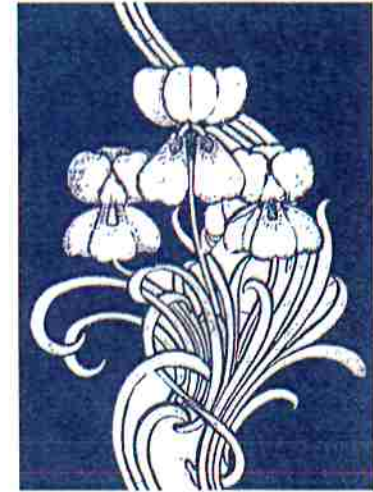


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23rd Annual  
**Mt. Lebanon Public Library**  
**Garden Tour**



**Sunday, July 7, 2013**  
12-5 pm

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July 7, 2013

Dear Library Friends,

Welcome to the 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mt. Lebanon Public Library Garden Tour! The Tour Committee has worked since last summer to make this day the best ever and we are grateful for your participation. We are deeply indebted to the gardeners who so graciously open their gardens to you. This year's tour features eight distinctive Mt. Lebanon gardens plus the library's award-winning courtyard garden. We hope your experience today provides visual pleasure and new ideas to incorporate into your own gardens. The gardeners will be in their gardens eager to share their knowledge and experiences.

Be sure to visit the lower level of the library today, where tour activities will include the annual plant sale, free consultations with gardening experts, and special promotional offers at The Book Cellar, the library's used bookstore.

We thank the dedicated volunteers who have devoted their time and talents to making this event successful: the Garden Tour committee, the hosts and hostesses at each garden, and the gardening experts. Our tour book advertisers are vital to the success of the tour. Please let them know that you appreciate their support of the library.

The residents of Mt. Lebanon have nurtured their library in many ways. For twenty-three years this tour has been one of those efforts. The Garden Tour supports essential public services. Funds raised by past Garden Tours helped build the new library and the outdoor courtyard, and have provided books, audio-visual materials, magazines, and programs for patrons of all ages. We plan to use this year's proceeds for books, audiobooks, DVDs, computer equipment and supplies, and improvements to the building and courtyard.

The library achieves its margin of excellence because of the generous support by our many donors, sponsors, patrons, and benefactors, as well as all who purchase tickets for the tour. We are confident that your support will benefit the library far into the future.

Thank you and enjoy the Garden Tour!

Sincerely,

Cynthia K. Richey  
Kathleen A. Mays  
Garden Tour Chairs

David McKibben  
Garden Tour Coordinator

James A. Cappucci  
President, Board of Trustees  
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Eileen & Charles Jacobs  
Library Volunteer Gardeners  
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*He is happiest who hath power  
to gather wisdom from a flower.*

- Mary Howitt

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The Friends also raise much-needed funds through The Book Cellar, the Library's used book shop, and membership dues. Anyone may join the Friends and support the library's mission. Your time, talent and enthusiasm will keep our library vital.

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### BOOKS

**"A Rich Spot Of Earth": Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello** | Peter J. Hatch | 635 Hat

**All New Square Foot Gardening: The Revolutionary Way to Grow More in Less Space** | Mel Bartholomew | 635 Bar

**The Backyard Parables: Lessons on Gardening and Life** | Margaret Roach | 635.01 Roa

**The Beautiful Edible Garden: Design a Stylish Outdoor Space Using Vegetables, Fruits, and Herbs** | Leslie Bennett | 635.0484 Ben

**Cacti and Succulents for Cold Climates: 274 Outstanding Species for Challenging Conditions** | Leo Chance | 635.95 Cha

**Creating Rain Gardens: Capturing the Rain for Your Own Water-Efficient Garden** | Cleo Woelfle-Erskine and Apryl Uncapher | 635.95 Woe

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**Garden Rescue: First Aid for Plants and Flowers** | Jo Whittingham | 635.92 Whi

**Gardening Shortcuts** | Jenny Hendy | 635 Hen

**The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities** | Will Allen | 631.5 All

**The Heirloom Life Gardener : The Baker Creek Way of Growing Your Own Food Easily and Naturally** | Jere & Emilee Gettle with Meghan Sutherland | 635 G47

**Keshiki Bonsai: An Easy, Modern Way to Create Miniature Landscapes** | Kenji Kobayashi | 635.9772 Kob

**Landscaping: The DIY Guide to Planning, Planting, and Building a Better Yard** | 635.9 Lan

**The Photographic Garden: Mastering The Art of Digital Garden Photography** | Matthew Benson | 771 Ben

### PERIODICALS

*American Rose*  
*Avant Gardener*  
*Better Homes & Gardens*  
*Birds and Blooms*  
*Garden Gate*  
*Gardens Illustrated*  
*HGTV Magazine*  
*Horticulture*  
*Mother Earth News*  
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### DATABASES, WEBSITES, & ORGANIZATIONS

