

GARDEN CALENDAR

■ Roger and Nancy Lindley, owners of Great Lakes Roses, have scheduled a series of programs that will enable Michigan gardeners to succeed with roses in their gardens. Each presentation will last about an hour.

A free lecture and hands-on demonstration by Roger Lindley on Japanese beetle control on roses will take place 1 p.m. Sunday, July 7, or 11 a.m. Monday, July 8. Reservations aren't needed.

Great Lakes Roses is at 49875 Willow Road, between Bainbridge and Sumpter (Belleville) Roads in Sumpter Township, just south of Belleville. Call (734) 461-1230.

■ The Michigan School of Gardening offers specialty and just-for-fun classes at The Community House, 380 S. Bates in Birmingham. They include Gardens of Southern France, 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, July 9. Learn how to recreate the look of southern France in your garden using plants and materials available in Michigan. Fee is \$20.

To register for this class, or to request a schedule, call The Community House at (248) 644-5832.

■ The Troy Garden Club will present the 28th annual Troy Garden Walk 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 6-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 10, rain or shine.

Tickets are \$10, and are sold in advance only. The number of tickets is limited, and none will be available the day of the event.

Tickets may be bought at A Sense of Thyme, (248) 813-0040; Tolly's Greenhouse, (248) 680-8735; Troy Historical Museum, (248) 524-3570; Wilkop Landscape, (248) 828-0030; and Troy Garden Club, (248) 879-8091.

Refreshments will be served. A craft boutique will be featured. One of the gardens 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., and 6-7:30 p.m. A raffle will be featured at another garden. Raffle tickets are \$1 each and will be available during the hours of the walk.

For information, call Barb at (248) 952-5938.

Proceeds benefit various community garden-related organizations.

■ The Gardens of Northville, the ninth annual garden walk sponsored by the Country Garden Club of Northville, will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 10.

Tickets are \$10, sold before the day of the event only. They are available at Gardenviews, 202 W. Main, and Morrison's Antiques, 105 E. Main.

Six gardens in Northville and Novi will be featured on the walk. Cady Inn at the Troy Marriott Hotel will be transformed into a garden wedding party, where complimentary, homemade delicacies and lemonade will be served. Visitors will enjoy lively music as they browse through plants and garden items offered by local vendors. Raffle tickets will be available at Mill Race Village July 10.

■ The American Hemerocallis Society will have its national convention Thursday-Saturday, July 18-20, at the Troy Marriott Hotel. About 600 people from around the country and Canada are expected to attend.

The registration fee (\$230, or \$195 for AHS youth members) includes bus tours of the 10 convention gardens, entry into the open gardens, a boutique, and banquets featuring guest speakers and auctions.

Gardens in Bloomfield Hills, Clarkston, Rochester Hills, West Bloomfield and Waterford are among those scheduled to be visited.

Pre-registration is required. For information, visit the Southern Michigan Hemerocallis Society Web site at <http://www.daylilyclub.com>, or call (248) 646-6179 or (568) 761-8419.

■ The Shelby Gardeners Club will present the Shelby Township Garden Walk 11-3:30 p.m. Thursday, July 18, rain or shine.

Tickets are \$7 in advance, \$10 day of walk. For advance tickets, send a check before July 10 to Shelby Gardeners Club, P.O. Box 183324, Shelby Township, 48318; phone (810) 731-8215.

Tickets are also available from the Shelby Library, Shelby Parks and Recreation and club members. On the day of the event, tickets will be available at Heritage Garden in Shelby Township, 52700 Van Dyke (Jack M. Ward Blvd.), south of 24 Mile Road, where the walk will start.

The walk will feature seven beautiful and exciting gardens. Proceeds benefit public garden projects.

These tips help cut cooling bills

Everyone needs affordable ways to heat the house. With hot weather already upon us, now is the time to give your home a "checkup."

Here are six tips from the Comfort Institute — an international indoor comfort research, training and consumer protection organization based in Bellingham, Wash. — to make sure your summer electric bills don't blow your cool.

1. Don't run your clothes dryer when it's hot out.

Your dryer blows air out of your house when it's drying clothes. And for every cubic foot of air it blows out, a cubic foot of hot outside air gets sucked in to cool down.

