and Dale Garden Club.

Judy Iile, who works at Wild Birds Unlimited, is also a member of District 1 and an advanced master gardener. She is state membership chairman, Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc., and a member of the Lone Pine Garden Club, Pointe Garden Club, Hills of Rochester Garden Club and Meadowbrook Garden Club.

Other scheduled speakers include Pauline Flynn, Federated

Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc. state craft chairman, a member of the Blue Water Garden Club and Greater Detroit Flower Arrangers Guild, and Kay Briggs, Wildflowers Association of Michigan vice president, National Council of State Garden Clubs flower judge, North American Lily Society lily judge, and Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan Inc. state wildflower chairman.

Also sharing their expertise will be Chris Gardner, a self-taught hobbyist and the owner of Wild Birds Unlimited, Rochester Hills; Gary Bates, owner of Grass Roots Nursery, specializing in under-water gardening; Susie Lobdell, English Gardens assistant manager of bedding plants, who has an ornamental nursery degree from Penn State; and landscape designer Pete Stark, owner of Renaissance Acres Organic Herb Farm since 1979, who studied biology at the University of Michigan and organic gardening techniques at Grand Valley State. I will also be speaking.

List of show events

This is the schedule for seminars and demonstrations at "The World is Our Home" District 1 Flower Show at the Pontiac Silverdome. There is no additional charge for these events.

Friday, March 5

1 p.m. — "Composting," Sally Ouellette, District 1

2 p.m. — "Spring Flower Designs for Your Home," Nancy Moran, District 1

3 p.m. — "Gardening With Herbs," Marty Figley, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers

4 p.m. — "Song Birds in Your Garden," Chris Gardner, Wild Birds Unlimited

7 p.m. — "Water Gardening," Gary Bates, Grass Roots Nursery

8 p.m. — "Perennial Gardening," Susie Lobdell, English Gardens

Saturday, March 6

1 p.m. — "Crafts from Nature," Pauline Flynn, District 1

2 p.m. — "Spring Flower Designs for Your Home," Nancy Passfield, District 1

3 p.m. — "Guide to Growing Iris," Ann Cline, District 1

4 p.m. — "Water Gardening," Gary Bates, Grass Roots Nursery

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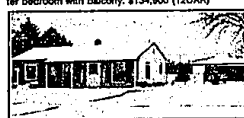
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