

You may think you've landed on a tropical isle

When is the last time you walked underneath a waterfall and reached up to touch the water cascading over your head?

Believe it or not, you can find a waterfall "tunnel" at the 77th Annual International Builders Home, Flower and Furniture Show.

A 15-foot high waterfall will cascade into one of the ponds (which are 40 feet in diameter) at either end of a 400-foot long horseshoe shaped river. At the center of the horseshoe will be a topiary zoo featuring animals such as an eight-foot grizzly bear, lion and giraffe.

"Visitors really will be able to walk underneath the waterfall and reach out and touch it," said Larry Wright, president and CEO of Metropolitan Detroit Landscape Association (MDLA).

All of this tumbling, babbling and splashing water will be surrounded by nearly two football fields (86,000 square feet) worth of expertly designed gardens, most of which will have their own water features.

Three bridges will arch over the eight-foot-wide river. The gardens are sponsored by Detroit Edison and Temo Sunrooms & Spas.

Wright estimates that some 1,500 trees and shrubs plus thousands of flowers will come to life at the Builders Show, making it a must see for winter weary Michiganders.

"It's an experience that is sure to lift the spirits," he said. Plants from the gardens will be sold at 4 p.m. on the last day of the show, Sunday, March 26.

"Think Spring," a garden using early spring blooming flowers and landscaping will be created by students from Michigan State University's Horticulture School. Within the garden, visitors can saunter through an arbor into "summer" featuring a vegetable garden

in full bloom.

Companies from throughout the tri-county area have had a hand in producing the setting including Black Forest Building Company of Mt. Clemens, Grass Roots Nursery of New Boston, Heritage Landscaping of Redford, Hunter's Creek of Lapeer, Mueller's Sunrise Nursery of Shelby Township, Northwind Farms, Superior Scape of Shelby Township, Structural Landscaping of Dearborn, Clink Landscaping of Canton, Mark Baldwin & Associates of Plymouth, National Landscape of Southfield and Soulliere Decorative of Utica.

The entrance gardens are sponsored by NBD, Standard Federal Bank and Wallside Windows.

Each evening, a duck race will be managed by the Rotary International District 6400, which is comprised of 48 clubs in southeast Michigan and southwest Ontario.

Official plastic ducks will sell for \$3 or two for \$5. The first-place duck receives \$1,000 and the next nine ducks get \$100 each. All proceeds go to the Rotary Foundation in Evanston, Ill. and to the Easter Seals of Southeastern Michigan and Easter Seals of Canada as well as other worldwide charity projects.

Ducks will gather in one pond and flow down the river to a chute that allows only one duck through at a time. Nightly race sponsors include the Detroit Edison Foundation.

It takes 40,000 gallons of water to bring the waterfall, river and ponds to fruition. A heated moving van provided by Imlach Moving Co. of Trenton will transport the life size living green animals made out of ivy plants for the topiary zoo which also includes a lion cub, horse, teddy bear and tortoise.

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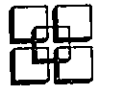


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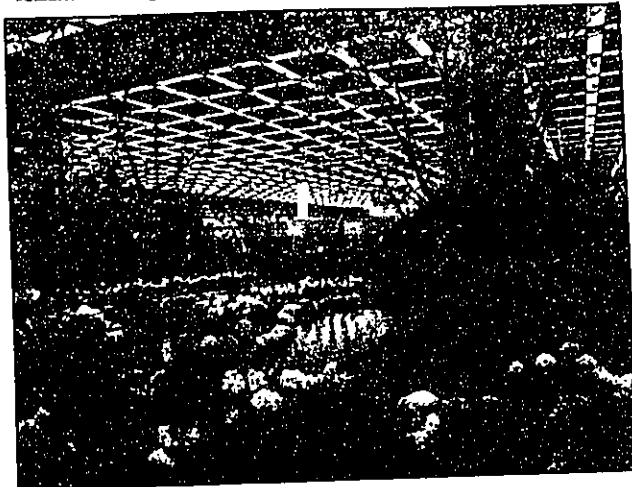
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Blooming: Indoor gardens will be in full bloom and set among waterfalls and ponds. Many landscapers will be on hand to offer tips and ideas.