

# Library News | Summer 2024

*From the Friends of the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library*



## 28th Annual Garden Tour

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The New River Valley Garden Tour will take place Saturday, July 6th from 9am-5pm. The tour showcases innovative, specialty, and simply beautiful private gardens in the New River Valley each July. The event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library with the cooperation of the New River Valley Master Gardeners' Association.

The tour features seven glorious gardens located in Christiansburg. Tickets for this self-guided tour, which include a program and map, are \$15. Tickets are available now at the Blacksburg, Christiansburg, Floyd, and Shawsville libraries. Tickets are also available [online](#) or at each of the gardens on the day of the tour.



# Garden Tour Cont'd

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.

This is our second year hosting a rain barrel raffle. There will be a raffle for winners' choice of one of three painted rain barrels at the Moore Garden. Our inaugural raffle in 2023 raised over \$700 in additional funds for the library.

A feature added in the last few years are musicians and plein air artists. Their compliment 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, July 7th hosted by The Steeves at their garden, 706 York Drive, Blacksburg.

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.



Photos by Charles Bostian

# Garden Tour Cont'd

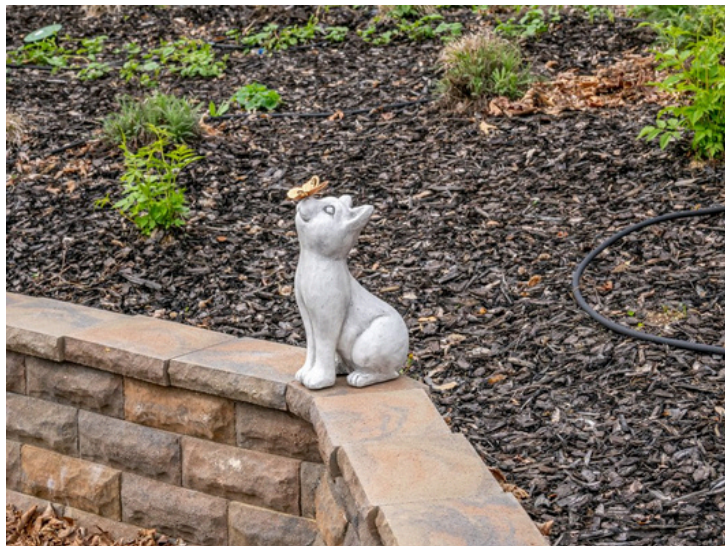
## The Evans Garden ([E] on map) 8 Park St., Christiansburg

Shannon and John Evans

When Shannon and John bought their Craftsman style home, they used Arts and Crafts gardening principles to design a manicured prairie look for their front lawn. After receiving a grant from the Crab Creek Beautification Project, they moved forward with removing the grass and creating terraces where a variety of native plants would flourish and support local wildlife. The ultimate goal of their new garden is to “showcase the beauty of the familiar.”

### Musicians:

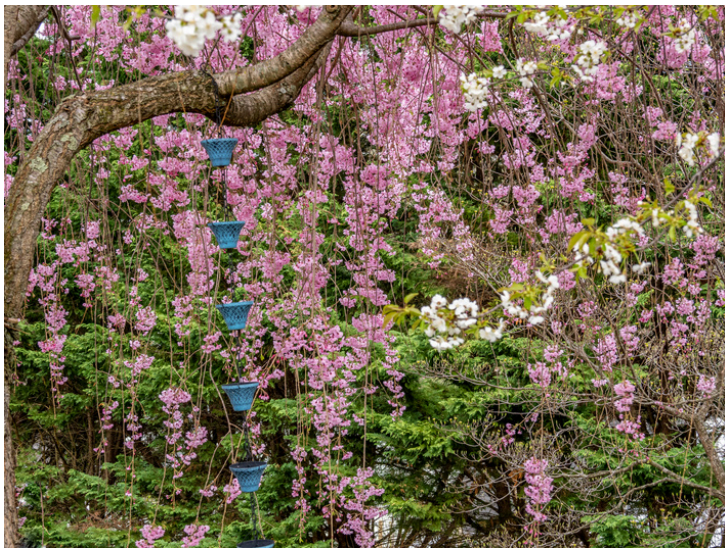
- 9am – 10:30am: Johanna Jones
- 11:30am – 1pm: Jenni Schoner and Rhea Epstein
- 2pm – 4pm: Rick Krajnyak



## Keating Garden ([Ke] on map) 140 Morning Mist Dr., Christiansburg

Judy Keating and daughter Chelsea

After selling her farm in Clover Hollow, Judy moved to her current home. She fell in love with the thoughtfully designed garden which was severely neglected. Over the next two years, she had the crumbling rock walls restored, discovered and revitalized a small water garden, and brought the garden back to life. Her favorite tree, a Weeping Cherry, she has dubbed “The Hugging Tree,” as the branches wrap around you as you pass. Other trees – a Bald Cypress, Dogwood, and Crepe Myrtle – add a vibrant backdrop to the pond which has become home to goldfish, frogs, and is a favorite hangout for a variety of birds. With the help of her daughter, Chelsea, bringing the garden back to life has been a labor of love.



