

MOUNT LEBANON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# GARDEN TOUR



SUNDAY JUNE 25, 2000

12 - 6 PM  
DONATION \$10.00  
FOR INFORMATION  
CALL 412-531-1912

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## Rte. 19 South Office Proudly Supports the Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour



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June 25, 2000

Dear Friends,

With great pride and pleasure we welcome you to the Tenth Annual Library Garden Tour! In celebration of this milestone, we are thrilled to present ten lovely Mt. Lebanon gardens for your enjoyment. Included in that number is our very own library courtyard setting, which proceeds from our past garden tours helped create! As in years past, a Silent Auction and Gardener's Getaway Grand Prize add to the fun of the day.

An undertaking of this magnitude could not be accomplished successfully without the involvement of scores of individuals, and we are grateful for the efforts of each one. First and foremost we thank the gardeners who so graciously open their properties, freely answer questions, and share advice with their visitors. Every tour advertisement, silent auction contribution, and program booklet donation adds to the success of the endeavor, and we thank those who took part in this manner. We are most appreciative of the dedicated Garden Tour Committee that attends to the thousands of details. Then you, the ticket buyers, are the culminating support. It all adds up to a wonderful tour day, with proceeds ultimately bringing many quality enhancements to the library, for the betterment of us all.

We hope your visits to this year's gardens, like your year-round visits to the library, will refresh your spirit, exercise your imagination, and send you off to make exciting changes to your own personal living spaces. Happy gardening! Happy reading!

Sincerely,

*Mary Lu and Bob Quehl*

Mary Lu and Bob Quehl  
Garden Tour Chairs

Garden Tour Committee:

*Marty Carney* • ~~John Conti~~ • ~~Brad Fisher~~ • Ray Golli  
Lynn Heintzleman • Rita Levine • Kathy Mays  
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**A Special Thanks to the Hosts and Hostesses of  
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**THE DAY'S ACTIVITIES  
12:00 NOON – 6:00 PM**



Tickets and programs available at  
Mt. Lebanon Public Library  
16 Castle Shannon Boulevard.

Gardens open for touring.  
Plant Sale at Library.  
Master Gardeners at Library to answer  
your questions.

Silent Auction in Meeting Room "A"  
at Mt. Lebanon Public Library.  
Bid on dozens of wonderful items.  
Bidding closes at 6:00 p.m.  
Gardener's Getaway Drawing at 6:00 p.m.  
Winners will be notified.

Refreshments available at  
Mt. Lebanon Public Library.

Restrooms available at  
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### DONORS TO THE SILENT AUCTION



The library gratefully acknowledges the support of the following donors who so generously contributed items to our Tenth Annual Garden Tour's Silent Auction. Those we received by our printing date are listed below. Many more items will be on display in Meeting Room "A" at the library from Friday, June 23 – Sunday, June 25.

AB Charles	Pepperberry's
Jean Baldwin	Pittsburgh Penguins
Caffe Giovanni	Pittsburgh Steelers
Carnegie Science Center	Rania's To Go
Connie's Fine Gifts	Restoration Hardware
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Johnny's Selected Seeds	Trax Farms
Mineo's Pizza	Tutto Bella
Mt. Lebanon Floral	Vicar Antiques and Gardens
Mt. Lebanon Recreation Center	Wild Birds Unlimited
Mt. Lebanon Shoe Repair	You're Invited

### DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS

These directions are designed for the visitor to our town and do not include short cuts, but only main roads. There is a map included in the middle of this program for reference. The directions start at Route 19, which is also known as Washington Road and is the main artery through Mt. Lebanon. The library is located close to the corner of Castle Shannon Boulevard and Washington Road and it is from that corner that directions to each garden begin. Please note that you can start at any garden. The gardens are not in any specific order. You will find that the hosts at each garden have a Mt. Lebanon map and can direct you to the next garden. Enjoy the day!

#### 16 CASTLE SHANNON BOULEVARD

At the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., turn down Castle Shannon Blvd. The Mt. Lebanon Public Library is the second building on the right.