GreenFile Database [www.mtlebanonlibrary.org](http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org)  
 Universal Class [www.mtlebanonlibrary.org](http://www.mtlebanonlibrary.org)  
 National Gardening Association [www.garden.org](http://www.garden.org)  
 Garden Club of Allegheny County [www.gcacpgh.org](http://www.gcacpgh.org)  
 Pennsylvania Native Plant Society [www.pawildflower.org](http://www.pawildflower.org)  
 Fine Gardening [www.finegardening.com](http://www.finegardening.com)



*Garden of*  
**Carol & Victor Borrelli**  
 250 Outlook Drive



Like most of Mt. Lebanon our home and garden is a mixture of old and new. Since we moved in over 13 years ago, we tried to retain as many of the original plants, trees and shrubs as we could. The highlight of the yard is the sequoia tree the previous owner brought back from one of their many adventures. In the fall as the leaves change it appears to glow in the sunset.

Several years ago we closed in the back porch and extended the patio which gave us a little more gardening space on which we added a weeping cherry tree, in honor of Carol's Dad. Our gardens feature hostas, daylilies, Shasta daisies, Black Eyed Susans, peonies, holly trees, azaleas and cedars from the previous home owners which we have complimented with native Pennsylvania trees and perennials. In a small space we have both shade and full sun gardens which makes it fun to select plantings.

We do a lot of entertaining and like the feeling of being surrounded by our garden, which is very unstructured, a mix of colors and textures and host to many butterflies and hummingbirds.




---

**Joy in looking and comprehending  
 is nature's most beautiful gift.**

---

-Albert Einstein



*Garden of*  
**Eileen & Charles Jacobs**  
 696 Fruithurst Drive

We began in 1983 with a lot-and-a-half of mostly grass. Tired of all the mowing, in 1988 we had a landscape architect draft a design to eliminate most of the grass and turn the rest into a woodland.

In the back, we took out two Chokecherry trees. We dug out a pit for a deck. We ripped out the front wall of the enclosed porch, and put in floor to ceiling glass. The clay from the deck area was used to raise the two planting beds surrounding the deck. A 5-1/2 ton boulder was delivered, and the deck was built around it. Yards and yards of topsoil and mulch were added to make the soil plantable.

New steps were poured up to the house. The front grass was replaced with Pachysandra, Purpleleaf Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei*), and Wisteria.

Major planting took place over three years, with the large trees, such as a Bald Cypress, a Panicked Golden Raintree, an Umbrella Magnolia, several Dogwoods, and various shrubs coming in first. As the site developed, we lined all grass and path areas with red brick. Once the bones of the garden were in place, we installed an in-ground sprinkler system.

The garden has evolved over the years. Some plants just didn't make it. Others were destroyed by snow and windstorms, as well as by deer. The growth of the trees has led to more shade-tolerant perennials, such as hostas. One planting mound gets plenty of sun and holds dozens of daylilies.

The newest change is in the front. We recently removed a 60-foot Blue Spruce because of the damage it was causing. Our landscape architect was here in May to discuss what we want to do with that space. Tentative plans call for a pathway down to the front sidewalk to allow better access to that side.



*Garden of*  
Lainee & Barry Specter  
116 Ridgway Court

We bought this house in 1999. Everything outside was terribly overgrown. The first thing I did was change the outline around the front bed and plant lots of new interesting shaped bushes and perennials. Every year I added annual plants for bright color.

We had a huge maple tree in the front yard that died this year. I needed to transform it from a shade garden to a sun garden.

The backyard was flat and empty. I wanted to do something special with it, but wasn't sure what. Eleven years ago my beloved mother passed away. She loved water and always talked about teaching her grandchildren to fish. So I built a pond in her memory and filled it with fish. We went to vacant lots to dig up Cattails for the edges of the pond.

We got a little carried away, and it ended up a little bigger than we originally wanted. We made half of it into a flower garden. I filled it with perennials I got from my friends: Daylilies, Shasta Daisies, Irises, Forget-me-nots, Creeping Myrtle, Hostas, and Ferns. I call it my friendship garden, since it wouldn't exist without the donations from all my wonderful friends.

Each year it gets prettier. Sometimes we look out back and see people standing by the pond taking pictures, drawn by the sound of the waterfall. Our adult son has commented that it felt funny living in a tourist attraction.

