

## What's Coming Up:

Janet Macunovich answers your growing concerns  
Issue 36, April 11, 2009

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I don't need the calendar or weather service to tell me spring has arrived. My email in-box says it loud and clear. I've done *lots* of emailing this week about everything from insuring hands' safety to insuring hardiness in new perennials. Here are highlights. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

### May be good reason these gloves are named Mud

Hi Janet,

I've **developed a problem with the gloves that I wear** for gardening. I usually wear the "Mud" gloves or something similar. I always end up with **eczema on my hands**. Have you run into this problem? What type of gloves do you use? Any tips? - Dee -

**Once, I felt gloves were a bother**, Dee. For perhaps the first 15 years of my adult gardening life I judged it impossible to work in gloves. Although I'd start out gloved I continually found reason to take them off -- to pluck tiny weeds, to untangle stems, to tease out potbound roots and so on. Invariably, I'd abandon the gloves along the way.

I had to change my ways when **my hands became sensitive** to -- who knows what. They protested even the briefest contact with soil by cracking painfully and developing raw patches. Perhaps it was abrasive soil particles that got to them, but it may be that my skin developed an allergy to some soil-dwelling fungi or mineral.

That problem trumped my former objections. Now, 20 years later, **I wear gloves all the time**, so accustomed to them that I cannot function without them.

I've even revised my view of my skin problem. I count it as a blessing for putting me in gloves that have since **saved me from injuries both serious and chronic**. This is not a guess but fact. For example, I know from personal experience that it's a matter of just one second and one slip to cut off one's own fingertip while pruning without gloves. The monetary cost, lost time and an



enduring numbness in the reattached tip serve to keep that lesson fresh in my mind. So I take it seriously when my glove tip catches in my pruning shears -- I know my gloves have taken that fall for me once again.



Over the decades I've been intimate with over 500 pairs of gloves in more than 20 styles. Currently, these four are my regulars (left): Early and late in the year I'm in Woman's Work gloves (the purple ones at left in this group, which the guys in my crew use, too). I consider them interchangeable with a very similar West Country glove (not pictured here). These are warmest so they're my choice in late winter.

I switch to the lighter Woman's Work style when it's cool but no longer icy. (They're the green pair, second from left).

These Woman's Work gloves and the comparable West Country model have velcro wrist closures, which keep soil from getting inside the glove. All have padded palms and fingertips, which go a long way to cushion my hands from the wear that can trigger my arthritis-, carpal tunnel- and vibration white finger symptoms. They are my most expensive gloves (about \$20) but they make up for it by out-wearing the others. Even though I use them hard every day they may last a whole season. I wear out three or four pairs of lighter weight gloves in that length of time.

By mid-spring I'm wearing the lighter Atlas "Touch" gloves and in summer the Atlas "Cool Touch." Both have long-wearing elastic at the cuffs and protect my hands well yet allow amazing dexterity and feeling.

All four of these gloves are made by national companies and are available from on-line vendors. Locally, I pick them up as needed at English Gardens, Telly's, Ray Wiegand's Nursery, Bordine's or my local hardware store (McNab's; what a great place).

For many years I've made it a condition of employment that those who work with me wear gloves. No one has protested. That may be because those who draw gloves from my collection see regular illustrations of what they do for us, as shown here (right) in the comparison



of a new and worn pair of my Woman's Work gloves. Check out those fingertips and palms! The forces that wore away both padding and substance there could have easily flayed skin.

There are other glove styles in my collection, including heavy leather gloves I wear when working with stone. Note the hole in the fingertip of this glove -- I'm very glad the leather took all that abuse, not my hand!



**Mud gloves and others like them can be trouble.** I, too, thought waterproof gloves were wonderful when first I wore them. I felt it was heavenly to have dry hands even when working in muck. After only one or two seasons wearing them, however, my skin began to protest and my **nails developed fungal infections**. In such a glove, **moisture builds up at the fingertip**. I've talked to others who've arrived at the same conclusion, that such gloves might be okay for short spells but wearing them for more than an hour or so, or day after day is a step toward trouble.

Skin needs to breathe. I use fully **waterproof gloves only as an exception** and never for extended periods of time. In damp gardens and seasons I can often get by simply by changing gloves often, using inexpensive jersey and cotton gloves. When I do need gloves with water resistant coatings on the fingertips, I use those like Atlas "Touch" and "Cool Touch" styles that have highly porous, breathable cloth on the opposite side of the finger.

