

Figley from page 1D

with just a little sun. Night temperatures can go as low as 45 degrees F.

Allow the soil surface to dry between thorough waterings; reduce water after flowering stops. Fertilize in spring and summer with half the recommended strength of a soluble fertilizer.

Amaryllis (Hippeastrum) bulbs will provide a spectacular display for at least a month. Each bulb will produce two and sometimes three marvelous blooms. If you buy a bulb, the recipient will be able to watch the miracle unfold six to 10 weeks after water is given.

A bright, directly sunny, southern or western window is preferred, and as with poinsettias, average house temperatures are fine. Water this plant every five to six days and apply one-fourth strength liquid fertilizer midway through the growing season.

Amaryllis flowers last longer if you pinch out the anthers of newly opened blossoms, and they do make beautiful, long-lasting cut flowers.

After bloom time, continue feeding at every other watering stop when the foliage yellows and store in a cool, dark place for six to eight weeks, when new growth appears. Replace an inch of topsoil with fresh, set in a sunny spot and resume watering, then wait for the show.

A gift certificate for an Amaryllis can be ordered from the Park Seed Company (call (800) 845-3359), which has a catalog featuring this plant.

Orchid
An orchid (Orchidaceae) is an elegant gift, although not too easy to find at this time of year. The Orchid Lady of Birmingham, Carolyn Butcher, will be able to fulfill your request. You may call her at (810) 643-6266.

The right amount of light is a critical factor in growing orchids, and it is best to know what amount is necessary for the one you choose. They also have varying temperature needs — cool, intermediate and warm.

It's best to drench the potting medium, then let it dry out before rewetting. Moisture is important. Pots on a pebble tray that is filled with water helps and a humidifier will also supply needed moisture. The blooms of orchids are as varied as their names — Cattleya, Paphiopedilum or Phalaenopsis — any one of them would be appreciated.

Lucas Nursery in Canton has the poinsettias and Christmas Cactus. Tiffany Florist in Birmingham carries all but the cactus. Call ahead to avoid disappointment.

Travel plans

Join me for "A Kingdom in Bloom: The Majesty of Splendor of the Gardens of Britain," a special guided tour of gardens and manor houses, and a visit to the Chelsea Flower Show, May 23 to June 4.

Each site of the itinerary has been carefully selected on the merits of its beauty and variety as well as its horticultural specialty. They include Hampton Court's 17th century garden, the garden at Sissinghurst Castle by Vita Sackville-West, the Royal Horticultural Society Gardens at Wisley, Blenheim (Churchill's birthplace) and Ifford, an Elizabethan manor in an isolated garden by Harold Peto.

A welcome wine buffet and an illustrated talk about the gardens by an outstanding horticulturist will be given the first evening. For more information, call me at (810) 644-2178 or Figley Travel at (800) 878-1978.

Don't miss out on this one-of-a-kind opportunity. I'll be happy to give a slide presentation about this trip to your club.

TIMELY GARDEN TIPS

■ Wait until the ground is frozen before applying mulch to your perennial beds.

■ Snip evergreen boughs, boxwood, English ivy and other evergreen plants for a pretty, home-crafted centerpiece. Some are tinsel and lamb's ears will add a silver touch.

■ Save the "plastic" pellets that protect gifts, for the compost pile. Those made of cornstarch will melt in water and will break down easily there.

■ While the youngsters are home for the holidays they can prepare a tree for the birds. Strings of popcorn and cranberries, orange or grapefruit shells filled with a mixture of 2 parts each ground suet, cornmeal and sugar and 1 part flour and a little water will satisfy the birds. Punch several holes around the edge of the rind and tie a string to each hole to use as a hanger. Birds also like pinecones spread with unsalted peanut butter and a mixture of suet and flour to protect your gift plants from the cold winter winds when you deliver them.

■ Have the Merriest Christmas ever — and the Happiest of New Years!

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 853-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then her mailbox number, 1859. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

Art work encourages involvement

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

The current installation at Revolution: A Gallery Project, Building Community around "en-gaged" viewers to get involved — both with helping people and with the project.

The work by Mark Lee, a master of architecture candidate at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, first appeared in the gallery at 2327 Woodward in Ferndale through December (call (810) 841-3444).

Visitors may give donations based on their age, receiving in turn materials to put into the installation. (Suggested donations: \$10 for preschoolers and students, and 20 cents up to \$20 multiplied by the age for all others.) A percentage will be donated to Common Ground, an Oakland County

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non-profit organization that offers mental health care and substance abuse programs.

In the place, Lee examines the decay of the cityscape and the spread of advertising. A slide presentation flashes images of billboards placed above skeletal sections of a city, suggesting that product slogans seem to be what bind the community.

The slide show is seen among a structure consisting of wood and grids, plexiglas and walls. Youngsters may add colored dots with their names on the plexiglas, adults may put transparent pictures on the grid work and major donors may place their names on parts of the structure.

These transparencies look like little abstract art works. They appear to be closeups of signs and buildings. They can be viewed from more than one side. With its grids and transparencies and openness, the structure invites you in rather than walls you out.

In all, the work serves as a reminder that people, not slogans, make up a community, and that

we all share in our community. The structure looks like a shelter but also a rooftop — visitors could be protected or looking at other communities.

Mary Klemic is editor of the Oakland County Creative Living section. You may call her at (810) 801-2562. Her fax number is (810) 644-1314.