Being an artist, there are creative touches all around the garden and house. In the backyard you'll find my mosaic bench and concrete flower stepping stone. When I retired the other art teachers in the district gave me the beautiful glass birdbath. In the front garden is a stepping stone, along with the chairs I've created. You may notice all the stained glass pieces in the front windows. Most I made with my late father.

We hope you enjoy seeing our garden as much as we've enjoyed creating it.



*Garden of*  
Kathleen & William Simpson  
50 Ordale Boulevard

We wish we had before and after pictures of our gardens, front and back. When we moved into our house forty-five years ago (our first house!) the landscaping was minimal, and looked fine to us back then, just a row of rhododendron, and mountain laurel along the front, a huge oak tree and lots of grass. The back yard had a large silver maple, many overgrown yews, lots of grass and a concrete path down the middle of our pie-shaped lot. (Bill's plan was to have the path removed right away. It's still there.) The simple yard was a great place for our three children and friends to play, no worry about flower beds, and it turned out to be a blessing in disguise, a clean slate with lots of potential.

Gardening was a gradual process with us over the years, a flower bed here, some shrubs there, and the next thing we knew we were hooked, not noticing that we had forgotten lunch, that hours had passed, and the work was hard. It's been a very satisfying, creative outlet, shaping flower beds, choosing shrubs and trees, adding two ponds and a patio (DIY amazingly).

We tend to garden by the seat of our pants, forgetting what we planted, buying what we can't resist and ignoring the advice on the tags, planting things too close, or combining plants with different needs. We've made mistakes and have tried to learn from them but it's difficult because our yard is very shady, and we like flowers. We've learned to love hosta, impatiens, and begonias.

We keep several feeders around and do enjoy watching a variety of birds, especially the gold finches. Also, we've planted milkweed seeds this year to encourage the declining population of Monarch butterflies. It's not a pretty plant but will have its rewards. Also, you'll see a lot of "junk," castoff pieces recycled to add a little interest to the garden.

We hope you enjoy your visit to our garden.





## *Garden of*

Dave & Lois Bodnar  
338 Bower Hill Road

After purchasing our 1920's bungalow ten years ago, we began extensive work renovating the landscape surrounding our new home. We saw enormous potential in the small hillside backyard. Some of the initial work included removing eight overgrown or dying trees and restoring the garden pond that had been filled in for decades. Dave, an active woodworker, removed an old wooden hot tub and salvaged its Jarrah wood for later use with the garden railroad, a G-scale model that winds its way through the new backyard.

A perennial garden established along the left of the driveway includes daylilies, coneflowers, daisies, mums, asters, stonecrop, amsonia, bee balm, and phlox. The area to the right of the driveway has a variety of shrubs including peonies, clethra, lavender, and anemone. A thoughtful addition among the shrubs is a dawn redwood, a deciduous conifer tree that sheds its reddish orange needles in the fall. Once climbing up the stairs to the backyard, the visitor is greeted with lush green plants that thrive in lower light conditions, such as ferns, hostas, ivy, and hydrangeas. Rose bushes, daphne, and lilac trees lend fragrance through the summer months.

The centerpiece of the backyard is the 650-gallon pond that provides an environment for fish, frogs, floating plants, and potted aquatic plants. Numerous large birds, such as herons and hawks, have paid visits to the pond and its inhabitants. One-third of the pond's area is made up of a filtering bog full of plants and over 1,000 pounds of lava rock that make up a well-balanced biological filter. This system works so well it has not needed to be cleaned or disturbed in its nine-year lifetime.

The garden railroad is seamlessly integrated into the complex hillside topography. With virtually no flat ground for the tracks, the route is made up of many trestles and two bridges built from the reclaimed hot tub's wood. As the garden trains navigate over 200 feet of track, they pass by the pond, go through two tunnels, and visit two small towns. The business of the railroad is to transport coffee beans throughout the route. A second, smaller and more whimsical train starts inside of the coffee mine and carries prehistoric coffee beans to the coffee refinery. You can also see an espresso well that pumps Cretaceous Caffeine!



## *Garden of*

The Suhody Family  
146 Morrison Drive

We purchased our 1963-era home in 1989. The builder reduced risk of hillside erosion behind homes on our street with fir trees that eventually reached 60' in height. An early owner planted forsythia, honeysuckle, azaleas, lilac trees, and yew hedges surrounding the house. The steep hillside behind the house was unusable, yet pretty with its evergreens and forsythia. The flat useable part of the backyard originally included an awning-covered patio and small grassy area that required us to have a custom swing set and slide built when our children were small, since a typical A-frame set wouldn't fit.

