

MOUNT LEBANON
PUBLIC LIBRARY

GARDEN TOUR



SUNDAY, JUNE 4th, 2006

12 - 5 PM

Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 on tour day
FOR INFORMATION
CALL 412-531-1912

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Mt. Lebanon Public Library

June 4, 2006

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the 16th Annual Mt. Lebanon Library Garden Tour. We know that you will be pleased with the gardens featured. We are grateful to the gardeners who graciously open their outdoor spaces to you today. They have labored for weeks to make their gardens even more beautiful. We hope that your visits today provide excitement, incentive, and imagination for your own gardening pursuits. Please feel free to ask questions; the gardeners will be happy to share their knowledge.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and many talents, especially the Garden Tour committee, the hosts and hostesses at each garden, and the Master Gardeners. We also thank the advertisers for their support and ask you to let them know that you appreciate their involvement.

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 have helped us 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, acquire wireless Internet access, and do so much more. The library has been able to improve and expand services because of the unflagging support of the Garden Tour by the many donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors, as well as all who purchase tickets for the tour. We thank you all.

Enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Bonnie Van Kirk
 Bonnie Van Kirk, Garden Tour Chair
 Mt. Lebanon Public Library

Cynthia K. Richey
 Cynthia K. Richey, Director
 Mt. Lebanon Public Library

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Nancy & Richard Laita	Janet Thomas
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The Day's Activities

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

Gardens open for touring

Annual Plant Sale at the Library. Sale features the best plants from Mt. Lebanon gardeners—shrubs, perennials, herbs, hellebores, and indoor plants. Included this year are colorful potted perennials from our Library Courtyard gardens!

Master Gardeners at selected gardens during the tour

Also at the library:
Tickets and programs available
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Restrooms

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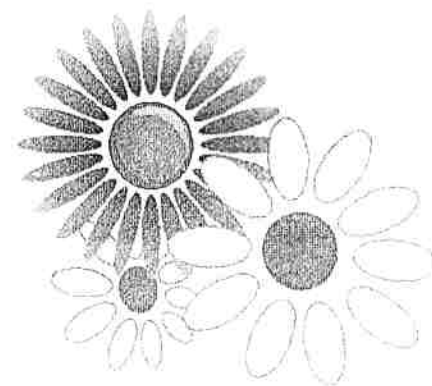
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The Friends is a non-profit, volunteer organization providing support services to the library. Any library patron may join the Friends. We need the enthusiastic response of the entire community to continue to give our library meaningful support. New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

Your time and input can make a difference—please join today!

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☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50

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Growing Guides for Green Thumbs and Budding Botanists

BOOKS

- **Cultivating Delight: A Natural History of My Garden** by Diane Ackerman - 635 A2
- **The \$64 Tomato** by William Alexander - 635.092 A38
- **Let it Rot!: The Gardener's Guide to Composting** by Stu Campbell - 631.875 C35
- **Gardens to Go: Creating and Designing a Container Garden** by Sydney Eddison - 635.986 E32
- **Right Plant, Right Place: Over 1400 Plants for Every Situation in the Garden** by Nicola Ferguson - 635.6 F46
- **Making the Most of Shade: How to Plan, Plant, and Grow a Fabulous Garden that Lightens up the Shadows** by Larry Hodgson - 635.9542 H62
- **Mid-Atlantic Home Landscaping** by Roger Holmes & Rita Buchanan - 712.6 H64
- **The Most Beautiful Gardens in the World** - photographs by Alain Le Toquin - 712 L47
- **Inspiration in the Garden** by Peter Sergel - 712.6 S46
- **The Gardener's Life: Inspired Plantsmen, Passionate Collectors, and Singular Visions in the World of Gardening** by Laurence Sheehan - 635.0922 S52
- **P. Allen Smith's Container Gardens: 60 Container Recipes to Accent Your Garden** by P. Allen Smith - 635.986 S73
- **Landscaping with Herbs** by Jim Wilson - 635.7 W54I
- **The Plant Hunter's Garden: The New Explorers and Their Discoveries** by Bobby J. Ward - 580.75 W36

