

Couple beautify ugly, shady area

GOOD GARDEN TIP: Spot seed bare patches of lawn after raking the area and removing weeds. Cover the seeds with ¼ inch of mulch and keep it moist until new growth is established.

Karen and Jerry Fry of Beverly Hills have taken a problem area of their yard and transformed it into a beautiful garden. Everything is well-cared for — and NEAT.

After overgrown bushes were removed from the front and side of the house they created a landscape and garden they can be proud of. Their two sons were of great help in removing the shrubs and tree roots and doing other heavy labor.

In May last year one of the sons suggested a flower garden for the shady problem area and work began. Karen drew a plan on a shirt cardboard. They made note of the position of the sun for proper plant selection and have pretty much followed these early plans.

A very low split rail fence forms a visual barrier to one side of the shade garden. The back is framed by tall evergreens and a three foot tall euonymus hedge supported by a fence completes the other side. This hedge has been growing for several years. The soil was amended by rototilling good black earth and sphagnum peat into the existing soil, making a rich growing mixture. Ryerson steel bought from a landscape company was

sunk 4-5 inches into the soil (about 2 inches is exposed) as barrier. Painted green, it is about ¼ inch thick and very unobtrusive.

First to go in were almost 1,000 pachysandra plants along the side of the house. Crushed brick was put over black plastic and is used as a wide path around a maple tree in the center of this garden.

A custom made wooden bench circles the tree and rests on egg rock (gray stone), making a nice contrast to the brick.

A focal point is a bird bath with several levels. At 4 p.m. the water comes on and gently trickles in the bird bath until 9 p.m., then a spotlight positioned underneath the bench lights up and focuses on the bird bath. Marigolds rim the base of it. This is a favorite, peaceful spot for this busy couple.

Four to five foot wide spaces form a horseshoe effect around the brick and a variety of plants have been carefully arranged. The Frys add these basic types of flowers one at a time: Coleus, several hollies, columbine, ajuga, sedum, spirea, rhododendrons, English ivy, ferns grow here. Potentilla and loostrate add height as do the blooms of hostas. A weeping cherry also adds height and visual interest.

Since neither of the Frys were gardeners they bought a book and spent winter evenings at a

bookstore going through garden books, looking and reading. They have lived with the garden just over a year and are getting acquainted with the plants. They want to add more color and choose flowers that will assure continuous bloom during the season.

An underground sprinkling system keeps everything fresh and many hours are spent puttering around to keep it tidy. Rapid-gro is used once a month during the growing season, unless it is too hot and dry.

The Frys agree that their gardening has been fun and that they've enjoyed the experience. They may have inspired neighbors — people stop by to admire their special garden. As Karen says, "If we can do it anyone can."

The Southeastern Michigan Dahlia Society's 39th Annual Show will be Sept. 7 and 8 at Meadow Brook Mall, Walton Blvd. and Adams roads, Rochester. Hours are noon to 5 p.m. Free admission. More than 1,000 blooms of all sizes and colors will be displayed.

On Sept 8 at 1:30 p.m., the Belle Isle Nature Center is offering "Composting Without Tears or Smells." Free admission. For information call 267-7157.

The Hobby Greenhouse Association will meet 7-10 p.m. Wednesday at Farmington Hills Public Library, W. 12 Mile, Farmington Hills. It will be a slide program on gardens in North Carolina and South Carolina.



down to earth

Marty Figley



MARTY FIGLEY
Karen and Jerry Fry take a moment to enjoy the garden they created in what was formerly an ugly, shaded area of their yard.

Art 'n Apples festival running for two days

Rochester's Art 'n Apples Festival will be held Sept. 7-8 at Rochester Municipal Park. This is the 26th year for this event which will feature 275 artists from 27 states selected by slide jury from more than 700 applicants.

This year's festival boasts original art in a variety of media — baskets, clay, drawing, enamels, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, mixed media, painting, photography, printmaking, sculpture, toys and wood.

On Saturday three of the artists will receive awards of \$500, \$300 and \$200 provided by three local businesses, A Bird's Eye View, P.R. Haig Jewelers and Janet Varner and

an anonymous donor.

Art 'n Apples is the major fundraiser of the Rochester Arts Commission for the non-profit Paint Creek Center for the Arts, 407 Pine, Rochester.

There will be entertainers both days and a variety of food concessions. Visitors will have an opportunity to participate in the Empty Bowls campaign to help feed hungry people. Festival T-shirts and a poster from the award-winning painting, "Yellow-Dog-Moon" by John Swanstrom, in the Celebrate Michigan Artists fine arts exhibition, will be available.

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