magine a Sunday afternoon in May, redbud and dogwood in blossom, tulips and late narcissus in bloom, where bees are buzzing, robins are singing, and you are viewing flourishing plantings and learning from your host or hostess about healthy, earth-friendly gardens. Since the first Chemical-Free Garden Tour in 2007, gardeners who have not used chemical fertilizers or pesticides in their yards for at least a year have opened their gardens for quests to enjoy. Over the years, we have learned how chemical-free gardening is truly life-friendly. In most years, the garden tour has been held in spring and fall, and we are pleased to announce that this will be the 20th Life-Friendly Garden Tour!

The hosts of the gardens on the tour will share their

growing spaces, large and small, where plants of all kinds thrive without the use of synthetic chemicals — pesticides, fungicides, herbicides. "Cide" means kill and these products threaten the wellbeing of plants and animals, and of the planet. Synthetic fertilizers, do indeed feed the plant, but at the expense of the soil, which it degrades. You will see that plants are fed best by compost, which in turn, thanks to natural micro-organisms, nurtures disease-resistant and insect-resistant plants. Feeding and nuturing living organisms in the soil also sequesters carbon. You will return to your own garden confident in setting aside toxins.



Note: On May 6, the gardeners highlighted in this brochure will welcome visitors into their gardens. After that, please be respectful and view from the roadside only.

For more information about the activities of the Life-Friendly Garden Tour and Watertown Citizens for Peace, Justice, and the Environment, visit us at watertowncitizens.org, email us at gardentour@watertowncitizens.org or call 617-926-2545.



Welcome to Watertown's 20th Life-Friendly GARDEN TOUR Sunday May 6 2018 1–5 pm



1 249 WALTHAM STREET | The Farm at Gore Place

Explore the farm and gardens on this historic 45-acre estate. You will see raised organic vegetable beds. While there, visit the sheep, goats, and free-range chickens. Honor system farm stand. Website offers lamb and honey for sale in the spring. To spot the entrance, just look for the "OPEN" banner. Enter from Grove Street (Waltham Street in Watertown).

2 48 OLNEY ST | Lisa Cerqueira

A corner lot filled with perennials, including flowering trees and shrubs, hostas, spring flowering bulbs, and lavender.

3 50 OLNEY ST | Megan Lim

Waltham

My front and back garden were both started from scratch after moving to Watertown in 2014. I've always loved planting flowers, but having my own yard gave me a chance to invest in perennials, shrubs, fruit trees and bushes, and raised beds. My garden looks it's best in late summer, but I appreciate the blessing of seeing it come back to life each spring. Stop by to talk about growing fruit in small spaces, and converting your lawn into a garden that supports biodiversity!

Nonantum (Newton)

4 62 PEARL ST | Sharon Bauer+David Breakstone

The May garden is fragrant with crabapples and viburnum, attracting bees as well as humans. If the weather is not too hot, it will also be peak time for tulips. Please stay to share a glass of iced lemon balm/mint tea and talk plants!

5 252 MARSHALL ST | Judy Fallows

Specializing in berries, vines and fruit trees, we also have perennial flowers and herbs and some raised beds for annual vegetables. Of particular interest is our pawpaw patch and kiwi vine. Watertown's school gardens coordinator lives here! Inspiration for school gardens.

ARSENAL ST

Brighton (Boston)

6 22 GRENVILLE Rd | Henrietta Light+Ian Gorry

Plant choice and placement guided by the topography, the spirit of the site, and the foraging needs of native pollinators and honeybees. Nature's gifts are utilized with solar panels, rain barrels and a compost pile.

7 132 LANGDON AVE | Pam Phillips

The first things I planted on moving in about twenty years ago were tulips and raspberries. With luck, the tulips will still be blooming and the raspberries will be starting. Over time I've added other flowering plants to feed our native bees. In spring look for bees in the grape hyacinth, species tulips, Centaurea, a wild rose, sweetspire, and pear trees. The latest addition is a hummingbird feeder. With luck, hummingbirds will also join the pollination fun.

8 30 WESTLAND RD at EDGECLIFF RD | Susan Cooke+Victor Preston

Our garden began in late 2009, and is filled with as many flowering shrubs and plants as we can pack into it including raised vegetable beds on one end. It has never seen a weed-whacker, leaf-blower, or a pesticide, and attracts cardinals, bluebirds, robins, mockingbirds, starlings, nuthatches, bees, and a few butterflies (our first Monarch appeared last year).. Plants include very fragrant roses, viburnums, Philadelphus, Scottish Broom, Yucca, coneflowers, daisies, lavender, thyme, juniper, hens & chicks, blueberry, dogwood, tall cedar trees, Japanese Snowbell and Japanese Stewartia trees, a Tupelo tree, plum, peach, apple, and pear trees, and more. The style is loosely cottage garden.