

## Way to grow

# Troy club walk presents 6 gardens

BY MARTY FIGLEY  
STAFF WRITER

The Evening Primrose Garden Club of Troy will have its annual garden walk, rain or shine, 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, June 24.

Donation is \$6. For information, call Sherry at 879-9591 or Dorothy at 879-9160. Tickets can be bought the day of the walk at 2691 Binbrooke, or the Boys and Girls Club of Troy on the southeast corner of John R and Long Lake Road. Proceeds will be used for club beautification.

Six gardens are open for the walk. One is an acre in size, owned by Daniel and Leslie Minard, who began concentrating on their plans while they watched their son, Nathaniel, now 7.

Leslie has researched and planned the garden with the full cooperation of Daniel, who has also been very active in garden club projects. The goal of this couple is to minimize the maintenance, especially mowing. Thus many beds of flowers, vegetables and tree surrounds are in place. Ground covers are used to eliminate weeds and to keep the soil cool.

Color has been used to great advantage. Purple leafed plants such as Pygmy barberry and purple leafed maples echo that color throughout the property. A smoke tree is also part of the scene.

Foundation gardens continue all around the house and are gracefully designed with curved edges. They have been closely planted with a variety of flowers and shrubs.

The front area boasts a blue and pink color scheme in the spring with grape hyacinths and pink tulips. As the season progresses salvias with coral blooms and white alyssum march along the front edge. Burgundy ajuga carries the color scheme, while the yellow foliage of Thread leaf Cypress adds light. Tall conifers anchor.

The front garden glows again in the fall when mums and Autumn Joy sedum bloom. A Pegee tree hydrangea with white plums that turn to rose adds an interesting note. A prized planting of

Oriental lilies and later Stargazer lilies bloom at the proper time, while a Coral burst crab placed at the front of the border garden is sited perfectly.

The garden continues around the side of the house where plants that like dry, hot conditions such as Silver Queen artemesia, Moonshine Yarrow and Painted Daisies, and prickly pear cactus live alongside Red Hot Poker, a Peony and more Oriental lilies. The patio area in the back is also attractively planted, and fruit trees such as plum, apple and cherry provide their bounty during the season.

The organic vegetable garden consists of beds bordered with kiln-dried, treated lumber. The soil has been enriched with peat, vermiculite, cow manure, a little lime, gypsum and bone meal. Dried blood repels rabbits, while providing nitrogen to specific plants. Broccoli, peppers, squash, tomatoes, herbs, melons, salad greens as well as Yukon gold potatoes — "They're the best" — are some of the crops. Nathaniel's chore is to water the vegetables that have been marked with decorative labels. Companion planting as well as other non-chemical methods are used.

"We've never used chemicals and have very good luck," they said.

A special feeding area for wild critters is regularly replenished with sunflower seed and corn that deters them from the garden plants. This strategy works for them.

The property boundaries have been planted with trees and shrubs to provide privacy and interest to this well-planned landscape. Visitors will find many ideas for their own gardens.

The other gardens on this walk will also inspire. One features container plantings dominated by shades of pink and contains a surprise or two. Another has been fashioned from a stone quarry and contains many unusual trees, a water garden and much color. The landscape designed to enhance an Early American colonial house is a picture in shades of lavender, yellow and white

and is planned for color throughout the season. The front entrance is a terraced garden. Still another garden comes alive with container plantings of a plethora of flowers, as well as a watering can collection and ceramic bird feeders.

The Boys and Girls Club of Troy's garden is also on the tour, for which the

Evening Primrose Garden Club of Troy won a Community Improvement Award for District I as well as a national special achievement award. They also won first place in the state and a national award for their newsletter from the Federated Garden Club of which they are members.

## Neighborly gardeners raise beautiful designs

BY MARTY FIGLEY  
STAFF WRITER

Don't miss the chance to see six beautiful gardens during the garden walk sponsored by the Beverly Hills Garden Club. The time and date: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday, June 27, rain or shine.

