

Library News | Summer 2018

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



23rd Annual New River Valley Garden Tour

Visit seven of Blacksburg's loveliest gardens Saturday, **July 7**, from **9 am-5 pm**, rain or shine.

Advance tickets, maps, and brochures will be available on June 1 at MFRL Libraries (Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook), as well as at Salem and Radford Libraries.

Garden Tour tickets are \$12 in advance, \$15 on the day of the tour—available that day at any of the gardens. *[continued on next page]*

By Frieda Bostian & Ester Davis (Montgomery Friends)

In this issue:

Summer Calendar.....	2
Garden Tour Details.....	2-5
Branch Updates.....	7
General News.....	4-8

Summer Calendar

June
Saturday

16

Music On the Lawn Series featuring *Piedmont Blu* | Christiansburg Library

July
Saturday

7

Music On the Lawn Series featuring *Amber Collins* | Christiansburg Library

July
Saturday

7

23rd Annual New River Valley Garden Tour | 9-5, (see article below for locations) Blacksburg.

August
Sunday

26

Music On the Lawn Series featuring *Adam McPeak Band* | Christiansburg Library

Garden Tour Details

BLACKSBURG | [*Cont'd from 1*] Enjoy visiting the following local gardens:

Sue and John Brilliant, 1501 Trillium Lane, Blacksburg

A gentle front slope surrounded by well-landscaped borders hints at what's to come behind this stately house. Thoughtfully planned and beautifully tended, the whole garden bursts with exuberant color in hundreds of annuals against a varied background of perennials, shrubs, and trees, such as Dragon Lady hollies and crape myrtles. A pergola features climbing hydrangeas, while the curve of the patio beneath it is repeated in the elegant beds bordering the lawn. Groupings within these beds mix height, color, and texture intriguingly, the result of eight years of constant planting, transplanting, and rearranging. One corner anchors a veggie/fruit garden, and an unusual night-blooming cereus resides on the patio. But the owners' favorite flowers—hundreds of zinnias, all coaxed from seed—carry the day for color.

Eric Effinger, 710 Harding Avenue, Blacksburg

Located on busy Harding Avenue, this house and expansive lawn appear deceptively ordinary from the street. But a visit opens multiple garden pleasures: conifers mix with tropicals, and wide borders display perennials and annuals on a test-garden scale.

Artemisia, various lilies, goldenrod, echinacea, begonias—there's something for every season. An 80-year-old maple has full range for its lovely growth habit, and by the garden shed an exotic clerodendrum reigns, with leaves smelling like peanut butter and flowers “smelling like heaven.” Weeping cypress contrasts with flowering cherry, and the gardener's two favorites—an umbrella pine and a Forest Pansy Redbud—combine for spring color and year-round greenery. Forty years of hard work and a willingness to incorporate new materials have produced this eclectic delight. [*cont'd on next pg*]



Garden Tour Details Cont'd

Ellen and Philo Hall, 603 Draper Road, Blacksburg

Tucked behind a well-designed front cottage garden in this historic Blacksburg neighborhood is a lush and shady strolling garden that features plenty of places to rest and enjoy intimate views. Numerous mature trees, including a magnificent heritage river birch and Japanese maple, as well as a wisteria vine enveloping a pergola, invite birds and other visitors to flow from one garden room to another. A cool palette of pinks, blues, and purples enhances the peaceful atmosphere, as does a raised side garden with a koi pond. Of the 150 plant varieties found here, July displays will include hostas, ferns, Jacob's ladder, giant Solomon's seal, heuchera, columbine, crocosmia, hardy begonia, Veronica, thalictrum, and many shades of phlox—jewels that sparkle in their serene background.



Christine McCann, 802 Gracelyn Court, Blacksburg

An obelisk beside this white house announces that more is to come—and the promise is kept. A compact front lawn with attractive symmetrical beds of roses, Japanese painted fern, sage, shrubs, and low trees slopes to an expanded back that fans into interesting angles, levels, and sheltered spaces. Several tiered decks overlook a slate patio, and an evergreen arbor hides a cozy table and chairs. A stately maple is joined by younger trees—yews, dogwoods, witch hazel, and a southern magnolia, while a circular retaining wall surrounds the garden's most unusual offering, a trifoliate

orange. Interesting plant mixtures include heucheras, Solomon's seal, Lenten roses, peonies, and sedums, and ornaments range from St. Francis to a garden gnome. Tradition and surprise create a happy mix here.

