

CREATIVE LIVING

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THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1993

DOWN TO EARTH



MARTY FIGLEY

Book explores new world of landscapes

Bold Romantic Gardens: The New World Landscapes of Oehme and van Sweden, Oehme, van Sweden, with Susan Rademacher Frey (Acropolis, \$65), is filled with many illustrations of their lovely gardens, from public to residential.

The authors tell how they achieved their goals and the reasons behind them. The Glossary of Favorite Plants lists perennials, grasses and edibles, trees, shrubs and vines, and includes photos, descriptions and cross-references to pages where the plants are shown in a design.

If nature intended to design a garden, it may well have been in the style of these creative artists. Their unrestrained yet manageable gardens are dramatic. The book may make you look at your landscape with a different "eye."

Designing ways

"Easy Garden Design," Janet Macunovich (Garden Way, \$14.95 soft), is a textbook approach about designing and implementing your own flower garden. Macunovich's very detailed 12-step-by-step approach will show you how to avoid mistakes before they happen. Black and white drawings are very clear.

Rather than listing particular plants, this author guides how to choose the correct one. Macunovich is the owner of Perennial Favorites, a landscape firm in Waterford. Order directly from the publisher — \$16.90, postpaid — at 1-800-827-8673. Recommended.

"Koriscap Gardening Water Conservation for the American Landscape," Connie Ellerson, Tom Stephens and Doug Welsh (Macmillan, \$30), offers alternative gardening advice from that which is generally practiced. The book deals with ideas for successful gardens with lower water tables, appropriate plant materials, irrigation and watering techniques.

The authors show how you can have a beautiful landscape in any part of the country. Lists of plants for specific areas of the country, and experiences of those who garden there, will enable you to find information relative to your needs.

Rhododendron raves

"Success With Rhododendrons and Azaleas," H. Edward Reiley (Timber Press, \$29.95), provides detailed information about growing these popular shrubs. It especially lists that specific climate zones are highlighted so that you can readily refer to the zone in which you live to learn about firsthand accounts with the plants. From growing to propagating plants, novice and experienced growers will benefit from Reiley's advice.

"Herb Gardening At Its Best," Sal Gilbertie, with Larry Sheehan (Atheneum-Macmillan, \$13.95, soft), offers excellent information about growing and using herbs.

General directions are given, and the Herb Culture Guide is an invaluable quick reference. Thirty garden designs such as Colonial, Dyer's Pink and Red Flowering, and Christmas Wreath, for an 8-by-8-foot area, are simple and exciting.

Although some of the botanical names have been changed since publication (1978), it in no way deters from this fine guide for all who love these versatile plants. Succinct advice.

"The Holiday Wreath Book," Eric Carlson (Sterling/Lark, \$21.95), describes how to create 80 wreaths for any time of the year and any occasion. Not all wreaths presented are circular, which takes this craft a step beyond other such creations. The instructions are easy to follow and illustrations clearly show the results. A keeper.

Thursday tours set at Cranbrook House

Cranbrook House is open to the public Thursdays through Sept. 23.

Tours of historic Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine in Bloomfield Hills, will be at 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Visit the gardens before or after. The fee for a combined house tour and garden visit is \$6.

Lunch is available at noon for \$9.50 per person, including tax. Advance reservations are required for lunch by 4 p.m. Monday. Call 645-3149. Proceeds are used to maintain and restore Cranbrook House and Gardens, once home to Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Scripps Booth.

Cranbrook House and Gardens is affiliated with the Cranbrook Educational Community, which is comprised of the Cranbrook Academy of Art and Museum, Cranbrook Institute of Science and Cranbrook Schools.

Tiffany style shines in lamp exhibition

■ The name Tiffany has set standards in style for years. The Mole Hole in Birmingham is presenting about 75 Tiffany style lamps and lighting fixtures in a special display.

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

About 100 years ago, no home was complete without some Tiffany glass and at least one Tiffany lamp. The more popular lamps were those with leaded glass shades set on a bronze base.

Shining examples of that elegance are on display at The Mole Hole of Birmingham, 128 S. Woodward. The store's "Tiffany Stained Glass Extravaganza," continuing to July 5, features a Meyda Tiffany lamp exhibit that highlights stained glass lamps and lighting fixtures.

As the Meyda Tiffany Lighting Gallery in the area, the store shows more than 75 items featuring the styles of designer Louis Comfort Tiffany. Included are Victorian, nouveau, deco, nostalgic and romantic styles. Many of the lamps have been handcrafted from original molds and tools dating back to the turn of the century.

The guiding principle for Tiffany artisans was that they should be inspired by natural forms. Many lamps were made to look like flowers in bloom. Others had dragonfly, grapevine or spider web shapes.

At The Mole Hole, Tiffany lamps and fixtures feature shades shaped like flowers or bearing a floral or dragonfly design. The natural look is further seen in bases resembling stems or tree trunks. Some are adorned by smaller stems and leaves that wrap themselves around the base like a vine.

Other works feature dangling rows of beads and ornate patterns on the base. Sometimes the beads and the pattern match, with a scalloped fringe of beads and a scalloped design on the stand, or a row of dots suggesting a row of beads.

All of the lamps and fixtures have a stately bearing but aren't gloomy for forbidding. Each is literally a luxurious work of art, with graceful lines and colors in bright hues or subtle shades.

The name Tiffany set standards in style for a long time. Louis Comfort Tiffany decorated theaters, the White House for President Chester Arthur and such homes as those of Mark



Elegant illumination: Many of the Tiffany lamps and lighting fixtures at The Mole Hole in Birmingham resemble flowers or have a floral design. The store is displaying about 75 Tiffany lamps to July 5.

