

# Garden books offer adventure, insight

Summer is winding down; time for us to set aside some time for reading and studying about our favorite hobby.

Timber Press has just released the final two garden books written by Beverly Nichols, the English journalist and gardener who writes with much wit and also gives good gardening advice.



**Garden Spot**  
Marty Figley

His style of writing is "his" as he describes the plants and their importance to him; you can feel his passion. Some of the growing conditions are different from ours, but there is still a lot of good advice.

This prolific writer wrote about many subjects such as religion, politics and travel, and also authored novels, children's stories, books, mysteries and plays.

Look for *Garden Open Today* and *Garden Open Tomorrow* (\$24.95 each). You might want to go to the Timber Press Web site [www.beverlynichols.com](http://www.beverlynichols.com).

## ADVENTURE

The same publisher presents *A Cactus Odyssey*, James D. Mauseth, Roberto Klesling, Carlos Ostolaza (\$39.95).

Journey along with these well-informed authors in the wilds of Bolivia, Peru and Argentina as they travel in sometimes perilous conditions to find a particular plant. Their excitement when they make a "find" is translated throughout the book.

This is a true-life adventure story of three men who are enthusiastic about their pursuit. Although this isn't a strictly practical guide to cultivating cacti, they share growing tips based on an understanding of the plants' native habitats.

*Mints: A Family of Herbs and Ornamentals*, Barbara Perry Lawton (Timber Press, \$27.95), is the first book to survey the entire mint family (*Lamiaceae* or *Labiatae*).

Lawton shares fascinating history and lore, the uses of mints in health and home, as well as gardening and cooking tips.

Here you will find a surprising number of plants that you might not know are mints: *Ajuga* (bugleweed), *Calamintha* (calaminth), *Lavandula* (lavender), *Mentha* (mint), *Nepeta* (catnip), *Origanum* (oregano), *Rosmarinus* (rosemary), *Salvia* (sage), *Satureja* (savory), *Teucrium* (germander) and *Thymus* (thyme). And there are more.

Color photos are grouped; nice line drawings help with identification.

*Lemon Herbs: How to Grow and Use 18 Great Plants*, Ellen Specter Platt (Stackpole Books, \$19.95, soft), zeroes in on these lemon-scented beauties. She highlights each one and shares her personal experience with them.

We learn which herbs have lemon scent or flavor, how to use them in various ways such as making teas, their effectiveness in cleaning, and how to make potpourris.

There's a chapter about growing them that



MARTY FIGLEY

Spearmint is one of many herbs featured in this month's book review.

includes planning the garden, and how to combine them with other plants, grow them in containers, and make topiaries and standards. Among the craft ideas are lemon garlands, lemon rind cups, and vinegars.

The final chapter centers on cooking with lemons and lemon herbs, preserving and cooking with them. Recipes include soup, herbed yogurt cheese, lemon cranberry chutney, lemon balls (for Christmas); each makes the mouth water. A welcome gift for a special friend.

## INSIGHT

*Finding God in the Garden: Backyard Reflections on Life, Love, and Compost*, Balfour Brickner (Little, Brown, \$24.95, paper), is an insightful account written after the death of a beloved daughter. As he worked in his garden, Rabbi Balfour observed nature's abundant examples of order and renewal, miracles and beauty, and he found his faith returning like a garden in spring. He finds beauty and learns the connections between biblical teachings and botanical life.

This is a book to be read slowly and with an open mind, and to share with others.

## GOODGARDEN TIPS

■ My Favorite Mums are now available at Frank's Nurseries and some English Gardens stores (call first). My Favorite Mums are in the aqua pots and perform excellently.

■ Before you do any digging for new plants, construction or any place in the garden where there is even a slight possibility of running into utility lines, call MISS DIG at (800) 462-7171. They will come and mark the places to avoid. There is no charge.

■ Rake and remove leaves from under rose bushes to remove the breeding ground for insect pests and fungus that may harm the roses; remove fallen fruit from underneath trees to prevent overwintering insects that could cause trouble next spring.

■ Shed annuals you've removed from their beds and add them to the compost heap.

Marty Figley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by calling (734) 953-2047 on a touch-tone phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-3134.

## GARDEN CALENDAR

### Meadow Brook Hall

Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will meet 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 27, at Meadow Brook Hall, on the OU campus in Rochester. George Papadakis, owner of Telly's Greenhouse, will lecture, show slides and demonstrate dividing perennials. He will also feature the highlights of the Chicago 2002 Plant Symposium, including award-winning new annuals for 2003. Non-member donation, \$5.

### Rose show

The Fall Detroit Rose Society Rose Show will take place 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 28, at the Novi Community Center Atrium, 4575 W. 10 Mile, just west of Novi Road (phone (248) 347-0400). Admission is free. The public may attend. For details on exhibiting roses and meeting American Rose Society members, call Roman Kwarinski at (586) 658-5194.

