

GARDENING

Sponsored by English Gardens

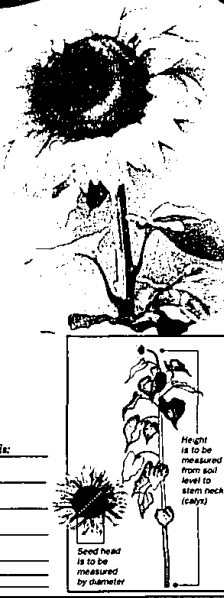
HIGH HOPES CONTEST

Submit your entries as follows:

PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE NEWSPAPER. Use the entry form below (or a facsimile) printed in this newspaper. Entries must be postmarked by Monday, Aug. 27, 2001. Fill in all the blanks. Clearly print or type the information. Include area code with your telephone number and the best time of day to call if we wish to take photographs. Children should include their ages. Your comments about how you care for the plants can also be sent along with the entry. This information may be passed on to our readers when we announce the winners. There are two categories of winners in this High Hopes Sunflower Contest: The tallest sunflower and the one with the largest seed head (not including the rays of the flower), grown in the 2001 season through Aug. 27.

1. Sunflower measurement must be taken from soil level to the base of the head where the stem attaches to the flower.
 2. Seed head measurement must be taken diagonally across the seed head (not including the rays of the flower).
 3. Participants must send the official entry form (or a facsimile) to: High Hopes Sunflower Contest, The Observer Newspapers, 30351 Schoolcraft, Livonia, MI 48150. To fax call (734) 591-7279. Judges will notify contest finalists to verify height and size.
 4. Winners will be announced in the newspaper in September.
 5. Employees and families of the Observer and Eccentric Newspapers aren't eligible.
 6. Decisions of the judges are final.
 7. Entries must live in Oakland or Wayne County to be eligible.
 8. Gift certificates from English Gardens will be awarded to the winners — \$75 first place, \$50 second place and \$25 third place. Prizes will be awarded 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 10 at English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Rd., West Bloomfield, MI.
- Winners must appear at awards to claim their prize.

My sunflower height is: _____ My sunflower's seed head is: _____
 Name: _____ If Child, include age: _____
 Community: _____
 Phone number(s): () _____
 Best time of day to call: _____
 Plant-care comments: _____



GARDEN SPOT



MARTY FIGLEY

The gardens, which opened to the public in the late 1860s, are regarded as America's oldest manmade tourist attraction.

The plantation has, for more than three centuries, been the original ancestral home of the Drayton family. It is believed that no other plantation in South Carolina is still under original family ownership from that time; 13 generations of the present owning family have lived here.

There are acres of gardens, formal and informal, mazes and statues, peacocks and guinea hens, miniature horses that graze in a field surrounded by a split-rail fence, and so much more to see and experience.

The plantings offer beauty all through the year, so a visit can be planned at any time. Each path leads to more beauty and the question, "What could be more beautiful than what I am now seeing?"

Visitors can observe plantation life as it was in the 1840s, with the vegetable garden near the domestic workers' cabins and guinea hens in the yard. The domestic workers were taught to read and their schoolroom is on the grounds.

Fun for all

Canoeing, bike and walking nature trails, picnic areas, a 125-acre rice field waterfowl refuge and a petting zoo of plantation animals will keep every member

of the family busy and entertained.

A leisurely stroll through the many gardens is a highlight. The lovely Crepe Myrtle was in full bloom when I was there. The present director, Taylor Drayton Nelson, says the Camellia collection—more than 100 years old—is magnificent toward the end of March and Rhododendron blooms aren't to be missed, nor are the Magnolia Grandiflora, the flower for which the plantation was named.

There are several theme gardens such as an enclosed Barbados Tropical Garden, a Topiary Garden and a Biblical Garden. There is also a large Indian burial mound and a plantation worker graveyard.

There is an experience is a 45-minute ride on the nature train around the rice fields and wildlife refuge that borders the Ashley River.

All kinds of water creatures such as turtles, alligators, snakes, bald eagles and the like reside in this area. A nature boat plies the water of the ancient 160-acre flooded rice field, now a wildlife refuge for many water-loving birds and swamp inhabitants.

Gardens

Boardwalks and dikes lead through The Audubon Swamp Garden, 60 acres of blackwater cypress and tupelo swamp.

This is a most unusual major garden and wildlife preserve, and should be a must on the list of things to do. Try to spend at least 45 minutes to see alligators, anhinga (water turkey) and other wildlife as well as beautiful water lilies.

The Audubon Swamp Garden is independently operated by that Society and is reached through Magnolia Plantation. It is open to coincide with the plantation hours.

The Biblical Garden was most peaceful and bordered by boxwood with a religious statue standing in the center. Along one

path in the woods, red and white impatiens had been planted under the Magnolias; quite a sight.

Another beautiful area is the formal Herb Garden, just inside a long hedge of Crepe Myrtle. Just behind this garden is the magnificent ancestral home with a collection of outstanding Early American antiques. Tours are available.

Live oaks are festooned with Spanish moss and are quite picturesque; the mist over the river in early morning evokes a feeling of tranquility that radiates from this centuries-old plantation and gardens.

Putting Magnolia Plantation on your itinerary when you're traveling South is suggested.

Refreshments are available. A gift shop is filled with lovely things. Open 365 days a year, 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Call for November to February hours.

Magnolia Plantation is on Highway 61, just 10 miles from downtown Charleston, Route 4, 29414. Visit the Web site, www.magnoliaplantation.com, or call (843) 571-1266 or (800) 367-3517.

Marty Figley is an 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) 44-1314.

Tour Ojibway

Join the Detroit Garden Center for a naturalist guided tour of the Ojibway Tallgrass Prairie Provincial Park in Windsor at 10 a.m. Friday, July 27. Ojibway is the eastern tip of a prairie formed over 8,000 years ago and contains more rare plants per acre than any other park in Ontario. The tour costs \$8 for Detroit Garden Center members and \$10 for non-members. Call the Detroit Garden Center at (313) 258-6368.

Enter sunflower contest

Growing sunflowers this summer? Keep nurturing them, give them plenty of sunshine and water and you just may have a winner next month.

The Observer & Eccentric Newspapers and English Gardens are sponsoring their second annual High Hopes Sunflower Contest. First-, second- and third-place finishers for the tallest plant and widest seed head categories will be awarded. Winners will receive \$75, \$50 or \$25 gift certificates from English Gardens. Check the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for entry forms. Please

enclose information on how you cared for the plant or any other details or circumstances about the plant. The deadline for entries is Monday, Aug. 27. The top entries in length and seed head for the 2001 season will be verified by judges.

Prizes will be awarded Sunday, Sept. 16, at English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Road, West Bloomfield. Winners must appear at the awards to claim their prize.

Seminar tonight

English Gardens conducts free gardening seminars for the public 7 p.m. Thursdays at its West Bloomfield store, 6370 Orchard Lake Road, north of Maple (phone (248) 851-7506). The schedule includes Arranging Garden Flowers, by Jacqueline Randall July 19.

CLARIFICATION

The July 5 Garden Spot column should have said that the master gardener at Tollgate is Bob Mroczek.

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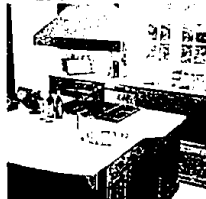
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