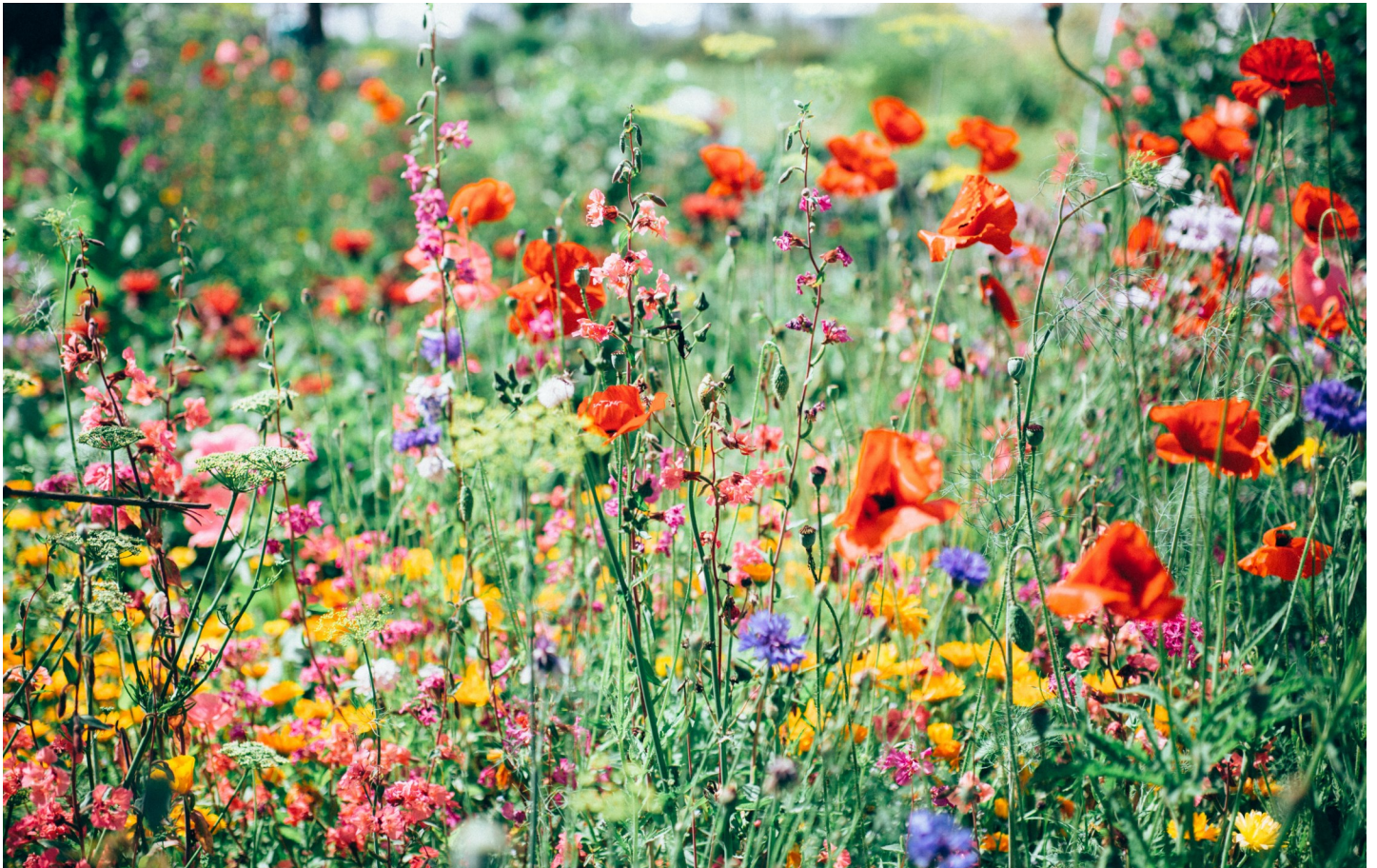


Library News | Summer 2023

From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library



27th Annual Garden Tour

Day of the Tour Quick Facts:

- * \$10 raffle tickets available at the Kecorius/Villareal garden for a chance to win a painted rain barrel (cash or check).
- * Purchase a 7 pack of 2023 garden photo cards at the Marquis garden for \$10 (cash or check).
- * Some of the gardens require careful footing. Please wear comfortable shoes to handle a variety of terrains.
- * Note the NO PARKING signs on Giles Road. Please consider parking on McConkey Street, Franklin Drive, or Hearthstone Drive.
- * There is NO rain date. The tour is on July 8th – rain or shine! It is a self-guided tour.
- * Please DO NOT bring pets on the tour.
- * Visit the Master Gardener Plant Clinic at the Kecorius/Villareal garden.
- * Visit the garden tour website (www.newrivervalleygardentour.org) and Facebook page (@New River Valley Garden Tour) for more information.
- * Regrettably, the garden tour is not ADA accessible.

Garden Tour Cont'd

The NRV Garden Tour will take place rain or shine Saturday, July 8, 2023 from 9 am until 5 pm. The tour features seven glorious gardens located in Blacksburg. Tickets for this self-guided tour, which include a program and map, are \$15. Tickets are available now at the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Jesse Peterman (Floyd) and Meadowbrook (Shawsville) libraries. Tickets will also be available online and at each of the gardens on the day of the tour.

The Friends of the Library volunteers serve as ticket takers/sellers on tour day and are stationed at each garden to welcome the tour goers as they arrive. The tour would not be possible without the incredible team of volunteers that play an important role in the success of the tour. Thank you to each and every one that joins us in bringing this tour to the community.

The New River Valley Master Gardeners also assist with the tour. A master gardener will be stationed at each garden ready to answer questions, identify plants, as well as point out the many sustainable garden principles present at each garden. You'll view pollinator gardens, water features, use of drought tolerant plants, as well as gorgeous, unique hardscapes and garden art. The master gardeners will host a Plant Clinic at the Kecorius/Villareal garden on the tour. There you can pick up a soil test kit, a regional planting chart, and challenge the team with a garden question to earn a free pack of seeds. Master gardeners are proud to support the tour by sharing research-based information through Cooperative Extension.

In recent years the tour has added "Points of Interest" for the enjoyment of all. Points of Interest are public spaces where no ticket is needed. This year they are, Glade Road Growing/Rising Silo, Unitarian Universalist Congregation Garden and Valley Interfaith Child Care Center Garden all located on or near the tour route.

A special addition to the tour this year is a raffle to win a plumbed rain barrel painted by local artists. The Kecorius/Villareal family have generously donated a rain barrel ready for a new home. A \$10 donation will get you a ticket to own your choice of one of three lovely painted rain barrels (cash or check only).

As has been a tradition in the recent years, packs of 2023 garden photo cards taken by our esteemed photographer Charles Bostian will be on sale at the Marquis garden for \$10 (cash or check only).

A feature added in the last few years are musicians and plein air



artists. Their complement to the atmosphere of the gardens makes for a lovely addition. It is suggested you bring your friends and make a day of the tour, taking your time and enjoying lunch in between the tour sites. Wear comfortable shoes, bring an umbrella (just in case), and of course your camera. We thank each garden owner as well as the many volunteers for their efforts in making this day special!

An added bonus of being a tour volunteer is the invitation to attend our gratitude social on Sunday hosted by FOL patrons, Joann and J.B. Sutphin, at their breathtaking Still Meadow Farm in the Catawba Valley.

The Montgomery-Floyd Friends of the Library sponsor this annual event and are proud to be represented by an all-volunteer committee dedicated to bringing the tour to our community each year. Proceeds from the tour go to the Summer Reading Program and other programs offered through our libraries. The Friends of the Library extend gratitude to our business and private sponsors for their support in making sure our ticket proceeds go directly to our libraries.

Regrettably, the tour is not ADA accessible.