## **Offensive fence line shouldn't define your garden**

Hi Janet. Late last fall I heard you speak at a program at Gardenviews store in Northville. You mentioned someone who had a **chain link fence**, who had gone to the trouble to cover her fence with vines and realized that didn't make much difference -- it was still not pretty. Unfortunately, you didn't offer alternatives to this (in my opinion) ugly structure in some gardens, including mine. I wasn't the person you referred to, although I easily could have been. What are some **alternatives to** help us make the best of **ugly, but needed, fences**? - Ann -

Thanks for asking me to say more about that situation, Ann. I try to cover a lot of ground in my talks, which means including bits that can be expanded if it suits the particular audience. I love it when people urge me to "go on, tell us more!"

Most fences are in place for good reason, with no alternative that can serve their primary purpose. For one that's a useful boundary but a visual liability, I view it as a bad line, bad background or both. So I boil it down to its line, color and texture -- aspects I can change.



Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

With a **chain link fence**, it's often the line that bugs us -- that long, **boring line of the top rail**. Then there are **the posts -- vertical lines** that command attention by virtue of their regular spacing. We **need to break the line, the pattern or both** to decrease their visual impact. It's not necessary to cover a line completely. Covering a fence with vines is simply a color change. The offending top line remains in play, albeit leafy green rather than gray.

Often, a fence's distraction factor is compounded by the oh-so-regular pattern of its supporting posts. If that repetition of vertical lines is not pleasing, you should certainly avoid planting at each post, all down the fence. Such plants simply recreate each post in a different color or texture. The rigid, unnatural pattern remains, in spades.



Instead, I **plant shrubs or tall perennials in strategic spots** at intervals that don't repeat the pattern of fence sections. Each plant or cluster blocks a portion of the fence's top line, changing a flat skyline into one with interesting peaks.

One last thing we can do is to paint a chain link fence black. In black, it's less conspicuous than gray, silver, or green.

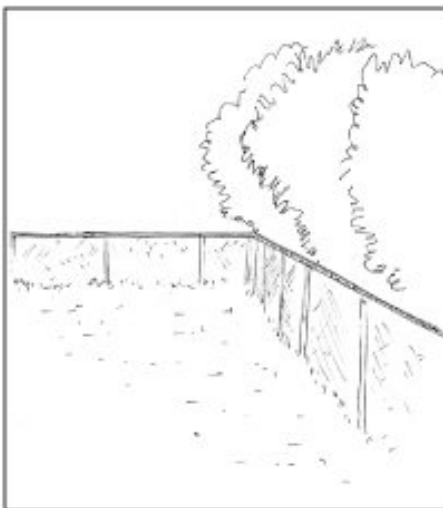
When a fence irritates your aesthetic sensibilities, don't follow its line. It's often the top rail of a chain link fence that bothers us, because it's such a dominant element in the landscape. (Top left and top right.) Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

Place perennials or shrubs here and there to block the fence's *line*, but don't try to hide the entire fence. Fight the urge to align plants with the fence, which simple re-creates that line as a bed edge or hedge. Instead, let the depth of the bed vary, so its edge guides your eye along a more curvaceous route. (Left center and lower left).



If a fence corner is involved -- it often is! -- it can be especially vexing. Places where strong lines meet attract the eye and make us want to put something "right there." (Center, below.) Yet it's far more effective to place a focal point out away from that corner, then hide the corner itself behind the plants that frame the first (Lower right.)

(Right.) See how hiding just a part of the fence rail here and there can alter its harsh, straight lines? Too bad we can't so easily control the harsh realities of property lines, and forgetful people with pop bottles in hand! And wasn't it nice of the neighbor to match their boat cover to your hydrangeas?





## Oil it takes to control scale...

What is the **best way to treat Euonymus scale**? My son moved into a house recently and the front is landscaped in *Euonymus*. I'm not sure of the particular name, but the leaves are green with yellow variegation. He noticed that the branches on two of the five limbs are pretty heavily coated in 'white', the 3rd is not so heavily coated and the 4th and 5th have no sign of this at all.

Hoping that there is **an environmentally friendly way** to get rid of this. If not, is there any hope that winter will take care of it for us? - P.B. -



The white flecks on this variegated *Euonymus* leaf are the hardened bodies of adult scales. They're difficult to kill as hard-shelled adults, simpler to dispatch when they are just starting out the year as crawlers. That time is now as the plant's new leaves emerge. Photo ©2009 Steven Nikkila

Don't hold your breath waiting for *Euonymus* scale to die over winter, P.B. Pest and host plant are about equally hardy.