#### 1031 WASHINGTON ROAD

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel south on Washington Rd. for approximately ½ mile. The house is on the left.

#### 20 VERNON DRIVE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel south on Washington Rd. for approximately ½ mile. Turn right onto Vernon Dr. The house is the second on the right.

### 167 MARKHAM DRIVE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel south on Washington Rd. for approximately 7/10 mile. Turn right onto Beadling Rd., pass Markham School, and turn left onto Seneca. Make the first left onto Purchase Place and then turn right onto Markham Dr. The house is at the end of the street on the left.

### 118 HOODRIDGE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel south on Washington Rd. through approximately ten traffic lights. Just beyond the Mt. Lebanon Blvd. intersection, turn left onto Terrace Dr. Turn left onto Hoodridge and travel approximately 3/10 mile. The house is on the right.

### 122 HOODRIDGE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel south on Washington Rd. through approximately ten traffic lights. Just beyond the Mt. Lebanon Blvd. intersection, turn left onto Terrace Dr. Turn left onto Hoodridge and travel approximately 3/10 mile. The house is on the right.

### 380 AVON DRIVE

From the library, turn right onto Castle Shannon Blvd., then turn right at first intersection onto Hemlock. At 2<sup>nd</sup> stop sign, turn left onto Jefferson Dr. At next stop sign, bear left at the traffic island onto Avon Dr. The house is 4<sup>th</sup> on the right.

### 805 RIDGEFIELD AVENUE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel north on Washington Rd. (through the business district). At seventh traffic light, turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. (across from St. Bernard's Church). Turn right onto N. Meadowcroft Ave., which is the third street. Continue on through the stop sign and traffic light and stay on N. Meadowcroft. (Travel distance is approximately one mile on N. Meadowcroft.) Turn right onto Ridgefield. The house is on the right.

### 838 VALLEYVIEW ROAD

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel north on Washington Rd. (through the business district). At seventh traffic light, turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. (across from St. Bernard's Church). Turn right at the intersection of Bower Hill Rd. and Cochran Rd. Travel on Cochran for approximately 3/10 mile. Turn left onto Osage. Stay to the left (which is Valleyview Road) through two stop signs. The house is on the right.

### 853 FOXLAND DRIVE

From the corner of Washington Rd. and Castle Shannon Blvd., travel north on Washington Rd. (towards the business district). At seventh traffic light, turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. (across from St. Bernard's Church). Travel on Bower Hill Rd. for approximately one mile. Turn right onto Ruth Street (which is immediately past Jefferson School). At stop sign, turn left onto Linda, then left onto Foxland. The house is on the left.

## *Garden Descriptions:*

### Garden of The Mt. Lebanon Public Library 16 Castle Shannon Boulevard

Planting goals for our courtyard combine the need for erosion control with the wish to achieve a visually pleasing landscape that provides habitat for birds and butterflies and educational opportunities for the public. An added consideration is the advisability of a barrier adjacent to the top sidewalk. The plants must also be able to withstand salt run-off from the parking lot and other harsh conditions. All of these factors led to the choice of rugosa roses for lining the sidewalk area. Cold hardy and disease resistant, they will offer attractive bloom and foliage throughout the growing season, and the rose hips will provide food for the birds as well as decorative interest.

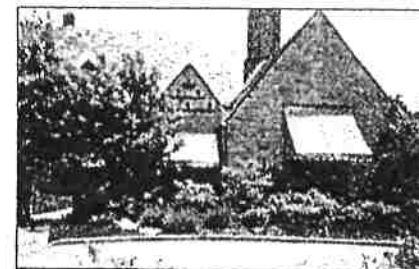
Shrubs giving weight to the overall design and aiding in the erosion control include weeping forsythia, inkberry holly, heather, bayberry, lilac, junipers, boxwood, and others. River birch, red bud, red maple, and serviceberry trees will delight the eye in every season.

Perennials in the courtyard include coneflowers, black-eyed Susans, coreopsis and speedwell. These were all chosen by the Perennial Plant Association based on their stellar growth performances. Annuals will provide additional interest and color.

