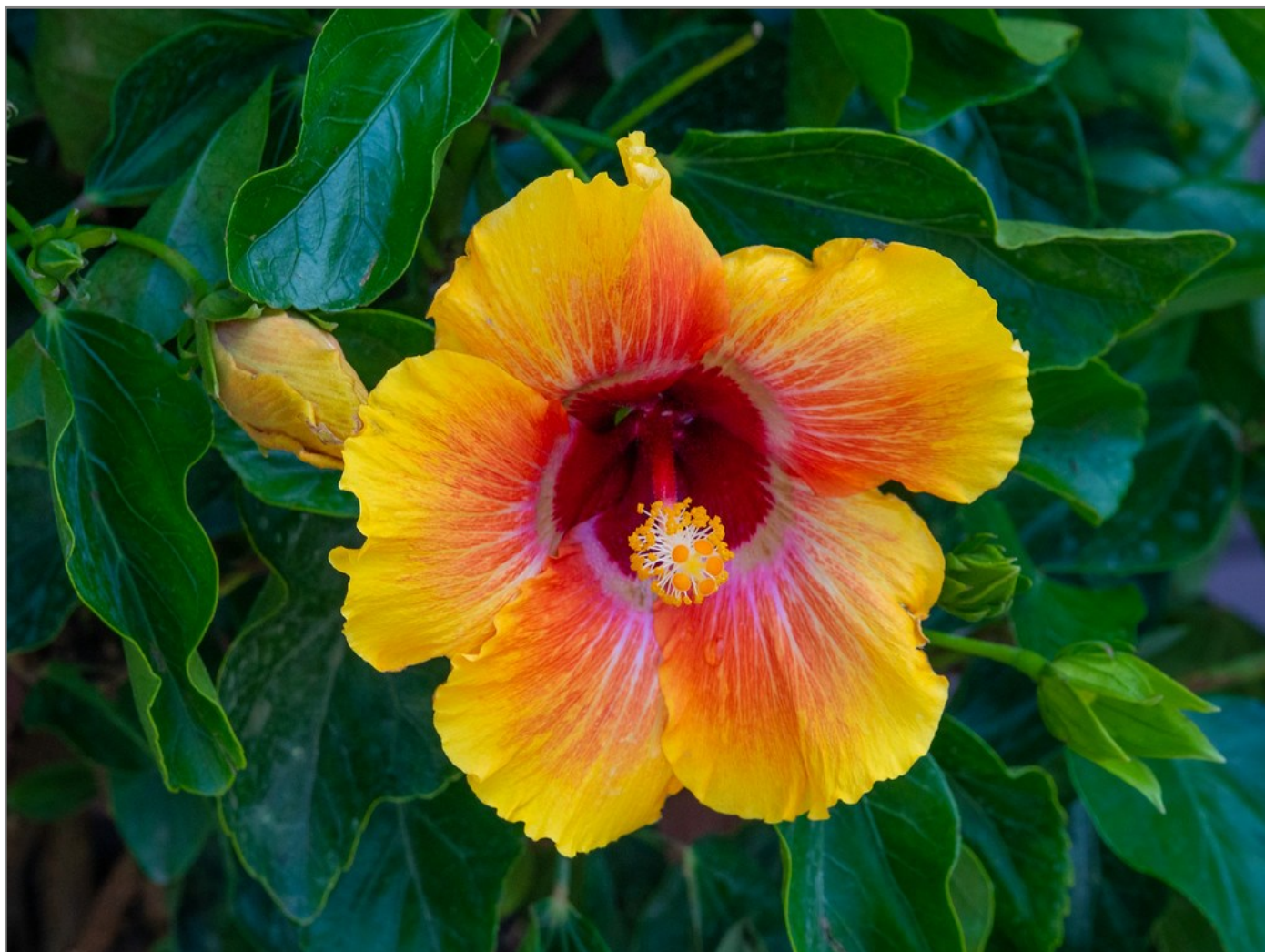


Library News | Summer 2019

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



24th Annual Garden Tour

Visit seven of the New River Valley's loveliest gardens any of the gardens, which may be visited in any order.
Saturday, July 6, from 9 am-5 pm, rain or shine.

