

# CREATIVE LIVING

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1993

## DOWN TO EARTH



MARTY FIGLEY

## Yard blossoms into a garden showpiece

Four years ago, Toni and Joe Grinnan of Beverly Hills had a plan concerning a bare front yard and worked to bring it to fruition.

The result is a garden featuring a pond and four long beds, each 30 by 5 feet, with arches on either side of the pond, which will soon be covered with white and blue wisteria blossoms. Under the arches are benches for relaxation and pond-watching. Small beds flank the arches.

You will have a chance to see and be inspired by this wonderful garden when you join the annual garden tour of the Franklin Branch of the Women's National Farm and Garden Association, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, June 9.

Tickets are \$5 and are available at the Franklin Library, Franklin Road and Wellington, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Maps will be given with each ticket. A salad buffet luncheon will be served at the Franklin Community Church from 11:30 a.m. Luncheon tickets are \$6 each.

For more information, call Phyllis Henderson at 648-6137 or Joan Sankovitch at 626-3735.

### Hatching the plot

A Grinnan family trip to Giverny initiated the idea of the gardens. Toni is an avid garden-tourer and doesn't miss one, so that she can see what others are doing in their gardens.

Planted in the beds are many perennials, including Rose of Sharon and P.G. Hydrangeas, lilies, daisies, silver queen, lady's mantle, coral bells and evening primrose.

Anchoring each corner of the long beds are arborescences with round shapes and Alberta spruce with conical shapes, and in the four corners of the garden are skyrocket junipers as you enter and exit the area.

Grinnan plants wild mullein, which grows tall and stately beside the junipers. Visitors ask for the seed — perhaps this wild "weed" has found a home in cultivation — and goldfinches love the seed in the winter.

The third year, Grinnan top-dressed the beds with well-rotted horse manure, and will do this again if and when the plants seem to need it. Soaker hoses are used for watering.

A large urn graces the end of this setting and is planted each year with ivy-leaved geranium, which flowers all summer long and can take the hot and dry conditions.

### Water wonder

The pond is the focal point and is oval shaped, about 24 inches deep. After the hole was dug, it was lined with builders sand, and plastic was used as a liner.

Stones found on the property (remnants of when the house was built) lined and edged the pond. Water from the garden hose was used to fill it. Wayne Wilson of Waterford helped with this work and brought a bucket of lake water, which contained lots of organisms in it to get things going.

Plants in pots were added, some fish, and it was ready. It has never been drained, just topped with city water because of evaporation. This is the third summer for it.

"It's so wonderful. You don't have to weed or water it, you can leave it — a carefree garden after the initial labor is done," Grinnan said.

"I would encourage people to do a water garden. Within two weeks things came to the pond — waterbugs, dragonflies, toads, polywogs. It's a natural attractant for them."

Large iron cranes recede among cattails in the center, and spring hyacinths, tulips and crocus surround it in the spring; later a band of sweet alysaum will add color.

Grinnan's father and grandmother were gardeners, and she has always gardened to some extent. She prefers to use no chemicals so that she can better enjoy the wildlife around the home. Future plans are for a shade garden and more wildflowers along the Rouge River.

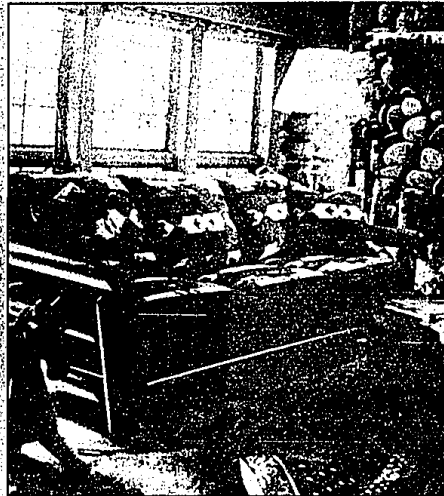
### Busy branch

The local branch of WNF&G supplies two national officers, and they are co-chairs of the 1993 Franklin Garden Walk. Henderson is Michigan Division treasurer and Sankovitch is Michigan Division corresponding secretary.

In 1993, the branch was presented with the Hazel Herring Award, a national monetary award for civic improvement, for its work in leading countywide gypsy moth prevention.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is 644-1314.

## Country look going West



Country look: The "American Country West" look in interior design combines the classic and eclectic. It is comfortable and unpretentious, featuring a display of accessories.



The popularity of the country look continues. "American Country West" in interior design combines the classic and the eclectic.

By JOAN BORAM  
SPECIAL WRITER

The "country" look in interior design has evolved yet again. This latest metamorphosis, called "American Country West," has moved away from dilapidated and pared-down country toward a look that's a comfortable blend of classic and eclectic.

During a seminar at Scott Shuptrine in Troy, Linda Mariano, editorial marketing manager for Country Home magazine, gave her enthusiastic audience a brief history of the country look, the reasons for its universal popularity, and the refinements that define Western Country.

"Country has become so popular because it's the most eclectic of interior looks," Mariano said.

"It's a trend that has swept across the United States, beloved by homeowners and apartment dwellers alike, who respond to its warmth and comfort. Country provides an escape from our high-tech world, giving a sense of security and roots, making our home a source of psychic enrichment.

"Country has constantly changed over the past few years. Six or seven years ago, country was often either a primitive, cluttered look or a restrained New England ambience, emphasizing historical correctness.

"About 1988, country came into its own: It became softer, prettier, more romantic. Rooms now have fewer pieces, but those pieces tend to be bigger. Sofas can be soft and plump, providing greater comfort. There's even a touch of Victoriana — wicker and rattan are very much a part of today's country look. And rustic furniture is now reserved for country cottages — compliments the new lighter primitive look."