An herb garden has been included for educational purposes as well as decorative interest. We anticipate offering classes in the history of herbs, cooking with herbs, medicinal uses, and the like. Another planning aspect involves working with underutilized local plant varieties.

A fountain and comfortable outdoor seating will complete the delightful setting and enable patrons to relax and enjoy the fresh air and pleasing vista. You will be seeing the area as we begin the process and can watch the unfolding along with us.

### Garden of Rania & Stephen Harris 1031 Washington Road

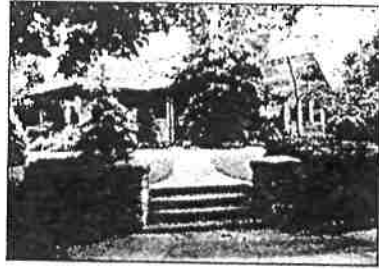


Because of its prominent location on Washington Road, the front garden area of the Harris residence is always on display. Two banks of the white shrub rose 'Kent' provide non-stop flowers from June through frost. Many other shrubs, perennials and ornamental grasses, including two 'PeeGee' Hydrangeas, Artemisia x. 'Powis Castle,' Gaura l. 'Whirling Butterflies' and Miscanthus s. 'Morning Light' fill the season. While essentially a white garden, autumn ushers in some subtle colors with Caryopteris x. c. 'Dark Knight' and Sedum. On the north side of the house, a Stewartia stands behind a semicircular wall ringing a more formal courtyard, and beyond, a woodland shade garden features European ginger, Japanese painted ferns, oak leaf Hydrangeas and Anemone x 'Honorine Jobert.'

Hydrangeas of several types are included in the backyard garden: more oak leaf, 'Nikko Blue,' 'Tardiva,' 'Unique' and climbing Hydrangeas reside in varying amounts of sun and shade. To the left of the entrance arch, a Heptacodium is accompanied by a Buddleia and Lavender, to the right, near a Japanese maple, is a Salix n. 'Yezo-Alpina' and Rodgersia tabularis. Around the pond, a Vitex, Callicarpa d. 'Issai,' Hibiscus m. 'Intense Pink,' and Lespedeza t. 'Gibraltar' lend height to perennial groupings of Asters, Astilbes, Ceratostigma, Monarda and many others. Chelone has thrived along the deck, amid several Clematis, Iris, and a tall Chamaecyparis o. 'Filicoides.' Other beds are filled with Ophiopogon, Bergenia, several types of ferns, Digitalis, and Alchemilla.



Garden of  
Sally & Jim Dawson  
20 Vernon Drive



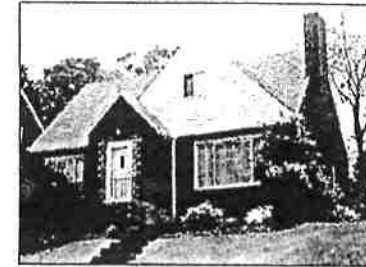
20 Vernon Drive is planted mainly with indigenous shrubs and plants. Hemlocks are used liberally around the bungalow style Prairie Craftsman home, which was featured for its architecture a few years ago in *Mt. Lebanon Magazine*. Perennial flowers and a few bulb and seed types fill the flower garden in one of the few sunny spots on the property. Hostas, daylilies, and pachysandra are often subdivided to create and expand borders.

The Vernon Drive exposure features two Japanese maples, white dogwoods and a very mature ash. The flower garden, facing Martha Avenue, contains hollyhocks, coneflowers, roses, a yellow yarrow, small rose bushes, a butterfly bush, asters, and a few unknowns. The side porch facing Martha offers a view of an orange mollis surrounded by pachysandra, ferns, and ivy; the flower garden with its new birdbath; and two specimen hollies towering beside the house. In the backyard, a small vegetable garden, begun with a load of elephant manure left by the previous owner, contains essentials for summer salads. Beside this vegetable garden are two (very old) blueberry bushes and in the middle of the backyard is a (very young) pear tree. Rose of Sharon, brought from the owners' previous home, help create a divide between backyards.