Twain, Cornelius Vanderbilt and Lily Langtry.

Tiffany was born in 1848, 11 years after his father founded the first Tiffany's store in New York City in partnership with his future brother-in-law. The store started as a small stationery and fancy goods business and expanded into jewelry, bronzes, watches and clocks. It began to produce its own designs of flatware and other silver items.

Louis Tiffany wanted to be a painter, and exhibited his art at the family firm's stand at the Philadelphia Centennial Exhibition in 1876. The next year he founded an artists' association that decorated homes of the wealthy. His concern with the total environment in decoration led to an interest

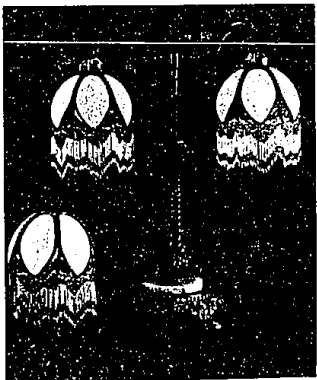
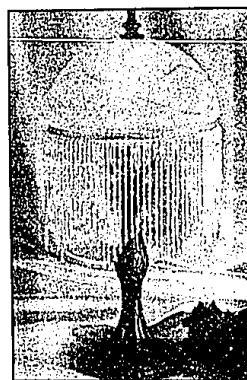
in stained glass windows.

Tiffany designed and installed the sconces for Thomas Edison's electric footlights at the Lyceum Theatre in New York in 1885. Within the next decade, after he had acquired a bronze foundry, Tiffany began designing and producing portable lamps that combined a metal standard with a leaded glass shade made in the manner he had perfected for use in windows.

Tiffany-style lamps began reappearing in the 1960s and are popular today.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday-Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday-Friday, noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. Call 644-8233.

Luxurious light: Beads and ornate patterns are featured on some Tiffany designs.



Gallery, library in 'toon

BY LINDA ANN CHOMIN
SPECIAL WRITER

Mickey, Minnie, Goofy and the rest of the cartoon critters from Gallery Animation will put a smile on your face in a special exhibit through June 28 in the Livonia Civic Center Library Art Gallery, Farmington Road and Five Mile.

The Livonia Arts Commission is sponsoring this upbeat 35-piece show focusing on handpainted original production and limited-edition cels from such film animators as Chuck Jones, Friz Frelang, Walter Lantz as well as art from the studios of Walt Disney, Warner Bros. and Hanna-Barbera.

"It's a show everyone will enjoy, a show for the whole family," said Robert Athey, who co-owns Gallery Animation with his wife, Elaine.

The Birmingham gallery, which opened April 1992, is the only one in Michigan to deal exclusively in fine art from the animated film industry.

The Livonia show is "something the kids as well as the adults will love. The characters really make you smile," Athey said.

Production drawings, storyboards and model sheets created for animated films are displayed alongside the cels.

Also featured is the original architectural plan for Sleeping Beauty's castle at Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom in Orlando.

"You'll be able to see animation art from start to finish," Elaine Athey said. "It takes a team to produce one of these. It's something everyone can appreciate. They'll look at cartoons in a whole different way."

The cel (short for celluloid) is a clear sheet of plastic containing the image. Each cel is placed over a background to be photographed in succession to form the action of the film.

The outline of a character, whether hand-drawn or photocopied, is applied to the front of the cel. Color is handpainted (usually with acrylic watercolor) onto the cel's back.

Several rare vintage pieces also appear in the show, including a 1937 Snow White cel and a 1941 production drawing for a cel of Goofy from the film "Clock Cleaners." A production drawing is the original drawing made by the artist from which a cel is hand-drawn or photocopied.

"Animation art only goes back to about 1917," Robert Athey said.

"After 1941, they weren't really hand-drawn anymore because in the late 1950s, Walt Disney developed a Xeroxing process to transfer the outline directly onto the cel."

"Sleeping Beauty" was the transition film using both the hand-drawn and photocopying process, he added. "Beauty and the Beast" was the first full-length feature film done entirely on computer.

The Atheyes became interested in animation art seven years ago, after seeing a cel in a New York City gallery. Today, they

See CARTOON, 5D

Arbent 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.

GYPSY MOTHS



On Page 6D of today's Creative Living, look for part two of our special three-part series, "Gypsy Moth: Suburban Scourge."

Today, we explore gypsy moth management. As always, we appreciate your comments, by phone (953-2113), fax (501-7279) or mail (Creative Living, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia 48160).

Art Beat

ARTRAIN COMING

The Detroit premiere of Artrain's new exhibition, "The Romance of Transportation," will be 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3:30-5:30 p.m. today and Friday, and 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, just east of the Renaissance Center at St. Antoine and Franklin. Artrain's newly completed exterior murals include work by Walter Gier-schick of West Bloomfield.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Birmingham Musicale has honored four Eccentric-arts students. The first-place award (Founders Award) went

to Scott Selfon, a senior at Groves High School, who won with his original composition, a string quartet. He studies with Stanley Hollingsworth at Oakland University, viola with Holt Holliman and piano with Sheila Stephenson.

Second place (Past Presidents Award) went to Antonia Saint Dunbar, cellist, a sophomore at Harrison High School in Farmington Hills. She is a student of Nina de Vetch. She has received a scholarship to Interlochen and one from her school toward continued cello lessons.

Frede Lynn won third place (Memorial and Tribute Award). She is a junior at Andover High School in Bloomfield Hills and studies piano with Catherine Rollin. She plays the cello and sings with her school's singing group. Christine Chun, a freshman at Andover, won the Honorable Mention Award.