

GARDENING

Get the most out of garden tours to brighten summer

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

We are right in the middle of garden tours and I encourage you to take the time to participate in as many as you can.

Take a camera to capture interesting plants, plant combinations, colors and textures, and features that you find inspiring and/or amusing. We always think we will remember, when after seeing many gardens our memory gets fuzzy.

Keep a record of your photos when you take them. You'll be glad you did, especially when

you get the photos back from the developer.

Perhaps you are planning to change your garden completely and need a new direction. Or you are just starting from scratch and have loads of space to fill.

Notice the size of the garden, surrounding vegetation, the view beyond the boundary line and where and what was used as "stopping places" to rest and reflect.

Have the family play places been planned? Is there a place for garden tools and trash? Does the entrance say "Come in"? Which direction does the garden face?

Notice, too, if there is a lot of sun and/or shade, and if the proper plants are used. Have the flowers been regimented in rows, or planted in drifts of color?

Although now it is considered

"correct" to plant in drifts, some designs call for a more formal or rigid planting. Which do you like best? You can find examples to help make up your mind.

Take notes about certain plants you see. For instance, has a ground cover been used in a rose garden? What is it?

Have some of the trees been limbed to provide more sun? Could this be done in your garden? What kinds of paths and walks are there? Look closely to get an idea of how they were constructed.

Don't be afraid to ask questions of the guides. They are there to help answer questions you might have. Most of all, take time to enjoy the experience.

You may still be able to make a reservation for the Michigan State University Extension office at (248) 858-0887, Goldner Walsh Nursery is the third sponsor.

A gift of a garden tour or two might get the "man of the house" interested in gardening. It often puzzles me that men aren't more involved in garden clubs. I have found that if a man is interested in gardening, especially in flowers, he will concentrate on just one. I wonder why?

Garden art

Speaking of men, Father's Day is just around the corner. A very special status set in the garden might be just the ticket for good old Dad.

Plan a place for your choice so that it can be viewed from several windows, or where it will be a

feature in a particular part of the garden such as near the patio or the front entrance.

Campania International Inc. offers a line of exceptionally lovely pieces for the home and garden. These are way beyond cement rabbit! A wide range of garden ornaments are carefully crafted of quality cast stone, polyethylene and terra cotta in classic original designs.

Hand-applied patinas that replicate the graceful appearance of antique garden sculpture add dimension to the pieces. High-quality molded polyethylene planters that will readily "fool the eye" are amazing. As more people are using art in the garden they want quality pieces. Campania has expanded its selection of imported Italian terra cotta planters in a wide selection of styles and sizes.

The terra cotta is produced in artisan workshops in Tuscany, Italy, the center of ornamental

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terra cotta production since the Renaissance. Each piece is hand-finished. The classic design, quality of detail and distinctive rose-peach color of the fired clay are world renowned.

Tiffany Florist in Birmingham, gardenviews in Northville and Goldner Walsh in Pontiac are local distributors. Each has a large selection. What a great surprise for Dad!

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.

Attract butterflies to your yard

GUEST GARDENER



JULIE LEIGEBERT

Butterflies are magical. With the right plants and proper environment, you will attract lots of them. A group of potted plants on a balcony or patio works great. Butterfly gardens don't have to be located in a large area.

Provide butterflies with an

area that receives at least 6 hours of sun. Partly shaded areas for them to hide and cool off in also are needed. Provide rocks for them to rest on and create shallow sources of water such as a dish filled with damp sand.

When choosing an area for the butterflies, remember to keep butterflies protected from direct wind. They also like overripe fruit. Don't use any pesticides.

Plant host and nectar food sources. Host plants are where butterflies will lay eggs. Larvae plants are milkweed, hollyhock, fennel, dill, parsley, aster, dogwood, annapurana, spicebush,

lupine, butterfly weed, cherry, oak, willow and violets.

Butterflies will get their food from nectar plants. Some nectar plants include azaleas, butterfly bush, lilac, coneflower, marigolds, zinnia, daisy, yarrow, black-eyed Susan, sunflower, bee balm, lantana, verbena, mint, trumpet vine, Lithonia, lavender, hibiscus, rosemary, cosmos and veronica. You can share these plants with the butterflies and have a magical garden.

Julie Leigebert grew up in Livonia and enjoys gardening. She now resides in Dearborn.

Gardens highlighted Saturday in Redford

The biennial Redford Garden Walk is scheduled 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, June 16.

Tickets are \$4 in advance and \$5 the day of the show and are available at Redford Township Hall, the Redford Community Center, Seven Mile Garden Center, 26346 W. Seven Mile, and the Flower Station, 25801 Plymouth. Call (313) 265-6293 for information.

One week later in Livonia, the Friends for the Development of Greenmead (Livonia's Historical Village) presents its annual garden walk from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, June 23. Seven lovely gardens and yards of homes in Livonia will be open for viewing. All proceeds from this event benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead Historical Village.

Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 the day of the event and can be bought from any of the three Livonia libraries, the Civic Center Library Gift Shop, Greenmead and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall. Call (734) 466-2540.

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Saturday, June 16th • 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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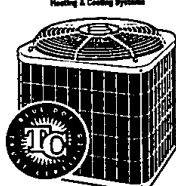
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