

HOMEGARDEN

A VIEW FROM ABOVE



PHOTO: DAVE TUNGE/DAKOTA AERIALS

Yankton's Dave Tunge of Dakota Aerials took this image of the patchwork progress being made on the Yankton Community Garden along West City Limits Road. The garden, which is sponsored by Healthy Yankton, is in its second year, and it was expanded this year to accommodate more gardeners. For more information on the garden, contact Healthy Yankton at 668-8590 or visit www.HealthyYankton.org.

GARDEN NOTES:

Rain Barrels Can Be Bought

BY MARY BETH BRECKENRIDGE
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Q: I want to build a rain barrel to water my vegetable garden this summer. Do you know where I can find an inexpensive barrel?

A: Hartsville, Ohio, resident Jeff Taiclet sells plain barrels for \$10 each. You can reach him at 330-935-0164. He also sells completed rain barrels.

Another source is Container Compliance Corp. in Cleveland, which sells plain barrels for \$20.

Its number is 216-961-0035, and its Web site is <http://www.containercompliance.com>.

Sometimes food distributors will sell used barrels, too.

Typically food-grade containers are used to make rain barrels, because they've never held toxic chemicals that might harm your garden or the environment.

ON THE SHELF: GUIDE FOCUSES ON GARDEN COLOR

One of the most challenging parts of gardening is choosing plants that will provide interest all year long.

Stephanie Cohen and Jennifer Benner make that simpler with "The Nonstop Garden: A Step-by-Step Guide to Smart Plant Choices and Four-Season Designs."

Cohen and Benner argue against a purist's approach and advocate creating mixed borders that incorporate trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, tropicals, bulbs, vines and edible plants. They suggest low-maintenance plants in each category, offer strategies for putting them together artfully and even provide 10 garden designs that you can just copy in your own yard.

The Nonstop Garden is published by Timber Press and sells for \$19.95 in softcover.

WHAT'S NEW: LIGHT FIXTURES MATCH FAUCETS

Moen is helping homeowners create a coordinated bathroom by offering lighting fixtures to match some of its faucets.

The lighting is available in four collections in its high-end ShowHouse line: Waterhill, Felicity, Solace and Savvy. Various finishes and configurations are offered in each collection.

The lighting fixtures feature quick-connect wiring, and many can be mounted with the bulbs facing up or down — or in the case of Solace, vertically or horizontally.

Suggested prices range from \$163 to \$427, depending on the number of lights in the fixture and the finish.

To find a retailer near you, visit <http://showhouse.moen.com> or call 800-289-6636.

Creating Simple Kids Garden Takes Root In Va.

Bee Houses

BY KATHY VAN MULLEKOM

© 2010, Daily Press
(Newport News, Va.)

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Bees need us and we need them.

In your yard, plant a succession of spring, summer and fall flowering plants so bees have a continual source of nectar.

In return, they help pollinate plants in our home vegetable gardens and farm fields.

To further help bees, create simple houses for orchard mason bees in celebration of National Pollinator Week June 21-27.

Orchard mason bees, smaller than a honey bee and a shiny dark blue in color, do not live in a nest like other bees. They live in wooden blocks but do not drill holes and destroy things like some bees. Instead, the bees use holes that are already available. The male orchard mason bee cannot sting and the female rarely stings.

Here's how to build a bee house, according to the National Wildlife Federation:

Drill it. With drill bits of various sizes, 5/16 of an inch works best for an orchard mason bee, simply take some scrap lumber and drill holes 3 to 5 inches deep but not all the way through the wood block. For example, get a 4-inch square piece of wood and drill holes that are 3 1/2 inches deep.

Protect it. Cover the holes with chicken wire to help keep birds away from the bee house.

Place it. Securely place the bee house on the south side of

buildings, fence posts or trees.

Then scatter some of the houses through your community.

Bee house tips:

— Do not move bee houses after they are in place until at least November.

— Do not spray strong insecticides on or around bee houses.

— If you build your own bee house, do not use treated wood.

To help pollinators:

— Reduce the use of pesticides or, if possible, stop using them altogether. If you must use an insecticide, apply it in the evening, when many pollinators are inactive.

— Plant native, nectar-producing flowers. Go to <http://pollinator.org/guides.htm> and type in your zip code to receive information about pollinators in your area, plus a list of pollinator plants.

— Leave tree stumps, dead branches and rotting trees on your property, if possible. They provide nests for some species of bees.

— When a bee nest is too close to your home, don't destroy it. Contact a local beekeeper or your cooperative extension service to learn how to remove it without harming the bees.

To learn more about bees and other pollinating insects, visit www.fws.gov/pollinators and www.pollinators.org.

You can buy a premade orchard mason bee house through mail-order sites such as Planet Natural at www.planetnatural.com or 1-800-289-6656.

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. — A wee bit of fantasy and a whole lot of outdoor energy takes over the Enchanted Forest at Norfolk Botanical Garden in Norfolk, Va., when its summer exhibit opens Father's Day, June 20.