Mother Nature's temper tantrum in September, 2010 knocked down 10 of our 12 fir trees on our hillside, halfway up their 60 foot height and creating debris that reached our second story windows. It took out our swing set, part of our chimney, and a chunk of fence. South Hills storm damage was massive, so we were fortunate to find Paladina Landscaping of Moon Township who cleaned up the debris, offering us a business card, so we could call when ready to re-landscape. And indeed, we did.....

Owner, Matt Paladina, worked with us to make our yard dreams a reality, clearing what had become a hillside jungle, and terracing the hill into three useable levels with steps, lights, fire pit, small vegetable garden, and more. What was once only an eighth acre of useable yard, doubled in size to become a quarter acre with beautiful outdoor living areas.

In the meantime, we added a perennial garden in front of the house for older daughter, Katie's, Mt. Lebanon High School graduation party, and we added a flower garden in back for younger daughter, Lily's, 15th birthday Quinceañera celebration. We were fortunate to be able to turn a negative situation into something that now brings our family such ongoing pleasure!



*Garden of*  
Max & Beth Baer  
1049 Lakemont Drive

The following lore has come down to me from living on Cedar Lake for 25-plus years. If it is incorrect, I apologize, and welcome alterations and/or additions.

What is now Cedar Lake was originally a spongy marsh fed by multiple natural springs and several creeks. Indeed, there were two distilleries here in the late 1700s fed by these springs. The Pittsburgh Coal Company mined throughout the area beginning in about 1883 and continuing until about 1923. In the 1880s, it dug out the marsh to create a coal washing facility. Unfortunately, coal washing left behind extraordinarily dirty material known generally as a coal slurry. In those times, there was no Environmental Protection Agency or the like, and the area was not well populated; so this activity was countenanced.

While the mining did not stop until 1923, the coal washing ended about 1896. Over the decades, the water replenished itself. Today, the coal washing facility is Cedar Lake and supports much wildlife, including fish, turtles, many species of birds, an occasional red fox, as well as transient heron and hawks.

Our home was the first built on this side of the lake in about 1933. The initial owners kept it until 1987, when it was sold to a couple who owned it for about 9 months. We bought it then, and have owned it since 1988. Thus, we are the third owners in almost 80 years.

When it was built, the driveway extending across the back of the home was all brick and included two grand staircases winding to the lake. Unfortunately, most of this was in such disrepair that it could not be salvaged. We lifted the bricks and used them as clean fill to build the level backyard. The patio and the brick pillar behind the home are original to 1933.



*Garden of*  
Lincoln Elementary School  
2 Ralston Place

The current incarnation of the Lincoln garden was begun in the spring of 2008, with the establishment of a committee to create a garden that would complement the curriculum, and become an educational resource and a source of inspiration for students and teachers. The garden is currently a National Wildlife Federation Certified Backyard Habitat featuring many native plants including false indigo (*Baptisia australis*), blazing star (*Liatris spicata*), culver's root (*Veronicastrum virginicum*), tall meadow rue (*Thalictrum pubescens*) and joe pye (*Eupatorium dubium* 'Little Joe').

The site we were given was a difficult one, bordering on hostile, in a space sandwiched between a parking lot and a long expanse of brick wall, which baked in the summer, and was subjected to road salt in the winter. We met this challenge by installing tough, drought tolerant natives like helianthus, rudbeckia, and amsonia, and filling in with old standbys like sedum and caryopteris. Eastern Ninebark was planted so that its flowering would coincide with the first grade butterfly release, and annual marigolds and zinnias allow a seed harvesting and planting program for the second grade classes. Fall and spring gardening clubs were established, as well as an art legacy project for outgoing fifth graders, and we were eventually allowed to extend the garden around the corner of the school and outside of the lunchroom.

Almost every plant you see in the Lincoln garden was planted by a child's hands, and all of the projects were done using recycled materials. While participating in the gardening clubs, students have planted switchgrass, indian grass, tickseed, columbine, wand flowers, raspberries and blueberries, and many other perennials. They designed and planted the large raised corner beds in the front of the school, and built the recycled twig trellises by hand. They built the composter, made mason bee houses from scavenged logs, and made improvements so the garden could be certified as a wildlife habitat. The second graders seeded and planted the marigolds. Fifth graders made the stepping stones and plucked fence pickets from the trash to make people to surround the compost bin. Girl Scout troops have planted sunflowers and conducted workshops in the garden, and art classes have used these flowers in paintings and drawings. This year, the PTA funded a lovely outdoor classroom amphitheater near the playground. Over the summer months, many Lincoln families take turns helping to keep the garden watered.

