

Writers share insights on gardening

The first three books in this review are published by The Lyons Press, an imprint of The Globe Pequot Press; all are soft cover.

A Horticulture Garden Classic, *Adventures with Hardy Bulbs*, Louise Beebe Wilder (\$16.95), was first published in 1936 and is still a great source of information. She was one of the preeminent writers of the 1930s and '40s.

The first chapter deals with general information about care; I especially enjoyed Wilder's descriptions of bulb, corn, tuber or rhizome. She grew the plants of which she wrote, and there were thousands. Wilder tells the best site for each species and their bloom time, and confesses that she has grown 60 to 70 species of allium (now that's a gardener!).

If this book doesn't inspire readers to try some different flowers, nothing will.

The Quotable Gardener, edited by Charles Elliott (\$9.95), contains a collection of more than 400 quotations, by great garden writers as well as from the Bible, Shakespeare, Prince Charles and others.

For instance, Ogden Nash: "My garden will never make me famous." J.M. Barrie: "God gave us memories that we might have roses in December." Tyler Whittier: "Gardeners have three weapons to use against summer drought: mulches, watering pots, and prayers." Christopher Reed: "Light is the engine of plants." Alice Meynell: "There is nothing in the world more peaceful than apple-leaves with an early moon." There's much more. Enjoy!

ABOUT DEER

Solving Deer Problems, Peter Loewer (\$14.95), tells how to keep deer out of the garden (fencing, etc.), avoid

them on the road, and deal with them anywhere.

The book is much more than this, though. We learn that the deer species in North America all belong to the genus *Odocoileus*, and that the northern whitetail is the largest subspecies and the one living here.

Deer are a triple threat in that they carry diseases such as Lyme, they are involved with thousands of traffic accidents each year, and they cause much, much damage to home gardens as well as to commercial nurseries and tree farms. There are many commercial and homemade devices used to thwart deer, from traps to repellents. A long list of plants that deer find unpalatable is included.

Loewer reminds us, "Solutions are not always cheap, and like life in general, they work most of the time — but there are no guarantees."

The Potting-Shed Papers, Charles Elliott (\$24.95), will keep you happily entertained as he shares insights on gardens and gardening. His subjects run the gamut

from the Warden Case and the one-wheel cultivator to cherry trees. Along the way we learn many interesting facts, and meet plant hunters and other interesting people.

Elliott's style and wit subtly encourage the reader to just sit back and enjoy the ride.

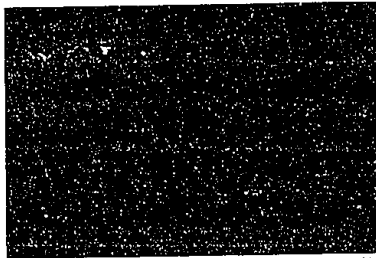
The Firefly Visual Dictionary, Jean-Claude Corbeil and Arienne Archambault (\$49.95), contains 35,000 items and 6,000 color illustrations in 960 pages.

Rather than having written descriptions, each is illustrated beautifully; each key word and phrase is connected to the detailed art work. This is a book that will keep all ages fascinated and informed.

DREAMSCAPING

In Dreamscaping: 25 Easy Designs for Home Gardens (Hearst Books, \$30), Ruth Rogers Clausen provides expert instructions.

Clausen takes you through the steps to make an herb garden, full decorating garden, bright winter bulb show and



MARTY FIGLEY

Learn about hardy bulbs in Louise Beebe Wilder's book.

others. You'll find advice here from preparing the bed to the finished product.

Each design includes a "recipe" of the right ingredients, although Clausen offers alternative plants to suit your particular site.

French Dirt: The Story of a Garden in the South of France, Richard Goodman (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, \$13, soft), is about his garden, and more.

By the sweat of his brow and by watching and listening, Goodman learned how to bridge the gap of two cultures

through his love for his vegetable garden.

This is a sweet memoir to be savored all at once or in several reading sessions. I understand Goodman attended Cranbrook Schools.

The Gardener's Guide to Growing Dahlias, Gareth Rowlands (Timber Press) is now available in paperback.

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.

GARDEN CALENDAR

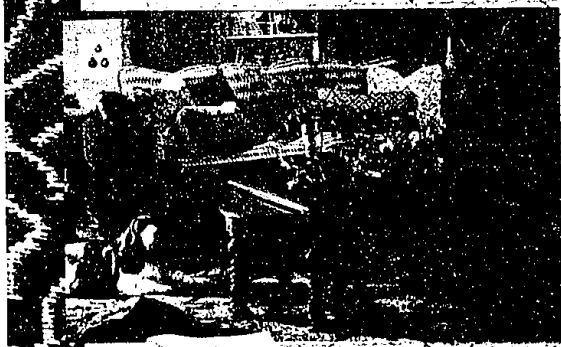
Meadow Brook Hall
Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will meet 10 a.m. Friday, March 28, in the Coach House at Meadow Brook Hall on the OU campus in Rochester Hills.
New and unusual annuals and perennial choices will be the topic. Mariene Uhlirak of Coon Creek Farms will lecture and have plant samples of Hot Colors for 2003. Kim Zelinski will give an update on the Meadow Brook Hall garden plan. Snapshots of Our Meadow Brook Hall Gardens 2002, a slide show and commentary by John Lohmeier, will be featured.
Pruning
Classes offered by the Michigan

School of Gardening include the three-session Pruning Trees and Shrubs, beginning Thursday, March 27, at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, south of Square Lake Road and east of Telegraph. Fee is \$19.50. For more information, call (248) 4-GARDEN or visit www.michigangardening.com.

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