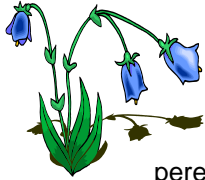


# *Digging into the New Century*

## Sunday, June 17, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### **Linna Barnes and Chris Mixter - 7112 Ridgewood Avenue**



The garden is the culmination of six years of staged work that created the result you see. The north side of the property is an under-story woodland garden with foam flowers, azaleas, oak leaf hydrangeas and dogwoods with daffodils blooming in the spring. A sunken garden on the south side of the property is planted with a variety of plants that thrive in the shady environment created by the canopy trees. Plantings in all shades of green give texture to the garden. Stairs lead to the lower garden with its central lawn and borders of azaleas and shade-loving perennials. A gazebo with wisteria and roses, a fountain corner and a sculpture with a fox complete this area. The garden was designed by Melissa Clark, APLD, of Landscape Projects in Bethesda.

### **Tina and Michael Coplan - 7003 Meadow Lane**

When we moved to our Colonial-style home 35 years ago, the garden was not among its attractions. Back then, the rear yard's main features were cinderblock steps, random bamboo and a ground cover of tenacious weeds. Landscape architect Lila Fendrick came to the rescue, rethinking the modest space with a two-tiered terrace that reflects the formal symmetry of the house. The curved lines of the beds draw the eye inward, away from surrounding distractions. Mature evergreens and a shifting backdrop of plants and perennials provide a changing display throughout the seasons, forming a nearly enclosed retreat to contemplate the cycles of nature.

### **Christina Files and Richard English - 7212 Maple Avenue**

Our garden has changed dramatically in 16 years. Since buying our house in 2002, many trees have come down, but we have added lots of trees, shrubs and perennials, a flagstone patio and two fountains. The front garden, with its English garden feel, is framed by one large oak tree and three small trees, a bird sculpture on a tree trunk and various shrubs and perennials. The back garden has a sweeping view over a small hill and watershed, with an inviting small gate (from India), two fountains for attracting birds and many different sitting areas and perspectives. Hornbeams, magnolia, holly, cherry, ginkgo and Japanese maple trees, andromeda and foxglove hydrangea and other shrub complement the three garden areas of colorful perennials. Flagstone pathways allow the spirit to wander.



### **Marcy and Arthur Forrest - 4136 Leland Street**

The Bearhouse Garden will be easy to spot. Our carved Papa Bear and Baby Bear will welcome you as you arrive. When we bought this property in 1994, it was a tangle of weeds, overgrown ivy, root balls and pebbles. But I saw the potential immediately. I loved the tiered front. I planted a tapestry of rounded evergreen mounds, different texture ground cover and rock paths. I wanted an absolute care free yard that had definition. I chose iris, lilies, peonies and azaleas as flowering additions that would return each year. The one bit of gardening labor is the annual planting of tulips. I change the color scheme each year and enjoy that burst of color each spring. Liriope and a few well-placed stepping stones fill the area between the sidewalk and the curb. The Bearhouse philosophy is function first, followed closely by style.

### **Nicolynn Green and David Valenstein - 6908 Oakridge Avenue**



We moved into our house in 2000 intending to develop a garden from a backyard of grass and an old swimming pool surrounded by tall bamboo. It was a creative process that lasted over a decade. With the bamboo gone, we added sinuous stone dry stacked walls to terrace the slope into garden beds. Made with western Maryland stone, they are a unifying element that layer the view of plants and trees. Specimen plants are spread around the garden including a Paperbark Maple, Seibold Magnolia, Japanese Umbrella Pine and various viburnum and hydrangeas. A renovated pool complements the now maturing trees. Potted tropical plants add variety to hardscape elements, which we overwinter in a greenhouse. The front garden of our Tudor-style 1930 home features other specimen plants.

### **Jill and Jerry Howe - 4007 Bradley Lane**

I have been working on the garden since we moved in 1995. The original back garden had a pool and five enormous 40 foot Leland Cypress across the back. My original plan was to create a green and white oasis that felt modern and private similar to gardens I've seen. I ripped out the Lelands and planted holly trees with crepe myrtles in front. Hosta, roses and crepe myrtles all bloom white. The hydrangea however I keep blue. It's magical in the evening. We redid the pool deck a few years ago to create a more modern look. The Manhattan euonymus along the perimeter fence creates a greener, softer look. I was inspired by the one at the Red Fox Inn garden in Middleburg. Boxwoods are planted for symmetry. White impatiens and lavender with gardenia topiary trees in the large containers anchor the pool seating.



### **Betsy Johnson - 4413 Ridge Street**

A number of years ago, I met Edamarie Mattei and asked her if she could design a front yard native plant and vegetable garden. After several consultations, we came up with a plan and executed it. You can see pictures of the result on the Backyard Bounty website: <http://backyardbounty.net/portfolio/ridge/>. Since then, I have turned over my backyard to native plants with Edamarie's help. While not a conventional garden, it has given me a great deal of pleasure and, as it matures, it has been easier and easier to maintain. One of the most important things about native plants is their ability to thrive in the local climate. They need less watering than imported plants and tend to stay within their boundaries. I'm hoping that Edamarie herself will be with me in the garden on June 3 so you will be able to talk to her.

### **Rich & Lynn Matheny - 4119 Stanford Street**



This is our third year growing vegetables year-round in five raised beds. The beds, totaling 148 square feet, are fitted with PVC hoops held into place with sunken rebar. In the summer, the beds are covered with netting and filled with tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, green beans, and other crops. We stabilize the tomato plants using a "Florida weave" system. In the winter and transitional seasons, the beds are covered with Agribon row covers and plastic when very cold, allowing overwintering of crops like mustard greens, spinach, arugula, bok choy, garlic, without any source of heating. We designed and built the beds to fit the space, installing drip irrigation controllable via WiFi. We improve the soil with oak leaves, grass and kitchen waste composted on site. Please excuse the rest of the landscaping. That is a future project!

### **Marcie Meditch and John Murphey - 4002 Underwood Street**

The garden's simple bold lines reflect the clean-lines of the home while furthering goals of solar gain, rain harvesting and reuse and food production. Paved surfaces are limited, for water to penetrate into the site wherever possible. The front garden planting beds camouflage geothermal wells, supporting home heating and cooling; and rain gardens, in the rear yard, collect and slow down runoff from off-site, allowing it to be absorbed back into the ground, reducing erosion. The native and drought tolerant trees, shrubs, vines, and ground covering embrace seasonal change as well as sustainable objectives. Rooftop trees and plants in deep planters provide screening from neighbors, natural shade during the summer and insulation year-round. The rooftop vegetable garden allows the owners to enjoy fresh tomatoes and salad greens over three seasons.

### **Jean Shorett - 7107 Oakridge Avenue**

In the front yard is Montgomery County's "Champion" Siberian Elm tree, the largest of its species in the County and third largest in Maryland. The Elm was measured at 12'7" in circumference, 103' tall with a 76' crown span. Since 1989, the MoCo Forest Conservancy District Board has identified Champion Trees for 154 species. See [www.mdbigtrees.com](http://www.mdbigtrees.com). In the back yard, part of a sad 1950s cement block patio was transformed into a rain garden and planted with (mostly) native species of perennial shrubs, ferns and flowers. The garden blooms from April to October, attracting birds and butterflies. It also qualified for MoCo RainScapes Rewards rebates because of its improved storm water management. See [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/water/rainscapes) for more options for building RainGardens.

