

CREATIVE LIVING
continues in
section E

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1995

CREATIVE LIVING

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GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Impatiens makes impressive show

When readers call with information about something they've grown, we all learn more about gardening — and it helps me with a column idea. Such is the case with John Halbert of Royal Oak.

Last year he bought a plant from Mr. Uhlinak, who has a greenhouse in Armada and a stall at the Royal Oak Farmer's Market, and was pleased and surprised with the result.

John gardens on a typical suburban plot, with partial shade, and he has transformed his back yard into almost all garden with many shade-loving plants (and a few sun lovers for the sunny areas). Many flowers grace the front of the house, too. Hydrangea, Asian and Oriental Lilies, Chelone (Turtle Head), Astilbe, Amaranthus, Ferns (nursery and ivy), Hostas, Lily of the Valley, Evening Primrose, Balloon Flowers, False Dragonhead and others make up the garden scene.

Impressive Impatiens

Many plants are grown in pots. Last year he maintained 91 pots of flowers! The plant he wanted me to see (an old variety) is a relative of the Impatiens, *I. glandulifera*, which was towering in its pot at least seven feet tall from the soil line with nine-inch, lance-shaped, serrated leaves. The main flower stem is hollow and can grow as large as eight inches in circumference — his was two inches at the soil line. The leaves (one 13 inches long) form along the stem and as secondary stems form, smaller leaves are produced. Blooming begins at the top of the plant around mid-July and later buds open on the secondary stems allowing the plant to flower until late August. The flowers resemble a Lady's Slipper with two-part, two-tone pink petals. The bot-

See FIGLEY, 3D



MARTY FIGLEY

Impressive Impatiens: John Halbert of Royal Oak, who is 6 feet tall, stands beside his *Impatiens glandulifera*.

LOOKING AHEAD

What to watch for in Creative Living next week:
■ A visit with famed artist Rene Gruau, who will have an exhibit at the Circle Gallery in Troy.
■ Mary Klemic's Perspectives column.
■ Art exhibit openings and events.

Your guide to Community Classified

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RENTALS (400-428)	F.

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PHOTOS BY MARTY FIGLEY

Best laid plans: Careful planning helps make the Blomquist perennial garden a colorful success.

Gardeners color their world with perennials

■ Thea and Don Blomquist of Rochester Hills make a successful gardening team. They keep color in mind when designing their beautiful perennial garden.

BY MARTY FIGLEY
STAFF WRITER

Thea and Don Blomquist have put a lot of roots down literally and figuratively in their beautiful perennial garden in Rochester Hills. They are a team: Thea the planner and Don the planter and researcher.

They began the garden in 1988 and have added a new bed nearly every year on land that was once an apple orchard. Paint Creek Cider Mill is close by.

Last year, for instance, they widened a large bed in the back, put in a garden around the terrace, and planted around the pond, which was there when they moved in. A stone wall matches the chimney of the house.

When they first started the garden they dug all the beds by hand and brought in truckloads of mushroom compost, layered it 12 inches thick and then dug it into the sandy soil. They said, "We'd give anything for some clay!"

The garden blooms from July through October.

Color coordination

"Whatever we can keep going — it's really an operation, we replant according to color," Thea said.

"During the peak of the garden, in July, is when I do my designing. At this point I look at the beds and I say to myself, 'Alright, this is going to be moved there and this moved forward, and I need a little more pink here,' and all of those notes are kept and then the next spring (1995) I know what I'm doing, but if I don't see it visually, I can't do it."

"I'm working on something new which I've given the somewhat pretentious name of 'passages' — deep beds (in which) you can make passages of low flowers — probably I'll use Moonbeam for guiding."

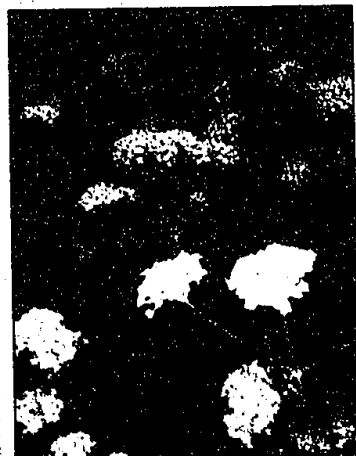
She doesn't want the tall, lower and lowest look in the garden. Various foliage and spiky plants com-

plement the mounding flowers. Low plants are grown behind high ones. The garden is still airy without being claustrophobic and everything is supported with hoops.