Kathy and John Pinkerton, 401 Edgewood Lane, Blacksburg

Hidden from street view, this garden holds delights both horticultural and sculptural. Ten years ago when a battalion of groundhogs was banished from their home beneath the deck, new plantings could fulfill a revised design for this charmingly eclectic space. The owners' love of "color, fragrance, texture, shape, native plants, and other plants that do well in our climate" results in visual interest, as well as attracting bees, hummingbirds, and butterflies. Central to the garden is folk art, anchored by a tall laser-cut steel sculpture aptly called Color Tree. Other sculptures include found objects and carved wood, as well as Haitian steel drum art. While numerous trees and shrubs supply structure, annuals afford fun and color—"more is more" and there's always "space for another flower."

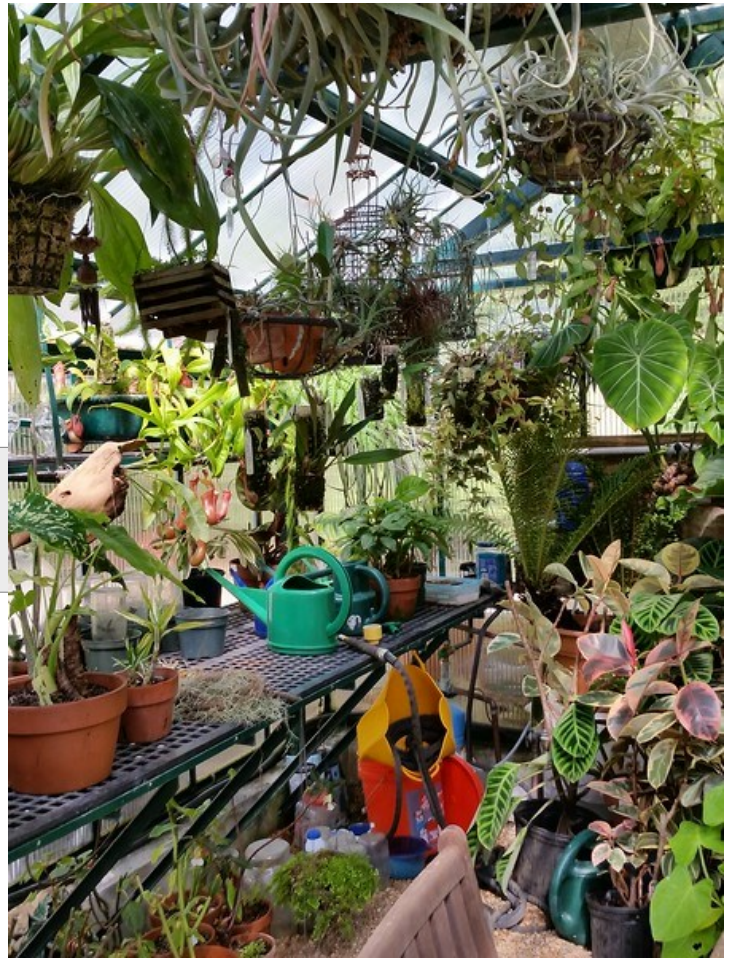
Jeanne and Dave Roper, 1001 Auburn Drive, Blacksburg

At once intimate and spacious, this irregularly-shaped haven lies between its passive solar house and a recreational path. Twenty-three years of enthusiastic gardening, including one major makeover, have produced a garden for all seasons. Informal paths meander around imaginative groupings of shrubs, trees, and plants. One of these—a tranquil Buddha garden—adjoins a path where pig, rabbit, and duck statues lead playfully to a colorful swath of plants, such as hellebores and grape hyacinths in spring. The seasonally-changing palette artistically mixes light and dark, including sunny spots and soothing shade from conifers and numerous Japanese maples. A deck, gazebo, and seating pieces scattered throughout invite lingering. All this is accomplished with locally-sourced plants, composting, 20 cubic yards of mulch, and a combination of hard work and love.

