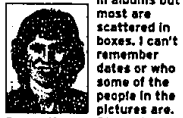


Keep those treasured family photographs organized and neat

I enjoy taking pictures, but they need to be organized. Some of my photos are



Domestic Planner
Diana Koehn

In albums but most are scattered in boxes. I can't remember dates or who some of the people in the photos are. Please help.

Lights. Action. Camera! You capture photo memories with the click of a camera: vacations, birthdays, graduations, weddings, babies and more. You have invested money in film and development and now you

need to preserve these memories so you can continue to enjoy them in the future.

It is important to display your memories in an efficient, enjoyable way instead of storing through boxes or envelopes trying to recall dates and events. I have a successful method to preserve, label and create photo memories in a timely manner by scrapbooking.

First, schedule a time to put your photos in albums. The amount of pictures you have will determine the amount of time you spend. I work on my photos at least twice a month. I enjoy seeing them as a time because I work with a lot of supplies and it takes time to set up my work area. I consider working on my albums to be

both a work project and a fun hobby.

Secondly, choose photo albums that are safe and will not damage your photos over time. You have spent money on film and developing. Protect your initial investment by creating a safe, enjoyable home for your photo memories.

Be a wise shopper, educating yourself so you can choose the right product. Make sure the product you use is acid-free, lignin-free and buffered. Standard photo albums contain clear plastic page covers made of PVC (polyvinyl chloride), and cardboard or paper containing acids. Over time, the polyvinyl chloride interacts with the acids, emitting chlorine gas that causes fading and discoloration to your irreplace-

able photographs. Buffered pages are treated to protect your photos from acid. Another component of most paper, lignin, causes the pages on which your photos are mounted to yellow. I have seen all too many pictures ruined by the magnetic and pocket page albums.

Choose a scrapbook album that is designed for labeling directly on the page beside your photo. You will be able to label your page with important information.

Make sure you label with the three basics: person, place, and date. Under some circumstances you may choose to do photo journaling, recapturing special moments. When you go on vacation, keep a daily journal of what you do. This will

provide valuable information to include with your pictures after they are developed and you are ready to display them in an album. The combination of pictures and quotes from the journal will allow you to relive the events each time you view the album.

Finally, decorate your pages with photo-safe colored paper and stickers. Cutting pictures into different shapes makes the pages more interesting. Cropping pictures will make you look like a better photographer. You will be able to center your subject, remove strangers, or remove unwanted objects from your photos.

Sty albums look like photo books when they are completed. Each page is my very own masterpiece. I regularly get

together with friends to work on albums because it is a great time to socialize and share ideas. I know the cute little moments I freeze in time, attach to a scrapbook page, and label will be cherished memories for future generations.

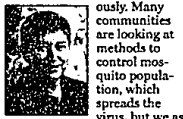
If you need help applying these techniques or locating safe products, I would be glad to help you if you write me at the address below.

Today's Refrigerator Bulletin: "Create photo memories in photo safe scrapbooks!"

Send your questions and success stories: Diana Koehn, P.O. Box 1002, Manchester, MO 63011 or e-mail: dianakoehn@hotmail.com or www.domesticplanner.com.

Homeowners can take steps against West Nile virus

Many news reports and newspaper stories have focused on the West Nile virus in the past year. Though some stories may be "hyped a bit, it is something to take seriously."



Ask Dad
Harry Jachym

Phlymouth Township

homeowner association leaders led by Supervisor Steve Mann, we heard from Jim Anulewicz, director of the township's Division of Public Services, about West Nile virus.

West Nile was first discovered in the US in 1999 and in Michigan in 2002. Though it primarily infects birds, it also infects horses and humans. It is transmitted by mosquito bites.

The breakdown of West Nile cases in Michigan really caught my attention. Of the 616 reported, confirmed cases, 186 were in Wayne, 208 in Oakland and 109 in Macomb counties. That's about 82 percent of all cases in Michigan right here in our backyard.

Anulewicz said most experts agree that the best way to avoid contracting West Nile is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. That can involve limiting outdoor activities from dusk to dawn between April and October and to avoid wooded areas where mosquitoes rest during the day.

Since these suggestions aren't always practical, the best thing is protection. You should wear long-sleeved shirts, long pants and socks and use insect repellents containing DEET (N, N-diethyl-m-toluamide). The more DEET in the product, the better.

Anulewicz also discussed control of mosquitoes. This is where being a good homeowner comes in.

Mosquitoes need a meal of blood and stagnant water to breed. It's important to remove as many sources of this water as possible.

