

Madame and Eve flower show slated

District 1 of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan, Inc., presents its annual Standard Flower Show *Madame and Eve - A Celebration of Women*, 9:30 a.m. Thursday, March 6, noon-10 p.m. Friday, March 7, 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Saturday, March 8, and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sunday, March 9, at the Pontiac Silverdome.

The primary objectives of the Standard Flower Show are to stimulate interest in horticulture, to provide an outlet for

creative expression and to convey to the community the objectives of National Garden Clubs, Inc.

Representing these objectives will be classes in design, horticulture and educational exhibits in artistic crafts, including one for youth.

Entrants must be members of any one of the 51 clubs represented in District 1.

All entries are judged and winners are presented with coveted ribbons of distinction.

Sassy squirrel provides amusing trapping tale

I spend a lot of time trapping and relocating nuisance animals, such as raccoons, opossum, skunks, rats, mice and Coyotes from property in the Farmington/Farmington Hills and surrounding areas.



Trapper Ron Baker

Recently, I had a call that I found very humorous and thought my readers would enjoy the story: While returning from checking from one of my live traps, I received a frantic call from a local homeowner. To save him any embarrassment, I will call him Tom.

Somehow a squirrel had entered his two-story bungalow home and Tom had it cornered upstairs. Tom was going through renovations to his home and had a lot of construction and household items stored in the second story. Plenty of good hiding spaces for the squirrel, which happened to get in the house through an attic door. The door had been accidentally left open by construction workers.

Tom told me that he had tried for several hours to catch the squirrel, however he was unsuccessful and insisted that I come over and help him with

his problem.

After a telephone review of the situation, I told Tom that I could be there in about 20 minutes. First I had to stop off and pick up my golden retriever, Anna. Tom indicated that there was too much junk upstairs and he worried that my dog might get hurt. I assured him that she would be fine and proceeded to pick her up.

I never deal with interior animal removals without her expertise. Anna has an unbelievable knack for rooting out varmints and corralling them outside through a window or a door. My next son Ethan, who is 10, decided to accompany us, as he sometimes does on the weekend when he is bored.

When we arrived, I decided to leave Anna in the truck until I could further assess the situation. Armed with my trusty 5-foot, hand-carved poking stick, we proceeded through the house escorted by Tom's wife. Ethan quickly joined Tom's oldest son (also around 10 years old) who was playing video games in their living room.

As I walked up the stairs, I saw Tom standing in a defensive position waiting for me to take over the quest. I found Tom's appearance to be quite amusing. His hair looked like he just got out of bed; he was wearing a tattered robe, boxer shorts, and slippers. On his hands were leather hockey gloves and he was holding fishing net.

Tom's wife stayed on the

staircase with her head poking up just enough to see what was happening. Tom showed me where he thought the squirrel was, and I calmly walked over to the location.

There was a window nearby so I opened it up and using my stick I started to probe a pile of household things. Suddenly the squirrel darted out towards the window, changed directions and ran over my boot towards Tom. Tom started to jump and scream while wildly swinging his fishing net. Fortunately I was able to get out of the way as the net nearly missed the side of my head. The squirrel safely ducked into a closet and hid in terror.

Tom's wife, witnessing the distress of her husband, ran frantically down the stairs and grabbed her newborn, their eldest boy and attempted to get my son into a first floor bedroom. Meanwhile, I had taken the fishing net from Tom and corralled the squirrel out of the closet and back to an area closer to the window. After calming Tom down, I instructed him to keep an eye on the squirrel while I went to get Anna.

I could tell that Anna knew what was expected of her. As we approached the house, she ignored everything around her but the scent.

Anna pulled harder and harder as I walked her up the staircase. Tom again expressed concern for my dog—I reassured him that she would be fine. With the expertise of a

well-trained hunting dog, she went right for the squirrel's hiding place.

Within seconds the squirrel ran for its life towards the window and, taking a leap of faith, flew out the window as if shot out of cannon. The squirrel hit the ground running, never to be seen again.