All the planting and maintenance is done by the owners, who take responsibility for the garden's successes and occasional failures. Caring for the garden has become a relaxing pastime.

*"I shall never have the garden I have in my mind, but that for me is the joy of it."* -- Jamaica Kincaid

Garden of  
Suzanne & Tim Powers  
167 Markham Drive



When we purchased our home seven years ago we were faced with typical Mt. Lebanon landscaping problems – a sloped lot with overgrown yews and aging shrubbery. Every year we tackle a project to transform our garden.

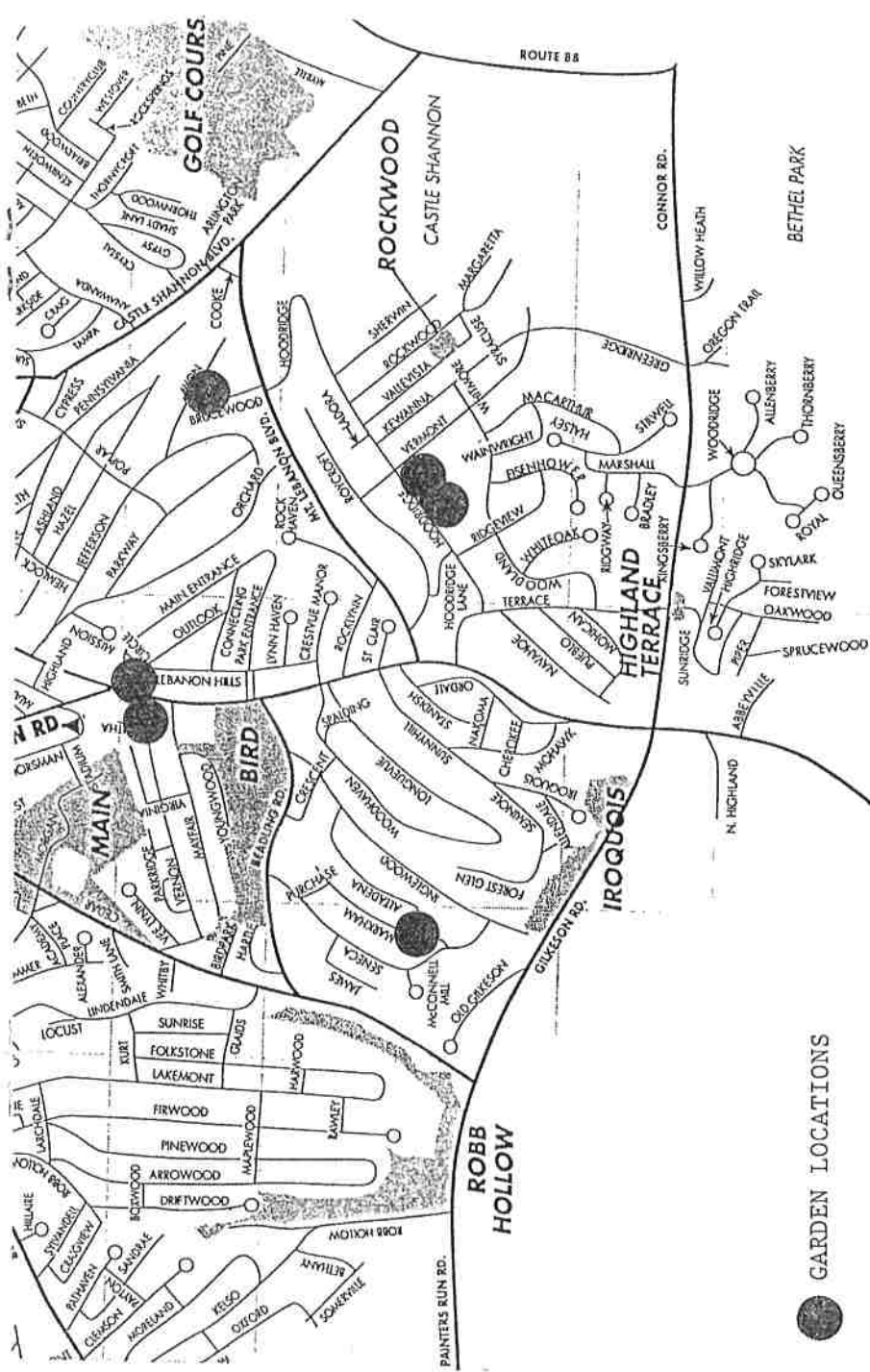
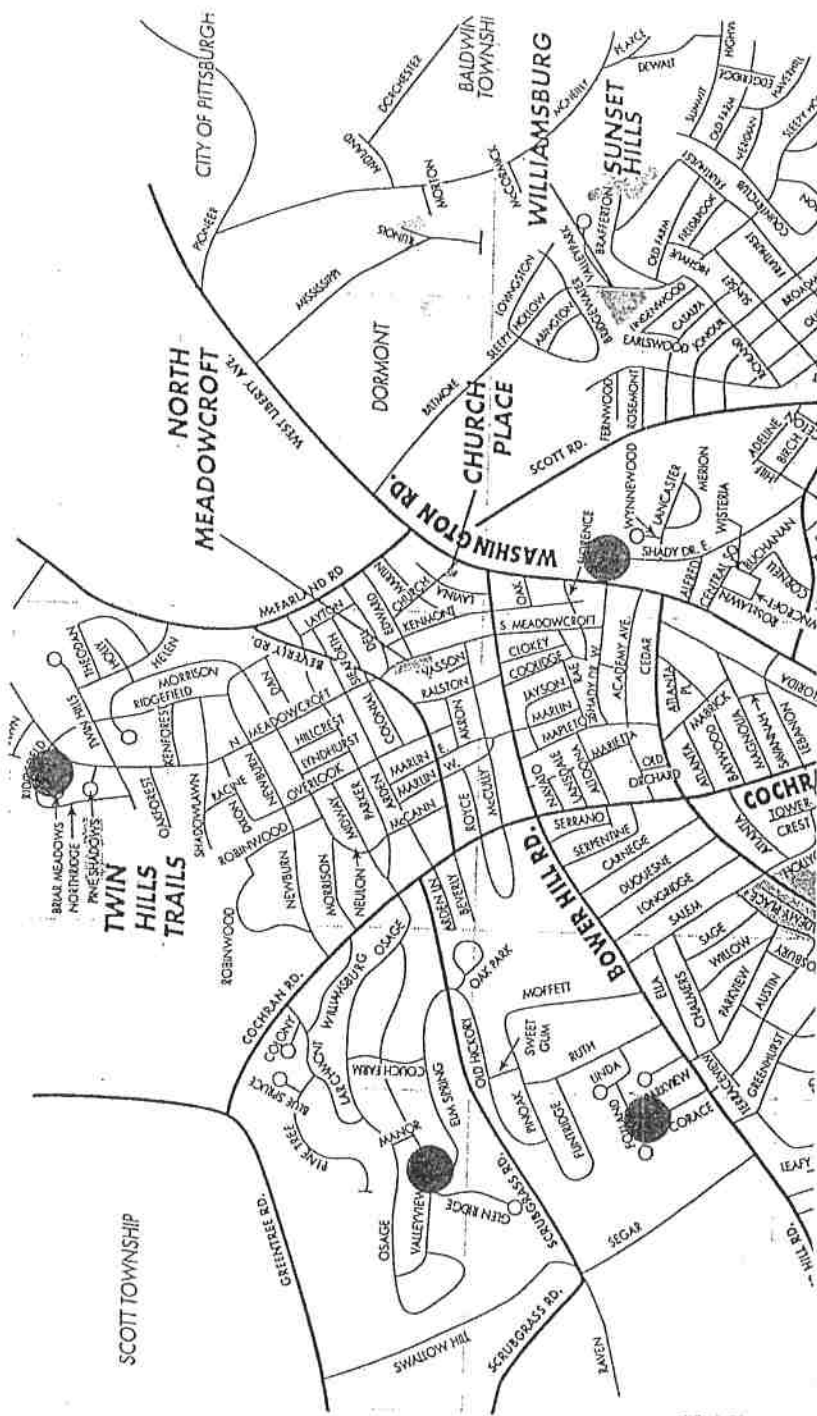
The narrow front steps were replaced with a curving walkway. This front garden features dwarf conifers, including a weeping blue spruce and a Swiss stone pine. Along the side of the house is a narrow border filled with white flowers.