Basics

There are always nine basic plants in every bed that comprise the backbone of the gardens. They are Yarrow ("Carnation Gold" and "Moonbeam"), Coreopsis ("Moonbeam"), Purple Coneflower ("Bright Star") and White Coneflower ("White Star"), Globe Thistle ("Tapestry Blue"), Baby's Breath ("Bristol Fairy"), Lythrum ("Robert" and "Morden's Pink"), Rudbeckia ("Gold

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Blooming success: The Blomquists of Rochester Hills (above) are a gardening team, with Thea the planner and Don the planter and researcher. A tall, purple Verbena 'bonariensis' (at left) did beautifully in their garden this past year.

Exhibit appeals to senses

BY MARY KLEMIC
STAFF WRITER

"Hand/Eye" calls more for cooperation than coordination.

That's the name of the current exhibit at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts. It's a display of interactive art, encouraging the viewer to touch, move and even take away items.

The show continues through March 17 at 407 Pine in Rochester.

"Sensory Chambers" by Dawnic Kerchert of Pontiac consists of three conelike chambers and examines sight, touch and sound. The smallest piece features lights and a mirror, and acts like a kaleidoscope. The largest is like a cocoon, with furry and feathery materials. In between is one with a steel string running from the top to the bottom, to be plucked like the string of an instrument.

Kerchert made a big operational kaleidoscope for First Night in Birmingham New Year's Eve.

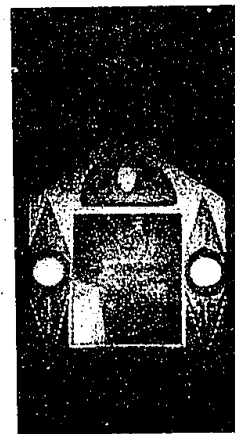
The unexpected lies in store in Gerald Guthrie's surreal structures. The viewer peers inside plain white boxes to find interiors of rooms in which machines or mechanizations are at home. They seem to have replaced the human residents. In one room, a dresser moves back and forth over a large hole in the wall. In another, a drill churns on a bed. The settings are both dramatic and familiar, as where part of a room is seen through a mirror on a door.

Richard Kline of Mount Pleasant combines the past and present. Painted and carved images resembling primitive figures and masks, sometimes containing such universal symbols as eyes and fire, are placed with holograms. The viewer works magic by moving past the hologram (thus bringing it "alive") and by trying to grab the hologram (thus making it "disappear").

With her installation "Giveaway No. 3," Deb LeAir of Ann Arbor sets up a chain of communication. She invites the viewer to take one of the pieces as a small souvenir — maybe finding a special place for it later — and to replace it with a written message.

William Harroff invites the view-

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To Catch a Trickster: This work by Richard Kline mixes primitive and holographic images. It is in "Hand/Eye," an interactive exhibit at the Paint Creek Center for the Arts.

Artbeat features various happenings in the suburban arts world. Send news leads to: Mary Klemic, Creative Living, Eccentric News, per. 800 E. Maple, Birmingham 48006, or fax them by calling (810) 644-1314.

LOOKING AT GLASS

Barbara Krueger, assistant director of the Michigan Census of Stained Glass, will conduct a tour of well-known stained glass installations around the world in "1000 Years of Stained Glass," the new series. The lecture will take place noon Thursday, March 16, in the auditorium of the Information Technology Building in Pontiac. For more information, call (810) 658-0415.

Art Beat

SOFA, SO GOOD

The Yaw Gallery of Birmingham and Habitat Galleries of Pontiac are among the galleries from the United States, Mexico, France, Germany and Australia exhibiting at the Sculpture, Objects and Functional Art International exposition in Miami, Fla., March 9-12. SOFA events include an artist talk series and a gallery walk. Call (800) 871-SOFA or (616) 489-8356 for information.

FAMILY MATTERS

Tucson sculptor Lynn Rae Lowe is one of more than 450 exhibitors from 25 countries who will be represented at the 17th annual Artexpo New York, March 9-13, in New York City. Lowe is a Michigan native whose parents, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Cohn, live in West Bloomfield. Her sisters, Janice Morganroth and Gail Palmer, live in Franklin and Rochester, respectively, and her son, Bradley Swartz, lives in White Lake.

ART TO THE SCHOOLS

Are you looking to learn about art? Learn to look at and speak about art through the Art to the Schools Committee. For more information, call (313) 833-7886.