

PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS for May 6th, 2017:

If you are a newcomer to our group, you will be surprised at the diversity, number of rarities, and size of our two yearly plant sales. They are one of the best things about being a chapter member, and offer the opportunity to get wonderful and unusual plants at very reasonable prices. Also, the sale is very important to the chapter, as it raises the funds for our excellent speaker program. But because of the size of the sale, we do need to have people try to follow certain rules to make the sale run smoothly and quickly.

The first thing is to start now thinking about what you will propagate and get ready for the sale. Then:

At home:

1). Please try to pot or repot plants at least ten days before the sale. Otherwise, the plants may look ragged.

2). Please select appropriate plants for the sale. Interesting and unusual alpiners, woodland plants, and small woody plants are ideal. No large, common woody plants, annuals, common perennials, and tropicals, please.

3). Before you bring the plants, label each pot, with the name of the plant [scientific name, if known, and cultivar or variety, if known]. On the back of the label put your name and the year. This allows people both at the sale or later to ask you about the plant. It also helps us when setting up the sale to talk to you if, for example, you have missed putting a price on the plant.

4). We ask people to price their own plants, and you can price your plants at home, if you like, but please use a separate price label. The price labels are pulled out of the pots by the cashier to expedite adding up the total.

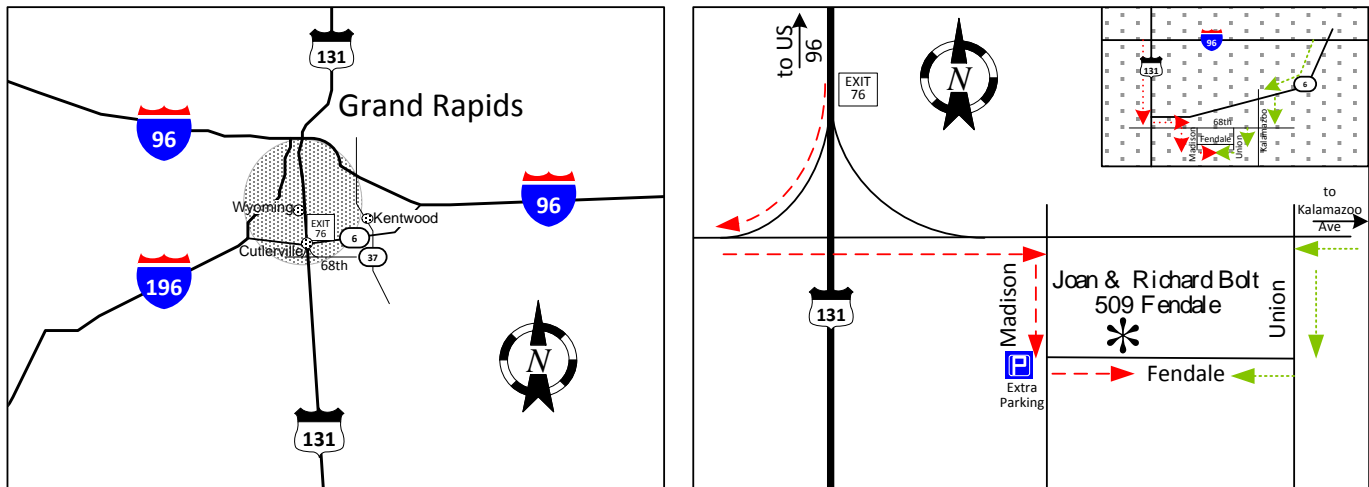
At the sale:

1) If you have not priced your plants at home, please use the chapter price labels provided to price each pot. Prices range from \$2 to \$6, but mostly are within the \$2 to \$4 range. Set your plants as close together as possible on the selling tables. You should try to get your plants to the sale a half-hour or so before the sale starts to get them set up and priced, if necessary. The officers will be glad to advise on appropriate pricing.

2) Please tell the people running the auction how many plants you brought. For every 10 plants you bring, you earn one Red Label. Each Red Label entitles you to one "First Pick." This means that those who did not bring plants must stand back and wait for those with Red Labels to make their First Picks. The time for First Pickers to make their choices is limited to 3-5 minutes depending upon the number of First Pick labels given out. Keep in mind that you still have to pay for the plants.

3) Please let us know if you think you might have brought a plant or plants that you think might be of "Auction Quality." These are normally a) exceptionally rare and desirable plants not available commercially, b) plants available only at a very high cost, or c) large, well-grown specimens of highly desirable plants. We try our best to keep the auctions highly selective, and if you have plants selected by the people running the auction to be auctioned, you will get an additional Red Label for each plant.

Map to Joan Bolt's Garden



FROM THE EAST: Exit 96 at the M6. Take the M6 to the Kalamazoo Avenue exit (the second exit off the M6). Turn south (left) on Kalamazoo Avenue to 68th Street. Turn west, right, on 68th Street. Go past the traffic light at Eastern Avenue. and turn left (south) on Union Street (third street from Eastern Avenue). Turn right on Fendale Street, the first street south of 68th. Fendale Street is one block south of 68th Street and runs between Union and Madison. Park on the street or, if necessary, on the W end of Fendale across the junction with Madison is a parking lot that should be accessible on Saturday. When parking on the street please do not block people's mail boxes.

FROM THE WEST & NORTH: Take US-131 S to 68th St SW in Cutlerville. Take Exit 76 from US-131 S to 68th St SW. Turn Left (E). Continue on 68th St 1.2 mi to Madison Ave SE. Turn Right (S) onto Madison and follow to Fendale St SE. Turn Left (E) onto Fendale and follow to 509 Fendale on the Left.

Saturday May 6th Chapter Garden tour / Plant Sale and Nursery visit.

Joan's Garden is more modest in scope however quite unique. Please plan on arriving about 11:00 A.M. Tables and Price labels will be available when you arrive. However there are not blank plant labels, so please have your plants labeled previously. Plants not priced and labeled will not be counted towards first pick labels, which will be issued prior to the start of the Auction. Please price your plants before going to view the garden.

Blue Horizons Nursery

09721 59th Street Grand Junction, MI 49056. Hours: Wed – Sun 10 am till 6 pm

Due to the distance many of will be travelling we wanted to have a second venue of interest for this outing and Blue Horizons Nursery will more than fill the bill. Located about a 45-minute drive from Joan's, this abito-off-the-beaten-path plant destination will leave you absolutely plant drunk! Just don't try a quick shopping spree prior to going to Joan's (as they don't open until 10 am), and you'll never make it in time for the plant auction nor sale. Besides it's not like you have to get there ahead of everyone else, there are simply a greater variety of plants on offer than you will be able to get into your car, the first time out. You will probably regret carpooling, No matter everyone wants to go back! We understand, really!

Don & I went out late last August when we were planning out this meeting. We easily spent 4 hours wandering around and around and we still didn't see everything. We left when we did as we still had to get to Joan's, and they wanted to close soon, and there simply wasn't any more room in the car for another single plant, and this is towards the end of the season, and there were plants that just had to be left behind until next time. I purchased 19 or 20 potted conifers, shrubs, and a couple of perennials, I don't recall what Don picked up, but I can tell you we had to leave a plant or two out in the parking area there just wasn't a place to stack-em. As it was we drove away with plants on laps, plants between feet, pots stacked up sideways like cordwood. Forget any use of the rearview mirror, side mirrors only. But we had a great time and you will too! Check out their web site, make a list, and good luck sticking to it!!

We'll have maps at the sale for anybody that needs them.