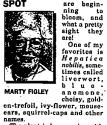
# GARDENING

# Wildflowers carry special legends

#### GARDEN SPOT



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The plant is low growing with blue, lavender, purple, maroon, pinkish or whitish flowers that appear at the onds of fuzzy stems. They close in cloudy weather and at night.

The foliage comes after the flowers bloom and lasts through cut winter old leaves are frequently purplish red. The plant grows naturally in dry woods, sandy slopes and thickets, with the flowers appearing in April and May with, or just after, cross bloom.

and May with, or just after, cro-cus bloom.

There are many cultivated species, all excellent for the gar-den. This species, with rounded leaves, is the variety obtusa. The variety acuta has sharp-lobed leaves. They are members of the large buttercup or crowfoot fami-ly.

As with most wildflowers,

there is lore and legend associated with hepatica.

Indians used the plant medicinally and as charm to put on traps for fur-bearing animals. At one time it was thought to cleanse the liver because the leaves resembled that body part, but it seems that has been disproved.

but it seems that has been dis-proved.

In 1657 a Swiss physician the-orized that the part or parts of a plant that physically resembled a certain body part could cure it. This is called the doctrine of sig-natures. Often nicknames and proper names originated from the physical characteristics of the plant (i.e. liverwort in this case).

case).

In the 1880s it was said that a girl in the Carolina mountains could win the love of any sweetheart she wished, by secretly throwing over his clothing some of the powder made by rubbing together a few of the heartshaped leaves that had been dried by fire.

### Inspiring program

Inspiring program
Many wildflowers will be featured in a program. "Consider
the Lilies," by Carl Price. You
won't want to miss this dualscreen musical presentation
sponsored by Cranbrook House
and Gardens Auxiliary.
The time, date and place: 10
a.m. Wednesday, March 7, in the
DeSalle Art Gallery auditorium,
in the lower level of the Cranbrook Art Museum at 500 Lone
Pine in Bloomfield Hills. Shuttle

service begins at 9 a.m. from the Christ Church parking lot, across Lone Pine. Come and enjoy the program, then make a day of it and go out

Come and enjoy the program, then make a day of it and go out to lunch.

Dr. Price was senior pastor at the Methodist church in Middland for 26 years. Since his retirement he is now on the staff partime of First United Methodist Church in Birmingham, where he teaches Bible classes.

He and his wife, Pat, have led inter-generational hiking groups for the past 10 years or so to national parks, such as Glacier National Park (his favorite) and Rocky Mountain National Park.

Dr. Price's interest in the natural world began in Scouting and the fact that he spent a lot of time with his grandparents in West Virginia.

"I love the outdoors," he said. "I hove the outdoors," he said. "In fact, for a time I considered wildlife conservation as a career before I decided to become a minister."

His favorite wildflower? "It depends on the day. I guess the Alpine gentiam in the high country is one favorite because it is hard to find."

hard to find."
This program will be memorable and all are invited. Ticket prices are \$8 for auxiliary members, \$10 for non-members, Questions? Call (248) 648-3149.
GOOD GARDEN TIPS
© Congratulations to Four Seasons Garden Center and Landscape Services, which received a Community Service

Award from the Michigan Recreation and Parks Department. The award was for "outstanding commitment and service to their community." Glen Goldberg, company president, accepted the award in January.

empany pressions, accepted the award in January.

It is the least toxic' peet and disease management approaches are available at Trevarrow Activations. Telly's Greenhouse and the Tree CSTeer, and Tree Markey. Hardware in Birmingham. Durst Lumber & Ace Hardware, the Hardware in Berdley, Hilringers Ace Hardware, the Hardware in Berdley, Hilringers Ace Hardware, the English Gardens in Royal Oak; Four Seasons Garden Center and Scheer Ace Hardware in Oak Park.

I Le's take the mystery out of soil pH. Think of it as a thermometer with a scale from 1 to 14. The higher the number, the more alkalism the soil; the lower the number, the more alkalism the soil; the lower the number, the more acceptance of the think of the

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birm-ingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone, then 111, then 3445. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.





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#### CALENDAR

Here is a list of upcoming Home

Here is a list of upcoming Home and Garden shows: ANTIQUES MARKET The fourth annual Michigan's Home and Garden Antiques Market displays antiques and accessories for the home, garden and personal adornment in an antique garden setting. Selections include jewelry, furniture, garden and erchitectural pieces, birdbaths and benches, ormamental iron and garden ornamental iron and garden galos, quitts, folk art, vintage getes, quitte, folk art, vintage --ctothing, purses and perfumes.
Show hours are 2-9 p.m., Friday,
March 16, noon-8 p.m., Saturday,
March 17, and noon-5 p.m.,
Sunday, March 18, at the
Southfield Civic Center, 26000
Evergreen (located at 10 1/2
Mile Road), Admission is \$6 with ads or listings or \$7. One paid admission is good for all days of the show. Children under 12 admitted free, For information, click on www.antiqnat.

## GMC BUILDERS

The GMC Builders Home & Garden Show, the 83rd annual home show presented by the non-profit Building Industry Association of Southeastern Michigan, features products and sarvices for home and garden at the Cobo Conference-Eathbitton Center in Detroit. Show hours are 2.10 p.m., Thursday and Friday, March 22 and 23; 10 a.m.10 p.m. Saturday, March 4 and 10 a.m. 6 p.m., Sunday, March 25 seniors, and \$4 for children children order 6 are free. Visit www.builders.org or call (248) 862-1019. Michigan, features products and

### ANN ARBOR

The 2001 Ann Arbor Spring The 2001 Ann Arbor Spring [Garden & Flower Show features [Evin MacDonald, 'The Garden Guru, 'who is the senior editor at Traditional Home Magazine and Other garden exports. This year's Liberne is "Homescapes. The public can participate in "Plants on Parade" with forced bulbs, bonsal, house plants and ministers. Children can participate in view. tures, Children can participate in garden workshops and major landscape displays, vendors and of greenhouse will be featured. Show hours are 10 a.m. 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday, March 30 and 31, and 10 a.m. 4 p.m., April 1, at the Weshtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Abor-Salira Road, Ann Arbor. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$3 for revelors and \$5 for ribidizing 5.12. seniors, and \$5 for children 5-12. seniors, and \$5 for children 5-12. For information, contact the Ann Arbor Spring Garden and Flower Show at (734) 434-8004 or e-mail AAflowershow@aol.com