### Musicians:

- 10am – 11am: Rene Rippe
- 12pm – 2pm: Lynn Margheim and Beth Caba
- 2:30pm – 3:30pm: Leigh Powell

Photos by Charles Bostian

# Garden Tour Cont'd

## Knowlton Garden ([Kn] on map) 3257 Mudpike Rd., Christiansburg

Sandra and Terry Knowlton

If you have a fine appreciation for whimsy, you'll find Terry and Sandra's garden utterly delightful. Terry is an accomplished welder, blacksmith, and carpenter who can create whatever ideas the two can imagine. Sandra loves plants, particularly roses, and is primarily responsible for adding color, texture and softness to their creations. Be sure to inspect the metal tree adorning the patio under the wisteria-covered pergola, and the gate leading to the fire pit area. The boho cabin is another unique space.

### Musicians:

- 9am – 11am: Bud Bennett
- 12pm – 1:30pm: Michelle King and Phillip Hernandez



## McEwen Garden ([McE] on map) 425 Diamond Crest, Christiansburg

Gloria and David McEwen

The McEwen garden, perched on the peak of a hill, is a study of contrasts. The front garden has an elegant sweep of lawn bordered by curved planting beds containing a variety of perennials and shrubs. The back garden begins with terracing and stonework, then drops into a wild area with a stream where David is encouraging native vegetation. He has removed invasive plants and created paths throughout the wooded area.

### Musicians:

- 9am – 11:30am: Students of Justin Craig
- 12pm – 1:30pm: Simple Gifts of the Blue Ridge
- 2:30pm – 4pm: Grandin Village Strings



Photos by Charles Bostian

# Garden Tour Cont'd

## Montgomery Museum Garden ([MM] on map) 300 Pepper St., Christiansburg

Beth Umberger and Master Gardeners

The gardens surrounding the former Montgomery Museum (built originally as the Presbyterian Church Manse in about 1854) have been developed over the years by Master Gardeners in 1989. In the last 15 years hundreds of community volunteers, with guidance from Beth Umberger, developed the lower part of the garden as a native habitat. Using plants native to the eastern United States, the goal is to provide host plants for insects and their predators. Vegetables are grown in the garden to share with the community.



### Musicians:

- 9am – 9:45am: Eric Midkiff and Mary Louise Hallauer
- 9:45am – 10:30am: Midkiff Trio (Eric Midkiff , Luke Lester, Paul Deck)
- 10:30am – 12:30pm: Paul Deck and Alan Munshower
- 2:30pm – 4:30pm: Julia Fallon and Cyndy Graham

The Montgomery Museum of Art & History (now at 400 E. Main St) has an Outdoor Art ‘Gallery’ at this site. The current Art Exhibit is titled “Flower Art in the Garden” and features work from over a dozen local participants.

## Moore Garden ([Mo] on map) 840 Murray St., Christiansburg

Connie and Bill Moore

The garden at the Moore residence is a tribute to Connie’s grandparents who built the house 101 years ago on what was a small farm on the outskirts of town. She has maintained many of the original planting beds and plants, including a 70 year-old Norway Maple, that began as an upstart seedling invading one of the flower beds and now provides ample shade for the inviting side porch. The farm buildings have been repurposed, with the old corn crib now a chicken coop and the old laundry serving as a storage and potting shed.