In the backyard, we built stone terraces on what was originally an ivy and rug juniper covered hillside. The backyard borders are color-themed. The right terrace and border features lavender, peach and yellow flowers highlighted by the golden foliage of a dragon's eye pine and sambucus 'Southerland's Gold.' In the far corner is a hot color section of red and orange flowers. The left terrace and border is filled with purple, rose and pink colored perennials accented by the burgundy foliage of barberries and physocarpus 'Diablo.'

Rose 'New Dawn' and viticella clematis climb the privacy fence which leads to a small shade garden with the Japanese maple 'Butterfly.'

Last summer's drought brought the addition of an above-ground sprinkler system. We installed the system of plastic pipes and sprinkler heads ourselves. It has enabled us to water much more efficiently and the garden looks great!

The backyard is also a certified National Wildlife Federation Backyard providing food, shelter, water and places to raise young. It is a peaceful retreat not only for the wildlife but for us.



GARDEN LOCATIONS

Garden of  
John Stafford & Melissa Lloyd  
118 Hoodridge Drive



When we moved to our home on Hoodridge Drive in 1987, the backyard was a 'hodgepodge' of dirt, crabgrass and a few stalwart lily-of-the-valley plants at the base of a pine tree. We faced the challenges of having a postage stamp lot with dappled to full shade. With the addition of our daughters, we were further challenged with a desire to make the backyard and gardens 'kid friendly.'

In our favor were an abundance of neighbors and friends willing to help us with their ideas, plants and 'sweat equity.' Taking cues from immediate neighbors and John Brookes Garden Book, we decided to contour serpentine beds with Belgian block borders. We also became familiar with shade plants and removed some old pines and overhanging limbs to allow light into the area.

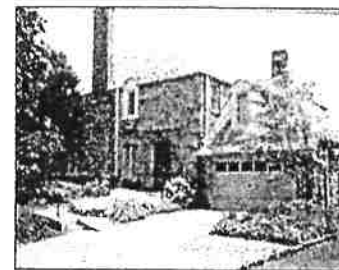
Being colonial-philis with Virginia roots (literally!), we decided to build a playhouse in the Garrison colonial style of our home and have included box, azalea, rhododendron, dogwood, red bud and wisteria in our plot. Similarly, we read an article in *Southern Living* about making a simple fountain in a flower pot. Our fountain is now a focal point at the tip of our rear garden, immediately above the hillside herb and veggie garden, which we terraced into the back hillside.

We share a back terrace with Marilyn and Chuck Freed. Marilyn custom-built her waterfall and pond on one side of the lower terrace. Our 'pot fountain' on the opposite side of the terrace provides a water version of 'surround-sound' – adding to the pleasant surrounding in the rear yard and gardens. (Marilyn has her own story to tell!)

Finally, with the expansion of our upper terrace in 1998, we incorporated latticework arbors and screens for growing clematis and climbing honeysuckle...and a sheltered area for our potting shed and bench.

I neglected to mention that the playhouse I built for our children was featured as an AP article which ran in the *Post Gazette* and *Tribune* as well as some other papers in Ohio and the mid-Atlantic.

Garden of  
Charles & Marilyn Freed  
122 Hoodridge Drive



Sharing is the concept of our flagstone patio tucked into the far corner of our garden.

Surrounded by assorted rocks, annuals, perennials and a graceful river birch, our patio is a natural place for entertaining or just relaxing to the sound of a gentle stream and waterfall.

Accenting one corner is an ornate wrought iron folding screen that can hold candles for extra evening lighting.

We share this peaceful retreat with our neighbors, birds, deer and occasionally a wild turkey.

