

GARDENING CALENDAR

BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOMS MOTHER'S DAY WEEKEND

The Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club features its Beautiful Blossoms show this weekend at the historic auto barn estate on the grounds of Oakland University in Rochester.

A perennial sale is 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. Tours will take place every half hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to show Meadow Brook Hall's use of floral motifs in woodwork, fabric and tiling. Also from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., for \$14 each, children can decorate Mother's Day gifts like frames with silk flowers or flowerpots with paint and mosaic tiles. Tea with Mom is 2-3 p.m. Cost is \$8 per child and \$15 per adult and includes talks of tea and a fun tour of Knole Cottage. Finally, on Sunday, a dinner for Mom is from 4-7 p.m., prepared by Meadow Brook Executive Chef Danny Martinez. Dinner begins with a champagne reception and live music. Cost is \$75 per person. Meal includes sautéed rainbow trout or chicken Wellington, salads, appetizers and homemade breads, plus a hazelnut torte or painted fruit plate with berries and champagne Sabayon. For more information, call (248) 370-3140 or visit www.meadowbrookhall.org.

CRANBROOK HOUSE AND GARDENS
Cranbrook House and its 40 acres of gardens will be open Sunday, May 12, for Mother's Day. Cranbrook House Docents will conduct special Mothers' Day tours, only at 1 p.m., of the Detroit area's oldest English Manor home. Before or after the tour, stroll through the beautifully tended gardens. Tour charge is \$10. Cranbrook House is two miles west of Woodward on Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills. Park free in the Christ Church Cranbrook lot across Lone Pine Road from the house. For more information call (248) 944-3147.

AGRICULTURE CLASSES GARDEN SALE
A flower sale is 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, May 11 and 18 and Sunday, May 19, at Southwest Center, 1000 Beck Road in Wixom. On sale will be begonias, Dusty Millers, geraniums, ...

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Cranbrook plant sale also has books, speakers, garden gifts

Clean out the back of your vans and the trunks of your cars so you will have plenty of room to stash plants and other goodies when you shop at Cranbrook's 2002 Spring Plant Sale.

Barbara Button is chairman of this sale and says, "We have excellent plants and merchandise for this event."

Cranbrook is located at 380 Lone Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills. The sale is 8-8 p.m. Tuesday, May 14, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. The hours for the first day have been extended for all those who haven't been able to attend prior sales due to work schedules.

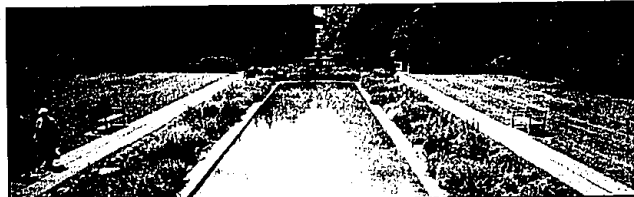
Free parking is available at

the Christ Church parking lot where vans will shuttle visitors to and from the sale.

The very popular wildflower area will be stuffed with plants, and a stop is sure to be on many shoppers' list. Chairperson for this area is Saida Malarney, who, with her crew, has been spending much time this spring rescuing plants for this occasion.

Pat Pampreen is in charge of the perennial selections and has found many exciting plants for her section of the sale. In the same area, Pat Mitko and her helpers will offer a fine array of herb plants, along with information about their uses.

There is exciting news from the greenhouse, chaired by Fran Knorr. A variety of unusual plants for garden containers will be offered. Look for lime green and dark, dusky purple colors to plant together as well as decorative herbs. For the first time, green and variegated water lilies and papyrus for your pond site will be available.



Peaceful: This peaceful reflecting pool is in one of the many gardens at Cranbrook.

There will be lots of the small, blue streptocarpella for hanging baskets and other plants. Orchids are ready for your choosing.

A shopping section has been set aside for children.

Chic E Burchill is in charge of the many gardening books, which are always a sought-after purchase. And last, but certainly not least, is The Thistle Shop. Gifts for Home and Garden, a new feature this year. Sue Sen-

nett, chairman of this popular area and Button, have acquired new and unusual items for the shop, including whimsical garden art. Bring your gift list.

Two well-known speakers will be at this event. Admission is complimentary, but please call (248) 745-3149 to reserve your place. Seating is limited.

Eminent Michigan wildflower expert, Fred Case, author of *Wildflowers of the Western Great Lakes Region*, and *Trilliums*,

will present a program entitled, "A Michigan Wildflower Sampler" at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday. This lecture will be held in the Cranbrook House library.

Back by popular demand, Nancy Lindley, owner of Great Lakes Roses, will lecture at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15. She will bring several varieties of Michigan hardy roses, which will be available for purchase. Her lecture will be in the courtyard beside the greenhouse.

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Matthaei Botanical Gardens, (734) 998-7061, offers several seminars in upcoming weeks. A lecture sets the tone, followed by a field trip.

■ **Michigan Natural Features** goes Wednesday, May 15, and Saturday, May 18. Cost of the 6-hour class is \$54 for members, \$60 for non-members.

■ **Natural Landscape Living** runs Thursday, May 30, and Saturday, June 1. Cost of the 8-hour class is \$58.50 for members, \$65 for non-members.

■ **Grasses, Grasses, Grasses** goes Thursdays and Saturdays, June 13-22. Cost of the 12-hour class is \$59 for members, \$110 for non-members.

Matthaei will have native Michigan plants available during its fall sale Sept. 13-15.

Klatt's favorite native plants include trillium, bloodroot and Dutchman's breeches in spring, black-eyed Susan in late summer and fall.

McEwen enjoys plants of the lobelia family, especially cardinal flowers.

Connie Baillie, senior horticultural assistant at Matthaei,

favors wood poppy, wild blue phlox, Michigan lily, cardinal flower and goldenrod.

Henne has a partiality to purple and yellow cone flowers, and taller natural grasses like big blue stem, little blue stem and Indian grass.

"Try a small area with just a few things," said Baillie. "Don't go out and buy the store. Have a plan. I like to start with a ground cover, something like wild ginger, a fern and flowers. Keep it simple."

"Once you have that area figured out, move on to another area," Baillie added. "Use rocks and fallen logs."

"Find a place you like outside and try to mimic that with conditions you have around your house," advises Mike Appel, co-owner of Native Plant Nursery in Ann Arbor.

"People think native plants are a good idea, but sometimes they're not grounded in the ecosystem they have," he added.

As for cost to planting plugs of grasses and wildflowers - "it's very comparable or less expensive than a new-sodded lawn," Henne said.

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