[continued on page 2]

Advance tickets (\$12) will be available on June 1 at MFRL libraries—Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jessie Peterman, and Meadowbrook—as well as at Salem and Radford libraries. This year, advance tickets will also be available from our website www.newrivervalleygardentour.org from June 1-July 5. The day of the tour tickets (\$15) may be purchased at

In this issue:

Summer Calendar.....	2
Garden Tour.....	1-6
Branch Updates.....	4-5

Summer Calendar

June Saturday 1	July Saturday 6	July Thursday 13	July Friday 19	August Tuesday 6
Advanced Ticket Sales Begin for Garden Tour All Branches	Garden Tour, 9am-5pm	Author talk: Andy Parker: <i>For Alison: The Murder of a Young Journalist</i> and <i>a Father's Fight for Gun Safety</i> Blacksburg Library 2pm	Paint Pouring Workshop Blacksburg Library, 2-4pm	Blue Ridge Heritage talk on poisonous plants (Socrates Project) Jessie Peterman

Garden Tour Cont'd

[Cont'd from 1] The gardens on this year's tour are as follows:

The Colpitts Garden 2902 Stradford Lane, Blacksburg

Lavish eclecticism is at work—and play—here. Starting with only several magnificent old oaks 29 years ago, this corner garden has become a happy mixture of woodland flowers, cultivars, stone retaining walls, perennials, a water garden, a Japanese garden surrounding an oak tree, a whiskey barrel garden, and a miniature lotus bowl. So rich is the composted soil that ligularia spreads through black-eyed Susans and echinacea, and in the spring trillium pops up in bouquets instead of single plants. In the chevron vegetable beds and the A-shaped flower garden, spring-sown seeds sprout as if by magic to complement drifts of calendula and other self-seeders. A rolling greenhouse constructed of Habitat Re-Store windows nurtures young plants in this ongoing evolution whose byword seems to be, “Let’s try it!”

The Kark Garden 245 Diamond Avenue, Christiansburg

This spacious, elegant garden breathes harmony. The aesthetic is Asian, with waterways, large rocks, granite lanterns, and stone walls and patios. From a natural stream and small pond in front of the house to the large rock-walled pond off the back deck with its center fountain, every detail—from mosses to maples—contributes to the serene union of house and garden. Numerous thoughtfully-placed trees and shrubs pro-



vide a wide variety of textures as they form a palette of greens, blues, and soft reds, with additional interest from substantial deck planters, while large kinetic copper sculptures enhance this ambiance. Stone terraces farther back lead uphill to a vegetable garden and gazebo, but what will linger is the tranquility that comes from this discerning union of nature, architecture, and design.

The Moreno Garden 995 Carson Drive, Christiansburg

Two stately willow oaks offer a shady welcome to this friendly, in-town garden. Over 29 years, pines and other trees have departed, while in their place a mixture of cultivars like yellow-bird magnolia and gift-trees planted by birds, such as ilex and

[cont'd on next pg]

Garden Tour Cont'd

and dogwoods, have created a pleasing variety of textures and colors. A narrow pine-needle path meanders throughout; following it yields pop-up delights such as a happy fothergilla, a giant heuchera, a Carolina allspice, or koi swimming in a small pond. This meander pattern becomes clear when viewed from an upper deck featuring a large jasmine vine. A small dry creek controls erosion. The rewards of working with nature, both to optimize what it offers and to develop further possibilities, spring forth in this personal, engaging creation.



gardeners live in beautiful places because they make them so.”

