

MOUNT LEBANON  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

# GARDEN TOUR



SUNDAY, JUNE 26th, 2005

12 - 5 PM

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 on tour day

FOR INFORMATION

CALL 412-531-1912

# Giving Roots to New Friends in Mt. Lebanon

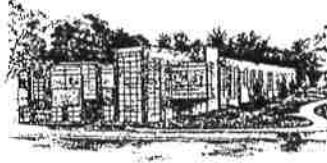


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Mt. Lebanon Public Library

June 26, 2005

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 15th Annual Mt. Lebanon Library Garden Tour. We are sure that you will be as excited as we are when you visit the seven gardens on this year's tour. We are grateful to the gardeners for graciously opening their outdoor spaces to us today and taking the time to share their labors of love. As you stroll through the varied gardens we hope that you not only renew your enthusiasm for gardening, but also glean ideas for your own landscapes. Please feel free to ask questions; the owners will be happy to share their knowledge.

As the owners have carefully tended their gardens, so, too, have the residents of Mt. Lebanon nurtured the library. Funds raised by past Garden Tours helped expand and renovate the building, improve indoor lighting, create the outdoor courtyard, provide furniture for the children's library and main magazine area, purchase an intercom system, and so much more. This year's proceeds will be used for books and unabridged audiobooks for all ages, programs, and other needs such as wireless computer access.

We thank the Garden Tour Committee and the many volunteers whose efforts are critical to the success of the Tour. We also thank the advertisers, Master Gardeners and Consulting Rosarian, and all the sponsors of the Garden Tour for their support. Please let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

*Bonnie Van Kirk*

Bonnie Van Kirk, Garden Tour Chair  
Mt. Lebanon Public Library  
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*Cynthia K. Richey*

Cynthia K. Richey, Director  
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## The Day's Activities

12:00 Noon - 5:00 P.M.

. Gardens open for touring  
. Plant Sale and Master  
Gardeners at selected  
gardens during the tour

At the Library:

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The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization providing support services to the library. Any library patron may join the Friends. We need the enthusiastic response of the entire community to continue to give our library meaningful support. New people and new ideas keep organizations vital.

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- ☞ Continuous Color: A Month-By-Month Guide to Shrubs and Small Trees for the Continuous Bloom Garden / Pam Duthie / 635.976 D87
- ☞ Flowerpots: A Seasonal Guide to Planting, Designing and Displaying Pots / Jim Keeling / 635.986 K42
- ☞ Gardens for Birds: Hummingbirds & Butterflies / Linda D. Harris / 635.967 H36
- ☞ The Gardens of Emily Dickinson / Judith Farr / 811.4 D51
- ☞ Giant Book of Garden Solutions: 1,954 Natural Remedies to Handle Your Toughest Garden Problems / Jerry Baker / 635 B34j
- ☞ A Little History of British Gardening / Jenny Uglow / 635.0941 U34
- ☞ My Summer in a Garden / Charles Dudley Warner / 635 W36
- ☞ New Book of Herbs / Jekka McVicar / 635.7 M35
- ☞ The New York Times 1000 Gardening Questions & Answers / Based on the New York Times column "Garden Q. & A." / 635 N48
- ☞ The Passion for Gardening: Inspiration for a Lifetime / Kenneth Druse / 635 D77
- ☞ Paths of Desire: The Passions of a Suburban Gardener / Dominique Browning / 635.9 B75
- ☞ Planting Green Roofs and Living Walls / Nigel Dunnett / 635.9671 D85
- ☞ Secrets to Great Soil: A Grower's Guide to Composting, Mulching, and Creating Healthy, Fertile Soil for Your Garden and Lawn / Elizabeth Stell / 635.0489 S72
- ☞ The Ultimate Container Gardener: All You Need to Know to Create Plantings for Spring, Summer, Autumn, and Winter / Stephanie Donaldson / 635.986 D65

### Periodicals

- ☞ Better Homes and Gardens
- ☞ Birds and Bloom
- ☞ Horticulture
- ☞ Organic Gardening

### Videos

- ☞ How to Grow Flowers / VC635.9
- ☞ How to Grow Roses / VC635
- ☞ Penelope Hobhouse. Volume 2, Color in the Garden. Flower Gardens: The Art & Practice of Gardening / VC712
- ☞ Perennial Gardening / VC635.932



## Garden of

Sarah & Charles Buffington  
490 Broadmoor Avenue

The yard at the “house of the Blue Dolphins,” as the locals call it, happened when a man with a chain saw married a woman with a sense of humor and they teamed up with a professional landscape designer.

