

GARDENING

Garden books share advice and history

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

There's much to learn from the following books:

- **Inside-Out: Relating Garden to House**, Page Dieckey, photos by Richard Folber (Stewart Tabori & Chang, \$36), visits gardeners in very different parts of the country to learn how they have designed their special gardens.
- Each owner shares personal expectations and experiences and reasons why certain decisions were made, either by adding rooms to houses, or extending the garden visually through placement of plants and art.
- The gardens are in various parts of the country and range from very formal to casual. You may just find something here that can be adapted to your

site, and what a way to go!

- **Advanced Gardening: Cutting Edge Growing Techniques for Gardeners**, Miranda Smith (Creative Homeowner, \$24.95, soft), teaches in great detail how to design and care for a garden without a lot of hard work, if you begin correctly.
- Each chapter delves into the how and why aspects of successful gardening, with accompanying illustrations and photos. From preparing to garden, basics, directory of many flowers, specialty flower gardens, vines, herbs, vegetables, fruits, preventing weeds, pests and diseases, it's all here.
- Each chapter is "tagged" with a color indicator for quick reference, and a subject and plant index, to assist in cross-reference. Look for the author's Smart Tips throughout the book. Good, solid information. You'll feel as though you've taken a college course.
- Also by the same publisher, **Annals, Perennials & Bulbs**, Anne Halpin (\$19.95), contains excellent advice about gardening. We learn so very much from

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this expert.

- Many annuals, perennials and bulbs, hardy and tender, take center stage as profiles of 125 favorite garden plants are given. All pertinent information is included, i.e., hardiness, size, spacing, light, soil, moisture, bloom time and garden uses. Photo sequences of step-by-step instructions guarantee success.
- Smart Tips and How-To information boxes are interspersed throughout; great advice. Wonderful clear pictures and watercolors add much to this book, a bargain at the price.
- Yellow, orange, white, red, pink, lavender and blue, there are species of poppies suitable for a woodland garden to the Alps.
- Many of these plants described

in the book **Poppies: A Guide to the Poppy Family in the Wild and in Cultivation**, Revised Edition, Christopher Grey-Wilson (Timber Press, \$37.95), are now grown in gardens. Others are featured because the author feels they should be introduced. He has included all the members of the poppy family, along with the true poppy genus, *Papaver*.

General information about cultivation is given, and detailed information about the plants in the six subfamilies. Line drawings show clearly the differences in the flowers.

- **America's Famous and Historic Trees**, Jeffrey Meyer (Houghton Mifflin, \$30), contains many stories of these irreplaceable giants.
- Meyer, the nurseryman for the Famous & Historic Trees project, shares his enthusiasm for these trees as he describes 17 of them. Learn about the history, origin and true stories of trees such as the Indian Marker Pecan, Lewis and Clark Cottonwood, Mark Twain Cave Bur Oak, and Amelia Earhart Sugar Maple.

The antique photographs, which the intriguing stories; the photographs of the actual trees are impressive.

Meyer shares the value of the trees—such as the strong orange, how and where to plant the seed or a sapling—so that we can continue his mission "to help each country select a tree that has stood as witness to its people and its history, to preserve that tree and tell its story, to promote understanding among all people." This should be in everyone's library.

- **Premium Plants**, David Mackenzie (Hortech Inc., \$14.95), contains photos and descriptions of 495 "Superior Perennials for the Great Lakes States." Don't be fooled by its catalog-like look; there's much information between the covers.
- **Herbal Bouquets**, Emolle Tolley and Chris Mead (Clarkson Potter, \$22), is packed full of ideas to use herbs and other plants with horticultural qualities to bring a bit of the garden indoors.
- Preparation of the plants from harvest to preserving is discussed. The exquisite arrange-

ments mix textures and colors. Many old ideas take on a new flair. Aftercare is included.

GOOD GARDEN TIPS

- When you're doing fall cleanup, cut back perennials as they begin to fade. Don't cut evergreen perennials such as lamb's ear or Bergenia; do this in the spring.
- Plants with winter interest such as decorative grasses, Rudbeckia and Sedum "Autumn Joy" can be left standing until spring.
- Fertilize fruit trees after most of the leaves have dropped. The roots will have absorbed the fertilizer by spring when new growth is beginning.
- Fertilize peonies and irises with a product high in phosphorus to promote strong root growth.
- Begin acclimating houseplants for their indoor move.

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.

GARDENING CALENDAR

Does your garden club have an upcoming event or meeting you want publicized? Send items for consideration, including date, time and location, at least three weeks in advance to Ken Abramczyk, Observer Newspapers, 36251 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150 or e-mail kabramczyk@oe.com. Please include any phone numbers that readers can call for more information. To send a fax, call (734) 591-7279.

LIVONIA
Livonia Garden Club member Linda Dotzenboth will conduct a workshop on creating pumpkins and gourds at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 2, at the Livonia Senior Center on Farmington Road. Members and guests are asked to bring their own pumpkin or gourd, a knife and a spoon to

the meeting. Guests are welcome.

FARMERS MARKETS

WILSON BARN
The Friends of Wilson Barn will host the 12th annual Farmers Market 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every Saturday until Sept. 30 at the Wilson Barn on the northeast corner of West Chicago and Middlebelt in Livonia. The market offers fresh produce, honey and a variety of crafts. Vendors pay \$10 a week for a 10-foot by 20-foot space. WIC Fresh Start coupons accepted. For information, call (734) 427-4311 or (734) 522-9039.

GREENMEAD
Greenmead's Country Market offers produce and items from farmers, gardeners, craftsmen, beekeepers and horticulturists at Greenmead Historical Park, Eight Mile and Newburgh roads in Livonia 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursdays until Oct. 11. For information, call (248) 477-7375.

PLYMOUTH
Produce is available 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays through October at The Gathering on Penniman Avenue at Main Street in downtown Plymouth. Call (734) 453-1540.

NORTHVILLE
Market items are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursdays through October at the Northville Downs parking lot at Seven Mile and Sheldon in Northville. Call (248) 349-7640.

TIME FOR CLASS

SCHOOLCRAFT
Schoolcraft College offers gardening classes in its Continuing Education program. Learn about Basic Perennial Gardening in a four-week class scheduled 9 a.m.-noon on Saturdays, starting Sept. 29. An advanced landscape class is also scheduled 9 a.m.-noon for four consecutive Saturdays, starting Oct. 27. For information, call (734) 462-4448.

GARDENING, 29429 Six Mile, in Livonia offers classes on a variety of subjects. Register in advance. Classes are limited in size. Weekly classes usually are scheduled for 9:30 a.m., while evening courses begin at 6:30 p.m. Classes listed here will be taught at the Livonia facility. Classes and dates are: Healthy Soil and Wise Fertilizing, three Tuesdays, starting Oct. 9; Practical Gardening, four Mondays, starting Oct. 22; Focus on Design, four Wednesdays, starting Nov. 28. Call (248) 4-GARDEN.

NURSERY SCHOOL

SAGUARO
Free lectures at Saguardo Nursery & Gardens, 470 W. Five Mile in Whitmore Lake are scheduled at 1 p.m. Sundays through October. The lectures are 45 to 60 minutes and are free. No registration is required. Nursery staff members will discuss hardy container grown dwarf conifers and other shrubs and how to plant them in the fall, on Sept. 30.

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