And pretty much inseparable. **Where there is *Euonymus* there is *Euonymus* scale.** There are only a few on a plant if it's otherwise healthy, in adequate light with enough nutrients and air moves freely around it. Where scale is

heavy, look for rough spots in the growing conditions and smooth them. The plants can then do a pretty good job of taking care of themselves.

Short of turning things over to the plants, the **simplest and most eco-friendly** way to put a damper on *Euonymus* scale is to greet emerging young in spring with a **horticultural oil spray**. As eggs they are well protected during winter, each clutch under one of those white flecks you see, which is the shell of a dead adult. In addition, egg-state scales aren't eating so they are not susceptible to the stomach poison pesticides.

In Michigan, *Euonymus* plants begin to **break bud in late April** -- to leaf out. That's precisely when the scale insects begin to emerge and when you should **oil-coat the vines** -- stems and leaves, upper and lower surfaces. At this time of year you can apply a dormant- or fine horticultural oil made of petroleum or paraffin or a vegetable based oil from an organic-focus supplier (try Gardens Alive). If you time it right so the oil you apply is still there as new leaves appear, the young will crawl out into daylight through a film of oil. That clogs the openings on their shells that are their only breathing apparatus, and they smother.

Some always survive, by virtue of emerging after the oil has dissipated or in a place the oil spray missed. If the infestation was very heavy there may be many survivors and the plant may rate **a follow up spray** about a month later, using **an insecticide or insecticidal soap**. Don't wait too long to follow up because the idea is to catch the

survivors before they develop pesticide-resistant shells.

The reason some vines in a group may be worse than others is that great air circulation and full exposure to rain and wind puts a damper on this scale. Also, vines that are already weak from things like shade or drought or crown gall infection will be less able to produce the natural chemicals that can keep their pests in check.

## Raising veggies to new heights

I want to **grow some vegetables** this year so I don't have to worry about things like that spinach scare. I haven't done much gardening. People tell me to mound up dirt and build a raised bed to grow them. **What's the point of a raised bed?** What holds up the sides? - W -

You can grow vegetables at ground level if the soil in an area is **loose and well drained**, W. "Well drained" means air and water move readily in the soil. To test drainage, dig an 18-inch deep hole, fill it with water and see how long it takes to empty. Ideally, it empties between 12 and 24 hours after being filled.

**You can make a raised bed to alleviate problems** such as hard packed soil, poor drainage or because you simply want the ease of tending a higher bed.

How deep -- high -- to make the bed is determined by either the drainage test results or your wishes. If six inches of water was left in the 18-inch drainage test hole after 12 hours, then the bed should be raised at least six inches so all of its roots are above the soggy layer. On the other hand, if you want a raised bed so you can sit on its edge to weed or harvest, then go higher, even to hip level.

Many people **use wood to hold the soil in a raised bed**. Use naturally rot resistant wood (cedar, redwood) rather than pressure treated lumber, which has been implicated for releasing toxic chemicals into the ground. You

can also use stone or concrete blocks. I've even seen raised beds held up within a block of four bales of straw.

Be prepared to learn, if you haven't gardened before. **Vegetables ripen in waves** so it takes planning to have lettuce or spinach coming in over a number of weeks. It's helpful to be able to do some freezing or canning, too, since each crop has its peak time. For instance, we're out of luck if we want cool-season greens like lettuce and spinach in the warmest part of summer. That's when we're overwhelmed by tomatoes, peppers and squash.

## Cross your fingers as you aim to prevent emerald ash borer damage

It's April and I start **worrying about three old, beautiful ash trees** I've managed to save from emerald ash borer so far. Do you have any knowledge on when is the best time to treat them exactly for Michigan? I have faithfully treated my beautiful trees (at our cottage up north near West Branch) for four years and they are still hanging in there. I use Imidocloprid available in Bayer Advance Garden Tree and Shrub Insect control and drench the soil. Ideas? - Katheryn -

It's a tough topic, Katheryn, with no quick or sure answer. **Emerald ash borer is so new** that there's little history of treatment. The solution currently in use is to treat the trees with imidocloprid (active ingredient in Bayer products and others) but the outcome of that tactic's **influenced by**:

- Vagaries of **weather**, since when it's taken up depends on when spring comes, when the tree leafs out, when water's available.
- The **condition of the tree**, including vigor of the root system and whether the cambium is intact or already partially damaged. This alters how the chemical is taken up and translocated, tree by tree.
- The **condition of the soil**. How easily water penetrates the soil affects the chemical's distribution to the root system.