The Western regional theme isn't, as you might expect, big on split railings, barbed wire and branding iron motifs. It takes into account the fact that most Western settlers migrated from the Eastern or near Midwestern areas of the United States, and that, generally, their ultimate roots were European.

So, the Western look is a charming mélange of English country, French, provincial, Scandinavian, East European, Mediterranean, American Indian, Spanish and Mexican.

Typically, the pioneers took one favorite piece of furniture along with them on their trek West. It may

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Linda Mariano

have been a Jacobean chest or a Queen Anne tester bed that, after the long, rigorous journey, needed repair.

The materials available were Mexican, American Indian or Spanish, and so the Jacobean chest acquired conch hardware, and the Queen Anne tester bed was braced with adobe.

This wonderful contradiction between pure classic and Western cultures has been captured in the American Country West furniture collection, presented by Lexington Furniture Industries, whose designers worked alongside Mary Emmerling, the doyenne of the country look.

Many of the pieces are actual reproductions of historical pieces in private hands, while others were inspired by similar pieces. The collection is exclusive to Scott Shuptrine in this area.

The heritage behind these pieces is beyond the geographical West. It actually extends from New England to Tennessee to Oregon. Despite the regional connotation of its name, American Country West is really the quintessential American look.

There are dozens of country looks, but all of them have certain characteristics in common. They're all warm and comfortable and inviting. These are not museum rooms — red velvet ropes have no place here. They're unpretentious, no formal or fancy. Antiques, or quality reproductions, are the hallmark of country style, personalized with handcrafted accessories.

"There's a respect for craftsmanship, displayed in pottery, folk art and quilts. You can never have too many accessories. What you have is unique to you, and reflects your taste and style. Start with what you have. Gather everything together — don't dilute a collection by scattering pieces in different rooms."

In closing, Mariano suggested that every room should have a little animal (leather, a horn chandelier), a little vegetable (live plants, wood), and a little mineral (iron, glass).

## Gardens to star at Meadow Brook

By MARTY FIGLEY  
SPECIAL WRITER

There is something for everyone at the second annual Meadow Brook Hall Landscape and Garden Show, Friday-Sunday, June 11-13, at Oakland University off Adams in Rochester.

Because of the successful show last year, the event has been extended to three days. Hours are noon to 8 p.m. June 11, and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. June 12-13.

Advance tickets, available through Ticketmaster, are \$8 for adults. Admission at the gate is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children under 12, free for children under 3. Group rates are available through the MDLA office. Call 646-4992.

A preview gala will take place Thursday, June 10, beginning at 6 p.m. with garden tours and a wine reception, followed by dinner and music. This gala is open to the public by advance ticket reservation only. Cost is \$37.50 per person. Call 646-4992 for reservations.

The show is co-sponsored by the Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association, Olympia Arenas Inc. and OU's Meadow Brook Festival and Meadow Brook Hall.

Great gardens

In addition to the 28 permanent gardens surrounding Meadow Brook Hall and the Meadow Brook Music Festival, seven special gardens will

## The second annual Meadow Brook Hall Landscape and Garden Show offers special gardens, speakers and tours.

inspire and delight all who attend.

A miniature railroad garden containing trains that actually run on tracks has been planned by the Lakeshore Garden Railway Club. This unusual hobby, popular in Europe for many years, is now gaining momentum in this country. The trains will run on a 25-by-80-foot track through forests of fern and man-of-war mountains, over bridges and along waterways. Both children and adults will be entranced by this garden.

The Maze Garden, the size of two tennis courts, has been planted with evergreens that visitors will want to explore. The Teddy Bear Picnic at

## Show has quiet beauty

By MARY KLEMIC  
SPECIAL WRITER

Nature is filled with gentle beauty: the sunbeam that warms rather than burns, the moon that glows rather than glares.

The feelings generated by such natural art can be stirred by the gentle beauty in the art of Liu Lan Jun. The artist is visiting the United States for the first time and will return to her native China in September. Her paintings on silk and paper are on display until June 6 at the Chinese Cultural Center, 625 E. Big Beaver Road, between Rochester and Livonia in Troy.

"When I'm working I forget to eat,"

See ARTIST, 5E

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Creative Living, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009, or fax them by calling 644-1314.

For information and reviews of musical performances, please turn to the Entertainment section.

**POTTERY SALE**

Pottery made by students in the clay department of the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association will be available for sale 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday in the BBAA parking lot, 1516 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham (rain date: June 12). Reasonably priced pottery, both functional and decorative, will be for sale. Call 644-0866.

## Art Beat

### DOLLED UP

The Backdoor Gallery, 37220 Eight Mile, just east of Haled in Farmington, will open its doors to the public Saturday. The gallery will host space exclusively for artists specializing in soft sculptured figures in a non-traditional doll form. It is owned by artists Kath Lathers and Kathleen Bricker. Hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday and by appointment. Call 474-8306.

### MCACA MEETING

The Michigan Council for Arts and Cultural

Affairs council meeting will take place 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Cranbrook Academy of Arts auditorium, 1221 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills. Minutes of previous council meetings are available at the office of the Council for Arts and Cultural Affairs, 1200 Sixth, Suite 1180, Detroit 48226.

### ON THEIR TONGUES

The Michigan Classic Ballet Company, 5526 Drake in West Bloomfield, attended the Mid-State Regional Festival Thursday through Sunday, May 20-23, in Fargo, N.D. The festival was attended by representatives of 12 states.

Two of the company's own young dancers had their chance to turn a few heads with their choreographic interpretations.