

At Home

INTERIOR DESIGN • DIY • GARDENING

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Inside

Joe Gagnon C2
Marty Figley C3
Monte Nagler C4

Accents

Clean canines

Canines can now get a taste of the wild side. New Crazy Dog Rainforest Shampoo, a new shampoo created by Crazy Pet Co., leaves dogs smelling, as company officials describe, "as fresh as a tropical breeze after a rainfall."

"Let's face it, a dog can get pretty dirty and smelly after a backyard expedition looking for squirrels or rabbits," said Barbara Denzer, vice president of marketing at the Crazy Pet Co.

Crazy Dog Rainforest Shampoo is available in 12-ounce bottles, and has a suggested retail price of \$6.69. For more information, contact the Crazy Pet Co. at (800) 433-7387 or visit www.crazydog.com.

Summer project

Light up your landscape with a hanging lantern made from an unused paint can with an idea courtesy of Home Depot.

The first thing you'll want to do is add a design to the can. Use a hammer and nail to punch out a pattern.

"Stars are great for an Independence Day theme and these look great hanging from your favorite tree or lining a walkway for a sparkling evening of Illumi-



nation," said Karen Thompson, a Home Depot designer.

Insert a block of wood into the can or fill the can with water first and freeze it overnight before hammering to avoid denting the can.

Remove the can's handle and attach a piece of plumber's chain in its place. Place a large pillar or a few tea lights inside and you're ready to light up the night.

Add-ons add value

Additions are a great way to protect your major investment, and that is your home. With stocks performing at lower levels and housing costs rising, many people's homes are their biggest investment.

Remodeling Online's 2002 Cost vs. Value report gives a general guide to the cost of a remodeling project and how much is added to a home's price if it is sold a year later. Factors that influence the amount recouped are the home's value, value of similar neighborhood homes, how fast local property values are rising and the quality of the remodel.

In Detroit, a two-story addition that costs \$12,823 will add \$59,949 to the resale value, for an 82-percent cost recoup.

Master bedroom suites can be added to the upper level of the home, conserving land and space. The old bedroom can be used for an office, media room or spare bedroom.

A family room addition that costs \$53,623 will add \$40,478 to the resale value or 75 percent. A basement remodel at \$44,276 adds \$24,897 or 56 percent.

"The most important reason to remodel is that it makes a home more enjoyable to live in," said Adam Hellman, president of Fairway Construction Co. of Southfield. "While this can't be measured in dollars and cents, it's worth considering along with the increased resale value."

Garden delights



A trumpet vine can be found climbing an iron frame near the porch of the Bertelsen home.



PHOTOS BY LAWRENCE MCKEE | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The entrance to Dave and Rhea Bertelsen's home gives an idea of the variety of beautiful plants on the grounds. The site will be featured on the 29th annual Troy Garden Walk on July 9.

Variety of beautiful plants showcased on Troy Garden Walk

BY MARY KLEMIC | STAFF WRITER

There is pleasure in the planting as well as in the viewing of the beautiful garden at the home of Dave and Rhea Bertelsen.

Along with gardening, talents like those of an artist applying a palette to a canvas,

or an interior designer furnishing a room, seem to be involved in arranging a large assortment of plants attractively and to best growing advantage at the Troy residence.

And it is fun, Rhea said: "It's something I always enjoy doing. It's been a lot of fun. I meet a lot of people. To me it's pleasant work, a nice hobby."

The garden is one of six featured on the 29th annual Troy Garden Walk, Wednesday, July 9 (see related article).

VARIETY

The Bertelsens are the second owners of the house, which was built in 1986. They have lived there for seven years. Much of the landscaping had been done by the previous owner.

"I like to plant flowers, so I had some trees taken out," Rhea Bertelsen said.

There is actually more than one "garden" at the Bertelsens.

A curving brick walkway, which the family put in a couple of years ago, leads from the

driveway to the front door. Nestled in a shrub bed by the front door are three different groups of clematis in combinations of white, green and yellow, two blue hostas, a dwarf mugo pine and a feral Japanese maple, Full-Moon.

"It just adds a lot of interest through the whole year," Bertelsen said of the setting.

White sweet woodruff, which serves as a nice filler, three arbutus, pink and white peonies and a blue Siberian iris are some of the other elements in the space.

Two mature dwarf Alberta spruce trees stand at the front door, providing privacy, clipped boxwood hedge lines the split-rail fence along the walkway.