Today, Lincoln students will conduct tours of the garden, planters, and amphitheater, and answer questions about the plants and projects. They will also operate a drink stand to raise money for future garden projects. Future plans for the garden involve defining its lower perimeter with a small tree and some hardscaping, and creating a maintenance plan to ease the transition for the next crop of students and parents who want to participate in activities in the garden. We will continue our commitment to the use of hardy, low maintenance native plants, with the idea in mind that a tough garden needs less attention by adults, and allows us to focus on the educational activities for the students.



## *Garden of*

Mt. Lebanon Library  
Courtyard

16 Castle Shannon Boulevard

Wow, last year the Courtyard Garden won the Post-Gazette and Pittsburgh Botanic Great Gardens Contest for Medium Size Gardens. And as a result of this contest we were put on the Garden Tour. Now we really have to perform and display our colors for what they are worth. Now you know our team of Gardeners works hard every year and tries to outdo the previous years. Yup! We are doing just that again this year.

Gardening begins April 1, rain or snow, and that's exactly what we had. We got the Knockout roses pruned to a decent size while the rain in mist and light rain form beat upon our backs. We were okay with that, but then sleet and snow blew in from the west and that's when we said, time to go and get dry and warm. We have all the Monday mornings from now through November to finish our work of love.

The purpose of the garden is to add beauty to the Library grounds in a manner that enhances the environment and uses non-invasive species of plants, applies only natural fertilizers when needed, uses compost made on the property to enrich the soil, does not use poisons to eradicate weedy material. We do it all by hand and show neighbors what plant material grows well in Mt. Lebanon. We hope you learn from our vegetable garden how to grow fresh food for your table and have fun viewing the fish and plants in the pond while checking out the interesting bog plants.

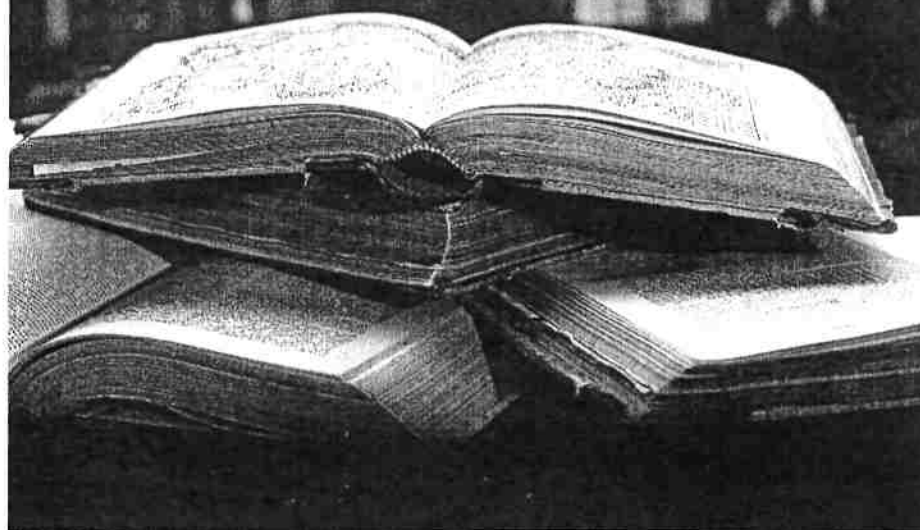
Native plants are encouraged and used in many areas of the garden from the Courtyard behind Johnny Appleseed's statue to a Woodland and Native plants garden visible from the walkway on the eastern side of the Library. Because of our use of many native shrubs and trees such as the Red Bud trees along Castle Shannon Blvd., we have robins and cardinals nesting and rearing their young every year. The Crimson trumpet vine invites the Hummingbird to investigate and flutter to the nectar.

Come and see the inner Courtyard, and while you are here take a look at all of the Library's garden areas surrounding the Library. The Gardeners will be here to enlighten all about our plantings. Questions will be welcomed!

*Written by Nancy B. Smith, Volunteer Gardening Committee Chair*

What is more important in a library than anything else —  
than everything else — is the fact that it exists.

ARCHIBALD MACLEISH



The attorneys of Tucker Arensberg, P.C. salute the staff and volunteers of the Mt. Lebanon Public Library for keeping open thought alive in our community.