### Beverly Hills

The Beverly Hills Garden Club will meet 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Oct. 1, at the Beverly Hills Village Office, 18500 W. 12 Mile. The meeting will be followed by a program on hummingbirds presented by Alan Chartier. Guests may attend.

### Roses West

The Roses West Rose Society will present a program, Misting, Rooting and Budding Roses, 9:30-10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at the Novi Community Center, 4575 W. 10 Mile (phone (248) 347-0400). Speaker and horticultural judge Paul Scheel will be featured, along with a social hour with pastries and coffee. Admission is free. The public may attend. For more information, call Pat at (248) 449-4626.

### Old English roses

The Metropolitan Rose Society will meet 7:15 p.m. Friday, Oct. 4, at the Royal Oak Senior/Community Center, 3500 Marais, east of Crooks and north of 13 Mile. Lucille L'Esseur will present a talk and slide show on Old English Roses. Admission is free. The public may attend. For more information, call (248) 689-9529.

### African violets

The Michigan State African Violet Society will have its annual Fall Display and Sale Saturday-Sunday, Oct. 5-6, at Matthiessen Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Oct. 5 and 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oct. 6. Admission is free. Standard African violets, as well as minis and trailers, will be for sale. Gesneriads and supplies will be available. Coffee will be served.

### Hardy Plant Society

The next regular monthly meeting of the Hardy Plant Society will take place 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7, at Congregational Church of Birmingham, Woodward and Cranbrook Road.

The topic will be What's New from Proven Winners. The speaker will be John Gaydos, director of public relations, grounds and product development for Proven Winners. He has more than 30 years experience in the nursery/greenhouse industry.

Guest fee \$3. For more information, call (248) 589-2286.

### Troy Garden Club

For its September meeting, the Troy Garden Club will take a field trip to English Gardens, 4901 Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak. The meeting will take place noon to 3 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 9. Reservations aren't

required.

Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch. A representative of English Gardens will give a talk about orchids. There will be time to ask questions about the topic. For more information, call Barb at (248) 952-5938.

### Tree, bulb sale

The Oakland Conservation District is offering a variety of spring-flowering bulbs and bare-root evergreen seedlings for sale at economical prices until Friday, Oct. 4. Choose from crocus, daffodil, tulip and hyacinth bulbs; and pine, spruce, fir and cedar trees. Tree pickup will be Friday and Saturday, Oct. 18 and 19. Pick up order blanks at the Oakland Conservation District, 2891 Dixie Highway in Waterford, or have the order blanks mailed by calling the office at (248) 673-4496.

### Auction

Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac, will have its third annual Seasoned Auction noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5. Call (248) 332-6430 for more information. Name your price on selected nursery stock, perennials, tropicals, pottery, sculpture, iron/metalware, tools and more. Refreshments will be served.

### Chrysanthemum show

The Greater Detroit Chrysanthemum Society will have a chrysanthemum show Friday-Sunday, Oct. 11-13, at the Livonia Civic Center Library, Five Mile and Farmington Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 11-12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Oct. 13.

### School of Gardening

The Michigan School of Gardening offers a variety of classes. Advance registration is requested. Many classes are limited in size and some have prerequisites. Call (248) 4-GARDEN for information. The schedule includes these classes taking place at Goldner Walsh Nursery, 559 Orchard Lake Road in Pontiac: Compost: Black Gold from Garden Waste, Thursday, Sept. 26 (\$39.50); Doubling Up Perennials, Thursday, Sept. 28 (\$39.50); the four-session Healthy Soil and Wise Fertilizing, beginning Tuesday, Oct. 1 (\$24); Designing for Winter Interest, Monday, Oct. 7 (\$39.50); and Bulbs: Tips on Choosing and Using, Wednesday, Oct. 9 (\$39.50).

### Winterizing roses

Congress has declared 2002 the Year of the Rose. Roger and Nancy Lindsey, owners of Great Lakes Roses, are celebrating with a series of free programs that will enable Michigan gardeners to succeed with roses. Each presentation lasts about an hour. Reservations aren't needed. Great Lakes Roses is at 49875 Willow Road, between Rawsonville and Sumpter (Belleville) roads in Sumpter Township, just south of Belleville. Call (734) 461-1233 or visit [www.GreatLakesRoses.com](http://www.GreatLakesRoses.com). Winterizing Roses, a garden demonstration by the Lindseys that shows techniques to ensure winter survival of all roses, will take place 1 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 29, or 11 a.m. Monday, Sept. 30. (The program will be offered six times because it is so popular; repeated 1 p.m. Sundays, Oct. 6 and 13, and 11 a.m. Mondays, Oct. 7 and 14.)

### Bamboo

Saguro Nursery and Gardens, 470 W. Five Mile in Whitmore Lake, offers a series of free lectures by various garden experts 12 p.m. Sundays at the nursery. Reservations aren't necessary. Come prepared to walk. For more information, call (734) 449-4231. Saguro Nursery and Gardens owner Richard Tuttle will speak on Hardy Bamboo for Michigan Gardens Sept. 29.

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