Garden Tour Cont'd

The Etzler Garden ([E] on map) 305 Giles Road, Blacksburg

By repurposing materials, exchanging plants with friends, and doing his own landscaping over the last 31 years, Michael Etzler transformed a bland half acre lot with no landscaping into a botanical oasis. With a combination of fruits and vegetables, flowering plants, and environmentally friendly habitats, the Etzler yard provides for healthy eating, peaceful beauty, and nature watching. They prefer not to use commercial products on yard and gardens, but do add 10-10-10 approximately every 3rd year. They keep bins with yard and garden waste for reuse. Natural methods of protecting plants include a deer fence and picking off pests, thus reinforcing their preferred clean garden philosophy. One can forget that the university and downtown are nearby when sitting near the gurgling water garden. Visitors can wind their way around the sculptured flower gardens and vegetable plots, or enjoy sitting in a shady nook.



Kecorius/Villareal ([K-V] on map) 1306 Greendale Drive, Blacksburg



When the Kecorius family moved back to Blacksburg from Colorado in 2018, it was a big change in the type of gardening they were accustomed to. They knew they wanted to renovate the acre of land they purchased and began by creating a large garden at the back of the house. Last year was the first year of both full floral and vegetable harvests. They have been growing dahlias as cutting flowers for about three years with 15 types this year and likely more to come! To reinforce the interest and color style, they have planted a White Snow Fountain Weeping Cherry with cascading blooms in the spring and beautiful orange foliage in the fall. Crepe Myrtles round out larger plantings and provide more color as well. More recent projects are the backyard shade garden along the fence; a berry garden revamp behind the grape arbor; and the flower petal fire pit.

At this garden:

- * Master Gardener Plant Clinic
- * Donate \$10 (cash or check only) for a raffle ticket on the day of the tour for a chance to win an artist-painted rain barrel ready for installation. Donated by the Kecorius/Villareal family with all proceeds going to the Friends of the Library.



Garden Tour Cont'd

The Marquis Garden ([Ms] on map) 2904 Wakefield Drive, Blacksburg

The Marquis family has been at the property for four years and were attracted by the existing landscape design and peacefulness. They love aquaculture and their favorite feature is the pond and the interaction between the fish and the plants. Tending to the pond's plant life is a unique experience and they say you must be willing to get in the water and "play in the muck." Although their favorite feature is the pond with nearby patio, walking around the yard provides much pleasure. The newest feature is the driveway expansion. The original driveway was too steep so a new one was mapped out. This new plan required that a few plants be removed, but other areas were expanded, and the lawn was almost exclusively eliminated. The most unusual plants are the giant peonies, whose blooms can get up to 10 inches across. Some existing plants, such as bamboo and burning bush may not be selected for landscaping today, but they provide color and interest.



At this garden:

* Get your garden tour notecards here! Only \$10 for a pack of 7 notecards (cash or check only).

The Mattingly Garden ([My] on map) 2107 Glade Road, Blacksburg



Gardens, pond, and hardscapes have been incorporated to create a cottage style garden that includes a kitchen garden. They created a woodland garden on the west side of the property, which also includes a solar array. The pond is a major feature, and they established a low maintenance bed on the steep, north side as well as an informal path through the woods on the south side. Their garden continues to be a labor of love and team effort. Kelly does most of the heavy lifting and building, and Susan does the design (with help from Juneberry Gardens) and planting. They welcome the native plants that spring up and make themselves at home. They say their home is a source of joy and very much their happy place.



Garden Tour Cont'd

The Miller Garden ([Mi] on map) 3007 Wakefield Drive, Blacksburg

The Millers have been gardening here for seven years and inherited the garden when they moved into their home. They have been adding bulbs and plants ever since and like to mix vegetables in with their flowering plants. Irises provide early color and are continually added to highlight the paths. The Koi pond is a favorite feature that is planted with hostas and lilies and framed by both Red Bud and Dogwood trees. The Millers have an irrigation system, but water only as needed. Voles and moles are their greatest pest management issue as deer do not frequent their property. A Great Blue Heron can often be seen in the pond, but as beautiful as the Heron is, it can be a problem with the Koi. They have not identified a solution except to share.