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VIDEOS

Penelope Hobhouse, the Art and Practice of Gardening - VC712 (5 tapes)

DATABASES

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Garden of
John & Mary Krolkowski
54 Roycroft Avenue



We moved into our house seven-and-a-half years ago and have rediscovered and refined our yard rather than created it. Previous owners had done significant work, much of which had been recaptured by nature. This gave us the opportunity to discover walkways and steps of which we were not aware when we purchased our home. Since the trees in the yard had matured, the landscaping needed to be adjusted. With the help of our good friend Joe Hackett (a landscape architect) and Ralph Zallo & Co., landscaper, we are developing and executing a plan we hope will meet with your and the previous owners' approval. Currently, we have a park-like setting with some projects completed and some left to be accomplished. As the yard is a work-in-progress, feel free to drop us a note with any suggestions.

Be like the flower, turn your faces
to the sun.

— Kahlil Gibran



Garden of
Kristin A. Nell
101 Dan Drive

In the summer of 2000, my 1998 vision became reality. I transposed my front lawn into an entire garden entry. The cottage taste is illustrated through the gravel paths, beds framed with Belgium block and obviously the abounding flower assortment. Adding sister varieties to my first love "Nikko blue" and "Forever Pink" hydrangeas - Serrata, Lacecap, PeeGee and Tardiva paniculata, Climber petiolaris, Oakleaf quercilolia - they became the backbone of my '1876' farmhouse home. They are married with 'Freidland' roses - Bonica, Belinda, Scarlett red, the Weigela Family - 'Wine and rose', 'Carnival', 'Minuet', 'Variegated pink', and Hypericum yellow 'Sunburst'. Prior to their late spring debut, Lilacs, Azaleas with blue ribbons of 'Forget me nots', clusters of white 'Candy Tuft', and soft touches of pale Anemones take center stage. Before too long, pink and rose Peonies, purple and blue Spiderwort, white Feverfew, pale blue Skotesia, yellow Marguerite Daisy and many other perennial cousins come to the garden party. The stark greenery from the stoic 'Dragon Lady' hollies as well as Blue Prince and Princess and dwarf Boxwoods, add contrast to all the color provided by the flowering participant performances. The annual additions vary every year with the exception of alyssum and blue 'Victoria Salvia' which arrive on their own. As the owner of 'Vicar Antiques & Gardens', I am always blending in the latest colors and varieties, as well as adding to the garden character through ornamentation and accents, be it old and new treasures of rod iron, statuary, stone or wood. The final touches arrive in many sizes and combinations of pots, which I create and design. They are displayed in and around the different entries, patios, porches, and within the beds themselves.

I hope you enjoy the magic of my garden, keeping in mind it is an ongoing garden painting that I constantly interpret as time and seasons evolve, and I must add, with much love and satisfaction.



Garden of

John & Judy Missell
243 Kenforest Drive

We knew when we purchased this 75+ year old stone home 9 years ago, that the property's exterior needed to be re-invented. With two children at home and two working adults, we spent the first year just overwhelmed with the task at hand. We moved many plants and shrubs from our home in the Hudson Valley of New York because the new property was essentially devoid of much material beyond overgrown foundation plantings. We eventually decided to take an incremental, practical approach to sunlight, access to the yard from the house, and understanding the property's individual climates – sun, shade, poor soils, better soils, etc. The first major project was to replace the muddy dirt side yard with the broken wrought iron steps. It was at an intermediate elevation from the main living level and the rear yard. With the palette of natural sandstone, brick pavers, a field stone retaining wall and an evergreen screen to the neighbor's yard, the muddy mess was transformed to an intimate brick courtyard overlooking the yet to be developed back yard connecting to the front of the house. With the removal of 2 overgrown and neglected trees, significant more sunlight was introduced into the yard making way for roses, an herb garden and complimentary herbaceous plants. A tip from the Frick property in Shadyside precipitated the enclosure of the stone patio in the rear with the ostentatious Annabelle Hydrangeas creating a larger enclosed "outdoor room" in the center of the rear yard, overlooking a newly manicured lawn and perimeter planting. A dark corner was transformed into a small Koi pond providing the trickle of water sounds and a solution to a difficult area in the yard.

