

CREATIVE LIVING

D

MARY KLEMIC, EDITOR
901-3869

CONTINUES IN
SECTION E

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1994

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Love's in bloom with roses, orchid plants

Roses are the traditional valentine flower. When I spoke with Dennis Sparr, owner of Sparr's Flowers and Greenhouse, 42510 Joy in Plymouth, I learned that this company has an acre of glass houses. The roses that they sell in this location, a full-service florist and greenhouse operation, as well as five shops in the area, are all grown in these greenhouses. From 35 to 100 dozen roses are cut each day of the year except Christmas and New Year's Day.

They sell all cut flowers, no plants, Sparr said. "The long-stemmed roses are the most popular," he said. "We have been growing a red hybrid tea, 'Royalty,' for 10 years. It is longer lasting than older varieties. The most unusual rose, a Sweetheart, is 'Lavender,' with lavender blooms. Another unusual color has a bright orange bloom."

Pink, white and yellow roses also are grown. For some time, Sparr's has been hybridizing — as Sparr says, "playing with" — a rose that will have a variegated leaf and a purple flower.

When you are given a bouquet of roses from Sparr, they have been cut under water at the store and no shipping time is involved, therefore these roses will last a long time. Royalty will last two weeks or more and the Sweethearts a week to 10 days.

The reason the roses are cut under water is to prevent an air pocket from rising up the stem, which causes the head to flop. Since the plants are grown on location, the flower will last longer and will stay erect. Sparr compares this to buying vegetables from a local farmer. Buying from the grower assures that you get a better quality product.

If it is necessary to cut the stem of roses at home, do cut them under water.

About orchids

Orchid plants are an alternative to cut flower arrangements for a valentine gift. Tim Robinson, design manager at Tiffany Florist, 784 S. Woodward in Birmingham, told me the orchid bloom will last up to two months "if the plant is in the stage of budding when purchased; most clients treat them as a disposable plant."

Orchids are available in many colors — green, yellow, lavender, pinks, burgundy and purple. Sizes are quite variable, from the small, 10-inch tall Lady Slipper variety with a single bloom, to the four-foot tall Cymbidium orchid with up to 20 blooms. Tiffany's carries five or six varieties.

"When a supply of orchids comes in they sell out in a hurry," Robinson said. "We have a list of customers who wait for our call."

The basic care for orchids is to water them so that the water goes through the roots; they must not sit in water. These are rainforest plants that grow on tree bark and like to be misted, which keeps the humidity around them high.

Mist the plants in the morning. Sufficient light is essential for healthy growth and flower production. Mature plants need a 10- to 20-degree temperature difference between night and day. Fertilizer must be provided on a regular basis, as recommended.

When you buy an orchid from Tiffany Florist, a care sheet accompanies each plant for the variety selected.

Well, folks, let's face it: Chocolates are yummy, but the calories stay with us for a long time, while

See FIGLEY, 4E



MARTY FIGLEY

From the heart: Orchids or roses; either would make a welcome valentine gift.

LOOKING AHEAD

- What to watch for in Creative Living next week:
- A look at furniture designs by students of the Center for Creative Studies, displayed at Scott Shupring Furniture's Troy showroom.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



Positive force: Robert Dempster created five paintings on commission for a Seattle hospital, instilling in them nature's healing ability.

His art works help process of healing

■ Birmingham artist Robert Dempster painted landscapes that have a positive energy to help patients in a Seattle hospital.

By LINDA ANN CHOMIN
STAFF WRITER

Robert Dempster believes art may very well help to heal the body. This summer he was commissioned to create five paintings as tonic for patients occupying the ventilation units of Northwest Regional Hospital in Seattle, Wash.

The idea: to produce healing art filled with a positive energy strong enough to penetrate the body and soul. This primitive source streams from the landscapes.

"Drawing an analogy with the fresh air and ventilation units I knew I wanted to capture the beauty of that area. It is so magnificent, so awe inspiring. There's no place like it," Dempster said in an interview at his Birmingham studio.

"What the doctors are trying to do is wear patients off the machines. It's an innovative atmosphere, environment. I tried to bring them to the fresh air. We used the colors that will help taking nature's something soothing for the soul."

During the six weeks Dempster traveled through the Cascades, the healing nature of the landscape inspired him, three areas in particular: LeSac, Whipshoof and Lake Diablo. He set about rendering them in pastel, colored pencil, ink, oil crayon and pencil, eventually producing four of the paintings. The fifth he crafted as an etched mirror with trees.

Using flat planes of color — green, blue and white — Dempster on site, the works reflect nature's ability to regenerate the human



Plain air painting: Inspired by the Northwest's beauty, Dempster took the blue from the sky and green from the trees, incorporating them into his art.

spirit, filling the soul with a feeling of complete satisfaction. "You get a real feel, you're connected. They're very peaceful," Dempster had never attempted paintings specifically of a healing nature, before but believes his art has always conveyed positive energy.