The Pappas Garden *1903 Meadowview Circle, Blacksburg*

A perky bicycle planter, stone fountain, and generous pergola in front only hint at the water wonderland waiting through the back gate. From the highest point, water cascades over mossy rock ledges, carefully designed and constructed during eight years into a series of ponds and small watercourses, linked by wooden walk-

ways. Shade from a green mountain ash and conifers, full sun, and dappled light interplay, to the delight of dragonflies, birds, insects, and frogs. Pine-needle paths invite wandering from the two-tiered deck. A palette of multiple greens with blue-purple accents soothes overall, spiked with playful inserts of annuals and garden art. To one side, a clever lavender garden house screens veggies thriving below it. Love, labor, and patience have created this serene delight

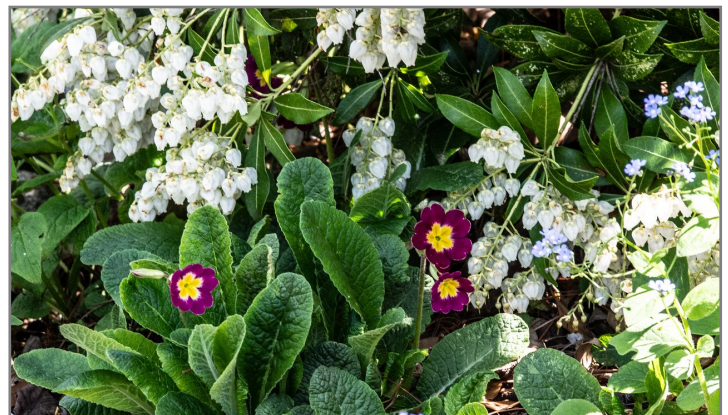
for eye, ear, and spirit.

The Oaks Victorian Inn *Linda and Bernie Wurtzburger 311 East Main Street, Christiansburg*

Varied delights await visitors to this locale. Five old-growth namesake trees shade the gracious front lawn that gradually slopes to the stately mansion on Christiansburg’s highest hill, while a sweeping driveway to the side features colorful perennial beds. The scale shifts dramatically in back, where a walled courtyard garden invites leisurely appreciation of its intimate charms. A brick patio with tables is surrounded by bordered beds featuring trees like weeping Cypress and dogwood, mixed with shrubs, roses, and assorted garden art. Most plants are perennials, with additional pops of color from potted annuals. A garden cottage, a good-sized water feature, trellises, a pergola, wind chimes—these and more welcome attention and contemplation. The owner believes Joseph Joubert: “All

Unitarian Universalist Congregation *1301 Gladewood Road, Blacksburg*

Over two decades, this congregation’s six acres have been nurtured to serve many purposes—all of them appealing. Including a colorful crescent garden that first greets visitors; a meditation path *[cont'd on pg 6]*



Branch Updates

JESSIE PETERMAN | We are happy to announce a new partnership with Floyd County Health Department. Donna Brown, PHN, visits us every 2nd Wednesday of the month. Donna reported that participation has increased with every visit. "I have been able to discuss with residents of Floyd about different ways to stay healthy, and everyone I have spoken with has been so appreciative. This truly is a wonderful partnership, and I look forward to the future in what other ways the FCHD can serve the residents of the Floyd community."



On April 6, in celebration of Rural Public Health Day, Dizzy the Dinosaur, NRV Health Department's mascot, paid us a visit.

Dizzy handed out back packs, toothbrushes, and beach balls to the children at storytime. We were recognized as a Public Health Hero!

Carillion NRV Hospice presented an 8 part series, On Death & Dying, organized by Ellie Dunsing & Kim Marye. Topics covered were: Advanced Care Planning; Hospice Myths; Perinatal Loss; Hospice Volunteers; Pain & Symptom Management; Spiritual Considerations of Dying, Death & Grief; Home Burials; and Music Therapy in Pain Management.



Also if your child likes to paint but you don't want to deal with the mess, we have a program for you! Come to Family Art Day the 4th Tuesday of the month. Parents and children let their creative juices flow at four differ-

ent stations, one of which is painting. Music is played for inspiration and each program features the style of a famous artist.

Family READS participants graduated May 16. Literacy volunteer, Abby Karl-Classen, created nine comprehensive, multi-level lessons. Her final lesson contains a summer vocabulary challenge that consists of 6 levels of common English words.



If participants learn 2 words/day by the end of the summer they will have learned 200 words. The ultimate challenge is to learn 10 new words/day to add 1,000 words to their vocabulary!