Survey your property for anything that can collect water, and do away with them. These would include upside down trash can lids, neglected bird baths, pool and boat covers, clogged rain gutters, or even an overturned jar lid. Mosquito populations appreciably decline when breeding grounds are removed.

Where it is impractical to remove water, such as ponds, a device called Dunks can be used. Dunks are small, donut

shaped tablets that are placed in ponds. They kill the mosquito larvae, yet are safe for plants and animals. These are available at home improvement stores and many nurseries.

Since it is known that birds are carriers of the virus, it's important to dispose of dead birds properly. Wear latex gloves or scoop them up with a plastic bag. Double bag the dead bird and dispose of it in your normal trash. Report the location of the dead bird, particularly if it is a blackbird or blue jay, to your municipality.

Before becoming too alarmed, keep in mind that about 80 percent of all people exposed to West Nile through a mosquito bite will have no symptoms of illness and, in fact, develop immunity to future infection. Further, the 616 people with confirmed or probable cases of WNV in Michigan, of which 24 have been fatal, is about .00006 percent of the state population.

But why take chances when prevention and control is so easy?

Harry Jachym writes Ask Dad, a column on home issues ranging from repairs and maintenance to building and remodeling projects. He is a Plymouth resident.

Send any questions or comments to Jachym at askdad@comcast.net or in care of Ken Abramczyk, Observer & Eccentric Newspapers, 38231 Schoorcraft, Livonia MI 48150.

GARDEN WALKS AND TOURS

Franklin

Garden and plant lovers can enjoy the 2003 Franklin Garden Walk 10 a.m.-3 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. Wednesday, June 18. Organizers have scheduled some of the best gardens in the area to mark the club's 50th anniversary. Three estate gardens, each over five acres, will be included in the walk this year. Walk tickets are \$8 presale and \$10 the day of the walk.

Tickets can be purchased at the Apple Tree Room Boutique in Franklin or can be ordered by mail by sending a check payable to W.N.F. & G.A. Franklin Branch, P.O. Box 25094, Franklin, MI 48025-0194. The club also will host a buffet salad lunch at the Franklin Community Church at two seatings 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Lunch tickets are \$8 and limited seating of 200. If ordering by mail, please specify lunch seating. On the day of the walk tickets will be sold at the Franklin Village Gazebo located on the west side of Franklin Road between 13 and 14 Mile Roads (next to the Franklin Community Church). There will be a Gazebo Boutique featuring baked goods, decorative garden items and art of various great vendors.

For any information, call the Garden Walk hotline at (248) 851-2668.

Rochester Hills

The Rochester Hills Museum at Van Hoesen Farm and the Women's National Farm and Garden Association

Lathrup Village

The Lathrup Village Home & Garden tour will take place 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 21. Tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 the day of the tour. Seniors are offered a discounted entry price of \$8. Ticket vouchers are available at the Lathrup Village City Offices, 27400 Southfield Road, three blocks north of I-696, between 11 and 12 Mile. This year's tour is the eighth event co-sponsored by the Lathrup Village Historical Society and the Village Gardeners.

For more information, contact the museum by calling (248) 656-4663 or e-mail rhmuseum@rochesterhills.org, or visit its Web site at www.rochesterhills.org/museum.htm.

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It is an opportunity to view the interiors of five of Lathrup's most interesting homes and visit four beautiful private gardens on a self-guided tour. The newly expanded Children's Garden and historic Community Congregational Church will also be part of the tour. Proceeds support beautification projects throughout Lathrup Village.

A Garden Boutique will offer plants, garden statuary, unusual garden accessories and original art from local artists. It will be at the gazebo in the park adjacent to the Municipal Building on Southfield Road. The Young Astronauts will operate a Garden Cafe, selling refreshments as a fundraiser. Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority volunteers will staff display tables during the day with information on tree and flower selection, composting, garden maintenance and lawn care. Master gardener volunteers will be in each of the gardens and in the boutique to answer questions and assist guests.

Call Pat Gore at (248) 559-0488 or Richard Reeves at (248) 569-5610 for tickets or tour information.

Wayne
The Wayne Garden Club presents "A Garden Walk" 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 21, starting at Goudy Park Gardens behind Wayne City Hall, 3355 S. Wayne Road. Tickets are \$5. For information, call (734) 722-9666.

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LOU GEHRIG'S 100 BIRTHDAY PARTY

I'm Bob Costas. This year would have marked Lou Gehrig's 100th birthday. The legendary Iron Horse of baseball gave us joy, art and soul to America's favorite pastime. But he never let his name to the fatal disease, ALS, now best known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

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