

## ***Garden 1    A Gardening Addict's Oasis***

Shortly after moving to this 1-1/3 acre lot 24 years ago, Helen's addiction to gardening began with the planting of 50 white pines around the property. Over the years, grass has given way to five large perennial beds filled with a treasure trove of perennials, shrubs, and trees.

The oldest garden is anchored by some of those now 30-foot white pines, creating a shady space filled with ferns, hostas, hellebores, brunnera, wood aster, astilbes, and heuchera. The garden was expanded to allow for more sun-loving plants including lavender, basket of gold, daisies, yarrow, crocosmia, cotton lavender, catmint, penstemon, phlox, and more – well over 100 varieties of perennials.



An apple and two pear trees remain from an old orchard and are now surrounded with tall grasses, native plants, agastache, sea holly, globe thistle, sedums, daylilies, and other favorites for the nearby beehive residents. Close to the back deck is an herb garden filled with marjoram, oregano, French tarragon, Berggarten sage; sedum, feverfew and great blue lobelia add more color. Near this garden is an old crabapple tree standing sentinel over an assortment of shade-

loving plants including azaleas, kerria, filipendula, and wood aster. A beautiful paperbark maple glistens in the sun with its cinnamon bark.

In the center of the newest garden are a large river birch and a sweetgum tree. The entire area is filled with an assortment of perennials, weigelas, ninebark, dogwood, seven sons bush, potentilla, peonies, boxwoods, grasses, oakleaf hydrangea, and more.

Last but certainly not least is the vegetable garden – 10 raised beds surrounded by a handmade black metal fence and gate with pine needles between each bed making for natural pathways. Just outside the fenced-in beds is an area of raspberries, blueberries, and rhubarb.

## ***Garden 2    Creativity in a City Garden***

A regular city lot on busy Miller Road has become a haven of harvest, with a colorful perennial and vegetable garden creating a purposeful buffer between the home and the road. Both a practical choice, since the front yard is the sunniest part of the property, and an aesthetic one for the enjoyment of passersby, the area is now a series of raised boxes filled with edibles and surrounded by



flower beds and herbs. Rain barrels and repurposed materials add to the garden's earth-friendly operation. Each year, the owners experiment with different growing methods and varieties.

To soften the front of the house and driveway, borders of drought-tolerant perennials mixed with cosmos, zinnias and sunflowers burst into late summer bloom. In spring, native perennials such as bloodroot, wild geranium, ferns, wild ginger, and mayapple brighten the shaded back yard, surrounding a small pond and patio.

Both artists with a do-it-yourself and learn as you go approach, the owners hope their ever-evolving garden inspires others to make the most of a small lot.

### ***Garden 3 Living, Blooming History***



Anchored by the original 1845 farm house, this historic property has evolved over the years from a 160-acre farm to a delightful series of gardens, patios, and pathways. Four old black walnut trees stand sentinel over the yard, including one estimated to be 250 years old. Many other trees, including an old locust near the side porch, an unusually shaped pine in the front garden, flowering dogwood, and a variety of evergreens, add special interest throughout the garden.

In the front garden, hydrangeas, boxwood, autumn clematis, tea roses, viburnum, weigela and a French lilac set off the charm of the house, providing structure and season-long color. Peonies, some old and others added by Garnet, add historic flavor. Around the west side of the house, riotous beds boast yarrow, Jacob's ladder, ferns, coreopsis, bleeding heart, bee balm, edelweiss, daylilies, lilies, asters, campanula, echinacea, and many more colorful treasures, including fall anemones and a number of roses. Several varieties of iris can be found throughout the gardens – Garnet's favorite bearded iris, "Austrian Garnet" with its dark red, almost black, color, borders the west garden pathway.

A cherry tree flourishes near the potting shed; sweet woodruff and daisies shine under a quince. To the east of the house, a peach-colored trumpet vine drips lavishly off a pergola over a stone patio, hosting birds' nests and providing a lovely sitting spot. A Bartlet pear tree espaliered against the chimney is a unique focal point. In the small pond are two fish that have survived four winters without being fed any fish food!

Once you've experienced the beauty of the garden, take a little more time to tour the lower level of this historic home. Two additions have enhanced the original structure, one in 1870 and the last in 2006 when the owners purchased the home. That most recent renovation added more than 900 square feet to the first floor and a master bedroom suite on the second floor.

## ***Garden 4    Colorful, Colonial Tradition***

Picket fences, pea stone paths, brick walks, and garden arbors frame this reproduction Williamsburg Colonial. Set on three acres of lawn and natural shrubbery, the front of the home is left unplanted, in keeping with colonial tradition. Planters filled with fern welcome visitors to the front door. To the side and back of the house, however, multiple gardens filled with Darlene's "old-fashioned favorites" offer pleasing, colorful destinations.