### Musician:

- 9am – 4pm: Aline de Souza

Photos by Charles Bostian

# Garden Tour Cont'd

## Vincenti Garden ([V] on map) 208 South Franklin St., Christiansburg

Thea Vincenti

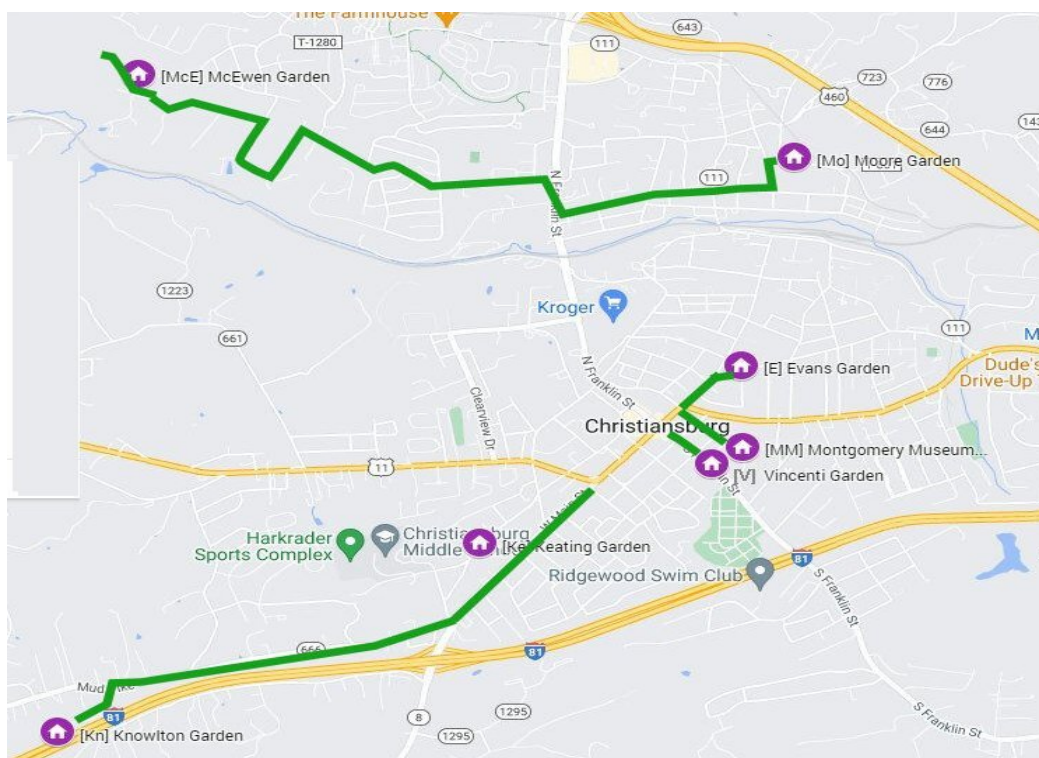
An enthusiastic gardener and self-professed amateur, Thea has been developing her gardens for 6 years. Her garden is alive with perennials, herbs, and lots of self-seeding annuals. Her sunflowers are striking in the front garden. They, along with hollyhocks, play with perspective while in the back garden they make an attractive focal point and provide some separation from neighboring homes.



Photo by Charles Bostian

### Musicians:

- 9:30am – 11am: Dogwood Recorders
- 11:30am – 1pm: Renate Kehlenbeke



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

For more information about the Garden Tour, please visit: [www.newrivervalleygarden-tour.org](http://www.newrivervalleygarden-tour.org).

**Contact Us:** Facebook: @New River Valley Garden Tour

Email: [newrivervalleygardentour@gmail.com](mailto:newrivervalleygardentour@gmail.com)

# Calendar

<b>Nature Collage</b> Floyd Tues, June 25th	<b>Pokémon Club</b> Blacksburg Every 4th Thurs.	<b>Monuments Around the World</b> Christiansburg Tues, June 25th	<b>Red Cross Pillowcase Project</b> Meadowbrook Mon, June 24th
<b>The Larsens' Amazing World of Reptiles</b> Floyd Fri, June 28th	<b>Adult Art: Collage Landscapes</b> Blacksburg Mon, July 1st	<b>American Red Cross Blood Drive</b> Christiansburg Tues, July 2nd	<b>Summer Meal Boxes for Kids</b> Meadowbrook Tues, July 2nd

For more information on events, please visit the library's website at [www.mfpl.org](http://www.mfpl.org)

**Save the Date!**



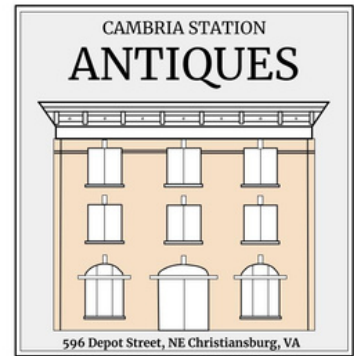
**Saturday,  
July 6th**

**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 Garden Tour:

**Caroline Rude in Memory of Don Rude**



**Blacksburg Breakfast Lions Club**  
With the simple motto of " We Serve "