Garden Tour Details Cont'd

Elissa and Harry Steeves, 704 and 706 York Drive, Blacksburg. Claiming two properties, this world-in-a-garden bursts with vistas and vignettes that flow harmoniously through arbors, around shrubs, and by grassy paths surrounding curved beds. The artistic interplay of trees and plants in this self-proclaimed plant collector's garden creates structure and defines garden rooms of joyful color, full of painted furniture and found objects, from Chippendale benches to screen doors and car tires. Abundant perennials, natives, and foliage mix with the likes of rose, bog, moss, succulent, and water gardens, complete with tropicals and koi. All these are accented by plentiful sculpture and statuary, both playful and serious, including the gardener's token crow. A greenhouse provides shelter for young plants and whimsical art objects alike in this wonderland that the gardener insists "is more an evolution than a design."

See also www.newrivervalleygardentour.org, or check us out on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, for more details. Sponsored by Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Visit the Master Gardener Plant Clinic at the Effinger Garden. Ask questions about lawns, landscaping, and pest control; pick up a soil test kit with instructions; or choose from a large selection of free flower and vegetable seeds.



General News

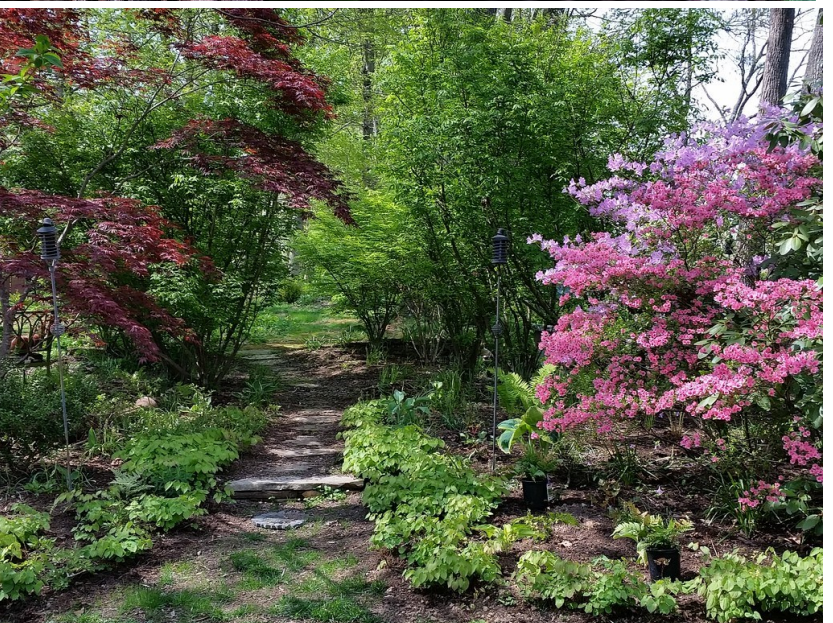
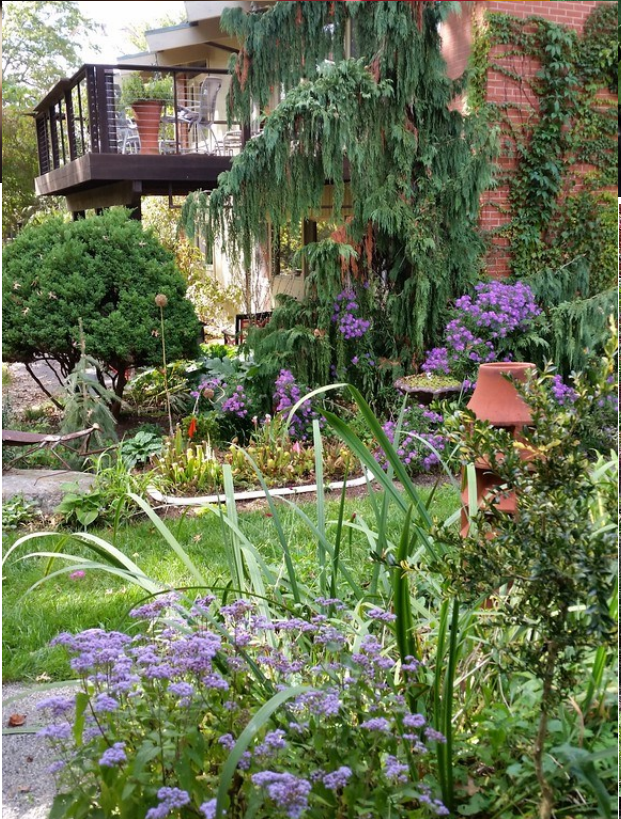
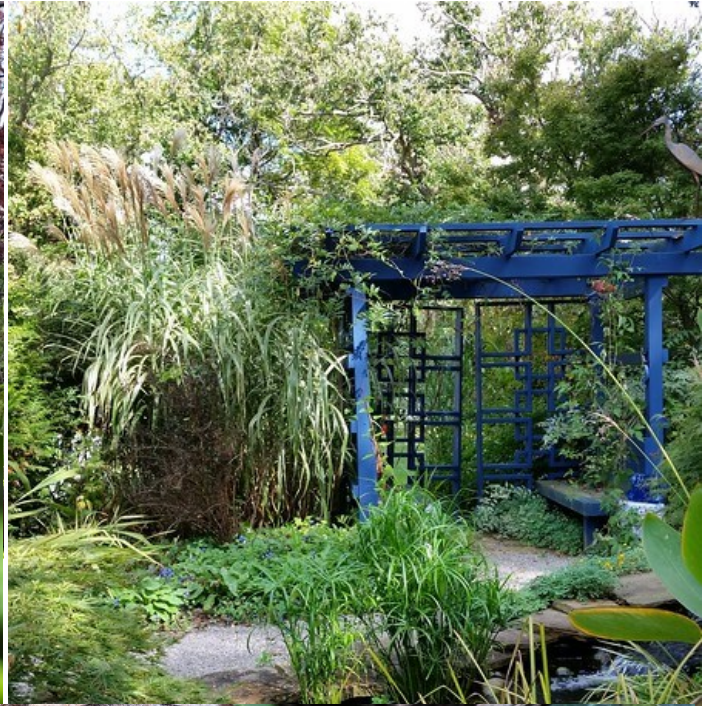
President's Column | We now have 236 new and renewing members. You wonderful folks have a significant impact on the quality of library programming. If you want to see your money at work, please come to one of the Summer Reading Program performances. These will run in June and July at all four branch libraries. Past performers have included dinosaurs, magicians, and a real live pig. What will it be this year? Watch for announcements and then bring some children and watch their eyes light up!