Tickets are \$4 in advance; call 642-2265 or 362-1961. Tickets on the day of the walk are \$5; buy them at the Beverly Hills Park Pavilion on Beverly Road, west of Southfield Road. Maps are printed on the tickets.

Refreshments and a gift boutique will be available at the park pavilion. The boutique will feature items handmade by members — such as baskets, swags and decorated pots that contain plants as well as other lovely gifts. Visit the booths any time during the day.

A trio of gardens on a small court will be the first stop on the walk. Three gardens side by side have been cared for by long-standing friends and neighbors for many years. These gardens have been coordinated colorwise and each complements the other.

The first abounds with ideas for landscape design — the shrubs and flowering bushes provide constant color. The shrubs provide privacy as well as beauty in the meticulously maintained garden.

The second features a front deck filled with pots of impatiens and cane chairs. The back yard offers ferns and hostas as well as annuals for color.

The third is a park-like setting. "The perennials are a friendship col-

lection from gardening friends," the owner said.

These gardeners are establishing a new rose garden on the property and in the back you'll find a deck and a hot tub.

A new club member has agreed to participate in the walk with a garden that is in a transitional stage from shade to sun because of the loss of a large tree. It contains an antique wrought-iron trellis as well as a patio made of antique bricks. The man of the house has made decorative birdhouses for added interest.

The next garden features wood sculptures created by the husband, which are throughout a beautiful setting of flowers and vegetable gardens. It shows much love and care.

The sixth garden is at a church and is ablaze with a display of colorful annuals. Last year 4,500 plants were planted. Here you will find junipers that have been pruned into spiral shapes as well as a burning bush with a smiley face.

In all the gardens the husbands of club members have been of great help to prepare the gardens for this show.

Proceeds are used to support a memorial garden in Beverly Hills Park and for beautification of the Beverly Hills city offices. This year a scholarship has been given to a landscape architect student. This club also supports the objectives of the Federated Garden Clubs of Michigan: conservation, protection of natural resources and encouragement of civic beauty.

## Tour visits lovely grounds

The Grosse Pointe Garden Center's annual garden tour will take place Friday-Sunday, July 7-9, this year.

Hours are 1-5 p.m. each day, rain or shine. Advance tickets are \$8. Mail checks made payable to the Grosse Pointe Garden Center to 32 Lake Shore Drive, Grosse Pointe Farms 48236. Include a business-size, self-addressed, stamped envelope. A brochure describing each garden and a map with garden locations will accompany each ticket.

Tickets may also be bought at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, 32 Lake Shore Drive; Cavanaugh's Office Supplies, 16837 Kercheval; Grosse Pointe Florists, 174 Kerby Road; and Wild Birds Unlimited, 20926 Mack Avenue.

On the days of the tour, tickets will be \$10 and available only at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial or the gardens 1-5 p.m.

For more information, call (313) 881-4594 or 881-2441.

Six gardens are on this year's tour, including the Trial Gardens at the war memorial. Each garden is unusual. Among them are English country cottage gardens, ponds and waterfalls, rose gardens, herbs and vegetables, a greenhouse filled with more than 100 orchids and gardens of formal splendor.

Proceeds from the tour will be used to promote the many activities of the garden center, which include scholarships, grants to area beautification projects, workshops and lectures.

## Subject is roses

In celebration of our national flower, English Gardens will have its third annual rose festival Saturday-Sunday, June 24-25, at its West Bloomfield store, 6370 Orchard Lake Road.

Representatives from the Detroit Rose Society will be on hand 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily to answer questions. Also, informative seminars on a variety of rose-related topics will be taught by ex-

perts throughout the festival at the store.

Seminars scheduled June 24 are "What's New in Roses for 1995," 11 a.m., and "Arranging Fresh-cut Roses," 3 p.m. Seminars scheduled June 25 are "Growing and Caring for Miniature Roses in Containers," 11 a.m., and "Summer Rose Care," 2 p.m.

For more information, call the store at (810) 851-7506.