Corner beds in the front yard are framed by split-rail fencing and contain golden-rod, bush, myrtle and blue oak grass.

After the Bertelsens removed pine trees from the front yard, they created an island of spring bulbs and summer annuals, lining it with large, colorful stones Dave hauled from a nearby construction site. Among the flowers are red tulips, white crocus, blue glory-of-the-snow, sunflowers, penstemon, monarda, beebalm and Shasta daisies. Leadwort is groundcover.



TROY GARDEN WALK

What: The 29th annual event will feature six gardens, a boutique and a raffle.

When: 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 9.

Tickets: \$10, advance purchase only. They are available at Yell's Greenhouse, A Sense of Thyme, the Troy Historical Museum, Wilkop Landscaping and Uncle Luke's Feedstore, or by calling the Troy Garden Club at (248) 879-8621. Tickets are limited and have sold out for several years in a row.



Rhea Bertelsen stands in front of what she calls "Grandma's favorite," a peony.

BACKYARD BEAUTY

The pie-shaped lot in back is like a small, private park, bordered with Colorado spruce trees and a variety of shrubs.

Selections here include spirea, red-twig dogwood, butterfly bush and purple sand leaf cherry.

(Tolerance of wet drainage conditions was a big consideration in choosing the plants.)

When the area was ablaze with forsythia in the spring, it made a

wonderful backdrop for a photo of the Bertelsens' daughter in her green and gold prom dress.

Along the back of the house, oak leaf hydrangeas display giant blue blooms in the fall. A large red Japanese maple shades the inside of the living room. Yews fill the back. A row of double impatiens lines the front of the bed.

"The idea is to mimic the roses in the back,"

PLEASE SEE GARDEN, C5

Step back in time on Log Cabin Day

BY CHRYSTAL LIEBOLD
STAFF WRITER

Walking through a log cabin is like peeking into Michigan's history and getting a glimpse of a simpler life.

June 28-29, many will hop in the car for a joy ride to see a log cabin — or two or three — in celebration of the seventh annual Log Cabin Day weekend. There are more than 80 cabins to visit and several are in metro Detroit.

The office of attorney James Schuster, member of the Log Cabin Society of Michigan, is located inside one of the log cabins open to visitors at 24350 Lahser in Southfield.

"The message of Log Cabin Day is to remind us of our roots and the values our country was built on," Schuster said. "Our cabin is along the Rouge River in a wooded setting. It's a very comfortable place; a lot of people come here and feel like they are on a vacation up north. All the stress just melts away here."

Schuster's log cabin was built in 1940 by several Detroit teachers in the "weekend retreat style" and although it is not a true pioneer cabin, Schuster says it is beautifully furnished.

"I like the feeling you get being out in the country," he said. "This is a comfortable place to work and solve problems. It makes my job easier."

Log Cabin Day began in 1987 in celebration of the state's sesquicentennial. It garnered such a strong public response that the Michigan Legislature passed a bill to make Log Cabin Day the last Sunday of June each year. The Log Cabin Society of Michigan was incorporated two years later to promote and preserve log cabins throughout Michigan. Of the hundreds of log cabins which have been a part of the event since 1987, at least seven were built before 1940.

Coordinator Virginia Handy has been in charge of the event since 1987 and says the weekend aims to benefit communities while providing entertainment to visitors.

"One thing I like is the publicity this gives to the communities," she said. "But the reason for this event is so that people can have a log cabin experience. It's like stepping back in time."

Depending on the individual cabin, there will be open houses and events such as storytelling and historical re-enactments.

PLEASE SEE CABINS, C2

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in Marketplace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.



Sunscreen for the home

Hunter Douglas window shades offer the soft look of draperies as well as the highest ultraviolet-ray protection when closed. In this eclectic bedroom, the sheer face fabric of Luminette® Privacy Sheers beautifully filter the light, while the neutral white fabric vanes attached to the rear rotate for varying degrees of light control — and total privacy when closed. The sheer fabrics are available in soft, subtle colors and two styles; shown

here is Linéa in Stardlight. In this elegant living room, Silhouette® shades offer the light control of a blind, the ease of a shade and the look of a sheer. Featuring soft fabric vanes suspended between sheer fabric panels, they can cover special windows — from arches to angles to large window expanses up to 120 inches wide. For more information or a free booklet,



Solutions, call Hunter Douglas at (800) 205-8225 or visit www.hunterdouglas.com.