The Stewart Garden ([S] on map) 413 Giles Road, Blacksburg



This quaint little house sits on the back of a quarter-acre lot surrounded by flowering plants and shrubs. Filled with poison ivy, weeds, and volunteer trees when Jill moved in five years ago, the small lot has been transformed with flower beds on either side of the house, on the bank, along the fence line, under the sugar maple, and around the connected storage and garden sheds. A mixture of natives and non-natives are planted throughout the flowerbeds. A small succulent bed found its perfect spot on the bank beneath the old sugar maple stump. All the bricks and rocks used for the borders and stepping stones were found on the property. A vegetable garden on one side of the house is productive enough for sharing as well as for feeding the owner throughout the year. Jill, who does most of her own gardening, hopes that seeing her garden will encourage others to plant vegetable gardens of their own.

The Wilder ([W] on map) 3009 Wakefield Drive, Blacksburg

Paula and Ed Wilder have been on Wakefield Drive for 30 years and started gardens here from scratch. They said they have used some designers, but most of the inspiration has come from gardens visited in that timeframe. Over the years, Ed has become enamored with the varieties of Boxwood. They provide a solid backdrop against which other plants find their place. His favorite tree is Katsura which is at least 30 years old. The grade of the property has been addressed with a dry creek stone runoff which flows into the woods. For the Wilders, like many local gardeners, voles have been an issue and no solution has been found. Over the past three years much effort has gone into the redesign and reinstallation of the garden. The latest addition is the patio under the deck. The over-arching goal in recent years has been, and continues to be, to create a garden that is increasingly maintenance free.



Garden Tour Cont'd

Please also enjoy these Points of Interest in Blacksburg. No ticket is needed.

- * [P1] Glade Road Growing/Rising Silo –
2351 Glade Road, Blacksburg
- * [P2] Unitarian Universalist Congregation Garden –
1301 Gladewood Drive, Blacksburg
- * [P3] Valley Interfaith Childcare Center Garden –
948 Heather Drive, Blacksburg



Thank you to our Garden Tour Committee:

- * Lynn Brammer, Chair
- * Suzi Austin
- * Dianne Blount
- * Charles Bostian
- * Victoria Cochran
- * Phyllis Eschenmann
- * Elizabeth Foster
- * Paula Golden
- * Ellen Hall
- * Becky Hepler
- * Teri Hoover
- * Sue Hossack
- * Delbert Jones
- * Susan Keith
- * Terry Kelley
- * Judy Kirwan
- * Lisa Lipsey
- * T.M. Murali
- * Padma Rajagopalan
- * Elissa Steeves
- * Joann Sutphin

Special thanks to Charles Bostian who took all the Garden Tour location photos.

For more information about the Garden Tour, please visit: www.newrivervalleygardentour.org.

Contact Us:

Facebook: @New River Valley GardenTour

Email: newrivervalleygardentour@gmail.com



Calendar

Floyd	Blacksburg	Christiansburg	Meadowbrook
Monthly Open Mic -Poetry Floyd Every 2nd Wed.	Loops Group Blacksburg Every Wed.	Adult Yoga with Sweetgrass Christiansburg Sat, July 15th	All About Canning & Preserves Meadowbrook Sat, July 8th
Vision Board Floyd Wed, July 5	Sensory Museum for Teens and Adults Blacksburg Friday, July 7	Family Art Afternoon Christiansburg Sat, July 29th	DJ Workshop with DITC @ VT Meadowbrook Thurs, July 13

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at www.mfrl.org

Save the Date!



**Annual New River Valley
Garden Tour**

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. Each has contributed \$200 or more as named sponsors of the 2023 Summer Reading Program or the Garden Tour:

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