To my surprise, Tom seemed to be a little miffed at the whole situation and when I asked if he was happy with the services we performed, he responded, "I have been messing around with this squirrel for hours, and you come in here and within minutes the squirrel is gone."

I chuckled while responding, "Well, Tom, you should have called me several hours ago. I didn't charge for removal service, the experience alone was priceless. I wouldn't have felt good taking a fee for something that gave me a great amount of joy.

Anytime you decide to have professional come out and review your situation, make sure they are insured and licensed with the Department of Natural Resources.

Do your homework and make sure you know what are all of the costs associated with the services and if there are any guarantees.

Ron Baker is a professional trapper and owner of Trapper Ron's Animal Removal & Relocation Services. He can be reached at (248) 478-7649. If you have a trapping question, call him or send it via e-mail to: rbassociates@msn.com

MERCY

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like this for 15 years, and I've never once had anyone come to me after and confess they've had a change of heart. Sure, it's possible someone undecided on the pro-choice side of this issue was swayed by the antics of the media seekers.

But I can't imagine their war-mongering behavior has done anything more than disturb a wonderful school community and put a whole bunch of well-intended folks through a painful political ringer.

For the sake of a simple auction item that wasn't forced on anyone, the Sisters of Mercy, teachers, volunteers, parents and students who make up the Mercy High School community have been lumped in with a conviction they simply do not share. It's like saying students who are allowed to study the tenets of the Confederacy are racist or a teacher who takes her students on a tour of the Holocaust Museum is pro-Israeli.

Allowing this lunch to go forward didn't take anything away from students' education - it only added to what is already a curriculum laced with faith,

compassion, community service and respect for all of God's children.

This school community, whose students are active volunteers and consistent academic stand-outs, deserved so much better from their fellow Catholics.

Mercy High School deserved better than to be vilified by political opportunists, who engineer media events and then complain about how the media mischaracterizes them - proving once again you can't have it both ways.

Mercy teachers and support staff deserved better than to have their entire educational program questioned over one small item on a list of 500 options for bidders at a fund-raising auction.

Most of all, the Sisters of Mercy, whose stalwart faith provides the school's solid underpinning, deserved better than to have been judged less than Catholic by people who have themselves demonstrated less than Christian behavior.

Jon Hubred is editor of the Farmington Observer. She welcomes your comments in person or by mail at 3341 Grand River, Farmington, MI 48335; by phone, (248) 477-5450; by fax, (248) 477-9722; or via e-mail, jhubred90e@home.com.net.

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Jazz violinist to perform in JCC concert series

Hip Hop meets jazz when Israeli violinist Miri Ben-Ari appears in concert 8:30 p.m. Saturday, March 8, at the Jewish Community Center in West Bloomfield. The concert is part of the JCC Encore Concert Series.

Ben-Ari began studying classical violin at age six. Her talents were recognized by the late, internationally-acclaimed violin

virtuoso Isaac Stern, who gave her a violin and recommended her for a scholarship from the American-Israel Cultural Foundation.

Later, during her military service, she performed with the Israeli Army String Quartet, while at the same time discovering the music of American jazz legends. She studied at the Mannes School of Music in New

York, appeared in local jazz clubs and was discovered by jazz great Betty Carter, who invited her to participate in the Jazz Ahead program for young jazz musicians. While playing at the famed Blue Note Jazz Club in New York, Ben-Ari was signed to a record label and recorded two albums, *Sahara* and *Song of the Promised Land*, featuring renowned jazz trumpeter

Wynton Marsalis.

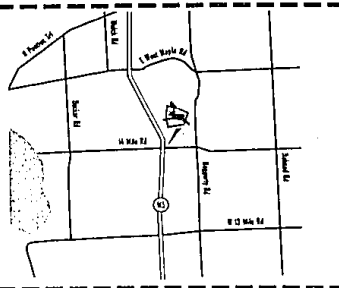
She was then introduced to hip hop superstar Wyclef Jean, who invited her to play in his concert at Carnegie Hall. She has since appeared on radio and TV and produced and recorded a dance single, *Peace in the Middle East*, dedicated to her homeland. Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (248) 432-5677.



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