

Hosts for the 2019 Garden Walk

#1 Backyard Retreat-Janet and Karl Wesener

15618 South Cedar Lake Rd., Kiel

Enjoy the quietness and sound of the birds as you stroll through the hosta garden. Take a walk through the cottage garden for a perfect view of the many containers of flowers. A potting shed completes the backyard for all the planting. A vegetable garden and a special garden for calla lilies and more annual flowers are also in view.

#2 Lady of the Woods Garden- Barb and Brian Retlich

14118 Pigeon River Rd., Cleveland

The Lady of the Woods Garden features: hostas, bleeding hearts, ferns, and native woodland plants. The past few years we have added a lot of native plants in our sunny gardens to enjoy their unique beauty and also help out the bees and butterflies. A special garden area with plants representing family members has a door from my childhood home as a focal point. Our gardens were featured in the May/June 2018 issue of Wisconsin Gardening Magazine in an article written by Rob Zimmer.

#3 The Farm at Fischer Creek-Theresa and Mike Wiles

13118 S. Union Rd., Newton

Because each farm is unique to its products and surroundings, traditional agricultural routines may or may not be applied at The Farm at Fischer Creek CSA. The farm continually challenges established methods, while proposing new theories that diverge from conventional agrarian practices. The farm regularly borrows from manufacturing Six Sigma and Lean tools and rules to drive new efficient processes and procedures necessary in yielding successful harvests. The farm prototype environment is maintained corresponding to a nine-hour work day throughout the growing season.

Aromatic herbs and perennial crops between the fruit trees, nuts, and berries from the outer most band alternating inward produce an invisible barrier against troublesome pests and animals. Invasive plant material is avoided while natural wild beneficial plants and trees can free seed and are intentionally propagated. Partner planting, crop rotation and allowing some low levels of disease to inoculate and dissipate within the in-place high heat composting is mandatory in keeping disease minimal.

Each year a new set of tests and theories are evaluated and chosen to introduce against the maturing field model and inhabitants. Concepts are evaluated yearly and if deemed essential, they are adopted into the process. Freedom to propose without the anxiety of failure brings forth the best innovation. **Come join us for instructional tours at 10:00, 12:00 and 2:00 the day of the Garden Walk.**

#4 The Juxtaposed Junk Yard- Mary and Phil Lindemann

13032 Newton Rd., Valders

When we bought our 1904 farm house in 1980, there was one scrubby snow ball bush in the front yard and some old peony plants lining the sidewalk. The remainder of the treeless 12-acre property was weeds and grass, emphasis on weeds!

In conjunction with remodeling the house, we did a little landscaping early on and planted a few trees that we dug up from the ditches nearby, including the big Elm tree at the east end of the property.

In 1997 we participated in a forestry program and planted trees on the 6 acres surrounding the house. They chose the tree assortment including the beautiful Highbush Cranberry Viburnum that grows on the perimeter of the yard. We really enjoy the colorful berries and so do the birds.

We dug a pond in lieu of a swimming pool when our children were young, which is now enjoyed by our grandchildren, and there is nothing like the serenity of sitting by the water gazing at the reflection of the trees and sky.

I lost my brother in 2004. That summer we planted a tree in his memory and surrounded the tree with my first flower bed. Since then I have added 4 additional beds full of perennials, bushes and annuals for color. The Juxtaposed Junk Yard describes our gardens perfectly, as they are not structured or fancy and are sprinkled with "junk": wooden crates, old metal tool boxes, gears, galvanized buckets, sprinkling cans, rusty farm equipment, barrels, iron wheels and old garden equipment. I love the saying "One man's junk is Mary's garden treasures!"

#5 Our Little Slice of Heaven- Tammy and Terry Robinson

1662 Skyline Drive, Manitowoc

Welcome to our "little slice of heaven". We enjoy relaxing on the deck and taking in the ever blooming perennials and the "visitors" it brings in--deer, turkeys, birds and the beautiful butterflies. A very special Potting Shed is also part of our garden landscape.

#6 Native Plants and a view of Lake Michigan- Steve Lankton

4623 S. 10th St., Manitowoc

I moved to Manitowoc in 2013, with a curiosity about gardening but with virtually no knowledge or experience. Since that time I have embarked on an educational journey to learn more about gardening in general, and especially about plants that are native to this area. Virtually all of the plantings in my yard are now natives, which have the advantages of being a) very low-maintenance and b) reliable attractors for pollinators such as butterflies, bees, hummingbirds, etc. The joy for me is not so much the pretty flowers, but more to see the insects and birds respond to the variety of native plants which serve their needs at different times during the year.