

Charlottesville Area Garden Visit
April 13-14

This Garden tour was arranged by Fran Boninti and coordinated by our VP Carolyn Beck - what amazing variation and vistas we saw.

Tues evening we had a rainstorm but by Wed. morning we started our day with sunshine. Our first garden was the ingenious design of the Gillenwaters. This land was the original home site of Meriwether Lewis. It is a wooded garden with vistas of the mountains. It is a garden with rock sculpture water features. We saw azaleas (a few in bloom), bulbs, perennials and Japanese Maples. A greenhouse was available for purchasing plants.

We moved from there to "Whispering Pines". This is a lowland garden with tall trees and trails leading to a multitude of azaleas, bulbs and perennials of all varieties and water features. This was a lunch stop which Bernie and Carol Tautkus hosted. A tour of their gardens and a rest on their deck refreshed us ready for our next adventure.

We traveled to Cole Burrell's garden which is on a ridge. We forded the creek and climbed the partially washed out road. (Remember that rainstorm from the night before). This was a garden with all color and shapes and of perennial like bluebells, hellebore, and phlox all resting under tall trees with emphasis put on natural relationships. We rested on a deck with refreshments again & watched our gang explore the trails with our host.

Our next stop was the Eades small garden near Fran & Andy's house.

We then joined the Boninti's at their home with gardens surrounding the whole house.

We were served a delicious supper inside (there was getting to be a chill in the air). Ian Robertson gave a slide program on various gardens and how they repeat themselves over the years.

We were a tired group but ready next morning to visit "Wilton Gardens". A huge garden of woodies, grasses, 300 varieties of Japanese Maples and many shapes and color to enjoy.

Each garden had its uniqueness and charm and we all enjoyed the gardens, our hosts, and each other

Mary Harris