The front yard was reconstructed with shrubs and ornamental grasses that mark the entrance to the property. A red shrub rose and Russian Sage are featured where an old tree and ivy had shaded over the yard. The continued ongoing intent is informal, English Garden compositions planting to compliment the house's English stylistic origins.



Garden of

Sharon & Todd Graham
511 Duquesne Drive

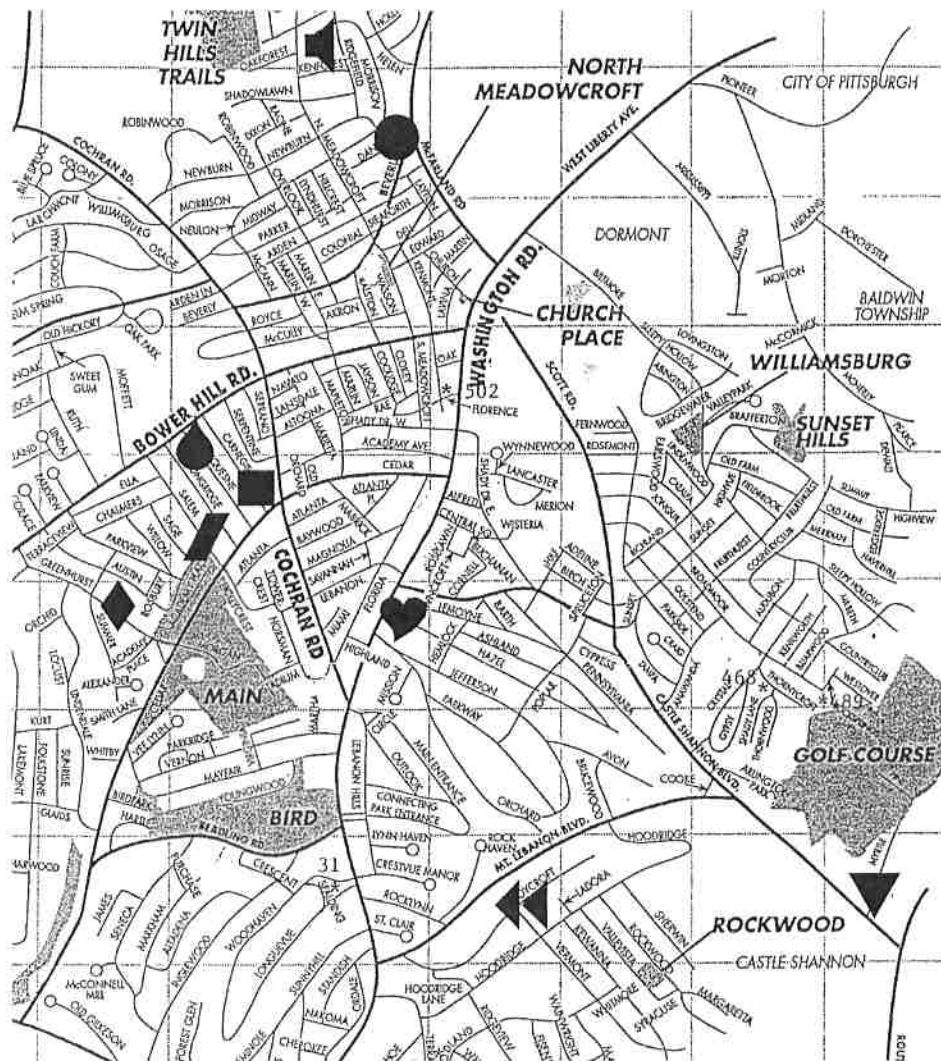
Welcome to our plantation at 511 Duquesne Drive. It's not a big yard, but we try and utilize every spot we have. As you walk around our garden, I hope God's beauty of color and smells capture your senses. As you come up the walk, it has been my tradition for years to welcome guests with 'tall' red Salvia. My guests aren't limited to family and friends - my hummingbirds love to feed on the Salvia too. Last year, we were blessed with two praying mantises in the Salvia as well.