Six years ago, mature trees provided lots of shade but shade and invasive tree roots made growing shrubs and flowers difficult. Every one of these trees is gone now, replaced by “garden trees” such as Stewardia, Japanese maples, lilacs, Hollywood juniper and ornamental hawthorn. We now have room and sun for daylilies and perennials but not quite enough for roses.

Design input from Suzie (owner of Something from Suzie) was key to the garden plan and much of the plant/shrub selection. We tried to make the garden fun without being too kitsch; hence, the wave-shaped hedge, trellis on the deck, gate/path to nowhere, and “island-shaped” brick terrace in the back yard.

Deer have recently become a problem in our neighborhood and may force us to abandon gardening unless the township acts to aggressively eradicate these munchers.



## Garden of

Dana & John Fenner  
78 Youngwood Road

Our garden is continuously changing. I like to think of it as a work in progress. Plants are frequently being moved as they grow and need dividing or as I change my mind about a particular area of the yard. Often, I tell everyone I grow ferns and rocks with some flowers thrown in to add color and spice.

When we moved here 20 years ago, we had an overgrown woodland setting on our hands, which had pretty much taken over most of the yard. I could see that there were many charming aspects of the yard that merely needed to be enhanced.

As I began to investigate what I had, I found that rocks were buried under the hillside and a rock garden was begun. This too has evolved over the years as trees were removed and perennials and ferns were placed among the rocks. After the trees were removed, there was a lot more sun for me to develop other sections of the yard. The different levels of sun have enabled me to create little “vineyettes.” Flower beds filled with perennials and annuals border the yard. A pond was added two years ago, which appears to spring right from the hillside. The birds love it as their bird bath.

Walking around a yard filled with flowers, listening to the water in the pond, or venturing up the hillside to a more woodland setting has made our yard a very special place to enjoy.

*Please note: A Consulting Rosarian from the Pittsburgh Rose Society will be present in this garden.*



## *Garden of* Marilyn & Mark Francis 100 Vernon Drive

A visitor to our garden once described it as a little Shangri-La. As with most gardens, ours has been a long time in the making. When we moved here 17 years ago, we were faced with cutting down large pines and blue spruces that were planted too close to the house. We selectively left a few large spruces to create the backdrop for a backyard bed.

We started small by installing beds around the deck and the perimeter of the backyard. We also installed a soaker hose system; however, over the past few years we've begun to incorporate xeriscape perennials to minimize water usage.

Year after year we dug up more of the lawn to create new beds. Our garden has "good bones" – hardscapes that provide the garden structure: several meandering stone paths; a stone wall; and a redwood arbor and trellises. Also adding structure are the Kousa Dogwood, Tri-color Beech, and Star Magnolia. We like to plant perennials in mass, and we don't always adhere to a stringent maintenance schedule or the recommended stepwise planting regimen of tall plants in back, small in front. We've dotted the grounds with a variety of window boxes and containers filled with annuals and bulbs to add interest and on-going color.

Our small vegetable garden is beside our wonderful neighbor's driveway, which is conveniently located outside our kitchen door. We also grow a variety of herbs. Potatoes are grown in a converted compost bin in the backyard.

**Please "bee" ware that Marilyn's newest garden endeavor is beekeeping. We have an active beehive and you should use caution if you are the least bit bee wary or are allergic to bee stings (bring your EpiPen). We suggest that you do not wear perfume or aftershave when visiting our garden.**