The picket fences and arbor that beckon you into the back lawn are planted with annuals for a continual show of color and texture throughout the season. Spring heralds the arrival of hundreds of daffodils, allium, and other small bulbs in wide drifts in the 'wild' garden at the far end of the property. Lilac, roses and spirea line the back of the house. The peony garden



comes to life in June, surrounded by a boxwood hedge and flowering crab trees which line the path to a garden bench. By late June, Darlene's favorites, foxglove and delphinium, are in full bloom in the main garden, providing a beautiful display. July brings summer roses and hydrangea to fill in the gardens that surround the house and patio areas. By late August a beautiful blue morning glory graces the arbor and climbing hydrangea scale the brick walls in the side garden.

Challenges in this otherwise ideal setting include drainage issues due to clay and the ever-present deer population. Darlene describes her gardening approach as "always optimistic, always enterprising, and never satisfied," and the result is an evolving, enjoyable and enchanting landscape.

## ***Garden 5    House & Garden Harmony***

The garden began when this unique home was conceived 13 years ago. Working with the challenging topography of the site, the house slips into the landscape, the gardens providing a natural frame. The various gardens around the four-acre property feature separate themes, but are united in much the same way the buildings of the home are distinct yet coherent.

After traversing the long driveway lined with natives, the house appears, fronted by garden beds featuring hydrangea and peonies, set off by viburnums, a ginkgo, and Michigan holly. A piece by Brian Ferriby adds dimension and structural interest. Entering the side garden at the right, a rock garden with various sedum varieties mingles with a Lincoln lilac and tree peony, mock orange and the brightly colored flowers of the



cutting garden. Among the perennials here are helianthus, bee balm, echinops, rudbeckia, phlox and compass flower.

The path then sweeps low around the back of the house, lined with lilacs and redbuds along with rough bark maple, catalpa and many service berries. Traveling up the side of the house, a spring vegetable garden provides herbs, pea pods and asparagus, kale and arugula. A watchdog by Mark Chatterly minds the garden. Works from Chelsea River Gallery augment the owners' collection, creating a sculpture garden on the back lawn. A hot tub nestles in a small woodland garden with forget-me-nots, iris, Virginia bluebells, some unique grasses and more lenten roses, among the 20 different hellebore varieties found throughout the gardens.

From here, a courtyard garden beckons. Encircled by the house and always visible, the plants here were selected for their distinct heights, foliage (color and texture), and flower color. More than 50 different



perennials bring the space to life, including multiple varieties of ferns, heuchera, lilies, irises, wild ginger, hostas, columbine, geranium, and veronica. Peonies in green and in white, grasses, alliums, and agastache find room here as well. A Japanese maple, crab apple, lilac and three varieties of clematis provide structural interest. The water lily-lined pond draws frogs and birds, adding activity and sound to this peaceful sanctuary.

The challenges of the property encourage adaptation.

With wildlife in abundance, plants are selected for resilience, and native plants abound. Clay soil was removed down to 18 inches and replaced with top soil. Despite ongoing battles with invasive plant species, such as autumn olive, vetch and buckthorn, the garden gives Melanie the opportunity to express herself through flowers and foliage. It serves its ultimate purpose – enhancing its surroundings and encouraging all to enjoy nature's own beauty.

**Please note:** Entering this garden requires walking a long, steep driveway, and reaching some areas of the approximately one acre of cultivated garden space requires climbing stairs.



## ***Garden 6    Glorious Garden Sampler***

Walk under the painted wooden fish at the side gate and enter Walter's world, a 2.5-acre collection of unique garden spaces lovingly created over the last 20 years. Still a "work in progress," to quote Walter, a stroll through these natural vignettes feels like a wild nature walk, but certainly several notches more beautiful. Beginning with the protected shade garden, where deer can no longer bite off delicate new blooms and rob Walter and Sally of the joy of early garden color, hostas, peonies, and other

perennials fill the space to bursting – look for Japanese iris, daylilies, oak leaf hydrangea, heliopsis, purple coneflower, Autumn Joy sedum, ferns, Shasta daisies, black-eyed Susan, viburnum, phlox, baptisia, bleeding heart, and a mound full of forsythia. Several varieties of clematis clamber up the



wooden fence, setting off a small handbuilt shed in the corner.

Travel through another small gate into a sweep of lawn at the rear of the house, bordered by meadows filled with native big blue stem and little blue stem grasses, zebra grass, fountain grass, and seasonal wildflowers. Across the swath of lawn is a dry creek bed, created in part to help with drainage issues. Most of the rocks for the creek were transported in recycled boxes and L.L. Bean canvas bags from trips (always in a Ford) to Cross

Village and Good Hart over many years. The dry creek bed ends at a pond within the woods that fills in the spring and dries out as summer progresses.

Cresting the meadow at the far side of the house, a lawn area bordered by pines and woodland leads to another garden room under the crab apples. A rock garden, created with large rocks moved for the house foundation, features myrtle, lily of the valley, and moss. In the front of the house, a trumpet vine climbs a structure of Walter's creation, while a dogwood and star magnolia stand out amid plantings of St. John wort, myrtle, fern, and spirea.