

July 13
Anja's Native Garden
105 Christa Court, C'Ville

When Anja and her husband moved to Charlottesville in 2013, they discovered this little cul-de-sac, fell in love with it and built a home. Unfortunately, as the house was built more nature disappeared and their yard was just red dirt with some grass seed. The couple decided they would like to give back to nature and this was the birth of their native garden.

Anja's goal has been to use native plants as much as possible and manage the property using sustainable gardening practices. With hard work and some help and advice from Janet Davis of Hill House Nursery, perennials, shrubs and small trees were added.

With a wealth of native plants filling the yard and the addition of a delightful backyard pond, Anja has observed a great variety of insects, birds, butterflies (including monarchs), frogs and other creatures visiting the garden.

By creating a sustainable garden that provides wildlife with food, water, shelter and places to raise their young, this property became a Certified Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation several years ago.

Look closely and you will also discover a small vegetable garden conveniently located near the front walkway to the house where the vegetables can be more easily observed, tended and harvested.

And all this on a 0.2 acre city lot!

Hosted by the Piedmont Master Gardeners

Directions: Take Jefferson Park Ave through Fry Springs. Left on Harris Road and then right onto Christa Court.

From downtown via 5th St. Extended: take a right onto Harris Road then a left onto Christa Court.

From I 64 via 5th St. Extended: take a left on Harris Rd (beyond Food Lion) then a left on Christa Court.

September 14
Amy Lewis's Garden
7195 Free Union Rd, Free Union

Amy and her husband, Reid Humphries, bought their 1 1/2 acre parcel in 2008. In March 2010, they moved into their "empty nester" house and began to develop the property. Hitting rock denied them a basement but provided a vast amount of stone that they used to build several stone walls.

Above the 82' long stone wall is a small orchard, vegetable garden, chicken house and barn, all built by Reid. Below the house, large existing boulders were incorporated into another stone wall that provides the perfect backdrop for a mixed perennial and shrub border.

Further down is a dry stream bed where ferns, bulbs, Virginia bluebells and woodland phlox have naturalized. Above the stream bed is a steep hillside garden stabilized using native shrubs, grasses and perennials. Several paths meander through the hillside that take you to a 3 1/2 acre meadow, now in its sixth season. A challenge to establish, it has been the most fulfilling garden on the property. Paths mowed through the meadow make for a magical place to wander while enjoying the diversity of birds, butterflies, bees and the extraordinary mountain views.

Hosted by the Rivanna Garden Club

Directions: From Charlottesville, take Barracks Rd which becomes Garth Rd. Continue past Foxfield. Turn right at the Hunt Country store onto Free Union Rd (State Rte. 601). Continue ~ 11 miles, through Free Union, bearing left then right to stay on Free Union Rd. We are the last house on the right before reaching Boonesville Rd.

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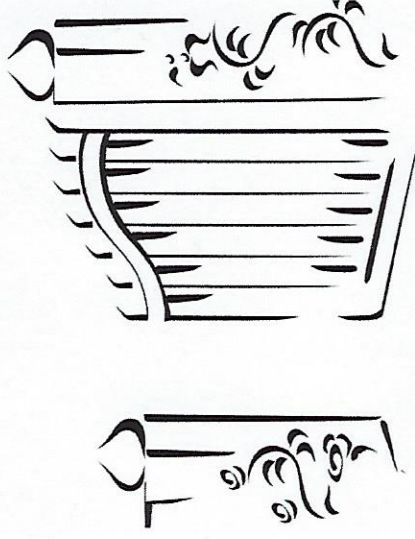


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Admission to each garden is \$5.00
***Boxwood blight precautions will be taken as needed.**

Hosted by:

Dogwood Garden Club

Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

Piedmont Master Gardeners

Rivanna Garden Club

Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards
(CATS)

April 13
Pam Sorenson's Garden
928 Rugby Rd. C'Ville

An unfolding story is how Pam Sorenson describes her collaboration with landscape designer Cole Burrell. The property, nearly an acre and a quarter, is blessed with remarkable bones. Enormous magnolia and holly trees stand in the side lawn, and two huge tulip poplars anchor the lower section.

A journey through the garden reveals one lovely chapter after another of their 10-year collaboration. Brick walls define a series of terraces cascading downhill from the house, flanked by long perennial beds. Features include a patio and fountain just behind the house, a boxwood parterre garden and a rock garden with three interconnecting pools.

