

# CREATIVE LIVING

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1994

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**GARDEN SPOT**



MARTY FIGLEY

## Gardening questions are answered here

**Q**uestion: When can I prune spring flowering shrubs?  
**A**nswers: Forsythia, lilacs and deutzia produce flower-bearing branches in the previous growing season and need to be pruned immediately after flowering so new growth can develop before winter.

Forsythia adds a bright note to the garden and reminds us that spring has arrived. The undemanding plants like to retain their naturally graceful form. It won't hurt the plant to take a few branches for forcing indoors several weeks earlier, when the blossoms are formed.

Lilacs (Syringa) will reward you with larger clusters of flowers the next year if faded flowers are pruned off. Some Syringas produce suckers. Don't prune them all away, rather cut out the older stems so that the plant is constantly renewed. Buy only lilacs that are grown on their own roots, not grafted ones.

Deutzia plants naturally are left with dead limbs, which will be noticeable when they start to grow as the weather warms up. Prune them out to keep the shrub clean and neat each year.

If any of these plants become crowded, up to one-fourth of the old flowering stems can be removed without harming the plants. In the fall, remove weak growth and awkward branches to keep the plants in good form. When planting, cut out weak or damaged stems and cut back the tips (about six inches) on the main shoots to a strong pair of buds.

**Q:** How do I care for lavender plants?  
**A:** This question is often asked when I lecture about herbs. Lavendulas can become sprawly and get heavy, unsightly branches and become bare at the base if they aren't kept in shape from the first planting. They won't rejuvenate from bare wood.

The first year prune hard for strong, bushy growth - remove about one-third of the plant. Then each subsequent spring remove old flower spikes and one to two inches of growth made the previous season. In the fall, leave the dead flower spikes (that you haven't used for cooking or crafts) over the winter to provide protection for the plants. Propagate existing lavender plants this summer by layering, then start anew when they are severed from the mother plant.

**Q:** Do you have any suggestions about planting clematis?  
**A:** I checked with Dick Donahue, owner of Donahue's Clematis Specialists (P.O. Box 366, Faribault, Minn. 56021).

"Plant clematis deeper than the plant is in the pot in which it was purchased, planting one set of leaf nodes under the soil so that the plant can send up another strong shoot if the new plant is damaged by animals, wind or was frozen during a spring freeze," he said.

See FIGLEY, 8D

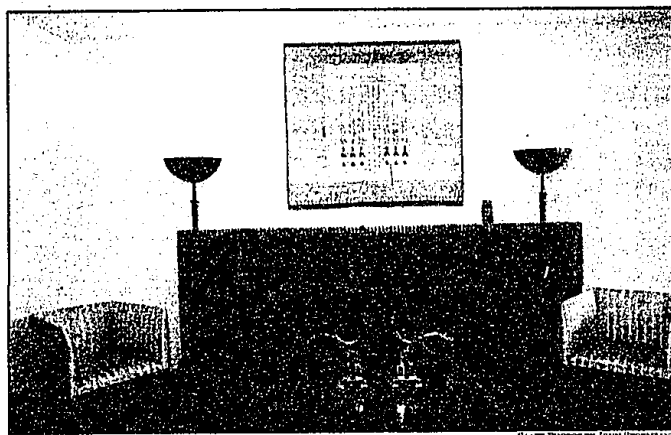


MARTY FIGLEY

**Time to trim: Forsythias and other flowering shrubs need to be pruned immediately after flowering.**

## LOOKING AHEAD

- What to watch for in Taste next week:
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.



STAFF PHOTOS BY JOHN STORMELO

**Golden era:** In the Saarinen House living room, bronze andirons shaped like peacocks stand at a fireplace with brown and silver ceramic tiles made by Mary Chase Stratton at Peunabic Pottery from a design by Eliel Saarinen. The tapestry depicts a stylized tree. All furnishings were designed by Eliel or Loja Saarinen.

## Visitors to Saarinen House can go on tours with style

After more than six years of research and restoration, Saarinen House, the 1930 home, studio and garden of Eliel and Loja Saarinen, will open to the public Thursday, May 19, at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills.

Saarinen House was designed and lived in by the Finnish-American architect Eliel Saarinen, who was Cranbrook's resident architect 1925-50 and the first president of the art academy (1932-46).

Altered considerably by subse-

quent residents after Saarinen's death in 1950, Saarinen House has been restored to vintage 1930s. The restoration was initiated by Roy Slade, current president of the academy, when he first arrived at Cranbrook in 1977 and completed under the research and supervision of Gregory Wittkopp, Cranbrook's curator of collections.

Every square inch of the house has been thoroughly restored to its former glory, including the floors, walls, ceilings, furniture, textiles

and decorative arts. Saarinen House has extraordinary interiors featuring Eliel's meticulous detailing and furniture and his wife Loja's dramatic textiles. It is a total work of art: a rare integration of art, architecture, design and nature.