The Garden Committee has done a superb job preparing for the 23rd Summer Garden Tour. Please consider volunteering to staff a table at one of the seven gardens in Blacksburg July 7th. Volunteers have the special pleasure of spending a few hours in one of these beautifully designed gardens. **Our generous sponsors are Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club, Bonomo's,**

Brown Insurance, Crow's Nest, and The Oaks Victorian Inn. They are covering the total cost of the tour which means all the money generated by ticket sales will go directly to the library.

Best wishes for a joyous summer filled with good friends and good reading!

By Ellen Hall (President, Montgomery Friends)



General News Cont'd



Message from Director | Greetings, Friends of Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library. I'm excited to share with you news about a new program for fine relief that will keep our kids and teens reading this summer, and in the future. **Beginning June 1, Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library (MFRL) will offer children and teens with library fines on their card records the opportunity to read their fines away.** Just in time for our annual Summer Reading Program, *The Great Summer Waive* will help make sure kids' library cards can check out new material, even if they might not always have returned their items on time before. **Also, from June 1 forward, checkouts of books, books on CD, and DVD's from the children's and teen sections will no longer be charged fines.**

Library Trustee, Tim Thornton, brought this idea to the

board, and the board tasked me and the staff with making it work here. "Our libraries are community centers as well as repositories of knowledge and wisdom. We should do everything we can to make all that more accessible, especially to our communities' young people. We hope—and we believe—this program will do that. And our communities will be even better places because of it," said Tim.

