

Accents

Design mishaps

According to top interior designers, most homeowners don't realize that they need to plan ahead when designing their kitchens.

Common design mistakes include choosing the wrong



lighting, not accounting for clearance when selecting handles and hardware, breaking up continuous counterspace and boring color choices.

The deep blue laminate on the counters in the above kitchen is Mesa Twilight, which is part of Wilsonart's MesaGranite Collection. Designers like laminate because it's an easy way to incorporate color into the kitchen. For more information on Wilsonart products, call (800) 433-3222 or visit the Wilsonart Web site at www.wilsonart.com.

Disease discussed

Are you wondering about emerald ash borer disease and whether a favorite tree is infected? What can you do to prevent the disease?

English Gardens officials will discuss the disease at a free seminar Saturday, June 7 at all five store locations, including at the store at 4901 Cedarlane in Troy, 6310 Orchard Lake Road in West Bloomfield and 22650 Ford Road in Dearborn Heights.

Signs of infestation include "dying back" of entire limbs, crown of tree does not grow leaves, bark on trunk shows signs of cracking, visible D-shaped exit holes appear on the trunk and vertical splits may occur in the bark. Those who suspect a problem with this Asian beetle can bring in an affected area to any English Gardens store for a free diagnosis.

Pudding for dogs

What do kids and canines have in common? They both love ice cream. OurPet's now has introduced Dog-E-Licious IcePudding, a healthy, canine-friendly alternative to ice cream. Made from all natural non-dairy ingredients, Dog-E-Licious IcePudding is available in two varieties: Vanilla and mint.

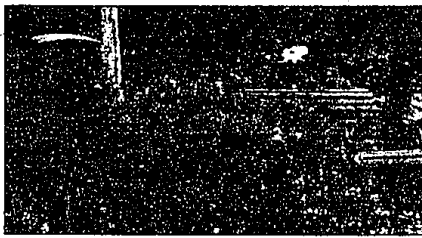
The food contains real vanilla flavoring from whole beans and mint flavor from mint leaves. It contains added minerals, vitamins and probiotics that help dogs maintain a healthy diet.

OurPet's Dog-E-Licious IcePudding treats are packaged in a convenient 3.5-ounce portion. One package contains four of these portions. Retail prices are \$4.99-\$6.99. The food can be found at pet stores and retail stores. For more information, call OurPet's at (800) 565-2695 or visit www.ourpets.com.

Nature walk

Families are invited to the Rouge River Nature Walk and Ecosystem Diversity Demonstration, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Saturday, June 7, in Southfield. The event will be at Valley Wood Trail South, on the southeast corner of Civic Center Drive and Telegraph. It will be conducted by award-winning science teacher Renee Moore. Register with the Southeastern Oakland County Water Authority, (248) 288-5150.

Going wild



With the butterfly house filled with nectar, viewers can sit on the garden swing and watch the butterflies feed and fly around the garden.



PHOTOS BY TOM HOFFMEYER | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

With plenty of plants, feeders, and tranquility, the National Wildlife Federation has designated the Hoffmeyers' garden of Bloomfield Hills a Natural Backyard Habitat.

Backyard habitats welcome wildlife

BY JOAN BORAM
 CORRESPONDENT

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the National Wildlife Federation's Backyard Wildlife Habitat Program.

Almost 25,000 NWF-certified habitats, ranging in size from a few acres to a condo balcony, provide hospitality for local wildlife seeking food and shelter.

Barbara and Tom Hoffmeyer of Bloomfield Hills had always

been interested in gardening and wildlife, so in 2002 they applied for and received certification from NWF recognizing their two-acre property as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat.

"Our subdivision used to be a dairy farm," Barbara said. "There are rows of orange trees that acted as a barrier for the cows, and now provide shelter and nesting sites for birds."

"There are also very many pine trees, so our soil in some places tends to be more acidic than is common in our area."

PLENTY OF PERENNIALS

Barbara estimates there are

2,300 perennials on the property, which include hostas, honeysuckle and clematis vines, buddleias, rudbeckia, daisies and "hundreds of daffodils."

There's also a huge raspberry patch. Thanks to decomposing pine needles, the Hoffmeyers' hydrangeas are a beautiful blue, the result of acidic soil.

There's a tradeoff, however: Because of falling pine needles, water features such as fountains are difficult to maintain.

"We do have one fountain. It's a lot of work to clean it, but the birds and squirrels love it," Barbara said. "We have a great diversity of wildlife. In addition to birds, rabbits, skunks,



Ferns stand tall around a pedestal angel, giving cover for chipmunks, red squirrels, and rabbits scouring the garden floor for food.

raccoons and possums, we've seen deer and a coyote, and we

PLEASE SEE BACKYARD, C5

Couple combines talents to tackle remodeling

BY DOUG FURKE
 STAFF WRITER

Peg Gall and Dick Saunders, retired teachers who live in Livonia, now enjoy a brighter, open, more functional kitchen in their Burton Hollow home.

Not only that, but the couple beams with the satisfaction of doing most of the work themselves at a cost that didn't break the bank.

"It's a world of differ-

ence," Saunders said. "It opens the room up, makes it so much nicer. It's easier to move around and much more efficient."

"I love it," Gall added. "My favorite thing is the floating island. I've moved it around to several different places."

SPLITTING UP PROJECTS

The husband-and-wife team divided up the work to areas of their individual liking and expertise.

Gall painted brick walls, touched-up/stained cabinets, snapped together interlocking laminate floor panels and replaced shelving in the pantry.

Saunders moved plumbing, crafted cabinetry and laid the cork sub floor.

Both worked together installing light fixtures and encouraging the other throughout the remodeling.

The only work hired out was installation of countertops (New Concepts

Kitchen & Bath, Livonia), cast iron sink and faucet, (The Great Indoors, Novi), plus electrical upgrades (\$2,000) that benefited the entire house.

It took about four months and some \$7,500 to spruce up the 10-by-16 foot kitchen.

The tri-level home of 2,300 square feet was built in 1961. The couple moved in shortly after



JIM JACOBELS | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Peg Gall and Dick Saunders, retired teachers who live in Livonia, spent four months remodeling the kitchen of their home in Burton Hollow.

PLEASE SEE KITCHEN, C5

MARKET PLACE

Submissions

Do you have a special item you'd like to showcase in MarketPlace on the front of At Home? We'd like to feature it! Send a photo or slide of the piece, along with information, to: Ken Abramczyk, At Home editor, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 805 E. Maple, Birmingham 48009.

Give a garage

You could give Dad a garage for Father's Day through GarageTek. GarageTek products include high-performance cabinets, shelving, activity racks and accessories professionally installed and designed to fit individual needs. The components are securely installed but can easily be rearranged on panels. Begin with a free design consultation with a local dealer who will help choose the configuration and components that suit your needs. The dealer will then create a free, no-strings-attached, 3D computer rendering of the design and prepare a cost estimate. Upon approval, the system will be professionally installed. Installation usually takes one or two days. The typical GarageTek customer spends an average \$3,500 on the system. The Detroit area dealer is Don Elzen in Walled Lake (phone (248) 960-9800). For more information, call (866) 664-2724 or visit www.garagetek.com.