DIA sets volunteer training

Gallery Service volunteers are urgently needed at the Detroit Institute of Arts to greet and assist visitors in the museum galleries.

Volunteers make the difference in assuring the galleries are open during museum hours. Afternoon and weekend volunteers are especially needed.

A training session will be offered from 10 a.m. to noon Jan. 7 in the Holley Room of the museum, 5200 Woodward.

For more information, call (313) 833-0247, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

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goldfish pond, a bird cage on a tane or a delicate wicker bed, for example, or learn such intricate skills as electrical wiring of a doll house or scene.

"Students include youngsters, college students and grand parents. I bring in teachers from all over the country to teach these classes," said Goad, a lifelong resident of Birmingham.

Considered an expert miniaturist in her own right, Goad teaches several classes as well as lectures about the art of miniatures. She'll be a guest speaker in February at the Society of Automotive Engineers conference in Detroit.

A big step

Goad didn't become involved in miniatures in any conventional way. She walked in to Miniature Makers' Workshop one day. Three weeks later, she owned it. That was 10 years ago.

"I wanted to open my own business. Since I was a silversmith and jewelry maker, I thought I would open a jewelry store and combine it with educational programs," she said.

"But when I visited Miniature Makers' Workshop and discovered that former owner Barbara Blais was closing the business, I decided to buy it."

Ten years later Goad still is as enthusiastic about miniatures as she is about her shop. During the decade she has owned it, she has moved to its larger, present location at 4615 N. Woodward and even involved her family. Her husband, Thomas, is an engineer at Pontiac Motor Division. He likes to make very precise miniatures.

"He enjoys the precision work of creating a single piece, such as a beautiful candlestick."

The Goads' youngest son, Ted, 33, also is involved in miniatures. He teaches electrical wiring classes at the store and custom finishes doll houses for customers. The other Goad children are Doug, 37, and Linda, 35.

Goad's store, open Monday through Saturday, takes miniatures beyond doll houses that serve as play things for children.

Art form

"Miniatures are three-dimensional art. People mostly use them to create a scene. They tell a story in the scene. Many people like to recreate a scene from their house during the holidays. Miniaturists don't usually use dolls in a scene because they aren't as accurately recreated so they leave them out of the picture."

Customers who shop at Goad's Miniature Makers' Workshop range from the person who wants to make something special for a holiday decoration to the enthusiast willing to pay \$300 for one tiny, perfect miniature.

Goad caters to all different kinds of customers. She sells do-it-yourself books, wallpaper, brick for exterior, asphalt shingles and floor flooring. She sells tools for electrical work, paint supplies and more. There are racks and shelves filled with such tiny reproductions as baby rattles, skis and poles, dartboards, Chinese checkers games, Jane Yonda exercise tapes and hundreds of other things often found in much larger size in a real home.

"I don't know what my miniaturists would do without shops like Miniature Makers' Workshop," said Jean Clark of Bloomfield Township. "We would have to buy everything from catalogs."

Clark has been interested in miniatures since she took her first class in 1978 on decorating and lighting a synthetic Christmas tree. She began her first doll house in the 1980s.

"I finally finished it," she said, "10 years later."

Clark continues to take classes at Miniature Makers' Workshop. So does Mary Rosenbusch of Rochester Hills, another miniature enthusiast of Miniature Makers' Workshop.

"I've never before lived in an area with a miniature shop," she said. "The classes are wonderful. Even though I've been involved with miniatures for 25 years, I'm still learning."

She recently completed a class on fall flowers.

Special celebration

Both women are active mem-

bers of The Wee Bees, a local miniature club associated with the National Association of Miniature Enthusiasts.

The Wee Bees recently helped Goad celebrate her 10th anniversary as owner of Miniature Makers' Workshop. The club displayed the six-room doll house its members had built, decorated and furnished. The doll house was raffled to benefit Vista Maria, a halfway house for neglected and abused girls.

In honor of her shop's anniversary, Goad hosted an exhibition in late October of miniatures created by students during the past 10 years. The exhibit included miniature furnishings, room boxes, paintings and flowers. Their work represented about 40 different classes taken by almost 1,000 people at Miniature Makers' Workshop.

"I wanted the students to have a chance to show what they have accomplished," she said. "It was

a beautiful show. I'm really proud of our students."

Staying involved

Goad isn't planning on resting on her success of the past 10 years. She'll continue with her interest to promote miniatures as an art form. She'll do this through her involvement with the International Guild of Miniature Artisans, of which she is treasurer. She and her husband will take their annual trip to the International Guild of Miniature Artisans' weekend school in Castine, Maine, where they'll take classes from the most highly skilled teachers.

She'll continue to have classes of interest for all miniature enthusiasts and carry stock in her store from which customers can create any type of miniature scene they wish.

Goad intends to keep the art of miniatures an art form for the future, not a thing of the past.



JOHN STOKESLAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Miniature mansions: At Criss Goad's Miniature Makers' Workshop in Royal Oak, miniatures go beyond doll houses that serve as toys for children.

Chorale auditions slated

The Madison Chorale, open to singers from any community, will have auditions 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, at Wilkinson Middle School, 26524 John R in Madison Heights. Call 288-6101 to schedule an appointment.

Men are especially encouraged to audition. A spring concert, under the direction of Maureen Kennedy, is planned for April 8.

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