All we can say is it's best to **have the chemical in the soil and moist as the ash tree's buds break**. Then, we hope.

I hope your trees fare well. I chose not to treat ashes on family property because of the long-term price. These trees will be vulnerable all their lives, just as American elms that made it through the 1970's blight must still be treated each year. The elm disease does not go away and neither will these borers.

So at mom's we took down ashes and planted different species, back in 2004. We didn't plant large new trees but we did plant well -- already some of those replacements are 15 feet tall.

### **The annual question: Do perennials save us time?**

Janet, I just finished Master Gardener training. I was asked to **recommend alternative** plant material for what has been a substantial sized **bed of begonias**. The owner is interested in saving money for annual maintenance. The **assumption is that perennials will be less work** because they're perennials.

The **showy display is of primary importance**. This site is a community show piece... a raised bed, with adequate drainage and holds moisture ok. The bed is irrigated with spray heads on an automatic system. The site is full sun and often windy. The bed has a 7:1 slope

by my estimate and faces northeast. The primary care-givers are capable men, but not gardeners.

So, what do you think? I would be grateful for any suggestions. Thanks for your presentation to our mg class. - Dave -

Glad to have been able to round out your MG class, Dave.

It's been my experience that people who replace annuals with perennials while aiming for the objectives you list, especially that of *\*Big Show\** end up disappointed. **Perennials are far more work than annuals**. Maybe you missed that part of my presentation, that 100 square feet of annual flowers requires 15 minutes care per month, while 100 square feet of perennials requires an hour's work.

Tell those who are asking you that: Annuals don't need division, are easily dispatched at season end, don't require effort to clip down, nor a trained eye to identify the next spring as weeding resumes nearly *two months* before an annual bed would need to be weeded.

And **the look of a perennial bed is just not the same**, showy, unchanging one of an annual bed.

Do these men a MG favor: Tell them to **plant annuals in this bed**.

### **This week in Janet's garden Grow with me! This week I will:**

**Weed beds thoroughly** to remove all weeds larger than seedlings. **Spread mulch** 2 to 3 inches deep. Where weed seedlings are especially thick, place a sheet or two of newspaper over the weeds before covering that with mulch.

Results of tests at Cornell University indicate that mulch is **as effective as pre-emergent** weed killers such as Preen, and provides several other advantages pre-emergents cannot, such as improved soil condition.

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**Get the jump on slugs.** Where slugs were a problem last year (a legitimate problem, not simply a presence):

- Rake out the mulch and hot compost it or send it to a yard waste recycling center.
- On that bed's bare ground, lay sections of wet newspaper in the morning.
- Turn over the sections each evening.
- In each section, peel off the piece of paper that spent the day against the ground, which now has slugs on it because a moment ago it was the only shade and protection available.
- Throw that page away.
- Keep flipping the sections and peeling off until the slug catch plummets.
- Each slug you catch now represents 60 to 100 new eggs that won't be added to the population by July.

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**Cutting back** what I want to see grow vigorous new wood: lavender, sage, butterfly bush, blue mist spirea (*Caryopteris*), hybrid tea roses, and beautyberry (*Callicarpa*) are some I cut every spring

(Right, above.) These are the bases of lavender stems I've just removed in an annual cut-back. I found tiny gray-green nubs of foliage on the stems just an inch above ground, so I cut to just above those buds. Look close and you can see them on the sage cuts, too (right, below). They're gray dots, ready to grow.

Younger stems are on the right in these groups, progressively older to the right. Notice the oldest stems have become decrepit over years, with fewer growth buds evident and more spindly or dead wood. That's because the wood of these Mediterranean natives does not fare well in hot, humid summers. Infections develop and grow on the stems, year by year. Photos ©2009 Steven Nikkila

I'm also cutting down dwarf spireas, potentillas, climbing roses and barberry that have been growing unchecked for two or three years.







If you follow my lead, don't go half way. Cut plants **all the way back to basal nodes** or buds. Cut back to one foot or two and the new growth will come from that point, so you won't have the all-new plant you could have had.

Sun on a branch base stimulates budding. So **clear away shading groundcovers** such as myrtle to let sun reach the cut back shrub stubs.

