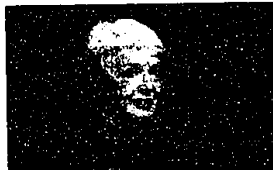


# CREATIVE LIVING

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**GARDEN SPOT**



MARTY FIGLEY

## This 'trickle down' theory helps gardens

The recent water rationing has reminded us that prudent use of water is essential when we garden. Our lawns can go without water and will become dormant during the hot summer months if water is withheld, but the grass will green up again when it rains without any harm to it.

Drip irrigation and/or soaker hoses direct water on plants and apply it at the soil level, keep the foliage dry, and thus help to eliminate diseases and insect problems.

Plants signal when it's time to water. If they wilt during a hot day, if the soil around them is damp, they will generally recover by early evening, so there is no cause to worry. If, though, the plants don't recover by early the next morning, it's time to water. Don't wait until the leaves shrivel. Watering deeply once or twice a week is better than shallow watering - drip irrigation is perfect for this job and is so simple to do once the hoses are in place.

Several companies make soaker hoses and drip irrigation kits. Moisture-Master by Aquapore Moisture Systems Inc. uses a blend of recycled rubber and polyethylene, and adds ultraviolet inhibitors for long life. Irrigo makes a trickle irrigation kit. It is distributed by Laid Back Enterprises. Wade Rain manufactures Acu-Soaker systems and Rain-Drip produces both soakers and drip irrigation kits. You will find the one suitable for your situation in many local garden supply stores.

Many drought-tolerant plants grow well in our area and are readily available. Your county extension agent can help, or you can consult your landscaper.

For more information about wise water use in the garden, "Water-conserving Gardens and Landscapes," John M. O'Keefe (\$12.95, soft; Storey), gives good advice on the subject.

**Dianthus directions**

I have had much success growing several species of Dianthus for a number of years and don't pamper them with special watering practices.

During the recent Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association/Meadow Brook Landscape and Garden Show I was surprised to find that many people didn't know the name of the pretty little flower that graced some of the beds.

Dianthus is a hardy perennial that blooms for most of the gardening season, well into September. The species range from 3 inches to 1 to 2 feet tall and are perfect for edging a bed or in a rock garden. They brighten an area in con

See FIGLEY, 3E



MARTY FIGLEY

Bright addition: Dianthus add a bright spot to a garden and bloom all season beside paths, in rock gardens or in containers.

**LOOKING AHEAD**

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:

- A visit with Caren Nederlander, whose "Stars and Flowers" photo-image exhibit opens at the Janice Charsch Epstein Museum/Gallery at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield.
- A look at the urban realist art by Jack Keijo Steele at the Cranbrook Academy of Art Museum in Bloomfield Hills.
- Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
- Exhibitions, art gallery event listings.

Rich renderings: Lush landscapes are among the paintings in Southfield artist George Graveldinger's exhibit at Livonia City Hall this month.



## Artist colors everyday life



George Graveldinger of Southfield has a whimsical brush with life in his paintings. He compares his vibrant paintings of characters and landscapes to lush fruits, and wants the viewer to wonder about what is going on in them.

By LINDA ANN CHIOMI  
SPECIAL WRITER

George Graveldinger paints character sketches focusing on the ups and downs of human nature. Portraits of these whimsical, introspective figures with exaggerated features along with a few landscapes, 30 paintings in all by the Southfield artist, remain on exhibit through June 30 in the lobby of

Livonia City Hall, Farmington Road and Five Mile.

Graveldinger, who compares his vibrant paintings to lush fruits, cooks up a storm of vignettes spotlighting everyday life. Don't miss the opportunity to taste these delightful dishes rendered in Graveldinger style, a wink-and-a-nod dramatizations of characters we all know. Whether



STAFF PHOTOS BY ART EDMANUELE

Colorful characterization: Graveldinger, who paints at the Oakland Community College Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills, presents dramatizations of characters. He wants the viewer to wonder about what's going on in the work.

it's a guy on vacation in a far-away destination oblivious to the fact the volcano behind him is about to explode, or a bride waiting with a puzzling expression on her face, Graveldinger paints them all in rich color, vivid and alive. A sketchbook carried with him everywhere he goes belies the origins of the paintings.

"I have a love affair with human nature. It's the spontaneity, the freshness I try to capture. Whether it's characters in a restaurant or in the doctor's office while you're waiting, you try to imagine what's going on behind the megasizes," said Graveldinger.

"I keep asking why I'm here? What is it all about? I try to tune in to the heartbeat of the universe. What I strive for in my work is if the piece keeps drawing you back, making you wonder about what's going on."

Although Graveldinger graduated from the Society for Arts and Crafts (now Center for Creative Studies in Detroit) in 1951 after studying with the likes of Sarkis Sarkisian and Guy Pallazolla, it wasn't until he retired in 1993 from Chrysler that he found time enough to paint seriously.

See ARTIST, 3E

## Peter Max pops into area for visit, show

By LINDA ANN CHIOMI  
SPECIAL WRITER

At times Peter Max's art is reminiscent of the Impressionists, and Fauves or "wild beasts." At other times, it is pure Max.

The internationally recognized Pop artist noted for his bold palette and linear style exhibits more than 150 paintings, drawings, etchings, serigraphs, mixed media collages and off-set lithographs at Park West Gallery, 29409 Northwestern Highway in Southfield. The exhibition, filling seven of Park West's 12 galleries, continues to July 21.

"I think it's one of the finest exhibits. So much art, so much breadth," Max said at an interview shortly after arriving in the area June 16.

He rushed through the galleries viewing the exhibit opening with a series of receptions to benefit the



JERRY ZOLYNSKI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

See MAX, 5E

Max factor: Artist Peter Max, shown here with his multiple images of President Clinton, was at the Park West Gallery in Southfield last week for events coinciding with World Cup Soccer festivities.

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 AUCTION**

The Detroit Chapter of the American Jewish Committee presents an exhibit and auction of fine art Thursday, June 23, in The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham, to benefit the American Jewish Committee. The preview is at 7 p.m. and the auction at 8 p.m. Admission is \$15 per person to a gala dessert reception. For information, call (810) 646-7886.

## Art Beat

**PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Works by Monte Nagler, an award-winning, fine art photographer based in Farmington Hills who writes a column for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, are displayed to June 28 at the Pine Creek Ridge Lodge in Livingston County. The lodge is about two miles west of downtown Brighton at 8317 Hidden Pines Drive, south of Brighton Road. Nagler is one of the country's premier nature photographers. His work can be seen noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday.

**ROOM TO SHOW**

Ceramic artist John Glick's Plum Tree Pottery showroom has been a source of pots for gifts and personal use for more than 25 years. Now Glick has added a separate exhibition space devoted to the quiet viewing of principal examples of his work. Another body of work - a series with landscape themes that combines Glick's love of clay with his longstanding skill to paint and draw - is in progress in a studio space reserved for ceramic wall panels. You can visit the Upper Gallery and the Landscape Studio when you are in the showroom at 30435 W. 10 Mile in Farmington Hills, or by calling (810) 476-4875 for an appointment.