We also hosted the Joint Annual Friends of the Library meeting for Montgomery County and Floyd County on April 29. Our guest speaker was Joyce Hill Esterhuizen, author of A Penny in My Pocket. I wish to extend a



huge thank you to all the Friends who provided the delicious refreshments for the program.

If you are interested in poisonous plants in Virginia, on Tuesday August 6, Blue Ridge Heritage will be giving a presentation on the Socrates Project.

Finally, I wish to thank all of our Friends for their continued support that allows us to provide quality programs that benefit our community.

Gratefully yours,

Lori Kaluszcza (Branch Supervisor)

Branch Updates Cont'd

BLACKSBURG | Hello to our wonderful Friends!

We have a fun and busy summer ahead of us and can't wait to share it with you.

Stop by and admire our art display which will surely get you in the mood for the 2019 Garden Tour benefiting the Friends of the Library. All the works were painted in the gardens during the 2018 Garden Tour, and they are truly lovely to see.

Andy Parker, author of *For Alison: The Murder of a Young Journalist* and a *Father's Fight for Gun Safety*, will join us for an author talk on July 13 at 2:00 p.m. Andy Parker is the father of Alison Parker, a journalist killed on local live television, and a national gun reform advocate who has appeared on all major news networks. Parker runs the

For Alison Foundation, which creates opportunities for children in southern Virginia to experience the arts.

Books will be available for sale and signing.

Other important programs should also be mentioned. American Red Cross will hold a blood drive from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on July 17th. Come by and help our community by donating blood! We will host a second Paint Pouring Workshop on July 19 from 2:00-4:00 pm. We are excited to offer this program again! Mill Mountain Zoo is coming on July 24, bringing some of their favorite small residents for us to admire.

As always, we appreciate your support in all the ways you give! In appreciation,

By Monena Hall (Branch Supervisor)

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK | For library people, staff or regular customers, summer always feels like "showtime." With the schools out, people stocking up on vacation reading, and the long evenings that make reading on the deck with an ice tea in hand a pleasure, summertime is a great time to see what is up at the library. This year, "It's Showtime!" is the theme of the children's Summer Reading program. Every branch will see dynamic and educational performers, special events for children and teens, and reading activities that will keep kids engaged with reading, and keep their reading skills from a summer slump.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library will also feature an array of programming for adults this summer, including visits from authors Ron Peterson and Andy Parker, and film showings. We are looking forward to sharing with the community the Smithsonian's documentary, *Green Book—Guide to Freedom*, at each branch. If you enjoyed the Oscar-winning movie, this film will provide a deeper look into the background of Victor H. Green's efforts to provide a travel guide for African Americans in the era of segregation.

Adults will also have a Summer Reading program, featuring weekly prize drawings for great books and the grand prizes at each branch, new Amazon Kindles. Ordering books for the library, I sometimes see special e-book only

and kindle-only novellas from popular authors—if you win a Kindle, you won't miss out on those special titles.

I'm also happy to announce that Montgomery-Floyd is now making available a new e-audio resource from Recorded Books. The new RBDigital Unlimited service offers on-demand access to over 30,000 e-audio titles without any waiting lists. Their holdings include many bestselling authors like C.J. Box, Clive Cussler, Diana Gabaldon of the Outlander series, Stephen King, Alexander McCall Smith, Tracie Peterson and more. Genres ranging from Inspirational to Science Fiction to Cozy Mysteries are easy to find with RBDigital Unlimited.