We hope you will visit so that we can share it with you.



*Garden of*  
*Nancy & Wes Smith*  
*380 Avon Drive*

Gardening at this time in my life is not a matter of choice but a wild calling that beckons me to the outdoors as the season warms up to 45 degrees. Usually I'm the first in the neighborhood, scratching through the winter's bit of remaining snow cover, to see the early snowdrops and colorful bits of crocus. While reading the paper this morning, I was amazed to find reference to the first of spring. It came much too quickly this year. So much to do and have fun with in the garden.

Soon the first of the *Brunnera macrophylla* will poke tiny blue heads among its heart-shaped leaves while the daffodils dance here and there in the brown leaf-filled beds. A few tulips will burst into bloom in April around the tall red maple. And I always marvel at the tenacity of these delicate flowers of spring, nestled among the *chionodoxa*, *muscaria* and *scilla*, for they have come back every year for fifteen years, struggling through the trees' maze of tangled roots. The hellebores nod hello, for they have been there since January and February, adding to the shady border.

May comes with low ground hugging *phlox subulata*, mingling with the rich yellow of the *Cushion Spurge-Euphorbia polychroma* and the delicate blue of tall waving *Amsonia huberti* in the lower border. *Lamium maculatum* 'White Nancy' shows brightly in the western side showing off the green leaves of the butterfly bush giving an open airy quality to this part of the garden.

The white dogwood 'Cornus Florida' finishes blooming after mid-May. Ferns are sprouting their fiddleheads in the shadows of the shrubs that protect them from strong sunlight. Variegated *polygonatum*, *Pulmonaria* 'Mrs. Moon,' forget-me-nots, *Heuchera* in four or five varieties, *Astilbe* 'Sprite' and *Digitalis grandiflora* grace other shady garden spots. I wait patiently for the hardy begonia 'Begonia grandis' to begin showing in early June.

The summer begins with the rose 'The Fairy' and various daylilies and follows through to fragrant *Hosta plantaginea* and sweet Autumn clematis trailing up the back of the house. Followed by fall Asters and the strange looking *Tricyrtis hirta*, the garden continues to produce blooms before the frost of autumn. The garden is then blessed with the wonderful color of fall leaves. Winter sets in later, bringing snow that lies over the open bare branches of deciduous trees and shrubs. It is one of the loveliest times in the garden. In fact, all seasons pose beauty in one's own piece of earth.



*Garden of*  
*Eleanor & Marie Carpenter*  
*805 Ridgefield Avenue*

We are thrilled to be part of the Mt. Lebanon Garden Tour 2000. Our Mother, who was an avid gardener, taught the love of gardening to us.

The challenges we faced when we moved to our home in August, 1997, were:

- 1) our property is 135 feet long across the front and 75 feet wide...too much grass to take care of
- 2) the hedges and shrubs definitely belonged to the 1950s
- 3) a dead 60-foot pine tree
- 4) the terrace off the patio was covered with ivy and tree stumps

The landscaping was very uninteresting and dated! The only tree that we were able to salvage was the Crimson Maple in the front yard.

We wanted to have some interest to the width of our property and needed perennials and shrubbery that didn't require much care. We asked Matt Maniet, owner of Landscape Specialties, to design islands for the front yard and a garden walkway off of the terrace.

Flowers and shrubbery now surround our home. We have crocus, pansies, hyacinths, daffodils, tulips, irises, azaleas, roses, daisies, black-eyed Susans, snapdragons, coral bells, forget-me-nots, poppies, geraniums, coreopsis, Virginia sweet spire, a tropical hibiscus tree, red twig dogwood, lavender, holly bushes, a hydrangea tree, maple leaf and lavender, blue and mauve hydrangea, purple salvia, sedum (autumn joy), and purple, white, and gold butterfly bushes. The magnificent wispy Russian sage and ornamental grasses are perfect. A Cherokee Red dogwood tree is the focal point in one of the islands, and a red bud tree is in the other island. Our garden blooms from early spring through late fall. The holly bushes and red twig dogwoods are beautiful in the winter months.

