

New writer wears gardener's hat

For the past year and a half it has been my pleasure and privilege to work for and yes, with, Alice Burlingame.

She has been a great inspiration to me and to many people her life has touched. This lovely lady honored me by asking me to continue with this column for the Observer and Eccentric newspapers. So, I will try to do my best.

If you, the reader, have something in particular you would like me to address, let me know and I'll give it a shot. So to you, Alice, my dear friend, a tip of the gardener's hat — and away we go.

A recent visit to Hughes gardens, 24333 Lahser, Southfield, just south of 10 Mile, to see the display of iris was exciting. People come from miles to see the more than 1,000 iris and daylilies in this garden. Included are all the latest award winners, comparison planted, colors side to side, newest and most expensive in front. It's a beautiful sight. While the iris will be almost gone by the time this is in print, daylilies will be at their peak the third week in July — mark your calendar.

Francis Hughes, who has been in the nursery business 27 years, escorted us around his garden and philosophized along the way saying, "Gardening means working with the wonder and beauty of nature and you are participating in the result. And it has all kinds of salutary aspects to it, besides it's very good for your mind in that it subtracts from the time you spend wasted at solving the unsolvable — it's good all the way around — very good."

When you go to this perennial garden (there are more than 2,000 species) you will note that sun-loving plants are in one area, shade loving in another — graded from tall to short for

down to earth



Marty Figley

easy selection. This makes it simple for the home gardener to choose particular plants. Hughes says he can go through and pick out what he needs for special plantings for customers in a short time.

A visit to Hughes's wildflower area is a wonderful treat. He said that no other place in the area of Southfield would have been better than this location to provide the variation in the environment to enable his family to do what they wanted with this wild area. It is located on a man-made bank, with paths edged with logs and there is even a stream running along the bottom. Many beautiful and unusual wildflowers are to be found here.

Planted around the property are many one-of-a-kind shrubs for his personal pleasure. One tree, a mulberry, is a grafted tree with branches that hang down to form a "house" inside. Many visitors remember playing under such a tree when they were children.

Marty Figley, master gardener, is chairman of the Southern Michigan Unit of the Herb Society of America and has been a member of the unit for eight years. She is particularly interested in crafts and cooking.

Garden Club plans walk

The Franklin Garden Club will hold its third annual garden walk 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday. Tickets are available in the Franklin Library 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the day of the tour. The \$5 tickets include a map. For advance reservations, call 851-9370.

A salad luncheon will be served at the Franklin Community Church noon to 1:30 p.m. A limited number of luncheon tickets at \$5 are available. A plant and herb sale will be held at the gazebo on the Village Green.

There will be five gardens on the tour. They include: Lake setting, large contemporary home, wildflowers, roses, oriental garden and interesting beds around the house; view of the ravine,

perennials, wildflowers, roses and annuals in profusion. Swimming pool in a natural setting; vegetable garden as big as two tennis courts begins in the private greenhouse, fruit trees, berry bushes, herb garden and swimming pool; English sundial garden in Franklin is planted with perennials for color throughout the year plus a rocky, herbs, shrubs, fruit trees professionally tended, beautifully landscaped garden with a view of the lake.

The bonus is the herb garden at the Historic Broughton House in Franklin, established and maintained by garden club members. The plants are marked and a guide will be at the garden to answer questions.

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