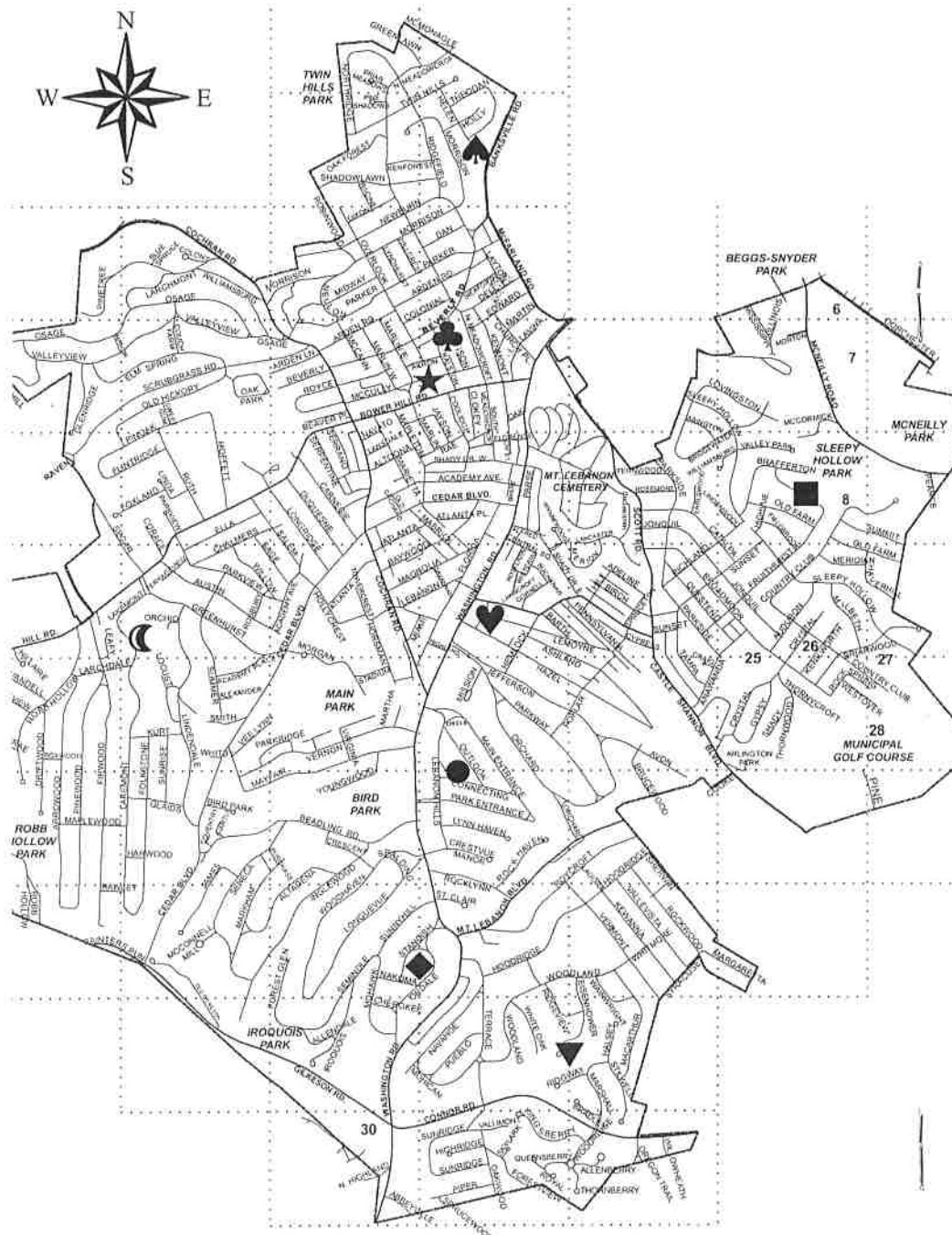
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**16 Castle Shannon Boulevard** ~ You enter the award-winning courtyard garden from the main library on the upper level. While you are here, shop the Annual Plant Sale and The Book Celler (our used book store) on the lower level.

## DIRECTIONS TO THE GARDENS 2013

The following directions start from the Library ♥ at 16 Castle Shannon Blvd. (just off Washington Rd.) and guide you to the first garden you choose. There is no particular order that is recommended. The Garden Hosts/Hostesses will have a map at each garden if you need assistance or more details to help you find your next destination.

● **250 Outlook Drive** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Rd. Continue past the intersection of Cochran Rd. to Main Entrance Dr. off to the left. Go left onto Main Entrance and bear right onto Lebanon Hills, past Circle Dr. and left onto Outlook Dr. The garden is on the right at 250 Outlook Drive.

■ **696 Fruithurst Drive** ~ From the Library, turn right onto Castle Shannon Blvd. to the traffic light at the intersection of Scott Rd. Do NOT bear right onto the continuation of Castle Shannon Blvd., but go straight up and down Sunset to the intersection with Sleepy Hollow Rd. Turn right onto Sleepy Hollow Rd., then left onto Fruithurst and continue to 696 Fruithurst Drive on the left.

