

January seminar to focus on annuals

From the flowering maple, abutilon, to the ever-popular zinnia, annuals are being used in great profusion in many gardens. They are



Garden Spot
Marty Fligley



The zinnia remains a very popular annual.

grown as bedding plants, as companions to perennials, as accents, in containers, and as cut flowers. You can learn More About Annuals at a seminar featuring Nancy Sierlag, weekly garden columnist for the Detroit News, master gardener and popular lecturer, Saturday, Jan. 18.

Nancy will share her personal experiences with annuals and cultural trends, and present the finest modern introductions. The event will take place at the Michigan State University Management Center, 811 W. Square Lake Road in Troy. Doors will open at 8 a.m.; the program will begin at 9 a.m.

To register for this seminar, send a check or money order in the amount of \$50 for each attendee, payable to Nature & Earth Inc., to Nature & Earth Inc., P.O. Box 300261, Drayton Plains, MI 48030.

Questions? Call Colleen Traylor at (248) 627-6873 or Michael Saint at (248) 620-7188.

Nancy is the author of two popular books, *Perennials for Michigan* and *Annuals for Michigan*, which will be available for purchase at the seminar; she will be happy to sign your copy.

There will be a question-and-answer segment following the lecture. A mini trade show and book sale will remain open until 2 p.m.

It's always nice to see people

branch out in their business. Colleen Taylor of Holly still runs her company, Nature's Image Inc., and has recently developed a new company with partner Michael Saint of Clarkston, president of Good Earth Landscapes Inc.

The new company, Nature & Earth Inc., will concentrate on horticultural seminars and symposiums.

This is the first event they have sponsored. Their goal is to promote organic gardening, soil and water conservation, the use and preservation of native plants, and the attraction of beneficial insects; to encourage the use of Michigan nurseries; and to feature Michigan talent.

"We chose annuals as our first topic because of their outstanding qualities that should appeal to any gardener — they are colorful and varied, with a color and style for every situation, and they all give quick results; to show there is more to annuals than petunias, marigolds, wax begonias and impatiens," they say.

"Our intention is to have several seminars a year, on many different gardening topics, by

Michigan gardeners for Michigan gardeners." We wish them the best in this new venture.

GOODGARDEN TIPS

■ Garden catalogs are beginning to arrive. Take some time to choose and place your order soon.

■ Make a resolution this year to keep a record of rainfall and temperature to learn more about this thing called gardening.

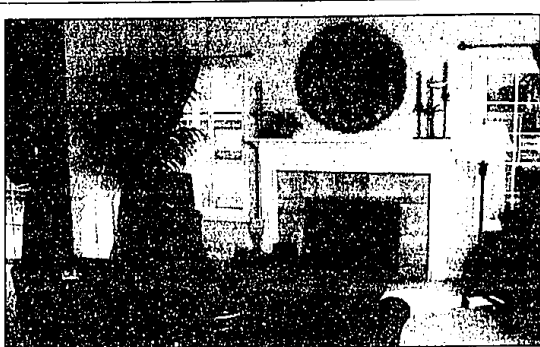
■ Check houseplants to see if they are rootbound and need repotting.

■ If you just remove dried foliage the plants will look much prettier. They will appreciate dusting (with a soft brush) so they will breathe easier.

■ When repotting a plant, choose a pot that is just one size larger. The chance of over-watering is greater if a pot is too large.

■ Rotate plants so they will have even growth.

Marty Fligley is an advanced master gardener based in Birmingham. You can leave her a message by dialing (313) 933-2047 on a four-line phone. Her fax number is (248) 644-1314.



Gold accents, upholstery in earthier tones and ample use of accessories create a refined tropical atmosphere in the living room.

TROPICAL

FROM PAGE C1

Michigan, anything tropical means warmth and vacation and relaxation," she said. "It's very big right now. It's been big for a while, I think, because it adds texture to different aspects of design, and it has such a nice rich feeling."

Tropical accents, accessories and fabrics are readily available, too, she said: "It's

so accessible right now. You can pretty much go out and find something that will work in your decor."

Examples at the Cassidy Place model run the gamut from bamboo design silverware to pineapple candle holders to butterfly prints hung above a bathtub.

In the kitchen, an elephant print wallpaper in subtle tones graces the walls. Wicker stools pull up to the eating counter, and the wood cabinets have inlays of

columns and claw feet at their bases.

"It's a small space, so we tried to keep it open," Breneman said. "But I think we proved that you can decorate a small space and make it look dramatic."

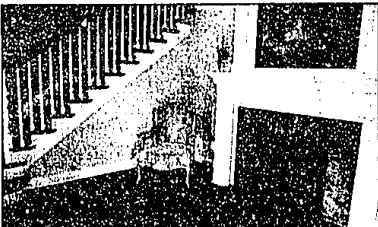
Park View Gallery is at 322 S. Main, above Gabriel's in downtown Plymouth. To contact Mussen or Breneman, call (734) 455-8884.

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COTTAGE

FROM PAGE C1

First floor amenities include a butler's pantry in the hallway, with a mesh opening in the door so air can circulate. Also on the first floor is a laundry with a lowered ceiling that adds a quaint, cozy element. A second fireplace, with a wood mantel painted to resemble limestone, is in the dining room area.



BOB HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

The parlor of the house features a fireplace and a painting of a plantation and a bayou.

Vines are painted on the side of the garage that forms a backdrop to the scene.

The courtyard is easily viewed from inside the house. It is an example of Timlin's plan that residents should be able to enjoy the landscaping from more than one place at the house.

Other examples are the clusters of flowers and plants at the

upper front windows of the house that form floral displays, and the tree in the front yard that was placed so it is in the center of the doorway.

"People think of landscaping as an exterior function, but it should be an interior function of the home (as well)," Timlin said.

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LANDSCAPING

Outside is a secluded courtyard that is a replica of one in New Orleans' French Quarter. It features a small water fountain and an antique iron gate.

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