As you enter the porch area, you should start smelling the lavender. Some of my plants are young, but in years to come I am trying to create a Victorian look with several climbing roses and clematis' to cover the front and side of our home. We are also trying to train our Wisteria tree to grow along the garage.

As you enter the back yard, it may be small, but it is loaded with beauty. We have been living in our home 2 years this August and having 4 boys, we try and do a lot of gardening. But, I must say, the past owner of our home, Emma Logue, had planted so many of the beautiful plants that we couldn't take all the credit. She loved this home as much as we do and her love can be seen in the garden as well.

Our main focal point by the end of June will be our blooming Dahlias. We have 19 different tubers planted this year. We fell in love with this flower and throughout the season we are able to bless family and friends with flowers. Also throughout the garden are various lilies, hostas, bleeding hearts and Hydrangea bushes. Even at night, our white lights on our trellis bless those who walk by.

I hope it isn't too late in the season to smell our apple tree. In late Spring, I open all the window to smell this wonderful tree. Many people walk by the side of our home and comment on our tree. One walker commented how the tree smells like "heaven." I liked that description. Enjoy our home!



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.

◀ 54 Roycroft

From the Library, turn **Left** onto Washington Road; continue for about 1 mile to Mt. Lebanon Blvd, which is off to the left side. Turn **Left** on Mt. Lebanon Blvd and proceed to Roycroft; this street forks to the **Right** off Mt. Lebanon just past Hoodridge Lane. The garden is on the right.

● 101 Dan Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Bower Hill Road, just past St. Bernard's Church; go **Left** onto Bower Hill to North Meadowcroft (the third intersection). Proceed to Dan Drive, go right on Dan to 101, which is at the end of the street.

◀ 243 Kenforest Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Bower Hill Road, just past St. Bernard's Church; go **Left** onto Bower Hill to North Meadowcroft (the third intersection). **Right** onto North Meadowcroft to Kenforest. Turn **Right** onto Kenforest; the garden is on the right.

■ 511 Duquesne Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Cedar Blvd. Turn **Left** onto Cedar and continue across Cochran to Duquesne Drive. The garden is on the corner of Duquesne and Cedar Blvd.

● 512 Longridge Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Cedar Blvd. Turn **Left** onto Cedar and continue across Cochran to Longridge Drive (one block beyond Duquesne). Turn right onto Longridge Drive. The garden is on the left.

▮ 410 Salem Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Cedar Blvd. Turn **Left** onto Cedar and continue across Cochran Road, past Duquesne and Longridge, to Salem Drive. Turn **Right** on Salem and proceed past Chalmers to the garden on the corner of Salem and Ella.

◆ 510 Greenhurst Drive

From the Library, turn **Right** onto Washington Road and continue to Cedar Blvd. Turn **Left** onto Cedar and continue across Cochran Road, past Duquesne, Longridge, and Salem to Greenhurst. Greenhurst is the right opposite the Mount Lebanon Park Entrance (at the light). Turn **Right** on Greenhurst and proceed to the garden on the left.