The exhibit, which closes Sept. 6, features a collection of custom-built, interactive storybook playhouses based on children's classics like "Jack and the Beanstalk" and "There was a Crooked Man." Groups like Habitat for Humanity and companies like Painted Fern Landscape Architecture are building the miniature structures.

"We want to encourage reading and we want to teach kids about plants and about their relationships with the outdoors," says Amy Dagnall, spokeswoman for the 155-acre botanical garden in southeastern Virginia.

"Trails will take you to secret places, get you off the paved path where kids can turn over rocks and see bugs and the ecosystem that lives under them."

Just days before the exhibit opens, builders are still putting final touches on the eight playhouses found along the 25-acre Enchanted Storybook Forest's paved pathway.

Crystal Morelli and her husband, Bob, traveled from Elysburg, Pa., to help Crystal's brother, Todd Horne, finish the "Little Red Riding Hood" bungalow.

Horne who owns Built Right Inc., a home-improvement company in Virginia Beach, Va., also sent many of his staff to work on the project.

Constructed with Hardiplank siding, cedar shake accents, copper trim and custom shutters, Little Red Riding Hood's house will offer kids a lot of things to do — play with pretend dress-up clothes in a closet, write on a chalkboard in the kitchen, put magnets on a refrigerator, play a miniature piano in the loft and, hopefully, see the actual fairytale told on a screen.

Crystal and Bob were hard at work, painting multi-dimensional wooden flowers for a "garden." They had also turned a furry-looking brown bathroom rug into a Big Bad Wolf's face for a toss-the-ball game.

"Whatever my brother does, he puts his heart into it," says Crystal.

Further down the Enchanted Forest path, the oversized, lace-up footwear for "There Was an Old Woman Who Lived in a Shoe" by COMPO Construction Company and RRMM Architects is almost complete. Energized kids can climb a rope ladder, glide down a slide or ring an oversized bell.



ADRIN SNIDER/NEWPORT NEWS DAILY PRESS/MCT

Jason Whitcomb puts the finishing touches on the floor of the "Little Red Riding Hood" house, June 8, 2010, in Norfolk, Virginia. The house will join other of the storybook theme in the Gnome/Storybook exhibit at Norfolk Botanical Garden.

Nearby, botanical garden maintenance staff members finalize their handiwork on a raft for "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn."

Four large coil springs positioned in the ground and attached to the bottom of the raft give kids a gentle rocking motion, making them feel like they are floating down the river, seeking adventure just like Huck did. Landscape timbers, hundreds of feet of natural rope and scavenged sticks form the rustic craft.

After the grand opening, The Enchanted Storybook Forest still provides lots to do daily until it closes Sept. 6. In addition to play time in the storybook houses, kids can hear stories and make arts and

crafts daily.

Norfolk Botanical Garden lost 70 trees in last November's northeastern and that fallen wood is being put to creative use for the summer exhibit. Staff is cutting down trees to form the trail.

Tree Trek Trail, a long pathway for exploring, and stump-style seats for the outdoor classroom called Acorn Academy. Saws are turning slabs of wood into tic-tac-toe and checker board games; gumballs and other natural objects will act as playing pieces. Branches and sticks will be available for children to use as construction material for homes they can build for visiting gnomes.

Families also can venture

over to the WOW Children's Garden, a 3-acre site filled with cooling fountains, bubblers and jet sprays — especially nice on a hot summer day.

The site takes you on a plant safari, through a dirt factory and into an exploration station.

Since the children's garden opened in 2006, Norfolk Botanical Garden has increasingly emphasized programs for families and increased its membership base from 4,500 to 7,000, according to Dagnall. Annual attendance runs about 280,000.

"This has become a fun, cool place to be, very much about families," she says.

June Yards Of The Month Announced

Nancy and Pat Zelenka
901 West 4th St.

For a floral treat, check out the side yard at this home. Bordering the driveway is a free-flowing flower bed bordered by a rock wall.

Included in the garden are perennial geraniums, daisies, forster grass, fern geraniums, day lilies, tiger lilies, yarrow and sedum. In the corner of the drive is a huge yucca plant that is ready to bloom. Clematis grow on trellises and eventually will cover an arch to patio behind the house. Gazing balls give sparkle to the garden and hanging baskets complete the look.

A huge tree gives shade to the flowers and a well-maintained yard.

Nancy has also started an herb garden.

Mary Jo and Bud
Schneider

2803 Lakeview Dr.
This yard is beautiful — it has two hanging baskets of

geraniums and many pots of lovely annuals, as well as marigolds and salvias in a circular bed of landscaping blocks, bushes and solar stakes in the front yard. The Schneiders have planted hosta in the north yard and the back yard has maple and spruce trees. A wonderful yard to drive by and view.

Christine and Steve Vellek
1507 Peninah

This is a huge yard — 50 rose bushes in the back yard, healthily and blooming; there is a bed of coleus and impatiens, a bed of salvia, a bed of bleeding hearts and clematis climbing on arbors. There are several potted geraniums hanging on trellises.

Everywhere you turn there is another flower or bed of flowers to admire. Drive by and see what time and a lot of work can do with a large yard — it's beautiful.

GOT NEWS?

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