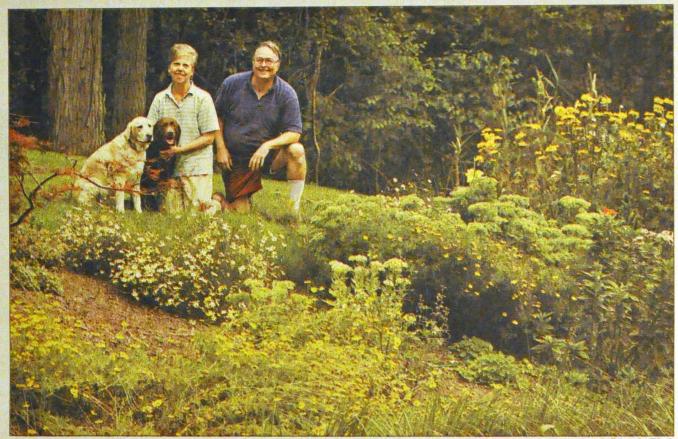


The Ferrans enlisted help with their waterfall when, Alice says, "It was clear we had bitten off more than we could chew."



Coneflower and other perennials surround the pond, the

# Landscape artists



Alice and Bert Ferran, with their dogs Abby and Molly, pose at the edge of their prize-winning woodland garden in Wells, which features a waterfall, pond

#### Alice and Bert Ferran of Wells are the winners of our Great Garden Contest. See how they turned an overgrown ravine into a showy, eco-sensitive, frog-friendly oasis.

By STEPHANIE BOUCHARD

ELLS - "Honey! Bert Ferran hollers to his wife. garden. "She likes As the garden begins its bend back toward the house, Bert escorts his visitor to the dead tree, greens sprouting jauntily around its base. Shorn of limbs and nearly completely stripped of bark, its gray remains make it seem like a weathered woodland sentinel silently guarding the garden and its occupants

Alice Ferran doesn't like the tree, but Bert loves the natural beauty of it.

The Ferrans' garden took first place in the Great Garden Contest, sponsored by the Portland Press Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram. It is a 150-foot by 30-foot

**READERS SUBMITTED** more than 125 entries to the Great Garden Contest. Herald/Maine Sunday Telegram. Rules required them to send three photos and an essay on what made their garcreativity; degree of difficulty; design; beauty; originality; and workmanship. A winner and three runners-up were chosen. For profiles of the runners-up and a complete list of entrants, please

water garden encircled by perennial pink astilbe. The pond is eco-friendly, with water-filtering plants, such as



Frogs love what the Ferrans have

Small disgreements aside, the Ferrans take pride in their woodland gar-den. It looks more like an idealized natural habitat that just sprang up rather than a garden that is always tended.

Maple, birch and fir trees trim the property lines. Beyond the tree borders, the land slopes to the Merriland River.

The centerpiece of the garden is a pond graced by waterlilies, populated by frogs and visited by herons.

There seems little of the human touch

But looks are deceiving. The Ferrans' home in Wells is in suburbia, not some magical fairyland. It's close, though, to a fairyland, because even though there are homes on wooded lots on their quiet street, the Wells Reserve is on the back side of their property - no danger of

Please see CONTEST, Page 64

## **Great Gardeners**







#### 'Motion-sensor' faucet now affordable

# On busy Munjoy Hill, a tranquil getaway

At three acres, the Woolwich gardens of Chris and Sarah Hall contain too many flowers and vegetables to count.

Dream home, dream gardens

Twenty-five years ago, Chris and Sarah Hall began transforming a woodlot at the end of a dirt road in Woolwich into their dream home.

Chris built their formal garden; cottage garden with a waterfall, a vegetable garden with heirloom tomator through the property, and the couple spent countless hours creating a remarkable garden.

Now nearly three acres, the Halls' gardens include a least of the gardens of Chris and Sarah Hall began transforming a woodlot at the end of a dirt road in Woolwich into their dream home.

Chris built their formal garden; cottage gardens with a waterfall, a vegetable garden with heirloom tomator dream home.

Chris built their formal garden; cottage gardens the property, and the couple spent countless hours creating a remarkable garden.

Now nearly three acres, the Hitchells have eight, including Strawberry Candy (a pilly) display garden.

Of the 10 most wanted day lib. Given their day (a) the formal garden; cottage gardens property, and the couple spent countless hours creating a remarkable garden.

Now nearly three acres, the Halls' gardens include a least of the formal garden; cottage gardens formal garden; cottage ga



there are many such gardens on the hill. The Munjoy Hill Association is planning a tour of the area's pocket gardens next June so these hidden jewels can be shared.

A successful pocket garden, she says, needs to be interesting. Break it up into little rooms." She simply plants what she loves and reads books and A successful pocket garden, she says, needs to be interesting. Break it up into little rooms." She simply plants what she loves and reads books and she relavendar, oregand, thyme and ther Jackmanii clematis 'bottown and her Jackmanii clematis 'bottown and



### Here's a dilly of a lily garden

nent disrupting their

garden sanctuary.

The Ferrans view their garden as an evolving project: They recently bought a lot next to their property where they plan to create a woodland walk that winds

Nest sealed the bottom of the pond with an EPA-approved sealer, a modified vegetable-oil emulsion. Sealing the pond helps stabilize its ecosystem and keeps down weeds without using pesticides. The Ferrans and using pesticides because they don't want to kill off any of the plants whose growth they have fostered.

The Paquettes suggested the use of water-filtering plants for a healthier pond. The Ferrans put pickerel weed, bog beans, water celery, water lettuce and minicattalis in the bog pond. They went with mini-cattalis because where the pond is the pond in the projects have been mostly trial and error ("mostly trial and