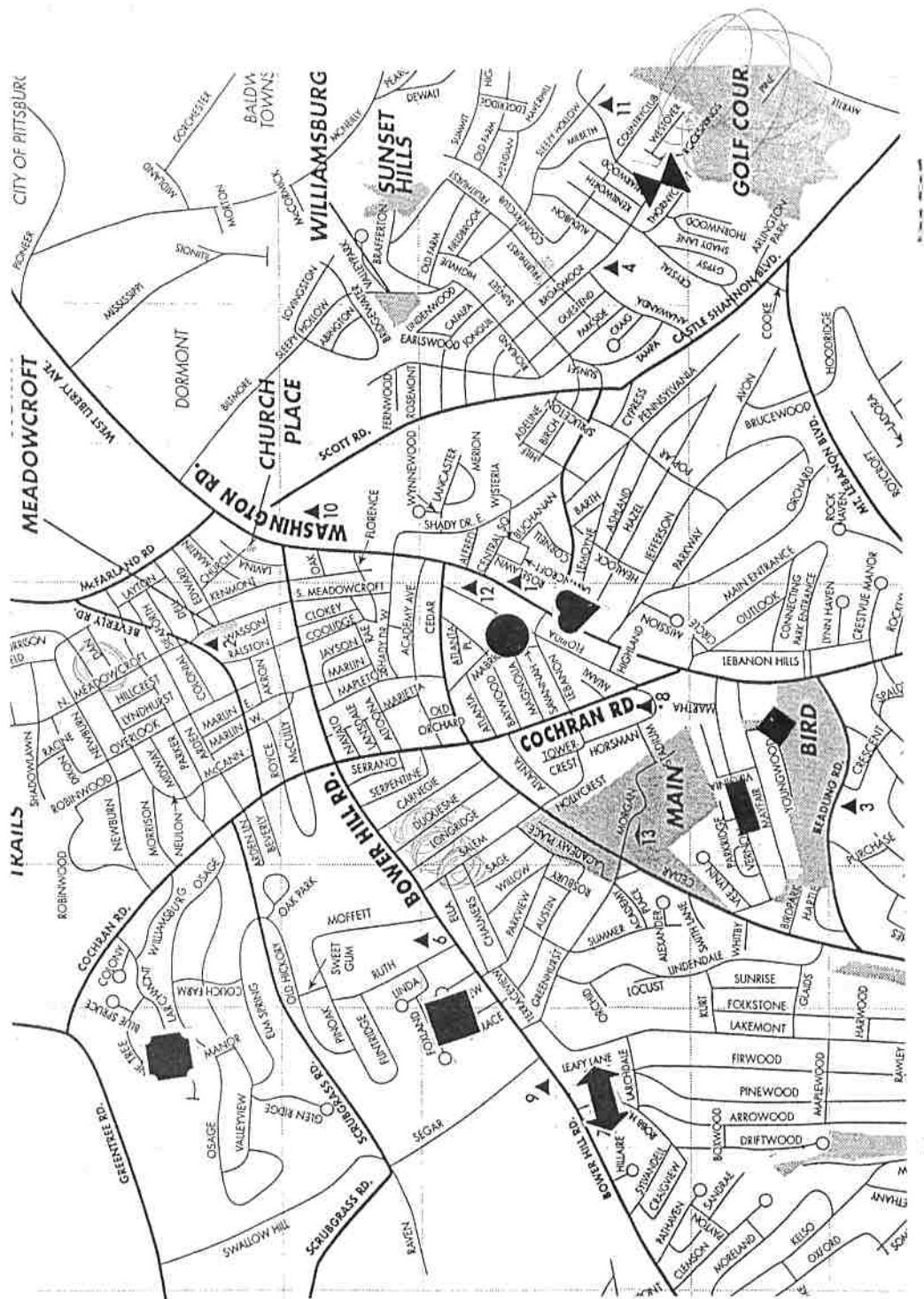
## *Garden of* David & Mary Korns 250 Magnolia Place

We bought our house in 1987; however, it wasn't until 1991, after being inspired by the water garden that our friends and business partners had created, that we were completely charmed into the idea of creating a real garden for ourselves.

We began in our barren back yard, collecting enough rock to build a retaining wall to house our pond, and then more, for a second retaining wall midway down its slope to hold back the hillside for a small patio and pathway. Those were our first baby steps, the beginning of what has taken many springs, summers and falls - up to the present - to bring about what we now have.

The pond became the heart of the backyard garden design, with the beds, paths and hardscape evolving from it. Each year, we continued to plan and execute our yard's reshaping, adding stone and brick patios, steps and pathways, curved retaining walls and beds, trellises and back porch stairs, lighting, and many trees, shrubs and perennials. We eliminated large areas of lawn, and what we retained, we use as pathways through the planting areas. Learning early on that clay was a poor planting medium, we added tons of dirt and compost to create new planting beds. We added a natural split rail fence to enclose the back yard to insure safety with the pond, but also to add a permanent feature that would compliment a woodland garden. Although part of our yard was afforded shade from our neighbor's large maple tree, much of it was uncomfortably hot and sunny. Deciding early on that we were "shady" people, we planted many trees and shrubs that have worked to transform the space to a much cooler, woodland-like garden setting.

Our now maturing garden has really been a labor of love (and quite a bit of blood, sweat and tears, too). We hope it will always be a work in progress.



## DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS

The following directions are written primarily for those who are not familiar with the Mt. Lebanon neighborhoods. Short cuts and off beat routes are avoided. All directions begin at the corner of Washington Road and Castle Shannon Blvd next to the library.  The gardens are not given in any particular order. You may start at any garden and follow a route that you find most convenient. The hosts at each garden have maps of Mt. Lebanon and can assist you in finding your next garden.