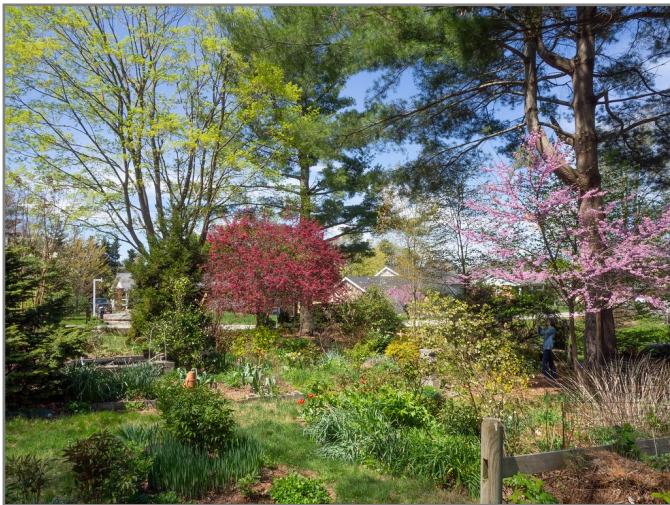
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From myself and all the staff at Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, I hope you have a great summer. Thank you very much for your support of the library.

By Karim Khan (Library Director)

Garden Tour Cont'd

circumnavigating the property, with benches at view-points; a labyrinth; a memorial garden; a council circle with fire pit; a water feature; a veggie garden; a woodland path with small animal habitats and certified Monarch Way Station; a picnic area; and numerous beds featuring mostly colorful perennials, this dedicated space still feels open instead of crowded, with specimen trees, shrubs and plants that both draw the eye and soothe. Signs along the way direct and also state Unitarian Universalist principles and ideals, including one that might apply to sharing this spiritual garden/park with the larger community: “Passing the kindness on.”



Willow Springs Deb and Greg Miller 3673 Peppers Ferry Road, Radford

A lovely hydrangea-rich loop introduces this expansive, graceful garden. Flowing gently from a house that seems to grow out of the hillside, a lawn following the contours of the land is bordered by generous beds that nurture a colorful mixture of trees, shrubs, and perennials, such as a magnificent weeping beech, spireas, various lilies, and hundreds of other plants. A small goldfish pond burbles close to the porcelain deck overlooking this display. Uphill from the house are a handsome rock garden, a tucked-in patio, and a gazebo. Beyond the



downhill slope a new meadow garden draws the eye, and an organic veggie garden thrives to one side. Practical ideas for deer-proofing are here, too—small details that combine with many others to create this inviting, impressionistic masterpiece.

By Frieda Bostian & Esther Davis (Montgomery Friends)



*Also, as in years past, **beautiful full-color notecards featuring this year's gardens will be for sale.** They may be purchased at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation for \$10 a package, which includes 7 cards.*

FRESH LOOK | Want to enjoy your Friends newsletters in all their full-colored splendor? Sign up to receive yours electronically via email rather than in paper form by contacting us at mfrlfriends@gmail.com. Switching

to digital also helps us cut down printing costs (roughly 20% of your membership dollars) to further help library programs.

Become a Friend

As the articles in this newsletter illustrate, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Friends group has sponsored programs with visiting authors, library collection enhancement, startup collection, improvements to library community rooms and entry ways, toys for children, coffee service, used book drop offs and sales, poetry readings, programs on local history, staff appreciation events, summer reading program events, accessible computer station, and many more projects to help keep our libraries strong and serving the whole community.

We're always looking for volunteers to help make these wonderful offerings available. Friends of the Library meetings are held monthly. If you are interested in learning more about the Friends, joining us at the meeting is a great way to get involved. Meetings are usually the third Tuesday of each month. All are welcome. Feel free to contact us for more information or sign up at mfrlfriends.org/wp/become-a-friend-renew/.



2019 MFRL Friends Board Members

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Thank You

Sponsorships | Friends of the Library are deeply appreciative of the following businesses and individuals for their significant support of library programs and events in 2019. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour:

Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club

With the simple motto of " We Serve "



Brown Insurance

**CAPONE'S
JEWELRY**

Collision Plus

Crow's Nest Greenhouses



Rainbow Riders
childcare center



Also the **Van Tyne Family** for their sponsorship of both the Summer Garden Tour and Summer Reading Program. And an **Anonymous** donor as well.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Friends in Montgomery County: over a hundred of our members have already renewed for 2019. Have you?
Please check your mailing label.
If your mailing label includes the line "Renewed through 2019" or if you've already done so, please disregard.



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