*"At the threshold of a garden we have never seen before, we pause a moment. There's a quiet thrill in knowing you are about to enter new territory – a world where the familiar, strange, and magical will come together in ways you have yet to fully imagine. Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century."* — Country Living Magazine



Garden of  
Barbara & Robert Logan  
838 Valleyview Road

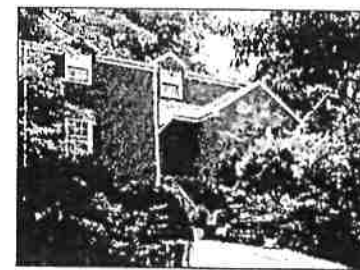


The Logan Garden occupies the site of a former swimming pool. About twenty years ago, the pool was filled in, a few skimpy beds were planted with uninteresting plants in unrewarding clay, and grass was planted in the center. At some point, garden designer, Ruth Reitenauer expanded the beds and added structural elements, including Green Mountain boxwood and Golden Girl holly. Most significantly, she stressed the need to amend the soil. Since then, many truckloads of leaf mold and mushroom manure have been incorporated into the unyielding existing clay.

A few years ago, the owners saw a picture of a garden featuring rectangular beds surrounded by stone paths. The Petrelli family was consulted, and soon beautiful and functional paving was installed to allow access to all areas of the garden. While the structure is very disciplined, no rigid rules are observed in planting. The primary purpose of this garden is to provide the owners with a place to play with plants, water, and 'dirt.' A secondary function is to supply year-round food and shelter for birds.

This is an organic garden. The owners compost, they have a worm farm, and pesticide use is limited to the roses in the front garden. The warm micro-climate created by the sheltered location permits 'pushing the envelope' of plant hardiness. In this garden, you will find anemones, alstroemeria, arum italicum, Southern magnolia, lots of hellebores, sweet peas, lettuces, skimmia, peonies, poppies of every description, and much more. Every day of the year, something is in bloom.

Garden of  
Cory & John Polena  
853 Foxland Drive



Our interest in gardening began the instant we purchased our home in Mt. Lebanon 15 years ago. We inherited a yard which was 95% grass and whose primary foundation plants were yews. In addition, we faced some very significant obstacles in landscaping the yard – ones Pittsburghers face all the time – a steep slope, four kids and a dog. But we were also fortunate in that my wife's father had a spectacular garden, which provided us with many ideas and examples of a wide range of plants.

We have a relatively young garden, but one with a large number of unusual plants. The majority of the early plantings were ordered via catalog because at that time they were simply not available from local sources. We have over 60 different kinds of rhododendrons, 40 different types of Japanese maples, 10 different types of dwarf hemlocks, a couple dozen different hostas, and a number of different chamaecyparis and other dwarf conifers.

Part of our challenge in landscaping our yard was how to incorporate the kids, John Michael – 18, Mark – 16, Scott – 14, and Erin – 9. In the beginning, we involved them in the design and construction of their 'climbing thing.' The 'climbing thing' is constructed around a tree so that they could have a tree fort. We took the area at the foot of the fort and walled it in to become 'Fort Ligonier,' the dirt pile for digging and making forts for soldiers with their friends. As the kids became older, we expanded our beds and patio areas. They added their interest in landscaping with the construction of a pond under the guidance of our oldest. When one pond proved to be inadequate, in their opinion, they added another with a waterfall, fish and frogs.

Taming the hillsides has proven to be a creative challenge. The backyard with its upward slope was easier for us to landscape. We created beds in stages beginning with the back of the yard and moved our way down the slope. We have created low retaining walls and we have used rocks to create flat planting areas on the slopes. The upper grass circle was leveled to give us a flat area. As the kids grew, our oldest turned 'Fort Ligonier' into a patio area. The front slope was harder for us to visualize. With the addition of a low retaining wall and a small patio at the top, we have finally conquered many of the design problems that were plaguing the front. We have an area to view the yard, a flatter grass circle and a backdrop for the hillside plantings.



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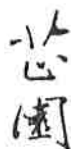
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