Studies show that library fines disproportionately affect young people and people experiencing economic hardship. Many libraries in Virginia and nationwide have looked to address this with fine relief; by pairing *The Great Summer Waive* with Summer Reading, MFRL intends to not only relieve kids' fines, but also engage them with a wide variety of summer activities and events. We have a great collection of books for children and teens... But a book is a lot more valuable in a kid's hands than on the library shelf. We're looking forward to seeing families that haven't been using the library because of fines, and sharing with them all the library has to offer.

While fines will be waived for participants in *The Great Summer Waive*, patrons of all ages will still need to return their overdue materials and pay off damaged and/or lost fees.

Board of Trustees Chair, Alison Armstong, adds, "The Board of Trustees enthusiastically supports programs which make library material more accessible to children and young adults. We hope that this program will be a great success and foster a love of learning and lifetime of library patronage in the children in our community."

Thanks!

By Karim Khan (Library Director)

Branch Updates

CHRISTIANSBURG | We are gearing up for a very busy summer here at the Christiansburg Library.

With the support of the Friends of the Library, we are able to have Little Critters Petting Zoo back at the library for the second year in a row. This was a popular program last year and we hope it will be as popular this year.

Our Music on the Lawn Series continues through the summer with the following bands:

June 16th – Piedmont Bluz

July 7th – Amber Collins

August 26th – Adam McPeak Band

Bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy, rain or shine.

Also this summer, we are excited to partner with more groups to bring the library to people outside of the library building. The Christiansburg Library will be at the

Christiansburg Farmers Market, the NAACP Juneteenth Festival, and The Montgomery Museum and Lewis Miller Regional Art Center's Heritage Festival. While there, we will have free books and crafts for children and be able to sign people up for library cards. Come out and say hello!

By Salena Sullivan (Branch Supervisor)



General News

Many thanks to the following members for their exceptional generosity. Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following members for their **additional** gifts in 2018.

\$5 - \$49

Paula Alston, Susan Anderson, Lynn Brammer, Scott and Susan Butler, Elizabeth Calvera, Mary Carper, Pauletta Copenheaver, Don Creamer, Dorothy Domermuth, Kay Dunlap, Piper Durrell, Thomas Gilmer, Linda Greaver, Mary Guenette, Cynthia Hayes, Alan and Gloria Heath, Marquita Hill, Mary Housaka, Virginia Jedda, Candi Kelly, Carrie Kroehler, Christy Mackie, Charles and Nancy Maus, Luci Merlo, Marjorie Modlin, Patricia Monroe, Franklyn and Bonnie Moreno, Kathleen Patrick, Patricia Polentz, Cecelia Powell, Sylvia Rader, Marion Reynolds Jr and Noreen Klein, Steve and Elizabeth Reisinger, Rebecca Riley, Jana Ruble, Andrew Schenker, Natalie Siegel, David Simpson, Alan and Pat Steiss, Alexander Templeman, Liya Thomas, Laura and Chia Tze, Judy Watson, Herbert Williams, Mary Jane Zody

\$50 – \$99

Marilyn Bowman, Mary Ann Cole, Jean Galloway, Don and Con-

nie Heindel, Sam and Ruthann Hicks, Lucinda Jennings, David and Lori Jones, Gunin Kiran, Janice Litschert, Catherine and Jo Merola, Ed, Missy and Hollis Oakes, Jan Spahr, Chester VanTyne, Spencer Winfrey

\$100 and over

Michelle Klopfer, Mary Elizabeth Lindon, Don and Carolyn Rude

\$200 and over

Anonymous, Barbara and Michael Williams

The Friends of the Library at the Blacksburg branch need two or three volunteers to help with the Used Book Sales. This would mostly entail two or three hours each week helping price books and stocking the sale shelves. If interested, please contact Janice Litschert at jlitschert@comcast.net or 552-2322.

General News Cont'd

Sponsorships | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses for their significant support of library programs and events in 2018. The following businesses have contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour.



Brown Insurance



Rainbow Riders childcare center



Thanks also to donors *Blacksburg Eye Associates, Collision Plus, Eats Natural Foods.*

Friends in Montgomery County: over a hundred of our members have already renewed for 2018. Have you? Please check your mailing label. If your mailing label includes the line "Renewed through 2018" or if you've already done so, please disregard.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Christiansburg, VA
24073
Permit no. 49

