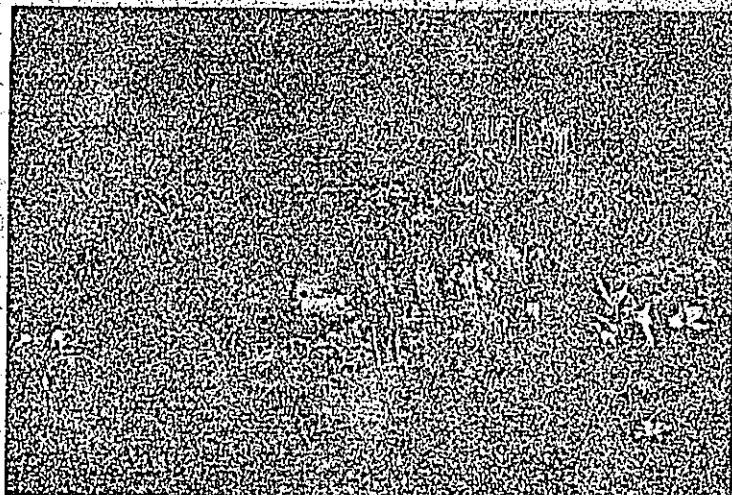
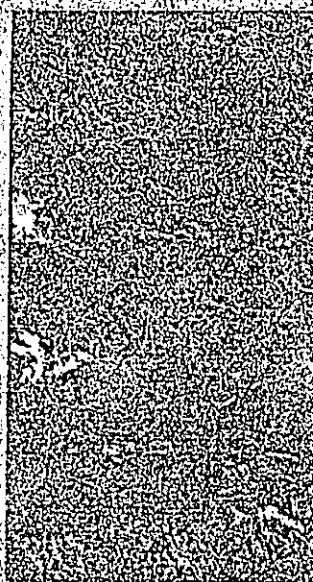


COVER STORY

On the cover: *Ligularia* grows near the large pond in Tim Jones' landscape. Photo by Marty Figley.



Glorious grounds: Tim Jones' formal garden (above) in Lake Orion is filled with plants and interesting statuary. The Dawn Redwood (right) commands center stage in a garden.



LOCAL GARDEN EVOKES SHANGRI-LA

BY MARTY FIGLEY
SPECIAL STAFFER

Tucked away on a very secluded 8-1/2 acres in Lake Orion is a very peaceful and eclectic garden that has taken 18 years to build.

When Tim Jones moved to the property there was a small house and only four or five large oak trees, a natural stream and empty fields.

Now, however, the transformation is a work of art, with formal and informal areas, many places of unusual art and plants, plants, plants.

Jones has planted many varieties of trees throughout the landscape and explained that to insure their survival he scoops the soil from around the trees to form a shallow basin. Then, depending on the soil (sandy loam needs watering more often than does heavier soils), he fills the "trough" every other day for the first month, then weekly for a year.

As I walked through the gardens in July, I marveled at what had been accomplished as it all looked as though it had been there for a long time.

Beautiful variety

Where gravel paths lead me under mushrooms and across trees that are being treated to bark chitin over the fall, to a large garden. It is filled with red, pink, purple, yellow, pink, white, blue, green, and brown flowers, many of which are in bloom.

into the wild) and bright lilies of many hues.

Also, red bergamot, rhubarb (the leaves were huge), hibiscus and deep red-purple gayfeather. Mandevilla vines climb up arches and structures to add another dimension.

This large garden is divided into rooms with the same plants repeated in each and connected by narrow paths and low walls. Across the front of this large, bright, happy garden area is a low yew hedge with salmon/pink impatiens and blue ageratum nestled among its feet.

Across the way, a bed of hostas grows under a grove of trees; a raised bed is filled with pink begonias.

The rebuilt house is nestled among tall trees and shade-loving plants. Natural materials such as large flat rocks and wall stones have been used for walks, wood for the decks and cut sandstone rocks for patio areas. Several gridded areas are strategically placed and give yet another visual impact.

The ground has been built up around the house to add elevation to the setting. The entire bank from the patio is dissected with two paths and filled with bright colors such as pink and blue balloon flowers, blue hydrangeas, purple wisteria, etc. At the top of the hill, a small fire pit and a pergola is the perfect place to sit and enjoy the view.

Hardy, fibrous lilies and Canes have been used in many areas; dusty miller grows the edge of one garden. Topiary and tropical specimens are interspersed here and there and add still another structural form.

Many large containers are filled with colorful flowers. Jones puts rocks in the bottom for drainage, covers them with window screening and because they are so large, fills three-fourths of each container with perlite and tops it all with Pro-mix potting soil.

Focal point

An expanse of lawn leads to a large pond that provides a focal point. As I walked to it a dawn redwood with fine foliage caught my eye, as did a colorful Chinese red maple near the pond's edge.

The large pond resulted from a natural small road and stream that were on the property. The stream has been dammed and provides plenty of water for the new, unnamed pond. Yellow ligularia is added to the water and is perfect for the natural setting.

At the spot where the stream connects to the pond, a rustic wooden bridge with a rustic wooden railing was built. It is made of wood and is a beautiful addition to the garden.

the pond and many water lilies will bloom in it. He has a small rowboat that he doesn't secure and allows to float at will, changing the scene as the wind carries it.

Ongoing

Many trees have been planted. Willows, blue spruce, white-barked birch, weeping, tridented, and cut-back beeches are beautiful additions to the landscape. Much of the property is left in its natural state and as cottonwood trees decline, shrubby trees will replace them. March wild cherry and Queen Anne's lace are in their natural habitat.

Jones' brother, Bob, runs the house and does the landscaping.

"Without him and George Rinkenberger, I wouldn't have the house," Jones said.

Jones still has a lot of plants for his property and work is ongoing. He doesn't put ideas on paper, but just knows instinctively what will work and draws on his landscaping expertise to formulate these ideas.

"God gave me a talent that I have used."

A large tree is a beautiful addition to the garden. It is a large tree and is a beautiful addition to the garden. It is a large tree and is a beautiful addition to the garden.