

GARDENING

Reap a little inspiration from garden books

GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

Books can often inspire us to grow something new to us, add a feature to our garden or try a different style. Here are some that may do just that.

If you've ever wanted a small water feature and have some expertise with tools, look into *Simple Fountains for Indoors & Outdoors*, Dorcas Addins (Storey Books, \$29.95), which contains designs for 20 different types.

Whether you want a fountain of bamboo and wood or ceramic, stone, metal or concrete, Addins provides thorough step-by-step instructions.

The ideas are innovative and fun—i.e., a mask of a real person makes a spouting fountain. In addition, a chapter is devoted to ponds and waterfalls. The illustrations and photos clearly show the correct procedures.

Also from Storey, *The Family Butterfly Book*, Rick Mikula (\$18.95, soft), contains "projects, activities, and a field guide to 40 favorite North American species."

This colorful book invites you into the world of butterflies as Mikula shares his extensive knowledge.

Projects include raising cater-

pillars, hand-feeding the butterflies, the correct plants that entice them into the garden, water, etc., and even first-aid techniques! Featured are descriptions and photos of the most common backyard butterflies.

Take time to share this book with young and not-so-young children; it's full of good advice.

Guides

Houghton Mifflin has just released two first-class books (each \$23) in its *Taylor's Guides* series. Both are carefully arranged with cross-references for quick access.

In the first, *Perennials*, Barbara Ellis describes more than 600 flowering and foliage plants in alphabetical order by botani-

cal name.

Size, sun, shade and soil requirements, zones and a very short description as well as color photos comprise the first half.

The encyclopedia holds more detailed descriptions and includes the latest cultivars. The introductions give general care, diseases and insect problems, propagation, and buying information, as well as many good tips.

The second book, *Shrubs*, by Kathleen Fisher, has information about selecting and growing more than 600 ornamental and useful shrubs for privacy, ground covers and specimen plantings. It follows the same format as the first and also contains excellent information.

The Great Lakes Berry Book, A Falcon Field Guide, by Bob Krumm (distributed by Globe Pequet Press, \$11.95, soft), can be taken in the field while you search for all kinds of berries that grow wild in the area.

The 48 color photos clearly illustrate the plants in blossom and in fruit. Thoughtfully, poisonous berries are included. Many yummy-sounding recipes from jelly to mousse will encourage you to try something new that is definitely a Michigan product.

Old and new

Two books from Brooklyn Botanic Garden (each \$9.95) are again written with the authority and style on which we have come to rely.

The first, *Japanese Inspired Gardens: Adapting Japan's Design/Traditions for Your Garden*, with guest editor Patricia Jonas, explains how to design such a garden with the proper placement of paths and rocks, how to incorporate water, and the Japanese technique of tree pruning.

The second, *Landscaping Indoors: Bringing the Garden Inside*, guest editor Scott Appell, contains designs for new ways to display plants.

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

Gardening has far-reaching benefits

BY LEE REICH
AP WEEKLY FEATURES

Just look at all the fruits, flowers and vegetables a garden offers this time of year. What a fine time to consider the benefits of gardening!

It's not always much cheaper to grow your own vegetables and flowers, so economics is not a very convincing argument for gardening. Unless, of course, you plan to eat a lot of vegetables or want an abundance of flowers—not such bad ideas.

Quality is where the rift between buying and growing widens, and it's in favor of growing. You cannot buy peas, lettuce, peaches, tomatoes, and most other vegetables and fruits from a supermarket that are as good-tasting as those you can

grow. You can grow 10 varieties of peas in your garden, and eat them within seconds of picking. Homegrown flowers might not have the perfection of florists' flowers, but aren't a few imperfections what make homegrown ones so attractive?

Consider also the physical and psychological benefits of bending to weed and pitching manure as compared with jogging on a treadmill or doing push-ups. Just as Thoreau's wood heated him twice, first when he cut it and then when he burned it, so the garden provides health twice. Even before you harvest healthful fruits, vegetables, and herbs, you benefit from the physical exercise associated with growing them.

The garden also can be a great teacher. Close observation of

plants and their environment can teach chemistry, botany, entomology, and pathology. Gregor Mendel formulated the basic laws of genetics in his monastery garden.

The garden teaches more than just science, though. In the 1888 classic "My Summer in a Garden," C.D. Warner writes that the garden teaches "patience and philosophy and the higher virtues—hope deferred, and expectations blighted... The garden thus becomes a moral agent, a test of character, as it was in the beginning."

The garden offers rewards. Such rewards may be deferred, but they are sure to come, doled out after just days (plant radishes), after weeks (plant marigolds), or after years (plant a maple tree).

GARDENING CALENDAR

MORE GARDENING
The Michigan School of Gardening, 29429 Six Mile, in Livonia offers classes on a variety of subjects. Register in advance. Classes are limited in size. Weekly classes usually are scheduled for 9:30 a.m., while evening courses begin at 6:30

p.m. Classes listed here will be taught at the Livonia facility. Here is a list of some of the classes, some of which require prerequisite courses or experience, and the dates each class start: Garden Design, July 9; Tree and Shrub Pests, July 19; Vegetable Garden Pests, Aug. 1;

Flower Garden Pests, Aug. 7, and Landscape Design, Aug. 8. For information on spring classes, times and costs or click on www.michigangardening.com for class information or for classes at other locations in Detroit, Pontiac and Macomb Township. Call (248) 4-GARDEN.

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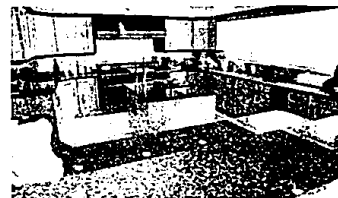
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