Run your dryer late at night or early morning and you'll have lower electric bills. Even better, use a "solar powered" clothes dryer: a clothesline in the back yard.

2. Have your duct system tested for air leaks.

Many think that windows and doors are the major cause of a home's energy wasting air leaks.

But according to recent research by the Department of Energy (DOE), gaps, joints and disconnections in the typical home's duct system are much more significant.

The DOE said that the typical duct system loses 25 to 40 percent of the energy put out by the central heat pump or air conditioner.

Leaks are usually the biggest problem. Authorities recommend having a contractor seal them with a brushed-on "mastic." Duct tape often dries out and fails. It turns out duct tape is great for many things, but sealing ducts isn't one of them!

3. Ask your air conditioning contractor to perform an "infiltration" "blower door" test.

The blower door is a computerized instrument originally invented by the DOE. It pinpoints where your home's worst air leaks are, such as duct leaks, and also measures how leaky the overall house is.

While most homes are still far too leaky, some are now quite

tight, and need mechanical ventilation to ensure the air inside is fresh.

Many contractors offer an Infiltration test as part of a "Whole House Comfort Check-up" that also checks insulation levels and overall duct performance.

For more information, visit www.comfortinstitute.org.

4. Replace your air conditioner or heat pump air filter.

Most systems need this done every month to ensure safe and efficient operation. Some, such as electronic air cleaners, need to be thoroughly washed.

5. Have your air conditioner cleaned and tuned.

A pre-season tune-up is a great investment. It reduces the chances of breakdowns in the middle of summer and more than pays for itself through more energy-efficient operation.

Make sure the contractor cleans both the indoor and outdoor heat transfer coils, and checks refrigerant gas charge by measuring "superheat" or "sub-cooling."

For a free report, How to Identify a Good Heating and Cooling Contractor, go to www.comfortinstitute.org.

6. Consider replacing your old air conditioner or heat pump.

Just like a car, central cooling equipment doesn't last forever. If your system is more than 12 years old, and you are planning to stay in your home more than a few years, many authorities recommend replacing it before it fails permanently.

A new system improves comfort, is more dependable, creates less air pollution and pays for itself through energy savings. New units are up to twice as energy efficient. Choose one with an EPA "Energy Star" label.

However, recent research has found that many newly installed high-efficiency systems have energy wasting mistakes.

To be sure you get the performance you're paying for, check out the free report, Tips and Secrets to Buying a New Heating and Cooling System, at www.comfortinstitute.org.

DESIGN CALENDAR

■ Tours are scheduled now through October at historic Cranbrook House, 380 Lone Pine Road in Bloomfield Hills.

Free parking is at Christ Church Cranbrook, directly across Lone Pine Road.

Cost is \$10 for tours at 3 p.m. Sundays, and 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. Thursdays. You may include lunch at noon Thursdays for an additional \$15 by making a reservation. The lunch is available only with a \$10 tour.

After touring the house, you may stroll through the surrounding 40 acres of gardens at no extra charge. For \$6, you may visit only the gardens any time from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays, or 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays.

Reservations aren't necessary for house tours. For Thursday lunch reservations, group rates, senior and student discounts, contact (248) 341-4747.

private guided garden tours and more information, call (248) 645-3147.

Cranbrook House was the home of Cranbrook founders George and Ellen Booth, who were principal players in the American Arts and Crafts movement in the early 20th century.

Saranac House on Lone Pine Road, home of the world-famous

architect of many of Cranbrook's buildings, is also open to visitors; call toll-free (877) 462-7262 for times, costs and other information.

■ Beyond Thread, Beyond Fiber, an exhibit by the Needlework & Textile Guild of Michigan, is featured to July 19 at the Oakland County Galleria, 1200 N. Telegraph in Pontiac.

Galleria hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. For information, call the Office of Arts, Culture & Film at (248) 858-6415.

■ The Orson Starr House Museum, 3123 N. Main, one block south of 13 Mile in Royal Oak, has an open house the second Sunday of each month. The house was built in 1848. Donations appreciated. Call (248) 688-7563.



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