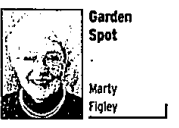


Small backyard garden is big on beauty

It's a labor of love, Pat Nickol of Birmingham says about her small backyard garden. It may be small in size (90 feet by 20 feet), but that hasn't hindered Pat. She has used every available space to bring beauty and harmony to this bright setting.

Growing in this beautiful garden are many, many plants, including hostas, rhododendrons, Lady's mantle, Bells of Ireland (with chartreuse foliage and bloom), hibiscus and iris. A plant Pat calls hogwort has long, thin, green foliage and blue flowers. At one end of the garden tall blue delphinium are striking with evergreens and small foliage plants forming the background. Nearby is a low, flower-shaped basin for the birds. A lovely little boy statue sits under a large tree and serves as a focal point. An adjacent area is filled with hydrangeas "Nikko Blue," peonies in pinks and whites and monkshood with blue flowers, and many roses. A flagstone walk leads to the garden where several pots of plants grow profusely. "I wanted bright yellow to reflect the sun and lots of color, so I used yellow daisy-like flowers in the top of a strawberry jar," Pat said. Planted along with the yellow are deep blue ageratum, hot pink, purple and white



Garden Spot Marty Figley

petunias, ajuga that has bluish-purple foliage, white bacopa "snowflake," white daisy-like argyranthemum, blue verbenas and others. Some of the plants trail over the sides of the jar. Pat didn't stop with one container. There are several that are beautiful plants that repeat the colors of the others. At the entrance to the garden two tall brick columns hold planters, while two more sit at the base of the columns. They are filled with sherbert-type colors and echo the colors in the other pots. They bloom in lavender, white and pink as well as the sunny yellow. And we mustn't forget the large strawberry jar filled with herbs such as parsley, thyme, basil, dill, cilantro and more. It sits on a step right outside a door. "I have had the best luck this year with containers using potted soil that contains pellets to hold moisture and I fertilize every two weeks," she said. "As I said, it's a labor of love. I spend about an hour and a



The small garden at the Nickol residence is a picture of elegance. Pat Nickol often entertains in this special area.

half each day removing spent blooms so the beauty will continue for a long time. "There are many tricks that can be used when gardening in a small space to give the illusion of a large garden. Color, form and texture of plants all play an important role, as do the hardscapes, paths, decks, buildings, fences and "borrowed backgrounds" that already exist. Shapes and textures add interest and need to be used in

harmony. Tall plants will provide necessary contrast, lacy foliage adds a light note, large leaves give stability, mounding shapes gently soften, and vertical or cone shapes make a statement rather like an exclamation point. You can create a spectacular and satisfying garden that, although it hasn't actually grown in size, will look that way. One special thing to remember when you plant a garden: Plant only those things that are pleasing to you; don't waste space on plants you don't like. Use accessories that are meaningful to you and your family.

GOOD GARDEN TIP Garden clubs as well as individuals will enjoy seeing how many plants perform at the All-American Display Gardens across the country. Michigan has five: Michigan State University, East Lansing; Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Co., Frankenmuth; Dow Gardens, Midland; Fernwood Danie Gardens, Niles; MSU Hidden Lake Gardens, Tipton. Call before you make the trip. 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.

HOME

FROM PAGE C1

between the sink and a window. Brass hardware adds to the sunny ambience of the room, as does a sampler by Ros on a wall. (Her needlepoint and quilts adorn various rooms.) The island features a small white sink. The white cabinets have glass fronts. An elegant partners desk and endol cabinets are in the cozy library. Model cars are "parked" by books on the built-in mahogany bookshelves. Walls in the dining room hold maps of Warwickshire and Gloucestershire counties in England (where Nick and

Ros were born) by Speed, a renowned 17th century map-maker. Also in the room are a pen drawing of Nick Scheele's great-great-grandmother and a print of Goethe's house in Germany. The basement contains a movie theater and a wine cellar. The Scheeles added a small patio in back. The garage has the same shape and round architectural accents as the house. Here is where the Scheeles park their 2002 Thunderbird, which is in a shade Nick calls "Grace Kelly turquoise."

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HIGH HOPES CONTEST

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Submit your entries to: HIGH HOPES CONTEST, 1000 N. ... (Form fields for name, address, phone, email, etc.)

HOME CALENDAR
Feng shui
Enhance your life and balance your home with feng shui, the Chinese art of placement. The Rochester Community House, 816 Ludlow, is offering two Thursday evening classes on the subject: Feng Shui: Bedroom Romance, Aug. 8; and Feng Shui: Career and Health, Aug. 15. Cost is \$36 for each class. Pre-registration is required. Call (248) 651-0622 or visit www.rochestercommunityhouse.org.
Decor classes
Haberman Fabrics, 111 W. Fourth in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes. Pre-registration is required. For information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfab.com.
Classes include Slip-covering Dining Chair (\$80), four Thursdays beginning Aug. 8; the three-session Beginner Pillow (\$60), beginning Monday, Aug. 12; and the three-session Advanced Designer Pillow (\$60), beginning Tuesday, Aug. 13, or Monday, Aug. 19. Child fingerprinting
Art Van Furniture and WJBK-FD2 are helping parents and guardians establish a permanent record of their children that can be shared with law enforcement agencies when dealing with emergencies. Representatives will fingerprint children 2-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10, at all Art Van stores and ask parents to complete personal information cards on each youngster. Each family will be given the information and prints to take with them for safekeeping. AAA of Michigan is providing the materials.
Stuff A Bus
Donations for the Stuff A Bus program, to collect school supplies for needy children in Oakland County, will be accepted Sunday, Aug. 11, at Art Van Furniture, 32301 Woodward in Royal Oak. Donors will receive a coupon for 15 percent off one item. Donations of these supplies are requested: pencils and erasers, markers and crayons, single-subject spiral notebooks, backpacks, and mechanical pencils. Cash donations are also welcome; checks may be made payable to Stuff A Bus c/o TSC Federal Credit Union.

For more information, call the 24-hour hotline at (248) 858-8020, Ext. 327. Starr House Museum
The Orson Starr House Museum, 1023 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 1845. Donations appreciated. Call (248) 588-7563.

Looking for a new recipe? Read the Taste section in Sunday's Eccentric.

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