▼ The Municipal Garden Plots

From the Library, go **Right** on Castle Shannon Blvd. Continue bearing **Right** at the light merging Scott Road with Castle Shannon Blvd. Continue past the PAT Park'n' Ride lot on the right and the Castle Shannon Shop'n'Save on the left. At the Ice Castle, go **Left** onto Myrtle Avenue. Turn **Left** onto Pine Avenue at Myrtle Elementary School. Continue to the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course. Turn **Right** into the lower parking lot. The garden plots are down the steps on the right.

Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.

— Rachel Carson



Garden of

Judy & Geno Como
512 Longridge Drive



The garden and surrounding landscaping have evolved over the last six years since we purchased the property. The front drive and side entrance to the pool area were designed to integrate the steep front sloping yard into the rear patio and dense greenery in the back of the lot. One of the challenges of having a pool is using it as a part of the landscaping design and providing safety and privacy, and at the same time making the area visually attractive. With the help of our landscaper, Nick Pietropaolo, we were able to select many perennials and shrubs including rhododendrons, azaleas, dianthus, day lilies, grasses, butterfly bush, perennial hibiscus, roses, hydrangeas and wisteria. We always try to get a few mandevillas and palm trees for around the pool.

Thirty arborvitae were planted on the side to provide a green privacy screen for the upper part of the lot and pool. The plantings have evolved without a grand scheme. We plant what appeals to us with no thought to color coordination or grand design. Trips to the Strip District, where Judy manages a seasonal floral business, provide for plenty of opportunity to pick up colorful and diverse plant material. The patio and water area is where we seek our peace and tranquility while enjoying the visual pleasure from the hanging baskets and planters around the pool and deck. Our gardening time is limited by our busy schedules, so we have tried to use material that requires minimal maintenance once in place.

The planters require daily watering and occasional deadheading of spent blooms, but the rest of the yard is more or less self-sufficient except for lawn care. The size of the lot, like many in Mt. Lebanon, is rather small. This is opportunity as well as a limitation. We have attempted to use the land as an extension of the home's interior and additional living space in the warm months. The shrubbery and evergreens do the job of pleasing the eye during the cooler Pennsylvania seasons.



Garden of

Pasquale & Cindy Merante
410 Salem Drive

My husband and I have four sons and have lived on Salem for twelve years. Our yard is always filled with neighborhood kids playing a pick up game of some sort.

Over the years our garden has had several changes, the biggest being the removal of an overgrown hillside where a gazebo now sits. We also removed an upper driveway that was located outside the front bay window. To compensate we widened the lower driveway and constructed a new wall and staircase.

I am very proud to say that almost all the perennials throughout the garden are an extension of my mother's yard. She brings all her extras and I find somewhere to put them and I am pleased to say that most of them cooperate and grow. The base of the gazebo is filled with daylilies and yucca plants cascading down the hillside. At the base of the fence is a trumpet vine which when in bloom is just filled with orange flowers.

Over the years I have replaced planting flowers with ornamental grass, lilies, azaleas, barberry, holly and other shrubs and bushes. With the layout of the garden I feel that perennials work best in making an eye-catching statement that stands out and yet is also low maintenance.

We plant trees not for ourselves, but
for future generations.

— Caecilius Statius



Garden of Janice & Keith Lagnese 510 Greenhurst Drive

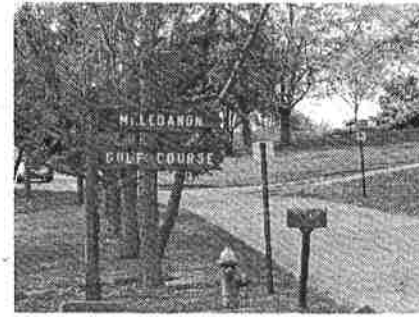


We bought our house 8 years ago because of the large corner lot it sat on. We pretty much started with a fresh palette after removing overgrown shrubs in front of the house, a large silver maple in the back, and an overgrown wild cherry to the right of the driveway. We knew that our home had potential for great curb appeal and worked with that in mind. We put all the wonderful sandstone and Belgium block on the property to good use in the form of retaining walls and borders for the planting areas. All landscape design and planting was done entirely by my father and myself. We regraded and reseeded all grass with high-end mixtures. We installed sprinklers in the front lawn. We repoured the concrete front porch/steps/walkway and utilized 24" Aggregate Square to create a walkway to the backyard, where we installed a fence and swing set to provide a safe play area for our 3 boys.