Beginning May 19 and continuing through Oct. 30, the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum will offer tours of the house called "Saarinen House: A Total Work of Art."

Tours interpret the house as a visionary "total work of art" and place the house within the context of the history of Cranbrook. Trained guides introduce the important personalities involved in the creation of the house, discuss the elements of the restoration, and highlight the features that make Saarinen House one of the masterworks of 20th century architecture.

Walk-in tours of the house are available 1:30, 2, 3 and 3:30 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Tours last one hour 15 minutes and are limited to 12 people each. All tours leave from Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum, 1221 N. Woodward.

Tour admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for senior citizens and full-time students with ID and \$3 for museum members. The tour fee includes free admission to the museum. Children younger than 7 aren't permitted on tours.

Private group tours are available Wednesday and Friday afternoons, with special twilight tours Thursday evenings. All group tours must be booked two weeks in advance. Large groups will be divided into smaller tours of 12 people each. Private group prices per person are \$5 for afternoon and \$10 for twilight tours.

For tour information or reservations, call (810) 645-3323 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

**By design:** The Saarinen House at the Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Hills features such elegant designs as fluted columns, leaded glass windows and rugs with a pattern resembling brickwork designed for other areas of Cranbrook. The house, restored to the 1930s, will open to the public this month.



## Baskets carry imagery

The Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak is featuring a basketry exhibit this month, with innovative designs from the United States and Japan.

BY MARY KLEMIC  
STAFF WRITER



The basket - that simple, useful object often taken for granted when taken in hand - draws attention, awe and applause in a showcase

at the Sybaris Gallery in Royal Oak.

The showcase is the fifth annual Basketry Invitational, running through May 28 at the gallery, 202 E. Third. Works by 31 of the most innovative fiber artists from the United States and Japan are featured. The pieces run the gamut from container shapes to abstract forms, from traditional to surprising materials and patterns.

Rather than making works that hold something within, the fiber artists in the exhibit are like sculptors, making works that are open.

Basic container shapes have lively features. Char Wiss' vessels in waxed linen and wire bear such patterns as gently undulating stripes in red, white and gray and a checkered design accented in black. Designs that are almost electric are shown in the knotted, waxed linen works by Jan Buckman.

Shapes by Judy Mulford have tiny three-dimensional figures tucked in them. A basket of woven cherry bark strips by Kazuo Honma shows numbers written in the squares.

Objects by Hisako Sekijima look as though they came right from the forest, with such materials as pine needles in an apparently seamless form. Dona Lusk's clean vessels are made of white birch bark, silk thread and sweet grass. Lisa Davis makes bright, festive pieces out of cloth, paint and mixed media.

Some forms are ornamental.

See BASKETRY, 8D

## Birmingham Art Fair set

The center of Birmingham will be the center of attention Saturday-Sunday, May 14-15, when the 1994 Birmingham Art Fair takes place.

The fair will be in Shain Park, south of Maple at Bates and Merrill. Between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. both days, 182 artists and craftspeople will exhibit fine art, sculpture, ceramics, glass, jewelry, fibers, photography and wood work in this juried fair. Admission is free. Eight area restaurants will operate facilities in the park serving a variety of foods. A children's booth will offer hands-on pottery experience, and visor, T-shirt and face painting.

Proceeds will go to the building extension fund at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Association, 1616 S. Cranbrook Road in Birmingham.

For more information, call the BBAA at (810) 644-0866.

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 (810) 644-1314.

## Art Beat

**■ BACCARAT REPRESENTATIVE**  
Thomas Bastide, designer director for Baccarat, the prestigious 230-year-old world class manufacturer of fine crystal, will be at Neiman Marcus in the Somerset Collection at Big Beaver Road and Cooldge in Troy 1:30-3:30 p.m. Thursday, May 19, to meet customers and personally sign their Baccarat purchases.

**■ ON VACATION**  
The Backdoor Gallery on Eight Mile in Farmington will be closed May 21 to

September, when it will reopen in a new space in downtown Farmington. The gallery's current exhibit, "The Figure in Cloth - A Celebration of the Doll," continues 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday-Friday and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday to May 21. Call (810) 474-8306.

**■ TO FRANCE**  
Christine Unwin of West Bloomfield is conducting a creative art workshop in Paris and southern France June 9-21. Participants will paint in Monet's garden when the poppies and irises are blooming at their peak. Cost, not including air,

is \$1,950 for artists and \$1,850 for non-artists. For details, call Unwin at 689-4736, or write her at 6850 Brookshire Drive, West Bloomfield 48322

**■ MEAT THE FESTIVAL**  
Birmingham resident Flavio Varani, professor of piano at Oakland University, performed recently at the Gilmore International Keyboard Festival in Kalamazoo in an innovative outreach program called "Keys to Education." The program takes world-class concert pianists and gifted piano students into about 200 southwest Michigan schools to teach students in kindergarten through grade 12 about music. Varani gave "illustrated concerts" in seven high schools, in which he performed, commented and encouraged audience interaction.