

COVER STORY

Good ideas blossom here

STORY BY MARY KLEMIC • AT HOME EDITOR

Rap a bounty of information at the Home & Garden seminars starting this week at the Somerset Collection, Big Beaver Road and Coolidge in Troy.

A variety of experts — including columnists from At Home — will give afternoon and evening presentations on gardening, flower arranging, home decorating, antiques, wine tasting and culinary arts from Feb. 3 to March 6. Most of the sessions are free.

Seating is limited, so make your reservations early. Call (810) 643-7440.

Home & Garden is sponsored by English Gardens, KLM, the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and The Townsend Hotel.

Joe Ruggiero, former editor in chief of Home Magazine and host of Home & Garden TV's "Rooms for Improvement" and "Best of American Design," will show how metro area designers have arranged their own homes 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 29. Wine and hors d'oeuvres will be served. Cost is \$15 per person.

Master sommelier Madeline Trifon of Unique Restaurant Corporation will conduct a wine tasting 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 27. Each wine will be accompanied by a dish prepared by Unique Restaurant Corporation chefs. Cost is \$25 per person.

The first week of the seminars shows the wide range of topics that will be available.

Saturday, Feb. 3, you can learn about "Red Hot Wines — Merlot and Pinot Noir" and "Flower Arranging for Entertaining." Eleanor and Ray Heald, wine and food writers for the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, will talk about the growing popularity of red wines 1 p.m. Ron Worth of English Gardens will share professional tips on how to enhance any gathering with fresh flowers 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 6, learn "The Legends of Flowers and How to Arrange Them" from Tim Hourigan of The Flower Company 6:30 p.m. Experts from the Frank Boos Gallery in Bloomfield Hills will present a quick course on the history of furniture, art, objets d'art and collectibles in "Art & Antiques 101" 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7. Nancy and Frank Boos of the gallery write the Treasure Search column for At Home.

The great variety continues.

Ruth Moszek Johnston, At Home Inviting Ideas columnist, will give a demonstration on cooking with bison, sharing dietary information and easy cooking techniques, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10. Johnston is author of "Buffalo Cookbook."

Susan Zinger, Michigan Design Center general manager, will explain the interior design process, showing how to work with professional decorating help, 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24. Interior designer Karen Sellenrad of the MDC will share ideas to give your home special finishing touches with accessorizing 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2.

Marty Figley, At Home Garden Spot columnist, will present sessions on "Brighten Your Beds with Bulbs" 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, and "Happiness With Herbs" 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17. Figley will offer tips on attractive tulip design in landscape gardening, and on growing, cooking and

crafting with herbs.

Certified arborist Greg Myers of Torre & Bruglio will explain the proper care of ornamental trees 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13. Mark Hanford of English Gardens will share the basics on planning, constructing and planting a water garden 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

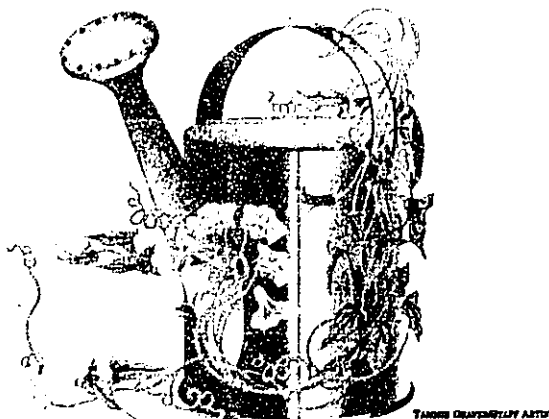
Become a "plant doctor" by learning how to diagnose and treat ailing house plants. Jane Suhail from Planterra will give a seminar on "First Aid for House Plants and Growing Glorious Orchids" 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21.

Other topics and speakers — all of whom are from English Gardens — are "Container Gardening" by Sally Gorman, 3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24; "Basic Perennial Gardening" by Susan Greener, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 28; "What's New in Roses for 1996" by Dick Schmidt, 3 p.m. Saturday, March 2; "Designing a Four-season Garden" by Bob Warsolf, 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 6; and "Gardening with Annuals for Color Impact" by Kevin Collins, 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 6.

Contributors to the garden are Christian's Plant Center, English Gardens, Goldner-Walsh Nursery, Mandel's Greenhouse, Martha Stewart Living Magazine, Planterra, Shemin Nurseries, Ray Wiegand's Nursery Inc. and Torre & Bruglio, landscape contractors for the design, installation and maintenance of the Somerset Garden.

A Dutch treat is in store as well. Enter a trivia contest to win a trip for two to Amsterdam. You'll fly non-stop on a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines 747 from Detroit to an airport outside Amsterdam, and receive a three-night stay at The Grand Amsterdam. This luxurious hotel was the setting for Queen Beatrix's wedding.

Ask for an entry form at the concierge desk at the Somerset Collection. Answers are shown in the windows of certain stores. Get your entry in by March 6.



On the Cover:
Somerset Collection in Troy is blossoming with ideas for the home and garden, presented in seminars starting this week.