▼ **116 Ridgway Court** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Rd. Continue on Washington Rd. to the intersection of Connor Rd. Go left on Connor Rd. and continue to the intersection of Woodridge Dr. (on the right) and Marshall Dr. (on the left). Turn left onto Marshall Dr. Ridgway Court is the second left. Ridgway Court is a cul-de-sac with a circle turn-around. The garden is at 116 Ridgway Court on the right.

◆ **50 Ordale Boulevard** ~ From the Library, turn left onto Washington Rd. Continue on Washington to Standish Blvd. on the right. Go right onto Standish and then left onto Ordale Blvd. The garden is at 50 Ordale Boulevard on the right.

★ **338 Bower Hill Road** ~ From the Library, turn right onto Washington Rd. Continue through the Mt. Lebanon business section, past St. Bernard's Church and make a left onto Bower Hill Rd. The garden is on the right at 338 Bower Hill Rd. You may not park on Bower Hill. Please turn either left or right on Marlin Drive to park.

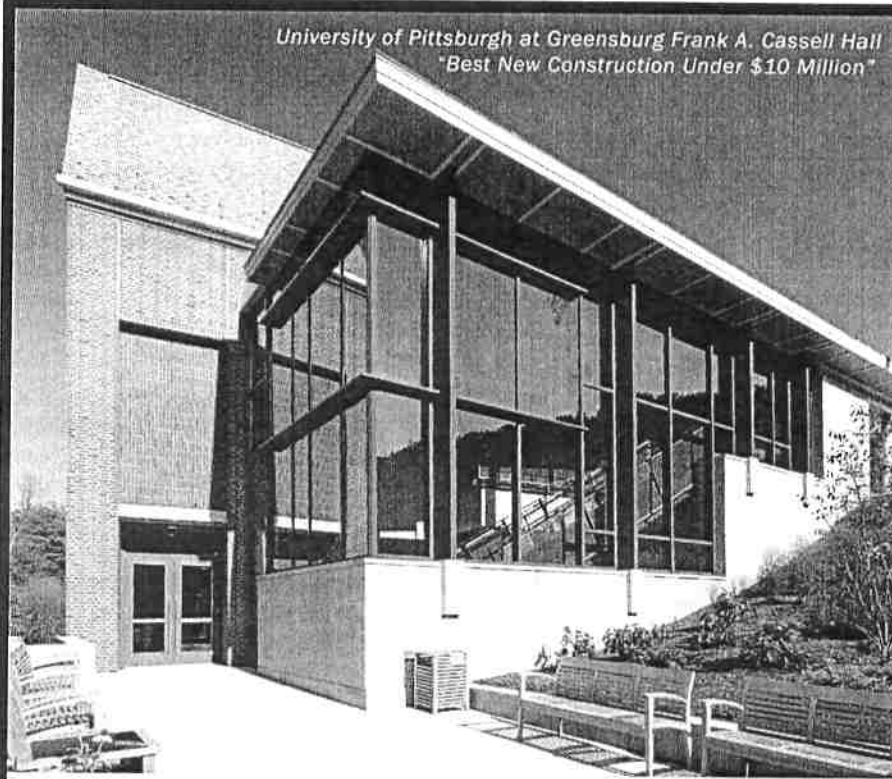
♠ **146 Morrison Drive** ~ From the Library, turn right onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. Turn right onto Meadowcroft. At the stop light at Beverly go straight onto N. Meadowcroft Ave. Turn right at the intersection with Morrison. The garden is on the left at 146 Morrison Drive.

☾ **1049 Lakemont Drive** ~ From the Library, turn right onto Washington Rd. Go left at Cedar Blvd. and continue across Cochran to Greenhurst at the Mt. Lebanon Park Entrance. Turn right onto Greenhurst and continue on this road to the intersection with Lakemont. Greenhurst bears to the right, Lakemont continues to the left. The property is on the left at 1049 Lakemont Drive.

♣ **Lincoln Elementary School, 2 Ralston Place** ~ From the Library, turn right onto Washington Rd. Turn left onto Bower Hill Rd. Turn right onto N. Meadowcroft. At stop sign, turn left and stay to the left and make left onto Beverly Rd. Go one block and turn left onto Ralston Place.



