



MATTHEW TAPLINGER/ECCENTRIC

In a garden adjacent to Meadow Brook Hall is Pegasus, a bronze sculpture by Avard Fairbanks, who designed the Dodge Ram logo still used today.

### CLASSIC HOUSE, CLASSIC CARS

What: House tours all day during the 24th Annual Meadow Brook Hall Concours d'Elegance, an internationally recognized auto show featuring more than 250 classic cars on outdoor grounds. When: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 4.

Where: Meadow Brook Hall at Oakland University in Rochester Hills. From I-75, take University Drive (Exit 79) east to OU's main entrance. Turn left at Squirrel Road. Turn right at Wallon Boulevard. Turn right at Adams Road. Turn right at the east campus entrance to OU and follow the signs to Meadow Brook Hall. Car show admission: Tickets are \$20, adults; \$10, ages 13-17; and free, ages 12 and under; available in advance at Meadow Brook Hall or at the gate of the day of the event; free parking and shuttle service provided at Oakland University.

House tour admission: Tickets are half price with car show admission. With the discount, tickets are \$4, adults; \$3, seniors; and \$2, ages 12 and under. Children ages 4 and under are always free. Contact: Call (248) 370-3140 or visit [www.mbhconcourse.org](http://www.mbhconcourse.org) on the Internet.

Note: Regularly scheduled public tours of Meadow Brook Hall are canceled Aug. 2-3 and 5-6. Normally, public tours are given at 1:30 p.m. daily except on major holidays, with additional tour times available on weekends in July and August.

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### HALL

as a number of convenience amenities - pull-out drawers that housed and concealed typewriters and filing cabinets, for instance - Meadow Brook Hall was very modern for its time. Unlike her peers, Matilda turned away from furnishings in her home with antiques, seeking instead to work with artisans on custom pieces that forged new ground for American style.

"That was unusual," said Ashby. "It was real common to buy antiques."

To finish the house with architectural details, Matilda also collaborated with numerous artisans and craftsmen, many of which were just emerging artistically. Italian-born American sculptor Corrado Parducci, who oversaw the creation of the elaborately carved plaster ceiling in the dining room, became widely known only after working with Matilda. "The process was the unique part," said Ashby. "It's more heart-and-soul. If nothing else, Meadow Brook Hall is a total reflection of (Matilda). She was very involved in the work and creation of the house."

### DETAILS

Other fine and interesting details include carvings of poets, philosophers, writers, painters and composers in the library's wood panels and hardware embellished by airplanes and automobiles in her son Danny Dodge's bedroom.

There's also a plethora of notable art work in Meadow Brook Hall, including stained glass windows by Louis Comfort Tiffany and pieces by Sir Joshua Reynolds, Jean-Baptiste Greuze and Theodore Rousseau.

And the details are what distinguish the house in many ways, inspiring visitors with its surprising warmth, personality and fun family, Ashby said.

"What's so great about Meadow Brook Hall? You could say the grand scale. It's fair to say it's one of the biggest former residences in the country," she said.

"More than that, it ... the architectural detailing, the carving in wood and plaster, the lighting, the stone work, the hardware."

### POOL

nishings in the room are a bistro table and four high bar stools, all wood and from Sterling Square at Michigan Design Center in Troy. The table and one stool are in one corner, potted greenery in another.

A row of four brass lights from Lighting Concepts at MDC hangs over the table. A single matching light is over the bistro table.

The wood and brass are other classic elements of the room.

They convey a hint of the past, as does the print of a billiard room on one wall from Fine Arts Framing at MDC.

Another wall displays original art, Dancers, from Carlton-James Galleries at MDC.

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## Photo contest focuses on Cranbrook

BY MARY KLEMIC STAFF WRITER

The 40 acres at Cranbrook Gardens in Bloomfield Hills are grounds for inspiration for many people. "You don't have the opportunity to visit something as exquisite as Cranbrook in every city," said internationally known photographer Linda Solomon, an area resident.

The Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary Amateur Photography Contest provides an opportunity for people to visit Cranbrook Gardens for special inspiration and appreciation. Photos taken from May 1 through Aug. 15, 2002, in the areas maintained by the auxiliary are eligible.

Proceeds collected from the event go to the preservation and maintenance of the gardens surrounding Cranbrook House.

The contest was revived last year. A new category - for photographers age 15 and younger - has been added. (See the accompanying sidebar for contest rules.)

"This is a real opportunity for people who do (photography) as a hobby to get recognition," said Gerald Salerno, volunteer and past president of the auxiliary.

"The biggest thing is to create awareness (of Cranbrook)," Trophics and ribbons will be awarded. In each of the seven categories, first, second and third place and honorable mentions will be selected. A best of show will be chosen.

A reception for all entrants will take place Oct. 7 at the Somerset Collection in Troy. The photos will be exhibited there for several days after the reception.

Solomon will be the judge. She will consider originality and new perspectives.

### DETAILS

"There's so much (at Cranbrook)," said Solomon, who judged the contest last year. "So many details that so many people discovered."

The 270 entries received last year included work by a woman from Washington state

who happened to be visiting friends in this area. She returned for the reception.

An example of discovering details is an entry by Charlotte Schredder of Beverly Hills last year.

Charlotte's mother, Sue Ann Harrison Schredder, had picked up a contest entry form. Charlotte, then 9 years old, asked if she could enter the contest too. Schredder gave Charlotte an old camera, and the two spent a few days taking photos at Cranbrook.

Charlotte took a picture of a bell hanging at a corner of Cranbrook House. When the entries were being arranged, the bell wasn't recognized as something on the Cranbrook grounds and at first the photo wasn't going to be considered for judging.

But organizers happened to look out of a window on the site, and spotted the bell. It was the first time they had noticed it. The photo was included, and Charlotte won an honorable mention.

"I just spotted it," said Charlotte, a student at Bingham Farms Elementary School. "I didn't think anyone else would take it."

West Bloomfield resident Linda Armitage was awarded best of show last year for her almost mystical scene of sculpture through trees.

"It captures everything about Cranbrook to me," Solomon said of Armitage's photo. "The beauty of nature and the beauty of sculpture."

### ENCOURAGEMENT

The reception was a treat for everyone involved, providing a chance for entrants to make new friends as they discussed how they took their photos. Solomon was interested in their techniques as well.

Solomon has a strong interest in encouraging children to get into photography. It builds self-esteem and is something affordable family members can do together, she says. You don't need an expensive camera.

"It's so important for children to look at life creatively," Solomon said.

### PHOTO CONTEST RULES

Only amateur photographers are eligible to enter. Entry forms are available at the Gatehouse, 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Photographs must be shot May 1 through Aug. 15, 2002, in the areas maintained by the Gardens Auxiliary. Maps of the 40 acres are available at the Gatehouse. Photographs taken during other seasons or shot elsewhere on campus won't be accepted.

Pictures must be matted only. No frames or glass allowed.

Categories - Flowers (either single blooms or groups of the same variety), Sculpture/fountains, Gardens, Architecture, Landscape, Special Effects, Children (photographers age 15 and under).

Entry fee is \$10 per entry, with a limit of six entries per person. Make checks payable to Cranbrook Gardens Auxiliary.

Format - Prints in color or black and white only (computer generated and color enhancement allowed in the Special Effects category only). Picture size is 8 by 10 inches minimum, 11 by 14 inches maximum, matted in black mat board only.

Each photograph must have the photographer's name, address, telephone number and category identification on the back.

Deliver photographs to the Gatehouse. Mark the package "Photography Exhibit." Deadline for submitting entries is Friday, Aug. 23.

For information, call (248) 645-3141.

"Everyone can develop that sensitivity and eye. Just take the time to appreciate life. There's nothing intimidating about taking photos. It's just the way you see life."

Photography can be a way to alleviate stress, too, Solomon says.

"When you go to a beautiful place like Cranbrook your mind's on beauty."

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