

SATURDAY, June 11, 2022 – GARDEN TOURS & PLANT SALE:

Bob Swartz (3601 Devonshire, Sterling Heights, MI) & Vince Russo (13843 Bathgate Sterling Heights, MI) 11:00 – ca. 1:00 tour the gardens. Plant Sale at Vince's 1:30.

This spring sale is later than we've had in the past to give us a chance to see Vince's specialty, which is hardy cacti and succulents. Many of you were at the talk he and David Hinch gave to our chapter March 12 this past winter. And you will also have seen the images that Vince has shared with chapter members via email as plants have come into bloom. So you'll be in for a treat, and something quite different than our usual meetings.

PLANT SALE PREPARATIONS for June 11: 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 alpines, 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.