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spokesperson for the show. Martin Yan, of PBS' *Year Can Cook* uses humor and culinary skills to dispel the mysteries of Chinese cooking. Chef J. Warren presents ideas to entertain at home, power grocery shopping and 30 minute gourmet meals. He's been seen on *Good Morning America* and *Today Show*. More than 100 floral arrangements and vignettes with the theme "Going Back in Time" will be set up by the Allied Florists Association Flower Creation Station, a team of florists from throughout metro-Detroit. The ideas will be geared toward weddings and home arrangements. Some will be for sale. After the show, the 20,000 flowering bulbs that will make

up the show's gardens will go the city of Detroit's Farm-A-Lot Program to help beautify urban areas. Local restaurants have gotten into the action too. Present ticket stubs at Greektown's New Parthenon or The Whitney or Opus One for food discounts. **More to come** There'll be another spring garden show April 4-7 at the Novi Expo Center that will highlight even more gardens. Roger Swain, known as the "man with the red suspenders" on PBS' *Victory Garden*, will join Nancy Lindley of Belleville to talk about winter-hardy roses. Swain earned a doctorate from Harvard University on the natural history of ants in tropical forests. Today he's sci-

ence editor for *Horticulture* magazine. Lindley, known as "Michigan's Rose Lady" from Great Lakes Roses, is a master gardener and will be available for advice at the Garden Theater area. **Barson's Greenhouse** of Westland will even have a waterfall at the Expo Center and Splashy Designs of Novi will create a Japanese water garden. "The Novi show has gardens, gardens and more gardens," MacLeish said. "And ... also kitchens and baths." There Amber Jack of Redford will demonstrate how to lay brick and stamped concrete. As usual both shows feature Joe Gagnon, known as the "Application Doctor" for *The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers* and

## Eat out and sample freebies after the Cobo Hall show

Several downtown restaurants will give discounts when showing a ticket stub from the show.

- **The Dakota in Rathskeller** — 17324 John R, two blocks north of McNichols serves German cuisine like potato pancakes made with flour. Bring in ticket stub for a complimentary order of the pancakes. (313)887-9722
- **New Parthenon** — 647 Monroe, Greektown serves Greek food and diners with show ticket stub will receive a free order of Saganaki (flaming cheese).
- **New Parthenon, the Original Parthenon Restaurant** is famous locally for its interesting, colorful Greece-inspired decor. (313)963-8888
- **Opus One** — 565 East Larned Street. Receive dessert upon showing of ticket stub. The Home & Garden special is a mixed baby greens salad with edible flowers, fresh pear, blue cheese, walnuts, and walnut vinaigrette dressing. (313)961-7769.
- **The Rattiosnake Club** — 300 River Place. Present your ticket stub for a sample of chocolate ravioli to any guest having lunch or dinner. Located at the foot of Joseph Campau off East Jefferson, 1.6 miles from Cobo. (313)567-4400
- **Other restaurants: Fuddrucker's River-town, 2630 E. Jefferson for casual family meals and The Whitney, 4421 Canfield Street, four blocks south of the DIA. Complimentary dessert with ticket stub at the Whitney serving lunch, dinner, cocktails and its famous Sunday brunch.**

WJR and also *Ask the Handyman* Glenn Haeger. The indoors aren't ignored at the shows. For example, in Novi, indoor-related businesses like American Blind and Wallpaper Factory of Plymouth will feature area rugs, wall art and decorating accessories.

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fall. Make sure you don't cut the crowns. While you're doing this, remove dried leaves and debris to let the sunshine in. Remove them gradually so the plants aren't shocked. Be ready with covers if we have a cold spell. This selective pruning and uncovering will immediately make your surroundings more attractive.

### Tools

Rubber grips used on bicycle handles will help you keep a firm grip on the wheelbarrow. A new wheelbarrow tire that never goes flat, and is easier to roll, is now available. Made from an advanced polymer material, it looks like a standard air-inflated tire but is far better.

This Carefree Tire now comes in four primary colors. There are two rim diameters. The neighbors will be jealous! Tires are available from OTR in Livonia, (734) 953-2770; and ACE Products in Rochester, (248) 651-5902.

Now is the time to buy new tools before the mad rush begins. Try them out so they fit your hand well. Tools by Fiskars are excellent. Take a look at their Power-Lever Bypass pruner that is designed for small- to medium-size hands. Their PowerGear Anvil Lopper makes the job go quickly.

Cuteo now has a line of garden tools that are made of stainless steel with non-slip handles. They include a garden trowel, transplanting trowel, cultivator and ratchet pruner. I have had my Cuteo kitchen knives for more than 40 years.

Call (800) 828-0448 or (810) 434-1735. After your trek around the garden, enjoy a cup of tea and a hot bath, then go shopping for new patio furniture and accessories. Garden Pala offers propane patio heaters in two sizes, cast-iron chimeneas (in several finishes) and a Mini Fuego Chimnie in the same



PHOTO BY MARTY FIGLEY

**Clean the scene: Spring cleanup can begin by simply cutting back spent foliage.** colors, and a patio fireplace. For a store near you, call (800) 668-4044, e-mail sales@gardenpala.com, or visit the Web at <http://www.gardenpala.com>.

### Good garden tip

The Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority, in cooperation with Rouge River municipalities, presents a master composter training program that will begin 7-9 p.m. April 3.

Five classes will take place in the conference room at the Birmingham Department of Public Services, 801 W. Eton in Birmingham.

Volunteer work is encouraged. The \$25 fee includes notebook and materials.

Questions? Call Karen Bever at (248) 288-5150. **Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.**



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