

# Books help plan a visit, plan a garden

Garden tours are in full swing now. The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Directory: The Guide to Visiting America's Best Private Gardens, 2003 Edition, lists gardens in 22 states that will be open to the public on select weekend days through October.

Michigan is well represented with five local and two public gardens that will be open Sunday, July 13. Admission to each garden is \$5.

Published by Harry N. Abrams (\$25.95, plus \$4.50; \$1.50 each additional copy), the directory is available locally, or write or call The Garden Conservancy, P.O. Box 219, Cold Spring, NY 10516, phone (888) 842-2442 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The following five books are all published by Timber Press: *Succulents*, Yvonne Cave (\$29.95), is the next best thing to seeing succulents growing in the wild.

The descriptions of the hundreds of species and cultivars are accompanied by outstanding photographs.

Perhaps they will entice you to try a few.

Although these plants originate in warmer climates, some are cold tolerant and even hardy.

Cave explains how to best grow these plants indoors and out and suggests those that are particularly cold hardy. I miss zone information. *Succulents* can open a new world of gardening to you.

The *Genus Epimedium*, *Vancouveria* and *Other Herbaceous Berberidaceae*, William T. Stearn (\$49.95), is a botanical magazine monograph.

The bulk of the book explains the classification of organisms in an ordered system that indicates natural rela-



Great books for summer reading.

tionships of epimediums by species. Stearn first wrote his monograph of this genus in 1938. This new book now covers all epimediums, many discovered only in the last decade.

Stearn shares growing information and includes the history of their horticultural introduction.

Color photos and paintings from Kew beautifully illustrate these plants.

*Consider the Leaf: Foliage in Garden Design*, Judy Glatstein (\$24.95), will make you look closely at your garden. It's overflowing with good advice about using foliage successfully.

Here are some suggestions: yucca (lamb's ears); blue flag iris (ferris); apple green fronds of maidenhair fern (and rounded leaves of wild ginger); host (English ivy).

Glatstein writes from personal experience about all kinds of plants. She shares the meaning of a fedge, a wire fence concealed with vines, and tells how to duplicate it. Specific ideas for the four seasons round out this book.

*Palms Won't Grow Here and Other Myths: Warm-climate Plants for Cooler Areas*, David A. Franco (\$27.95), challenges you to grow tropical plants in a cool environment.

Franco explains how plants protect themselves in winter and how gardeners can make use of microclimates and simple techniques to add two or more hardiness zones to their garden habitats. He describes

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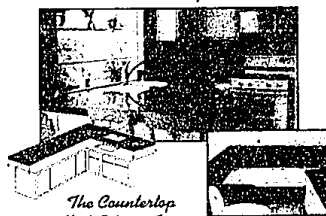
**Canton**  
The Canton Garden Club presents its fifth annual garden walk, "Petals and Paths." Tour six lovely gardens 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., rain or shine, Saturday, June 28. Tickets are \$6 pre-sale and \$7 on the day of the tour. They may be bought from Keller and Stein, 4058 Michigan, (734) 397-0800; Gray's Greenhouse, 8820 Lilley, (734) 453-1220; Mary's Farm Market, 47453 Ford, (734) 981-2866; and Backyard Birds, 627 S. Main, (734) 476-6600. No strollers, please. For information, contact Judy Bloomquist at (734) 455-8283.

**Livonia**  
The 14th annual Garden Walk presented by the Friends for the Development of Greenmead (Livonia's Historical Village) will take place 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, June 29. Tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 the day of the event. They may be bought from committee members, or at any of the three Livonia public libraries: the Civic Center Library Gift Shop, Greenmead, and the Department of Community Resources on the fifth floor of Livonia City Hall, the Civic Center Library and Livonia City Hall are at Five Mile and Farmington Road. Greenmead is at Eight Mile and Newburgh. Seven lovely gardens and yards of

homes throughout Livonia will be open for viewing. All proceeds benefit the restoration and preservation of Greenmead Historical Park. Steinkopf Nursery also will sell shrubs and plants discounted for 20-25 percent off with a percentage going to Greenmead's restoration projects. Those plants will be available at the Hill House at Greenmead. Call (734) 466-2540 or (734) 425-4555 for information.

**Northville**  
The Gardens of Northville's 10th annual Garden Walk will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday, July 9. Six gardens will be featured. At Mill Race Village, the Cary Inn will have been transformed into an Oriental tea room where complimentary homemade delicacies and lemonade will be served. Tranquil music will be played. Local vendors will offer a selection of plants and garden items. Raffle tickets will be available at Mill Race Village the day of the walk. Garden walk tickets are \$10 in advance only. They are available at Gardenviews, 202 W. Main, and Morrison's Antiques, 105 E. Main. Tickets won't be sold the day of the walk. The event is sponsored by the Country Garden Club of Northville, a member of the Woman's National Garden and Garden Association.

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