On the side of our property we removed nearly half of the old growth on large evergreens that were planted too close and suffocating one another but still provide us with wonderful beauty and privacy. In all of our planting areas we used a mix of evergreens (rhododendrons, azaleas, mountain laurel, japonicas, and holly) as well as ornamental trees and perennials to provide year-round color. We also utilized and manicured an abundance of existing ivy and pachysandra on the corner sloped areas of property to provide texture and good drainage. Finishing touches like an antique cast iron fountain and several trellises add to the tranquility in our private backyard.

Flowers are sunshine, food, and
medicine to the soul.

— Luther Burbank



Garden plots of Mt. Lebanon Municipal Golf Course

The Township offers Mt. Lebanon residents a chance to have a personal garden without owning the land. A large area on the edge of the Mt. Lebanon Golf Course has been tilled and divided into over thirty garden plots. Each plot is 8x35 feet and is available for use from April to November. These are available for a rental fee on a "first come first served" basis. You can get the same plot year after year if you sign up early. This project has been ongoing for many decades and is reminiscent of the Victory Gardens first promoted during World War II in the 1940s. The idea then was to promote self-sufficient food growing to help the war effort. Now they provide an easy way to grow the varieties of vegetables you like best and to try those new varieties from the spring seed catalogues.

The Park's Department tills the garden plots in the spring. Compost recycled from the fall leaf pick-up is available for the gardeners to use to make their crops grow to full potential. Plantings are amazingly diverse. Some of the plots contain beautiful displays of annual cut flowers. Others are a collection of vegetables that would make a New Jersey truck farmer jealous. Some are devoted to one crop only, such as corn or tomatoes. In the mid-summer these plots are alive with activity as gardeners tend their crops, weed and water. The Township does supply water, but the gardener supplies the bucket or hose to get this precious item to their plot. A chain link fence to help protect the produce from deer and rabbits surrounds the gardens.

These plots are a simple way for the non-gardener or the home owner who does not want a space devoted to this kind of activity on their property to have a garden to grow annual plants of all kinds. It is also a family fun place. Often there are Moms and Dads with the kids tending the plants, watering and pulling weeds, but best of all picking the fruits of their labors.

Is it time to
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Mt. Lebanon Nature Conservancy



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Best Wishes...

from

Tom Stevenson
State Representative

42nd Legislative District

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Pittsburgh, PA 15234

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Scott Township



Paid for by Friends of Tom Stevenson

More grows in the garden
than the gardener sows.

— Old Spanish Proverb



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BIRCH TREES

by Hazel Cope, January 2006

Was it really me who planted the birch tree that stands beside the street
And exultantly throws its strong white arms into the sky
Making its blueness deepen and intensify?

And that other birch, the one with gold and brown bark
Which peels and hangs and flutters from the trunk,
Sometimes gleaming in a shaft of sunlight
Or glowing in the shadows.

River Birch it's called, I don't know why.
There's no real river where it's planted and where it thrives
Only the river of an asphalt driveway, leading to the harbor of my home.

They were so small when I planted them.
"Hazel, you're much too old to plant a tree that size"
Said my friend when she saw the waist high White Birch stripling.
And the River Birch was a bargain: seven-fifty in an end-of-season sale.

Now they're tall and strong and vigorous
And I'm proud of us all.



Grow your mind, grow your garden... support the Mt. Lebanon Public Library!



Terry Abbott



Barbara Baker
& Bob Main



Lynn Banbury



Jodi Bilski



Frank Conroy/
Barbara Kurdy Miller



Bob Dini



Alexis Fitch



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