

The gardens of Farmington flourish in August

By MARY GNIEWEK

In vine-ripened vegetables, flowers in full bloom and trees that shade outdoor patio parties, the fruits of labor from perennial green thumbs flourish in August.

For a couple of members of the Hill and Dale Garden Club, their lush backyards' virtual showplaces, plants are a year around labor of love.

Mrs. Greta Tipping's sculpted bonsai trees in front of her home on Farmington Road north of Twelve Mile are a source of curiosity to passersby.

"People who drive by stop and ask me where I got them," Mrs. Tipping says.

She groomed them herself.

"They were a solid mass of green jumpers when I started. You have to work with what is there — the more contorted the branches, the better."

Follow the dwarfed ornamentally shaped trees along the side of the house past the 50 potted cactuses to a white trunk birch that holds a half dozen house plants in macrame holders and

there is no mistaking Mrs. Tipping's flair for growing things.

She apologizes for the condition of the backyard gardens: a half acre of rich vegetation along winding gravel paths.

"I haven't been able to do as much as I'd like because of my health," she says.

BUT THE WELL manicured foliage doesn't look neglected.

"I've had gardens since before I went to school. My mother let me have one alongside the house," she said.

Home was Oakville, Ont., where Mrs. Tipping says "Some things, like turns, grew better. Our house was near Lake Ontario."

In the 15 years she and her husband Ronald have spent in Farmington Hills, the yard has been dug, plowed and planted from a lifeless plot of land to a simulated greenhouse without a glass enclosure.

"It's my hobby. I love it. The garden was developed in stages. There was a

lot of planning, but that's part of the fun."

The garden has seven varieties of flowering crab trees, corkscrew willows, a trumpet vine, pear trees, grape vines and dwarf apple trees.

"The hibiscus are just coming out," she says, gently touching one of the huge flowers. "They last only a day and come out with the sun in the afternoon."

In another section of the yard, the edible garden has eight varieties of squash and everything else from parsnips, endive, rhubarb, strawberries and asparagus to beans, lettuce, tomatoes and green peppers.

"There's always something new coming in. And we're always adding one thing or another."

A FEW MILES south at Mrs. Joan Granning's Farmington home, gardening is not a full time endeavor, even though it looks that way. The yard features a glass enclosed porch, swimming pool and rows of hedges and flowers.

"I plant just one week in spring. I

need a garden that is self-maintaining because of my schedule," said Mrs. Granning, an active volunteer with the Scandinavian Symphony and Hill and Dale's garden therapy program in the Farmington Schools.

"I can't throw anything away. The lilacs were Easter gifts way back. Some of the other flowers were gifts, too. The trims replanted. Some came with us from our house in Detroit 18 years ago."

"The birds planted the sunflowers and the squirrels planted the Oak trees. The white pine and evergreens are from seed. We begged, borrowed and stole."

Though it sounds haphazard, the English gardens that border the back stretch of the yard with marigolds, geraniums, black-eyed susans and roses could provide the goods for any commercial nursery.

A thriving vegetable garden grows in a converted sandbox.

"This year, the growing season has been terrific. Normally, we don't get so much rain and cool weather."

"We're really outdoors people," Mrs. Granning continued. "I like to keep fresh cut flowers in the house."

"I didn't have a green thumb," Mrs. Granning said. "All the knowledge I acquired was through Hill and Dale Garden Club."

"The birds planted the sunflowers and the squirrels planted the oak trees." — Mrs. Joan Granning



From a garden path Mrs. Greta Tipping of Farmington Hills reviews her handiwork.



Mrs. Joan Granning stands in her English-style garden in Farmington.



Vegetables grow in a converted sandbox in Mrs. Granning's garden.

Staff photos by Randy Borst

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

DOROTHY SHEIMAN, the Farmington area's Artist of the Month, has accepted a seat on the Farmington Area Arts Commission. The award-winning artist, whose works are now on display in the Quiet Room of the Farmington Community Library on Twelve Mile Road, will retain her new position for a three-year term.

