

Seminar to offer energy-saving ideas

Lessons from the Zero Energy Home, a free seminar, will take place 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Upland Hills Ecological Awareness Center in Oxford.

The center is at 2375 Indian Lake Road. Visit www.uec.org for directions. Reservations are preferred, but not required; call Deanne at (248) 363-1756 or the center at (248) 693-1021.

Architect and instructor Christina Snyder will share lessons learned from the state of Michigan's Zero (fossil fuel) Energy Home Competition. Her university students won first and second place in the contest. Applying these ideas will reduce fossil fuel use in homes, businesses or future designing.

The seminar will include a slide show presentation, a question-and-answer period, free informational handouts, refreshments, and an energy

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Orchid festival set at English Gardens

English Gardens is dedicating an entire weekend to one of the world's most beautiful and exotic flowers – the orchid.

The first English Gardens Orchid Festival, Saturday, Sunday, Jan. 25-26, will feature two full afternoons of displays, expert growers and educational seminars on more than 50 varieties of the flower.

The weekend is geared for orchid lovers of all levels of expertise, featuring "how-to" lessons for the novice gardener and visits with orchid growers for avid enthusiasts.

Event hours are noon to 4 p.m. at all five English Gardens locations: 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield (phone: (248) 851-7506), 4901 Coolidge Highway in Royal Oak (phone: (248) 280-9500), 22650 Ford in Dearborn Heights (phone: (313) 278-4433), 44850 Garfield in Clinton Township (phone: (586) 286-6100), and 22501 Kelly Road in Eastpointe (phone: (586) 771-4200).

Experts and growers discussing orchid care and handling; genealogical histories; displays and descriptions; and an open forum for questions and answers will be featured.

Wayne McGonigal, a member of the Worldwide Orchids speakers group and guest speaker on the HGTV's *Way to Grow*, will host the Introduction to Orchids educational seminar at the Royal Oak store 1 p.m. both days.

Another seminar, *Selecting a Greenhouse*, will take place 11 a.m. Saturday in West Bloomfield, 3 p.m. Saturday in

Clinton Township and 3 p.m. Sunday in Royal Oak.

English Gardens will showcase 50 varieties of orchids, including orchids from the Phalaenopsis, Cattleya, Oncidium and Dendrobium families.

Among the orchids shown will be many exotic clones, including the Baldan Kaleidoscope and Florida-born Baldans Kaleidoscope Golden Treasure AM/AOS.

Visitors wishing to buy orchids or orchid supplies will receive 20 percent off during the festival weekend.

For more information about specific festival activities, contact one of the stores.

For the nearest English Gardens, call (800) 335-GROW or check the Web site at www.englishgardens.com.

As the largest family of flowering plants, orchids have a strong following in the gardening world due to their array of colors, forms, textures and performances.

Once known as a very fragile species common only to the wealthy, orchids are growing in popularity as the flower has evolved into a more hearty and affordable plant.

"While orchids have been popular since the 1920s, orchids have a renewed following and are among the most exotic and cost-effective flowering plants for home decoration," said John Darin, president of English Gardens.

"We especially hope that new orchid enthusiasts attending our seminars will see how easy it can be to grow and enjoy orchids."

DOWN

FROM PAGE C1

moisture away from your skin, promoting the process by which your body naturally regulates its temperature.

Unlike wool, it has a soft touch and is lightweight. Down comforters are also lighter than polyester ones and, if well-cleaned, have less potential for dust mite accumulation.

Frequently, individuals who believe they are allergic to down are, in fact, having a reaction to dust mites, said Matz at Eddie Buehr.

Dust mites are a problem in down products either when the down hasn't been properly cleaned during manufacturing or the comforter is in need of routine cleaning, about every two to three years.

"If people who suffer from allergies, if you are truly allergic to birds then down is not for you. But if you are not, you are probably better off with a down product than a polyester one," said Matz.

The tight weave of down comforter shells prevents not only down clusters from escaping but also dust mites from getting inside, she said.

Don't underestimate the look of down, either. Appearances affect sleep and well-being, said Albrecht.

"With down, you get loft, you get a beautiful look that's cozy and it kind of envelops you." And, sometimes, looking like it's feeling like, said Matz.

"If you think about it, it's like falling asleep in a cloud."

HOME CALENDAR

Meadow Brook Hall
Oakland University's Meadow Brook Hall Garden Club will have its annual meeting 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 24, in the Coach House at Meadow Brook Hall on the OU campus in Rochester Hills.
Club member Nan La Rosa, an advanced master gardener, will present a photographic tour of the 2002 Chelsea Flower Show, featuring some of the extraordinary award winners as well as some of her favorites.
Several homes in northern London will be featured, showing more practical and manageable gardens.
Non-member donation: \$5.
Super bowl event
All Art 'n' Tan Furniture stores will have an event for women 2-4 p.m. Jan. 26, which is Super Bowl Sunday. Women may receive a complimentary makeup consultation from a Jafra Cosmetics consultant. Hand treatments will be given, and products will be available. The first 25 guests will receive a free gift from Jafra.
Home decor
Haberman fabrics, 905 S. Main in Royal Oak, offers a variety of home decor classes.
Advance registration is necessary. Some classes have prerequisites.
For more information, call (248) 541-0010 or visit www.habermanfabrics.com. The schedule includes Beginner Pillow (\$60), Saturdays, Jan. 25 to Feb. 8; and Fabric-covered Boxes (\$20), Thursday, Jan. 30.
Introduction to Orchids
A free seminar about orchids will begin 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 25 and 26, at English Gardens, 6370 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield. For more information, call (248) 851-7506.

Garden writers to speak Sunday

Daniel Hinkley, director of the famous Heronswood Nursery of Kingston, Wash., plant explorer and author, will be the featured speaker 5 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26, at Goldner Walsh Nursery.

RSVP to Goldner Walsh by phone, (248) 332-6430, or mail, 559 Orchard Lake Road, Pontiac. Cost per person is \$14, with \$1 going to Oakland County Master Gardeners. Refreshments will be offered.

Also Sunday, Marty Figley, garden writer for the *Observer & Eccentric Newspapers*, will be speaking at 1 p.m. at Matthaei Botanical Gardens, 1800 Dixboro Road in Ann Arbor. The subject will be *Art in the Garden*.

The fee for the Matthaei program is \$15. For more information, call (734) 998-7061.

At Goldner Walsh, Hinkley will present a lecture that will include slides, and will also sign his books, *The Explorer's Garden* and his latest, *Winter Ornamentals*.

An incredible selection of under-used plants, most of which are propagated at the nursery, many from seeds and cuttings from plants found on Hinkley's travels throughout the world, will be featured in the slide presentation.

Mail order is the biggest part of the business, and the catalog offers all kinds of interesting plants, trees, shrubs, conifers, perennials, vines, ornamental grasses and sedges. It includes cultural information and personal remarks.

This program is the first of three in Goldner Walsh's Cabin Fever Lecture Series.

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