

This fall, we have an opportunity to see the wonderful garden developed by Eric and Julia Hofley
Julia Writes:

The Garden at Hawk Hill:

It all began with a white garden for our backyard wedding in 2006. Then editing the yard's perimeter of a thick buckthorn hedge dotted with poison ivy followed by tree removal caused by spruce diseases which completely changed the cozy feel of the backyard.

12 years later Hawk Hill has evolved into a collector's garden for these two garden communicators, he the publisher of *Michigan Gardener* and she a new plant writer and garden lecturer. Their garden credo is, "Grow it to know it!" Through the years, many new plants have been evaluated in this garden, which has helped these gardeners have first-hand experience to share with their readers and audiences.

He's a foliage guy and a collector of dwarf conifers, small trees and interesting shrubs. The conifers are the backbone of the garden and make the garden interesting through all seasons.

She's into flowers, including plants that deer and rabbits do not eat. The garden reflects that with collections of perennials like Hellebores, Daffodils, Peonies, Allium, Catmint, Astilbe, Epimediums and Ferns... She also loves fragrant plants like Phlox, Roses, Liliun, and Lilacs.

They both love golden plants such as 'Aureum' Full Moon Maple, golden-hued conifers, Aralia 'Sun King', St. John's Wort 'Brigadoon', Oakleaf Hydrangea 'Little Honey', Forsythia 'Gold Leaf', Smokebush 'Golden Spirit', and Barberry 'Sunjoy Gold Pillar,' which is a virtual kaleidoscope in autumn.

Another common denominator of these gardeners is reflected with red in the garden and you will see that through 'Red Obelisk' Beech trees, Japanese Maples and a giant Barberry 'Purple Cloak' that reaches the power lines.

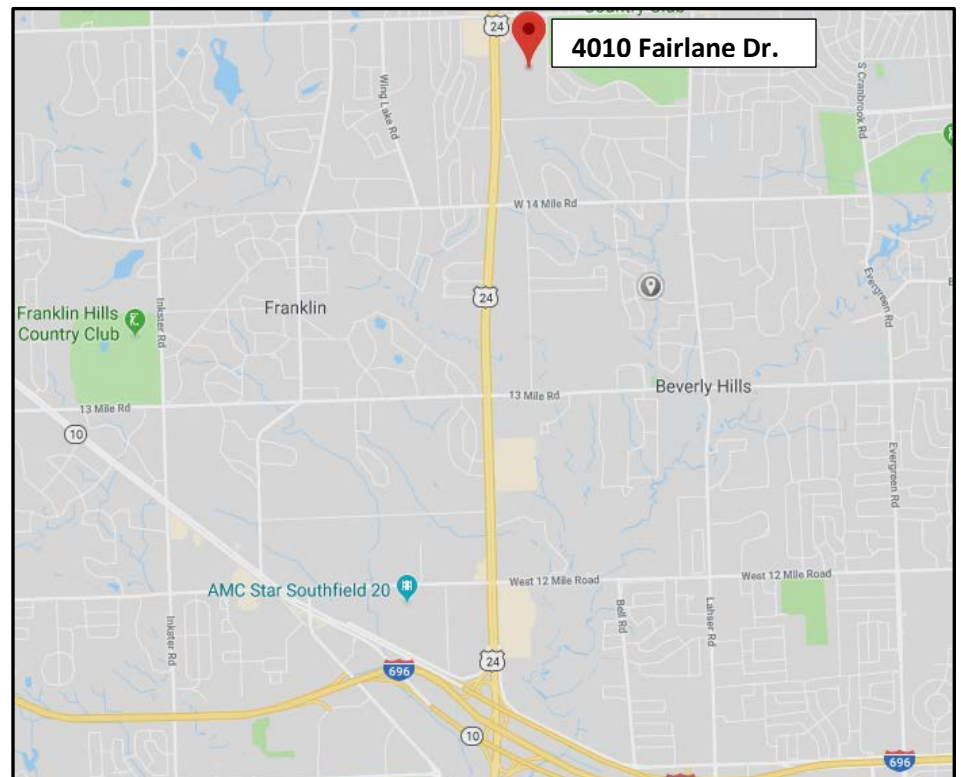
Variegated plants of all kinds are the third common denominator of these collectors. When they find them, they bring home the bounty such as Maple 'Esk Sunset', a variegated Zelkova tree (Goshiki), Forsythia 'Fiesta', Hydrangea 'Gold Rush', Hydrangea 'Yuki Gessho', Holly 'Sunsplash', Hemlock 'Moonfrost', Spirea 'Painted Lady', Spirea 'Pink Ice', variegated five-fingered Aralia, variegated Rose of Sharon, and variegated Lilac and Viburnum.

In 2015, the grassy hill under the mighty oaks out front was transformed into a switchback path leading to the top with a hidden garden lookout from above. The path allows the visitor to enjoy the shady plant collections from either side of each level. Look for the hardy *Begonia grandis*, hardy *Fuchsia magellanica*, and *Epimedium latisepalum*, three plants you won't want to miss.

Around the house and within the hillside garden lookout you will find a terra cotta pottery collection filled with annuals and tropical plants, some part of the evaluation trial period for the future. On the northwest corner of the house, you will see a hardy Japanese fiber banana tree (*Musa basjoo*) that is at least 8 years old.

"Goodbye" benches on a bluestone patio initiated the courtyard garden in the driveway circle with the newest beds where the collections continue. Sometimes saying goodbye takes time and you might as well sit down, visit a little longer and take in the view.

Directions: From I-696, go north on US-24 N/Telegraph Road. Follow US-24 N/Telegraph Road north to Fairlane Drive in Bloomfield Township, and go to the house: **4010 Fairlane Drive.**





Some Garden Views

PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS for September 22nd, 2018:

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.