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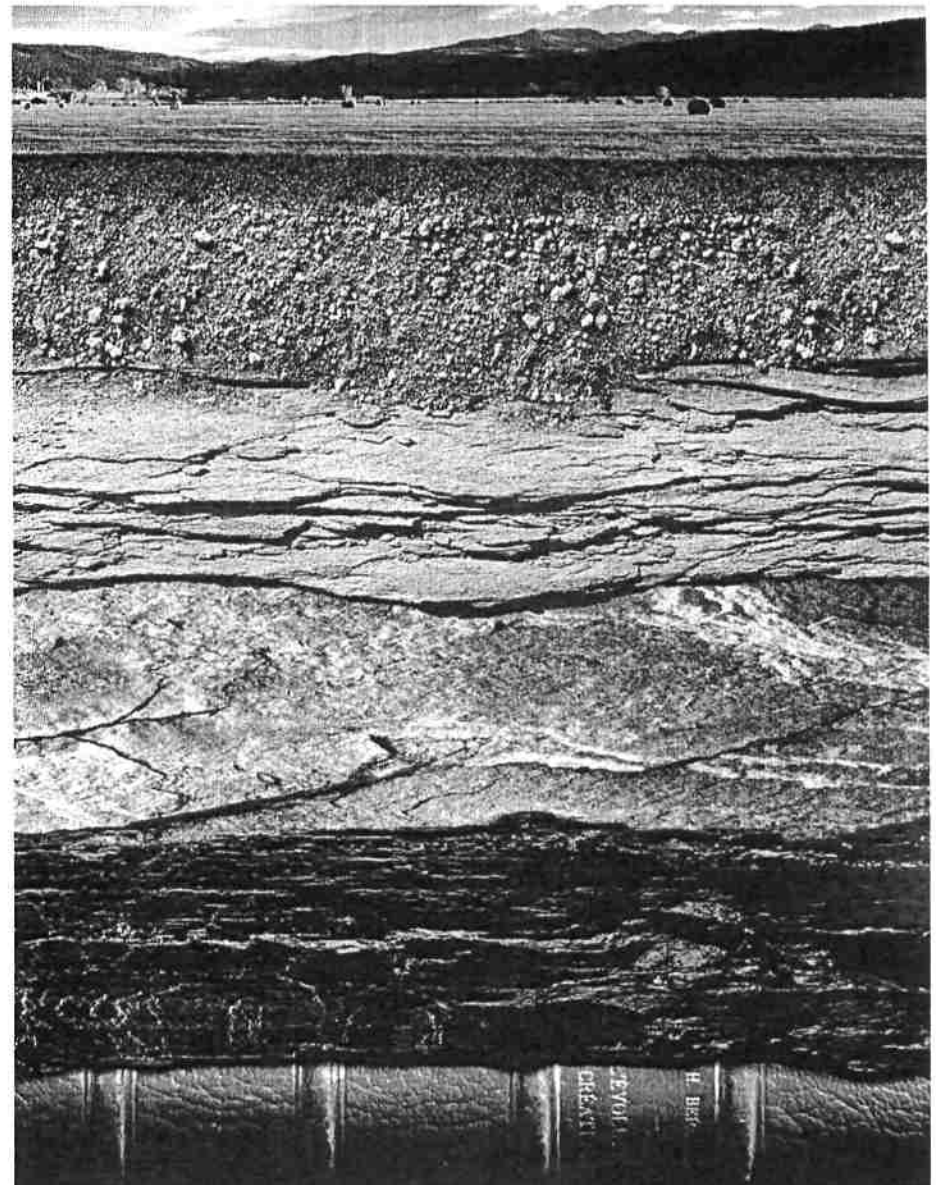
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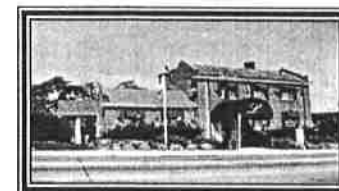


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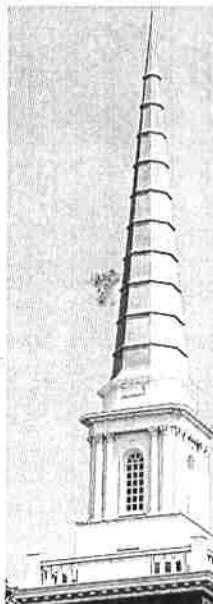
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There were 382,027 visits to the library.

155 items were checked out per hour.

13,402 hours were donated to the library by more than 275 volunteers.

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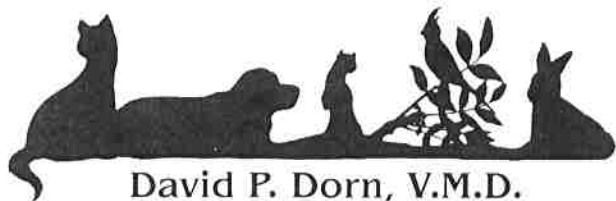
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