(Left, above.) That dark space by my loppers is a dwarf spirea I cut back this week, early April. Its not-yet-cut fellows are in the background.



Here (left, below) is the stubby remnant of that spirea with all its thinnest stems removed (cut weak wood *hard*, leave only the sturdiest to re-sprout) and the groundcover myrtle pulled away. That myrtle would have shaded the stubs and slowed development of dormant bus that would become new canes.

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**Divide, move and plant** new perennials.

No, it's not too early. Not if you have sources of plants that are field grown, as we do in my neck of the woods. (One is Specialty Growers. See "Time for field grown..." on the next page.)

### **Yet another reason to divide**

Janet, you are so inspirational!!! I went at my Weeping Mulberry ...really cleaned it out...

Re: Dividing and **giving away perennials**. It gives others (those who were not into gardening to begin with) **inspiration to dig** up their yards and start their own gardens. - Kiirsten -



## Time for field-grown, cold-tough perennials

Karen Bovio, professional perennial grower extraordinaire and owner of Specialty Growers in Howell, Michigan, wrote, "Don't you love it! Just when we thought spring was here.... we get another arctic blast! ...this little **cold spell ...has not fazed our hardy perennials!**"

"We're different from many nurseries, because we **grow our perennials right outdoors**, not in greenhouses. Each fall, we pack over 10,000 fully grown perennials into our overwintering structures -- unheated greenhouses and coldframes. ...In late March, we open the frames so that the plants can get some fresh air and sunlight, receive their first drink of rainwater, and acclimate to the spring weather."

"Because our plants are grown **in tune with the seasons**, they are tough and hardy. They're perfectly **capable of withstanding the snow and cold**, because they are just beginning to emerge from dormancy, like the perennials coming up in your own gardens."

You're right to toot your horn about your plants' **unbeatable advantage**, Karen. And you can quote me: *Unbeatable* advantage. Hands down, field grown perennials are the plants I want to work with first thing in spring.

To which Karen replied: "THANK YOU, Janet! I do believe in my product! But it is very hard to compete with the "pretties" out there -- the fully grown lushed out blooming plants that will all too soon start appearing in garden centers. I know the die-hard gardeners will realize that hardy outdoor grown plants are the way to go, but there are so many new gardeners out there who just don't know. " - Karen -

### Wrap-up with Grins and Grow-ans that turn our green thumbs up or down

**Grins:** To missing the weather report and thus stumbling on a new and perhaps better way to **harden off greenhouse-grown plants** for outdoor planting. Last Sunday I bought cool season annuals for my mom-in-law's outdoor pots, and only afterward listened to the weather forecast. Yikes, it's *not* good to have new plants snowed upon right away. Pressed for time and without any space to take the plants home with me, I slid the flats under a dwarf white pine. Three days later, with the snow finally melted, I pulled them out, noted their wonderful condition and thought: So how come I never before thought to harden my annuals off under a shrub?

**Grow-ans:** To **advertisements** and misguided garden writers who mislead new and even experienced gardeners when they **tout perennials as low maintenance plants**. They miss the point that it's all relative, that even though there are perennials which require less maintenance than other perennials, as a group they require 3 to 4 times the care that annuals do. As my friend Curt once explained it, "With perennials, the only low maintenance is what we do on our knees."



## Who's Janet?

**Someone fascinated by the process of gardening.** Janet Macunovich began gardening for others when she ran out of places to make new gardens at her own home, and, "was hooked from the first time I worked in someone else's yard, once I saw that the general process for making a garden has to be modified every time. Now, 'my' gardens and experience stretch across many counties and States yet every one is unique, full of the same plants behaving differently in each place. I've learned a lot of wonderful things in taking classes and interviewing experts over 25 years, researching my books and articles, and applying all of that in gardens. But the flexibility and never-ending newness of the process is the best fact of all. I'll be able to do this for a lifetime and still not see all the combinations and possibilities." Calling it a "delight and a privilege to work for others," Janet also steps in and out of hundreds of other situations every year by helping students and readers who ask for advice. Email questions to her at JMaxGarden@aol.com.

## Where to catch Janet and friends\* in-person:

\*See April 18-19, 21, 26 and May 9

**Wednesday, April 15, *Predict the Season: Experts' perspectives on a garden.*** For professional gardeners and their guests at the Association of Professional Gardeners' meeting. In this presentation go on a virtual garden spring inspection with Janet. Look where she looks, hear what she's seeing and take notes as she opens the discussion to the combined experience of the assembled professionals. Email suegrubba@sbcglobal.net for more information.