THE FARMINGTON NURSING Home's 10th annual picnic will be held on Saturday, Aug. 18, on the grounds of the home, Freedom Road south of Nine Mile. Relatives and friends may join the residents under the big, colorful tents for an afternoon of entertainment. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m.

A BENEFIT DANCE to aid muscular dystrophy research will be held Aug. 25 at the Broadhead VFW Post, 23414 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Teen dancing will be held from noon to 4 p.m., and the tickets will cost \$2 each. Adults will dance from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., and the tickets will cost \$2.50 each. Refreshments will be available.

A FARMINGTON HILLS woman, Mary Margaret Stolberg, has received a scholarship in violin to study at a seven week session at the School of Music at Chautauqua, New York. The session gives students an opportunity for intensive study in their respective instrument or in voice.

AN ATTORNEY, Dale Winnie, will be at The Gathering Place at Mercy Center on Thursday, Aug. 16, to answer senior citizens' questions on legal matters. Interested senior citizens are asked to sign up at the front desk Thursday morning. Visitors should enter Mercy Center at Gate 4 on Eleven Mile Road east of Middlebelt.

AS SUMMER DRAWS to a close, the Farmington School District has prepared calendars for the 1979-80 school year. Senior high school students will be able to pick up registration packets at their high schools from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Aug. 20-24. Sept. 4 will be a teacher workday, and registration will begin Sept. 5. Students will report to school at 11:30 a.m. Sept. 6. Sept. 7 will be the first day of school. Junior high students will pick up schedules Aug. 27, 28 and 29, from 9 a.m. to noon and 1-3 p.m. Seventh graders will have orientation on the morning of Sept. 6. Other junior high students will report in the afternoon. Parents who are new to the school district should register their children in the local school as soon as possible.

THE U.S. POSTAL Service will operate on a holiday schedule on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 3. Farmington Postmaster Kenneth B. Harris said

there will be no regular residential or business mail delivery or lobby window services on that date. Special delivery and express mail service will be provided on a holiday schedule. Holiday collection schedules will be provided as late in the day as possible to meet first-class mail service standards. Normal service will resume Tuesday, Sept. 4.

KARLA RADO, A 1975 graduate of Farmington Harrison High School, was awarded first prize in pottery Aug. 11 at the Antique Village Annual Art Festival in Keatington, Mich. She won the red ribbon for her salt glaze stoneware jug. While working professionally from Sunstream Pottery, her studio in Sylvan Lake, she has studied at Oakland Community College's Royal Oak and Orchard Ridge campuses under Dr. Charles Blosser and Robert Piegenberg.

TWO AREA RESIDENTS, Diana Dupuis of Farmington and Terry Reinhold of Farmington Hills, won all the groceries in two different Bob Saks Oldsmobile station wagons. They had the closest guesses to the correct dollar value of the groceries. Diana won \$486.60 worth of groceries from the station wagon parked in Bob Saks' showroom. Terry won \$379.61 worth of groceries from the Olds wagon parked in front of Krogers in downtown Farmington. The contest was co-sponsored by Bob Saks and Krogers.

A WELL-KNOWN MAGICIAN, Karrell Fox, will perform three times each day at the Tel-Twelve Mall in Southfield Aug. 20 through Aug. 26. Fox demonstrated his mastery of illusion last fall at the mall when he took a power saw in hand and "sawed" a local reporter "in half." The magic show is free. Fox, formerly on television for seven years as Milky the Clown, has authored several books on magic. Tel-Twelve Mall is located at Telegraph and Twelve Mile roads.

A SPECIAL PROGRAM entitled "Buzzin' Buddies" will be held at the Nature Center of Stony Creek Metropark near Rochester at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 26. A slide program on honeybees, a close-up look at an actual honeybee colony and a short hike along the trails to see bees at work, will highlight this program. The program is free, but advance registration is required. Additional information may be obtained by calling the Nature Center at Stony Creek Metropark at 761-4621.

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