Tackling the jungle-like rear section of the property behind the existing swimming pool was a real challenge. Now the woodland garden is a colorful pastiche of flowers and foliage to delight the senses at every season.

Hosted by the Dogwood Garden Club

Directions: From Barracks shopping center take Barracks Rd towards town. Turn right at the Rugby Rd. traffic light. The garden is on the left.

From town take Preston Ave. to the traffic light at Rugby Rd. and turn left.

******There is no parking on Rugby Rd. Visitors can be dropped off on site and there will be parking and regular shuttles from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Unitarian Church at 717 Rugby Rd. (corner of Rugby Rd. and Fendall Ave).

May 11
Waterperry Farm
4284 Ballard's Mill Rd. Free Union

Named after a pioneering English horticultural college for women, Waterperry Farm is an ongoing work of extensive landscaping. Once a gentleman's farm called Braeburn, with pasture pretty much in all directions, it was clear it needed more trees and a garden. Twenty-eight years and countless plantings later, the gardens contain enough species to qualify us (were we public) as a Level II Arboretum!

To the left of the house, rebuilt in 1810 on its original foundation, one moves through a series of rooms designed in the English style. The rose garden, resplendent with old and new varieties, contains two archways. One, hidden in a boxwood hedge, leads to a meandering shade walk while the other opens to three additional spaces. Here crabapples and yews surround a recently installed fountain. Another "room" showcases a reflecting pool and 'Okame' cherries. Up a series of steps, repeating themes of red and gold pull the eye down a long shrub and boxwood border. There one also finds a formal cutting garden and a wonderful greenhouse, one of two recent British imports, the other being a red-haired, life-sized wire sculpture.

On the other side of the house, a stream-fed bog garden and large pond create a tranquil place of mood and motion. In an informal Japanese-inspired planting, one sees a variety of expansive water plants as well as better behaved azaleas, Japanese maples, ground-hugging junipers and geraniums, Loblolly pines and Shumard oaks. Cascading through three small pools before reaching the bog, a waterfall spills into the pond under a simple white oak bridge. The other hillside beckoned and now a collection of conifers intermixed with ornamental grasses and perennials rises above the pond to catch the sunlight and wind.

Hosted by the Thomas Jefferson Garden Club

Directions: From Charlottesville take Barracks Rd/Garth Rd past Foxfield. Turn right on Free Union Rd/VA-601 and go 4.3 mi to Free Union. Take a slight left onto Millington Rd/VA-665. Shortly after, bear right onto Wesley Chapel Rd/VA-609. Go 1.4 Miles to Ballards Mill Rd/VA-671 and turn left. Waterperry Farm is the 2nd driveway on the right.

June 8
The Wadleys' Garden
4922 Barn Field Rd. Keswick

This rural garden, situated on a 20+ acre horse farm with magnificent views of the Southwest Mountains, is a result of many transitions since its humble beginnings 30 years ago. Trial and error, plants out-growing their spaces, right plants in the wrong spots (and vice versa), changing weather and the time available to develop and maintain it have driven many of the redesigns.

Beginning with one existing tree, the garden now contains more than 50 varieties. Oaks, elm, pine, tulip poplar, dogwood, paw-paw, birch, beech, sycamore, magnolia, linden, blackgum, sweetgum, cherry, parrotia, cedar and maples of all kinds are just some of the specimens to be seen. It was the selecting, planting and watching these trees develop that inspired Patience Wadley to become a certified Charlottesville Area Tree Steward (CATS).

The many trees are complemented by dwarf conifer beds, boxwoods, a shade garden and perennial plantings that integrate many types of herbaceous, tree and intersectional hybrid (Itoh) peonies.

Adapting the garden to perform well in all four-seasons remains a work in progress. Plans are being made to develop a prairie garden and expand the organic vegetable plots— all aided, of course, by unlimited quantities of compost from the stables along with leaves and lawn clippings.

Hosted by Charlottesville Area Tree Stewards

Directions: From Charlottesville take 250 E towards Keswick (I 64 exit #124). Continue on 250 E, then turn left onto VA-22 E. In 3.8 miles turn right on Clarks Tract. Go 1.1 miles then turn right onto Barn Field Rd. Continue on Barn Field for 0.6 miles. House is on the right.

