

Garden experiences, advice shared

Boo! And Happy Halloween!
It's time for another book review column. We have quite an array of subjects from which to choose - so here you are.
The Complete Shade Garden, George Schenk (Timber Press, \$22.95, soft), is the new reprint of this favorite book of shade gardeners. It includes an updated appendix listing specialty nurseries, which is quite helpful.

This book covers the basics from the ground up, from designing the site to the different kinds of shade, such as deep shade or dappled shade. Schenk writes as though he is talking to you, and encourages you to use the necessary sequence of steps for success. The black and white photos readily show the contrast of the foliage.

The bulk of the book reveals a large number of shade lovers that Schenk describes while sharing his personal thoughts.

TIPS

A little book, 101 *Commonsense Gardening Tips: Practical Advice from Master Gardeners*, Deborah and Michael Sweeten (The Lyons Press, \$14.95, soft), contains lots of good advice.

The authors cover all subjects about gardening, from shrubs and trees to houseplants, plant enemies and nutrition, deadheading, holiday plant tips and Christmas trees and holiday greens. Their advice is short and sweet and to the point.

Here's an example: a simple way to transplant any plant. Put an empty pot the same size as the one your plant is now in inside the new, larger pot. Fill the space between the pots with a good, well-draining potting soil until it is completely full. Now carefully lift out the smaller pot and simply set your plant inside. Firm the soil around the rootball, water it, and you are done.

Another winner by Peter Loewer, *Solving Weed Problems: How to Identify and Eradicate Weeds Effectively From Your Lawn and Garden* (The Lyons Press, \$14.95, soft), features a number of his illustrations. With a no-nonsense approach, Loewer says, "This book will show you how to defeat those noxious backyard invaders so that you can achieve that elusive goal: a weed-free garden."

I find it interesting to learn about all the different ways to kill weeds, from a description of insecticides, to mulches, to hand tools.

Loewer describes the worst weed trees in the country as well as shrubs, grasses, sedges and bamboo; also annuals, biennials, perennial weeds and mosses, vines, and aquatic weeds. Lawns and weeds are also featured. This book is an invaluable aid for all types of weed problems.

WRITINGS

Gardens of Use & Delight: Uniting the Practical and Beautiful in an Integrated Landscape, Jigs and Jo Ann

Gardner (Fulcrum, \$29.95, soft), is illustrated by Elaine Sears' watercolors.

The authors, with their four children, moved to a remote farm on Cape Breton Island, Nova Scotia (Zone 4), and their experiences form the basis of the book.

They write, "Although the struggle itself has a certain interest, the emphasis in these pages is on the lessons we learned about how to combine the aesthetic and practical in what we call the integrated landscape - and these are lessons that can be applied anywhere."

The book allows us to visit with the gardeners at their farm and learn what they have accomplished in the past 30 years through trial and error, hardship and successes.

They share their relationships with many plants; for instance, roses (a recipe for potpourri is included), and lungwort that was used as edging in an island bed. One garden is devoted to naturalizing, another to containers. Take time to enjoy the visit.

In *Thoreau's Garden: Native Plants for the American*



Quite an array of subjects can be found in these books.

Landscape (Stackpole Books, \$15.95, soft), author Peter Loewer includes excerpts from Thoreau's journals, such as his reason for living alone (Dec. 24, 1841):

"I want to go soon and live away by the pond, where I shall hear only the wind whispering among the reeds. It will be success if I have left myself behind. But my friends ask what I will do when I get there. Will it not be employment enough to watch the progress of the seasons?"

Loewer writes: "...Thoreau's Garden thrives in the imagination. Here we can enjoy the plants that he wrote about in the journal -

plants that I also have affection for - and learn their history, their uses, and their charms." Each plant such as the serviceberry, bearberry, milkweeds, dog-day flowers, ferns and evening primrose is described in Thoreau's words, followed by Loewer's remarks. A gem of a book.

GOODGARDEN TIP

If I haven't returned your call, please try again! The phone system hasn't been working.

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.

Metropolitan Rose Society

Rose Society members, or the program on English roses, call Pat at (248) 449-4626.

Hardy Plant Society

The next regular monthly meeting of the Hardy Plant Society will be 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, at Birmingham Unitarian Church, 38651 Woodward at Lone Pine Road.

The speaker will be Mike Champagne, director of the Seven Ponds Nature Center, who has bachelor of science and master of science degrees in zoology from Michigan State University.

Guest fee \$3. For more information, call (248) 589-2286.

Farmington Garden Club

The Farmington Garden Club will meet at noon Monday, Nov. 4, at the Longacre House, on the west side of Farmington Road between 10 and 11 Mile.

Beth Pool, Jan Hunt and Rose Smilka will present the program, All About Roses, with slides and demonstrations. Visitors are welcome.

For more information, call (248) 605-3616.

School of Gardening

The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes. Register in advance, as space is limited and some classes have pre-requisites. Call (248) 4-GARDEN for more information or a complete schedule.

The schedule includes these classes, all of which take place at Golden Gate Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac: Business Administration: Growing Your Business (\$102; this class is for gardeners who are in business or are thinking about going into business), Mondays, Nov. 4-18; The Gardener's Health (\$62), Wednesdays, Nov. 6 and 13; the three-session Pruning Trees and Shrubs (\$92.50), beginning Thursday, Nov. 7; and Care of Tools (\$39.50), Saturday, Nov. 9.

Herb study group

The Evening Herb Study Group will meet 7-9 p.m. Monday, Nov. 4, in the auditorium of the University of Michigan Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Divora Road in Ann Arbor.

Three group members will show how to make herbal lip soap, and give helpful hints from their soap-making experience.

Attendees are asked to bring an herbal craft, gift or food item, and to explain and show the idea to the group, in preparation for the holiday gift-making session.

The next meeting will be Feb. 3, 2003, at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. The public may attend.

For more information, call H. Leland at (734) 659-8454 or e-mail hleland@garden.org.

Michigan Design Center and the American Society of Interior Designers present Fred Berns and Sol Yourself: How to Get Them to Buy From You, an informative CEU (continuing education unit) seminar 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Friday, Nov. 8.

The seminar, which is open to trade personnel only, will take place in the Mid-America Room, Suite 86, at MDC in Troy.

Based on the best-selling book by the same name, the seminar will provide participants with everything they need to know to achieve peak performance through personal promotion.

In addition to teaching you how to master basic selling skills, this program will provide insight on how to communicate with confidence to sell yourself as well as your services.

Other topics of discussion will include networking, presenting a proposal and closing the sale.

Admission of \$10 includes the seminar and a box lunch. To reserve space, send a check (made payable to Michigan Design Center) to Michigan Design Center, 1700 Stutz Drive, Suite 25, Troy, MI 48064.

For more information, call Lisa Renaud at (248) 649-2020.

GARDEN CALENDAR

Design center sets personal promotion program

Metropolitan Rose Society
The Metropolitan Rose Society will meet 7:15 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Marais, east of Crooks and north of 13 Mile.
Walter LeMire will speak on winter protection and Looking Back and Forward on New Roses.
Admission is free.
The public may attend.
For more information, call (248) 689-9129.

Roses-West
Jim McVeigh will present a slide program on English roses at a meeting of the Roses-West Rose Society 8-9:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 1, at the Novi Community Center, 45175 W. 10 Mile, just west of Novi Road (phone 248) 347-0400.
The public may attend. Admission is free.
For information on meeting American

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