**Saturday April 18, *Ready, Set, Spring* plus *Great Plants and Great Combinations.*** Janet appears at 9 a.m. and noon at Ray Wiegand's Nursery on Romeo Plank Road north of 21 Mile in Macomb Township, Michigan. At 9 a.m. she'll explain what to do right now to get your garden ready for its best year ever. At noon, her spotlight's on great plants of all types that you can add to or rearrange in your landscape to make it really shine. Free. Call or stop in at Ray Wiegand's for more information.

**Saturday April 18 and Sunday April 19, *Trees and Shrubs for Small Spaces.*** Janet's best friend and partner in the garden life, horticulturist-photographer Steven Nikkila appears as part of Bordine Nursery's Spring Garden Expo. At 1 p.m. Saturday at Bordine's Grand Blanc store, and at 1 p.m. Sunday at the Rochester store you can have his insights on great plants and how to be sure they won't outgrow their allotted spaces. Free. Call or stop in at a Bordine Nursery location for more information.

## **Sunday, April 19, *Adding Garden Color:***

Noon at the Clinton Township English Gardens, M-59 at Garfield Rd.  
3:00 p.m at the Ann Arbor English Gardens, Maple Rd at Jackson Rd.  
Free. For more information, call or stop in at an English Gardens store.

**Tuesday, April 21, *How Green is Your Garden*.** A one-day conference in West Branch, Michigan at the Forwards Conference Center of the Quality Inn at Exit 212 on I-75. In this event sponsored by Ogemaw County Master Gardeners, Janet presents:

***Beginning Green***, for novices to learn the basics and experienced gardeners to focus on environmentally friendly gardening. You'll learn about preparing the ground, deciding what to grow, planting and tending a garden. and

***Basic Organic Gardening***'s three most important aspects and how to apply them to your vegetable or flower garden: 1) Viewing the soil as a living part of the garden. 2) Matching plants to a site. 3) Natural controls for pests and diseases.

Professional gardener and arborist **Deb Hall** (right) joins Janet to present ***Back to the Root of Gardening*** and Master Gardener Ben Franklin is there to advise on ***Xeriscaping***.

\$45 for the day if you register by April 1. Call 989-345-0692 or email [elier@msu.edu](mailto:elier@msu.edu) for information.



**Saturday, April 25, 8:00 a.m. to noon, "Garden by Janet - Bring Your Gloves and Tools!"** At the Detroit Zoo, Woodward Avenue at I-696. Your chance to volunteer at the zoo in exchange for Janet's hands-on instruction in spring perennial garden maintenance (weeding, mulching, division, planting and wattle fence weaving). To join in, send an email to [mstgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:mstgarden@yahoo.com) with subject line "I'll volunteer at the Zoo with Janet."

**Saturday, April 25: *Year-round Color* and *Shade Gardens*, 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. at **Plymouth Nursery**, 9900 Ann Arbor Road West at Gotfredson Road in **Plymouth**, Michigan.** What to plant and how to manage it for maximum four season color. Then, ideas for those gardening in the shade. At Plymouth Nursery's Spring Home & Garden Expo. Call 734-453-5500 for details. Free.

**Sunday, April 26, 1 to 3 p.m. or Saturday, May 9, 9 to 11 a.m., *Michigan Wildflower Walk: Garden revelations* at **Highland State Recreation Area**, White Lake Township, Michigan** Walk in one of southeast Michigan's richest woods to learn some native plants at their prettiest. Take tips from Nature and your guide, Janet Macunovich or **Steven Nikkila**, about soil renewal, fertilization, plant placement and more. Meet at Goose Meadow picnic area parking lot, Highland Recreation Area. Enter the park off highway M-59 west of Bogie Lake Road in White Lake Township. Follow that main entry road to the first siding, Goose Meadow. Dress and prepare for hiking, the weather and fun. Sorry, no wheelchair access at this location. You must bring with you or purchase a State Park daily- or seasonal vehicle pass for your car. \$20 voluntary contribution. Limited space: Call or email Janet and Steve at 248-681-7850 or [JMaxGarden@aol.com](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com) to reserve a spot. Provide a contact phone number.



