

gardener's book nook

Marty Figley

New book gives tips on perennials

"The Green Tapestry" by Beth Chatto (Simon & Schuster, \$24.95 hardcover) is a complete guide to the author's philosophy of choosing and growing perennial plants successfully.

She is very much involved in her nursery, the Beth Chatto Gardens in southeast England.

"I cannot emphasize enough that the form and shape of the plant and the texture and color of its leaves are as important as the color of its flowers," she wrote in the forward.

She strives for an overall balance and a harmony of shape, form, outline and texture in her gardens, as she urges the reader to choose plants that are suitable for a certain location. The book is directed to the United States.

The reader is taken on a tour of her extensive gardens, which are adjacent to the nursery, and given many lessons in garden design and plant care.

This book will be a source for study for many years; the color photos are inspiring.

"The Year-Round Flower Gardener" by Anne M. Halpin (Summit Books \$29.95 cloth, \$16.95 in paperback) contains information on all

phases of growing flowers, such as choosing ones best suited for a particular area, maintaining the garden for continuous blooms and preserving for dried arrangements.

The book tells how to achieve success with your own plants, indoors and out, in every season. It is directed specifically to American gardeners living in any part of the country, so as a gift book it would be appropriate for friends near and far.

Lessons in landscaping, use of colors and starting plants from seeds are some of the practical subjects covered. I don't believe any aspect of flower gardening has been omitted. I like this one.

THE AUTHORS OF "The Cook's Garden" (Rodale, \$14.95 paperback, \$19.95 hardcover), Shepherd and Ellen Ogden, should know better than many about gardening, since they have spent a decade trying old and new vegetable and herb varieties to find the best. They are the owners of The Cook's Garden, a mail-order seed company.

They give a firsthand account of how they prepare, grow, care for and harvest the gardens, which are the best varieties and how to grow the old reliable.

Tips are interesting and helpful. For example, stay out of the bean patch when the foliage is wet (water on the leaves is a perfect place for disease bacteria to live, and you spread the disease from leaf to leaf when you brush against the plants), and directions for making a simple support trellis for peas.

The variety source charts that accompany the chapters not only list the variety of each vegetable, herb and salad green, but tell when to plant, what to harvest, special comments and sources for seeds. I find these very informative.

Leeks Mornay, Flageolet with Garlic and Thyme, Sautéed Radish and Arugula are some of the 40 tempting recipes included.

"GARDEN ILLUSIONS" by Alan Toogood presents ideas to make our gardens seem just a bit more than they really are by using tricks to fool

the eye. For instance, the use of mirrors in several instances is clever, as are paths that seem to lead to an interesting spot. Color photos help explain the ideas such as the use of plants for disguising, camouflage or accent.

"The Green Garden" by Lys de Bry discusses the steps necessary to create a garden using foliage planting. I would suggest the first step in studying this book is to turn to Chapter Seven, which describes the plants. The texts accompanying the photos and drawings use the botanical name, and let's face it, most of us don't readily know that an Acer is a maple.

The drawings for the type of gardens one might choose are well done and the explanations are clear.

These two books are part of a series called "Gardening by Design," containing 10 hardcover books, published by Salem House (\$14.95 each).

Schoolcraft hosts lectures

The Schoolcraft College Committee to Promote the Arts will host two lectures Tuesday and Wednesday, Nov. 21 and 29, on Byzantium and Byzantine art in conjunction with the Detroit Institute of Arts Exhibition, "Holy Image, Holy Space: Icons and Frescoes from Greece."


Harry Magoulias, professor of history at Wayne State University, will discuss "What was Byzantium?" at 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 21, in the Liberal Arts Theater. Magoulias has translated 12th century and 15th century histories of Byzantium.

Thelma K. Thomas will introduce, by way of a slide presentation, Byzantine art and describe the "Holy Image, Holy Space" exhibition at the DIA at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 29, in the Liberal Arts Theater.

Thomas is a lecturer in the history of art department at the University of Michigan, and assistant curator of collections at the U-M's Kelsey Museum of Ancient and Medieval Archaeology.

The presentations are free to the public. For more information, call 462-4400, Ext. 5435.

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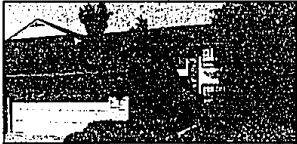
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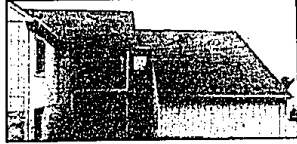
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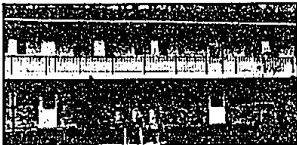
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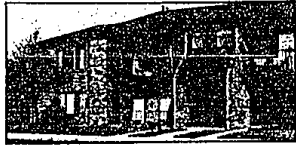
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