

To save space, Hautau incorporates many different ways to grow plants. Here, hanging baskets use moss as a growing base in lieu of pots and containers.

Angiosperms are on the rise

BY MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

Would you like to breathe in the scent of tropical orchids, see the vibrant bloom of desert cactus or watch frogs play in a marshy bog?

Do names like purple heart, mother-in-law, king's crown, devil's back bone, bird's nest, teddy bear vine and weeping fig make you curious?

In that case you need to stop in at the greenhouse at NRC and see what's taking place.

Debbie Hautau, botany/biology instructor, has been in the process of rejuvenating the ACC greenhouse.

Hautau's first impression was, "OH MY!" This was in a large part due to the fact that most community colleges do not have greenhouses. Hautau was excited that she had a greenhouse all to herself.

Hautau's first act was the establishment of an adopt-a-plant program due to the over abundance of houseplants. Hautau set out many hundreds of plants on the campus lawn last summer with an adoption sign, getting rid of most of them.

The greenhouse had a few maintenance problems with no heat, old faucets, leaks in the roof and direct sunlight. Hautau has everything in working order right down to having paint that will flake off in the winter to allow more sun light.

In order to save the college

money, Hautau started ordering seeds. By ordering seeds and germinating them, Hautau could get more for the money.

The greenhouse is also being incorporated into each of Hautau's classes. Biology classes have started experiments on decomposing material and botany classes are trying their hand at ecology experiments. Also, the zoology instructor has been known to keep a few frogs in among the plant life.

There are four main sections in the greenhouse, tropical, desert, bog and forest. In each section there are plants in their natural habitat and many species of local vegetation, such as club moss, puff-balls and bracken ferns.

In the germination process is Ginkos and Cycads.

An herb garden can be seen and smelled from one corner.

At any given time there are plants blooming or past their maturity stage. There should be tomatoes ready for eating in February. Most all varieties of houseplants are present. Hautau has more sensitive plants at home until the heating system is tested and working regularly.

An average of twenty hours per week are spent in the greenhouse by Hautau and her assistant picking weeds, watering, feeding and doing propagation.

Hautau has future plans that include adding more exotic plants

and more hands-on experience for students.

Hautau is not considering an open house yet. "Give me two years before I [greenhouse] is grown and in order the way I want it, but the door is always open for any one who wants to visit."

This winter when you are hip deep in snow and long to see green grass and flowers in bloom, stop over and meander through the isles of vegetation in the greenhouse.

Are there any restrictions in visiting the greenhouse? Hautau exclaimed, "NO picking."

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Photo by Linda Simpson

The fragrant blooms of the geranium occupy center stage in the rejuvenated greenhouse. Hautau utilizes organic fertilizers, bug sprays and herbicides (along with lots of loving care) to achieve this dazzling display.



Photo by Linda Simpson

New group takes AIM on adoptions

BY MELODY SHARP
STAFF WRITER

November is National Adoption Month. A new support group "Adoption Identity Movement," whose goal is to support the triad of adoptions, makes information more accessible, would like to make the community more aware of adoptions.

Adoption triads consist of the adoptee, the birth parents and the adoptive parents.

Michelle St. Amant, an ACC student who started the local group, had her own personal experience and searching for her birth parents without any support. St. Amant has located her birth parents and is the eldest of eight adoptive children.

AIM meets the first and third Wednesday of every month in 450 NRC from 7-10 p.m. A potluck dinner and silent auction was held on Nov. 3 and on

Nov. 20 AIM is having a bake sale at the Big Wheel department store to raise funds. AIM is also distributing a poem called "Adoption: A Prayer of Thanksgiving and Healing" to local churches across Northeast Michigan to aid in the healing process of adoption.

Officers of the group are President St. Amant, Vice-President and Search Advisor Barb Buck, Treasurer and Birth Parent Advisor, Ann Lamon, Secretary and Adoption Parent Janet Mott, Search Advisor Larry Freshette, Liaison and Adoptive Parent John Favay.

AIM considers itself fortunate for the support that ACC has given them. This includes the use of a room, workshops on board meetings and grants, and the assistance of Chuck Wiesen of the Center for Economic and Human Resource Development.

Issues faced by the triad of

adoptions are varied and may include insurance and medical concerns, knowledge of siblings and past medical history records, and access to information and relief from mental anguish, which select people feel is necessary.

AIM would like people interested in becoming involved to attend their meetings.

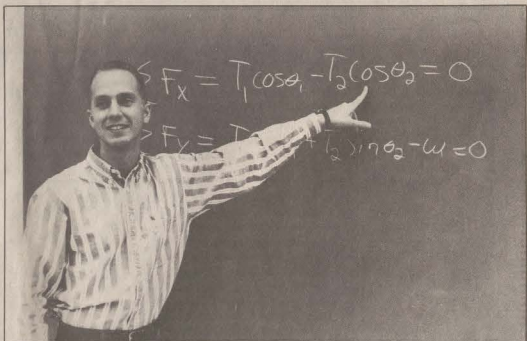
AIM is also campaigning for two Senate bills: Bill 4637 updates information in adoption records and provides procedures for release of that information to members of the adoption community. This bill was referred to the Judiciary Committee.

Bill 4638 covers release of the original birth certificate to an adult adoptee and was referred to the Public Health Committee and will only take effect if Bill 4637 is passed.

Forms to contact state representatives are available from AIM members.

Correction

In the October 27 issue of *The Polemic*, Greg Hurd, paraprofessional in the Graphic Arts Department, was misquoted. Hurd was quoted as saying, "It may be up to two years before anything is done with [the poster]," referring to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration poster printed by Graphic Arts. Hurd explained that he was not referring to the poster, but to the underwater sanctuary itself. He was informed that no action would be taken with the program at the state level for possibly two years. The poster is already being utilized.



Instructor Tom Gougeon serves up physics with a smile.

Photo by Linda Simpson

Stars in his eyes and figures on his mind leave new instructor little time for the courts

BY KENDRA JONES
STAFF WRITER

Why science? Many students often wonder why they have to take those seemingly boring courses. Tom Gougeon, a new addition to the ACC science department, felt differently, though, when he was younger.

"Ever since the second grade when I got my first telescope, I became interested in the stars and moon," he replied.

A native of Alpena, Gougeon began his college education at Central Michigan

University after graduating from Alpena High. He knew from the beginning that he wanted to teach science, but his goal changed from courses in astronomy to physics.

Receiving his Bachelor's Degree, he continued on to graduate school, majoring in physics and math at CMU. Gougeon did his graduate work there while student teaching. He graduated with his Master's Degree in the spring of 1991.

Returning home to Alpena, Gougeon's love for the stars secured him a position at the Jesse Besser Museum's Planetarium as program director.

Because of another avid interest, tennis, he became the boys tennis coach at Alpena High.

You may also have seen him working part-time at IGA. This is Gougeon's first year of full time teaching at the college. His courses include physics, applied physics, and elementary algebra.

Future career plans include remaining in Alpena; "If they'll have me, I'd like to stay here. It's a good place to work and I enjoy the people."

If you ever need to find this single, 27 year old teacher outside of college, look for him on the courts or beneath the stars.

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