490 BROADMOOR AVENUE

Go Right from the library down Castle Shannon Blvd. to the first stop light at the junction of Scott Road. Go right at the light, staying on Castle Shannon to the next light, which is Anawanda Avenue. Turn Left on Anawanda Avenue (0.3 mile) to Broadmoor Avenue. Turn Right onto Broadmoor for 0.2 mi. The garden is on the right, by the "no outlet sign."

◆ 78 YOUNGWOOD ROAD

Go **Left** (south) onto Washington Road, past Cochran Road to Mayfair Drive. Turn **Right** on Mayfair Drive to Youngwood Road. Turn **Left** onto Youngwood Road. The garden is on the right. Youngwood Road is a dead-end. We recommend that you park on Mayfair Drive and walk the short distance to the garden.

100 VERNON DRIVE

Go **Left** (south) on Washington Road, past Cochran Road to Vernon Drive. Turn **Right** on Vernon Drive. The garden is on the right going down Vernon. (You may also reach this garden from Mayfair Drive. From Washington Road, go right on Mayfair to Virginia Way (0.1 mi) then left on Vernon Drive.)

● 250 MAGNOLIA PLACE

Go Right (north) on Washington Road and make an immediate Left at the light onto Lebanon Avenue. Lebanon goes down the hill. At the first intersection (before the road bears left) turn Right onto Florida Avenue, Left on Magnolia. The garden is on the right. This is a narrow street. Please park on the right side of the street if possible. You then may exit going left on Savannah or straight to Cochran Road.

■ 825 FOXLAND DRIVE

Go Right on Washington Road and make an immediate Left at the light onto Lebanon Avenue. Go down the hill and follow Lebanon to the left. Stay on Lebanon to the light (the High School will be on your left). Turn Right onto Cochran Road (Rt.19). At the third light at the top of the hill, go Left onto Bower Hill Road. Stay on Bower Hill past Asbury Heights Nursing Home and Moffett Drive to Ruth. Go Right on Ruth to Linda Lane. Left on Linda Lane and Left onto Foxland Drive. The garden is on the left.

804 HILLAIRE DRIVE

Go Right on Washington Road and make an immediate Left at the light onto Lebanon Avenue. Go down the hill and follow Lebanon to the left. Stay on Lebanon to the light (the High School will be on your left.) Turn Right onto Cochran Road (Rt.19). At the third light at the top of the hill, go Left onto Bower Hill Road for 1.2 miles. Stay on Bower Hill past Asbury Heights Nursing Home, St. Clair Hospital, and the Post Office to Hillaire Drive. Hillaire runs off the left from Bower Hill. Turn Left onto Hillaire to the garden. This a cul-de-sac. You may wish to park on Bower Hill and walk to Hillaire Drive.

800 LARCHMONT ROAD

Go Right on Washington Road and make an immediate Left at the light onto Lebanon Avenue. Go down the hill and follow Lebanon to the left. Stay on Lebanon to the light (the High School will be on your left). Turn Right onto Cochran Road (Rt.19). Stay on Cochran past Bower Hill and Beverly to the intersection of Osage/Valleyview on the left. Go Left onto Osage, bear right on Osage to Larchmont on the right. Go Right on Larchmont. Please park on the right side of the street and exit onto Cochran Road.



## *Garden of* Suzanne & Terry Gruneberg 825 Foxland Drive

When we purchased our home 27 years ago, we were a young family with a 3-year-old and a 1-year-old and 2 West Highland White Terriers. There were overgrown shrubs and bushes that weren't particularly conducive to busy children or pets. Thus began the first phase, the removal of pine trees, pyracantha, and yews. Each year we would try something new.

Our gardens are driven by two basic desires: to create spaces that maintain themselves and to raise fresh vegetables. The gardens now have several ornamental trees, holly bushes, and perennials. Shady areas and some borders were planted with pachysandra and English ivy. Some have even been "neighbor projects" where our next-door neighbors and we dug the earth, hand planted the tender shoots, and enjoyed conversations. Over a dozen varieties of hosta are present with the predominant collection features along the rear property line.

Once the beds began to dot the lawn, we wanted a patio to enjoy the views. We're now enjoying the second generation patio with connecting walkways to both our neighbors' yards. We've redesigned our enclosed porch/family room to allow the beauty of the gardens to permeate this interior space.

Over the years we have tried various annuals to highlight and contrast with the perennials.