**Tuesday, April 28: *Michigan Native Wildflowers in the Garden*, 7 p.m. at **Cromaine District library**, 3688 N. Hartland Road, Hartland, Michigan.** Michigan has great diversity in its wild plants, and many are well suited to gardens. Come learn which to add to your garden this year. Free. Call 810-632-5200 to reserve a seat.

**Saturday, May 2: *More Plants, Free: Dividing and multiplying in your garden*, 10 a.m. at **Grass Roots Nursery**, 24765 Bell Road south off of South Huron Road at I-275 exit 11 (if you're coming from the south) or I-275 exit 11b (from the north). That's in **New Boston**, Michigan, the center of the water gardening universe. Want to make more of that unique, heirloom variety perennial or keep fast growers in line? It's high time to divide perennials for those reasons and to make them younger, more vigorous, pest-resistant, and better blooming. Janet shows you how to divide *everything*. Special bonus: those who come take my divisions home! Dress for the weather. Call 734-753-9200 for details and to reserve a space. Free.**

### A gardening dream come true:

A complete library of how-to, how-come and what-if. From a writer with a green thumb and a golden gift for practical explanation, here is:

### Asking About Asters Janet Macunovich's Growing Concerns Special Edition

Gems from a 20-year, 12,000-gardener discussion:

- Fully researched, with recommended references
- 1,346 questions with in-depth answers
- 335 never seen before on newspaper or website!
- 240 illustrations. 1,200+ pages
- Five one-cover books
- One bonus volume of 43 collected issues
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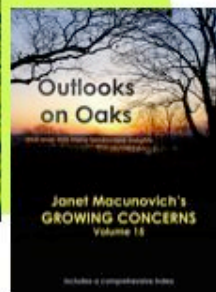
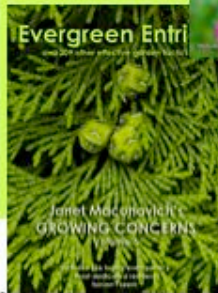
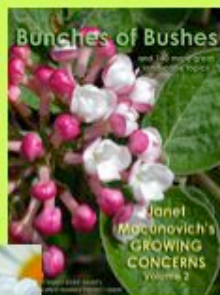
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Stay tuned to [JMaxGarden@aol.com](mailto:JMaxGarden@aol.com) for information about the 2009 release of more from Janet's Growing Concerns files. (Are you on my mailing list? You should be! Just send me an email to receive my free weekly newsletter. Then you can begin compiling your own free library and annual index.)



Please let me know if you are interested in hard copies of this library.

I am ready to issue one or all of these volumes in paperback in 2009, based on demand.

**Saturday, May 2: Janet's Favorite Plants**, 1 p.m. at **Gardenviews Store**, 202 W. Main in **Northville**, Michigan. Here are the trees, shrubs, perennials and annuals Janet picks when she must whittle her choices 'way down yet still be sure to design a beautiful, classic, enduring landscape. Pick from her list and use her tips for fitting one or a few into your garden. Free. Call Gardenviews at 248-380-8881 to reserve a seat. When you call you can also give Lou your email address to receive news of all of his events.

### About attending Garden by Janet sessions:

We gardeners are let-me-see, hands-on people and that's how we learn best. In these sessions, I offer you that kind of chance to grow. You can visit me where I'm working and you can either watch or work with me side by side. I hope you'll bring your gloves and join in so you realize the most value for the time.

At the **gardens I tend through my business, Perennial Favorites**: I've worked for many years with some of my clients, who not only trust me with their landscapes but also understand my enthusiasm for teaching. They open their gardens to small groups who want to see and practice "how to." When the work I'm scheduled to do may be of interest to you and the situation allows on-lookers or apprentices, I invite you in.

I've volunteered in the **Detroit Zoo Adopt-A-Garden** program for 20 years. During that time more than 100 people have worked with me, some for a day and others for years. We have fun, we learn, we accomplish much. The program requires that regular garden volunteers complete an interview and orientation process but you can try it for a time or two on a temporary pass as my student. **If you'd like to join me at the Detroit Zoo**, email [mstgarden@yahoo.com](mailto:mstgarden@yahoo.com). Make the subject line of your email "I'll help at the zoo with Janet." That email will put you in touch with my good friend Deb Tosch who keeps my group's schedule straight while I plan and lead the work. You'll receive upcoming work dates and instructions for getting to the zoo and meeting up with my group.

Watch this space to join me in other non-profit events and in gardens I design and tend.