

Ste. Marie Garden Walk – June 20, 2009, 1 – 4 p.m.

The Phillips Garden – Pick up maps here at 219 W. Embarras Street

Susan Phillips describes her cottage garden as “a work in progress.” Determined to use what is available to her, Susan is now using grass cuttings for mulch and has plans for composting that are not yet fulfilled. A wide range of annuals, perennials and shrubs populate the Phillips’ property; don’t miss the hydrangeas buffeting a parking area in the side yard. An old brick walk, discovered by Susan 11 years ago when she tried to dig a hole for a plant, meanders through the property, truly a fine addition to this beautiful cottage garden.

The Wheats

Sue Wheat says hers is “just an ordinary garden,” but most of us would give our eye-teeth to have her garden! Her rose bed is framed by pine trees and purple plum shrubs, giving an aura of privacy to an otherwise wide-open space. Having less need for a big vegetable garden, she has turned half of it into a garden of perennials (though she admits to raising lots of green beans because her grandkids LOVE them). Pots and baskets of flowers delineate her patio. This is a garden that has to be seen to be believed.

The Grandma and Grandpa Garden

Francis Yager devotes his days to his garden -- trying plants in different locations when they don’t do well , trading plants with other Ste. Marie gardeners, building paths out of sawdust from the local saw mill, weeding, separating, digging, mulching, etc. His garden consumes all the property around his house, trails down a hill in his backyard and meanders to the edges of his property line. Something is always blooming. His garden delights his visitors, whom he welcomes with a big smile – “Gonna charge you three cents to take the tour.” It’s the best three cents you’ll ever spend.

The Calverts

Maurice and Maxine Calvert’s home in Ste. Marie is guarded by two giant oaks whose massive trunks are covered with colorful ivy. Welcoming perennials line the walkway to the front door. Along the handsome barn are grasses and perennials that frame the barn porch where a swing and comfy chairs invite the weary gardener to rest for a bit. The back yard has raised beds of roses, shrubs and perennials. Birds and butterflies love this space. The back patio is secluded with flowering plants and shrubs—a masterpiece of landscape planning that enhances a lovely Ste. Marie home.

Annette Lynch

The Iris House is the name of Annette Lynch’s home – a tribute to her mother who had the loveliest iris garden in town for many years. Annette is keeping up the tradition. Hers is a garden for a small space – an example of drama in the front yard that goes far beyond the traditional sod and shrubs next to the house. Annette’s raised garden is a constantly changing palette – starting off with waves of tulips early in the spring followed by fantastic irises and peonies. Daylilies should be in bloom for the Garden Walk – and fall will bring on the chrysanthemums (now growing in a backyard holding-garden). This garden is a great example of what one can do with a very small space.

Garden at Olde World Reflections,

Bob and Tammy Fry have the ultimate garden in Ste. Marie. Graced with a six-stage water fountain, the large corner property has a multitude of large old oak and maple trees, with newer additions of redbuds in surrounding gardens. Over 150 varieties of hosta are planted on the property. The cozy patio is graced with a tree canopy that few others can duplicate. Annuals and perennials abound, bordering the handsome workshop of Olde World Reflections as well as the 100-plus year-old house. This is a don’t-miss garden that would be welcome in any city or town.

Leila Rennie

Leila Rennie’s garden surrounds her house. Ask her the names of flowers, and Leila demurs. “I know my hostas and geraniums,” she says, “but other flowers I just like to have around because they are pretty and because friends gave them to me.” Leila keeps her geraniums going from year to year, storing them for the winter in her late husband’s shop. The new addition to her garden is a pavilion over her backyard swing, added because she lost some old trees and their shade. Hers is a comfortable garden, with flowers everywhere you look – and her favorite vegetables too.