Our vegetable garden has decreased in size as the kids have left home and we no longer can and freeze as we once did. Today the garden provides fresh tomatoes and zucchini. Our neighbors are always interested in the garden's progress because the bounty is always more than we can make into zucchini bread or cookies or slice for our favorite summer salad recipes. Sharing has become the tradition!



## *Garden of* Ina Block & Don Riefner 804 Hillaire Drive

If I were to pick one word to describe my garden, I would choose "whimsical." My garden is filled with metal sculptures and ceramic creatures, collected from places I have traveled to, made in my kiln or gifted to me by friends. Although there are many different creatures in my garden, there are more than 30 ceramic or metal frogs scattered about, peeking through leaves, almost ready to jump out at you. A hand-built cookie jar, once in my kitchen, now hosts a pot full of impatiens and lobelia. Music can be heard through flowerpot and frog speakers, spaced throughout the garden. There are several garden areas I tend to. There is the alpine garden, the shady nook garden, the rock garden, the pond garden, the vegetable garden, the Hosta garden, etc. The koi and goldfish in my pond have wintered there for over 5 years. The pond contains some live frogs as well, but they have come and gone throughout the years. Being of an artistic nature, I view the garden areas as if they were paintings and plan colors and dimensions carefully. My garden is forever changing. As plants grow and no longer fit in with their surroundings, I thin them out or replace them. I try to keep a map of my plants so I know what is "supposed" to be coming up in each location. We designed and built the ridge, trellis, tool shed, and pond ourselves and built only half of a gazebo so we would not obstruct the view. In the front yard, there are 5 varieties of lamium as well as many specimen Hostas. Stained glass stepping stones grace the entrance to the front rock garden, which was designed to look like a wandering brook. As you approach the house, you will note that I am also a "cat person," as evidenced by several faux felines prowling about the garden. The real ones stay inside the house. We also have learned to accept the many chipmunks and rabbits that live under our deck and the squirrels who scamper through the trees. The cats love to watch them through the windows and sliding glass door. We've given up trying to evict them and try to live harmoniously with all the "creatures" in our garden.



## Garden of

Helen Billak & Paul Henry  
800 Larchmont Road

It is apparent that the original owners of 800 Larchmont loved gardens and plants, as there are many interesting components to our gardens. The intervening 50 years provided some wonderful structural elements for the current garden, but there were also many years when the gardens were neglected and became overgrown and crowded. As a result, over 20 trees and mature shrubs have been removed over the six years we have owned the home.

The property benefits from a natural spring, which empties into a beautiful pond and provides a home to our 10 goldfish. There were 14, but a blue heron decided to make our house its home. We have now incorporated multiple devices to insure that our fish remain safe. As an older property, even with the removal of many trees, we still are dominated by shade and as such most of the front and sides areas are filled with shade loving plants. With the removal of some large oak trees, hopefully, my vegetable and herb gardens in the back of the house will bear more fruit. In general, in order to minimize the annual work, we have incorporated many evergreens and perennials into the beds and hillsides.

George Girty was helpful in the initial design work, which included the complete renovation of the entrance, the side patio areas and the entrance to the pool. The stone work was completed by Petrelli's and the ongoing maintenance and plant additions are lovingly handled by Nick Pietropaolo. The pots and furniture were supplied by Mare Barr of Topiary. Mare is also responsible for the design of the plantings in all the containers surrounding the house and pool areas.

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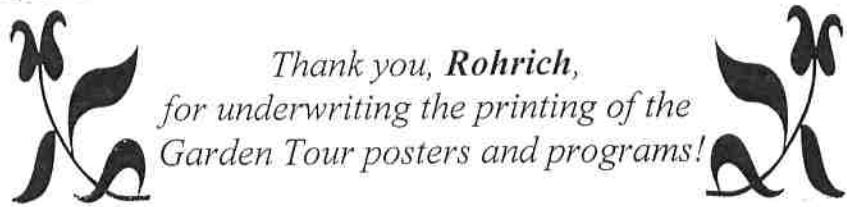
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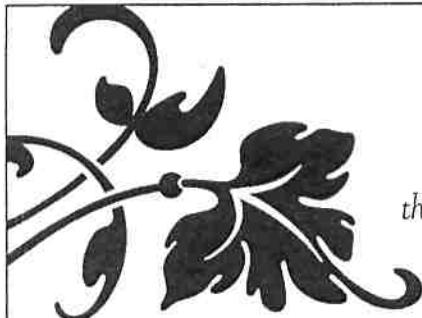


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