"I use a lot of rainbow in my work. They're very peaceful. I do a lot of healing paintings; positive paintings usually with stories behind them."

"My art work I feel is like a dialogue. I'm speaking through the art. I'm solution oriented as opposed to blaming. The art is leading, not misleading. It's uplifting. We should look at the positive, go forward."

Dempster was chosen to execute the works by an old friend, Dr. Robert Clark, who until a year ago lived in Birmingham. Clark, a pulmonologist in critical care, is medical director of the long-term acute care hospital.

"Robert opted for paintings with a Northwest flair. He chose a Northwest theme," Clark said in an interview from his Seattle office.

See HEALING, 3E

Weavers work art wonders

By MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

Fiber takes on fabulous forms in a show of the Michigan Weavers Guild at the Woody Gallery this month.

The gallery is in the lower level of the Huntington Woods Library, south of 11 Mile and west of Woodward at 28415 Scotia.

"It's very impressive work," said guild member Harriet Wells, a Bloomfield resident.

"I think people appreciate the (imagination) that goes into it."

Special features of the exhibit include a reception, demonstration and sale 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. the last day, Saturday, Feb. 20. A drawing for a handwoven art work bag by Bob Owen will take place. And throughout the duration of the exhibit, visitors may add colorful, recycled paper strips, foil, fur or their own materials to a giant reed basket.

Youngsters are asked to "weave a wish" — that is, write a wish for themselves, somebody else or the world on the strips of paper and weave the strips into the basket. Students at Burton Elementary School in Huntington Woods will visit the display as part of their learning about weaving this month.

"The little children, they love it," Wells said of weaving.

The display features about 125 pieces, large and small, by 17 artists of the guild, most of them from this area. Materials and colors used in the works are wide ranging.

See EXHIBIT, 4E

Shed light on shade gardening

By MARTY FIGLEY
STAFF WRITER

"Understanding Shade Gardening" is the title of a symposium on design, plants and garden style sponsored by Horticulture magazine and the Cranbrook Educational Community, 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, at Cranbrook Science Museum auditorium.

"The Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary is very excited at the thought of having the prestigious group from Horticulture magazine select Cranbrook to have their seminar," said Rita Mason, president of the Gardens Auxiliary. "The Science Museum is an excellent locale."

Registration fees are: \$89, Cranbrook members; \$99, Horticulture subscribers; \$109, non-members; and \$58, students with proof of full-time status. The fee includes all handouts and refreshments, and a box lunch (except for student rate).

To register, write Horticulture, 98 N. Washington, Boston, Mass. 02114-1913, or call 1-800-370-1730 or fax 617-387-6384. Indicate regular or vegetarian box lunch. MasterCard, Visa or check accepted. Early registration is encouraged, since space is limited. Walk-ins are welcome if space permits.

To reach the Science Museum, use the Cranbrook main entrance at 1221 N. Woodward in Bloomfield Hills, just north of Cranbrook Road and south of Long Lake. The gate attendant will direct you.

Finding suitable plants and other uses for shady gardens is sometimes quite a challenge. At the symposium

See SYMPOSIUM, 3E

Art Beat

Artsbeat 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 810-644-1314.

■ **GRANTS AVAILABLE**

Project grants up to \$2,000 are available through the Oakland County Cultural Council, and are administered through the Office of Cultural Affairs for Oakland County. The application deadline for projects occurring between June 1 and Sept. 30, 1994, is Friday, Feb. 11. Any Oakland County non-profit organization, institution, school, association or local government agency may apply. Grants aren't awarded to individuals, but they are available to organizers of specific arts and culturally focused projects. For applications, call the Office of Cultural Affairs at 810-888-0415.

■ **QUILTING QUOTES**

Gretchen Tatge of Quilt 'n' Friends will bring creative items using quilting and discuss them, along with the latest tools and patterns, 10:30 a.m. Friday, Feb. 11, at Troy Public Library, 600 W. Big Beaver Road (call 810/824-3845). Reservations aren't necessary. Conco and have coffee, courtesy of Friends of the Library.

■ **ARTISTS, CRAFTERS NEEDED**

Quality crafters and artists are wanted for Spotlight 1994, a juried arts and crafts show sponsored by Oakland University's Meadow Brook Theatre Guild. Show dates are Sept. 24-25. Juries will take place Thursday, Feb. 24, and Saturday, March 19. Jury reservations are required. Call 682-3790 or 378-9845.

■ **WILDLIFE ARTIST**

Heiner Hertling of West Bloomfield is one of more than 500 artists and artisans taking part in the 12th annual Southeastern Wildlife Exposition, scheduled Feb. 18-20 in Charleston, S.C. Last year, the show was host to more than 42,000 visitors. For information, call 1-800-221-5978.