



**BLACKRIDGE  
GARDEN CLUB**

# A MIDSUMMER'S TOUR



**BLACKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB  
2007 GARDEN TOUR - JUNE 27, 2007**

# GARDEN #1

## 1639 GEORGETOWN - KATHY AND JOHN MCCANN

- 1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?**

We've lived in Blackridge for thirty-four years, in two houses. We moved to this house in 1987.
- 2. Please describe your garden.**

It's a nice mix of sun and shade, with a gentle hill and a flat area.
- 3. Please describe your "works in progress."**

I guess our work in progress is the water garden. We just put it in place in March. The area we chose seemed a perfect spot for the garden. Some lighting will be installed, but otherwise, we want it to look natural.
- 4. Favorite plants in your garden?**

Pulmonaria, which seems to "morph" as the seasons go along. I also love the brunnera, which comes in different types, and is planted between the large oaks. I enjoy contrasting textures and shades of green in my garden.
- 5. "Best growers" in your garden?**

Rather than naming the best growers, I would have to say that my most difficult growing space is the corner at Jamestown and Georgetown. Winter plays havoc on this corner!
- 6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?**

Many sources.
- 7. Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?**

Frank Stypula of Creative Landscaping is responsible for the water garden.
- 8. Any additional comments?**

As many of you know, my joints have been a problem for many, many years, but I love gardening. I thank my husband, John, for all of the planting he has done over the years, and I thank Frank of Creative Landscaping for converting my ideas into reality.

## GARDEN #6 1640 GEORGETOWN - JEN AND GEOFF SUITERS

### 1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?

We have lived here for 9 years, since May 1998. We were looking for a house for my sister when we found this one—it fit our dining room set and the rest is history.

### 2. Please describe your garden.

Our front yard was just recently planted in May 2007. We removed 13 overgrown bushes from the front yard and built two stone walls to retain the beds. We keep “chipping away” at the backyard by removing dead trees and planting shade loving plants.

### 3. Please describe your “works in progress.”

Our grass! Geoff has been working on it since we moved in, in 1998 — and we ended up replanting the entire front yard after losing a giant oak tree in a storm. We just installed a sprinkler system in the front yard and flower beds, and are planning a new lighting scheme.

### 4. Favorite plants in your garden?

We like the holly bushes and the azaleas. In the backyard, we love hostas!

### 5. “Best growers” in your garden?

Not sure yet!

### 6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?

We use Frank Stypula from Creative Landscaping. He designed the new bed as well as replanted the entire front yard last year.

### 7. Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?

Geoff stripped and repainted all of the front porch ironwork and the lamppost.

### 8. Any additional comments?

Our other projects for the backyard will be to install a retaining wall and a new patio with a fire pit and hot tub!

## WELCOME TO THE BLACKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB 2007 GARDEN TOUR!



Tonight from 6:30 until nightfall, you will have the opportunity to visit seven neighborhood gardens. Thank you to the gracious Blackridge neighbors who have opened their lovely gardens to us for this tour. The BGC and the entire neighborhood appreciate your hard work and your hospitality.

| Address   | Owner                       |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. 1712 Arlington Road<br>(BGC volunteers: Karen & Dan Risher)                    | Martina Hahn                |
| 2. 2401 Orlando Place<br>(BGC volunteers: Mary Antol & Louise White)              | Anne Morton                 |
| 3. 1730 Yorktown Place<br>(Judy Diorio and Tara Taylor: Tour Committee)           | Pat & Jerry Lowry           |
| 4. 2708 Orlando Place<br>(BGC volunteers: EJ Foster and Ceil Greber)              | Weezie & Ed Walter          |
| 5. 1644 Georgetown Place<br>(BGC volunteers: Toni Kinkella and Adrienne O'Toole)  | Nene & Bruce Dietrich       |
| 6. 1640 Georgetown Place<br>(BGC volunteers: Sonny Bobula and Doris Raimondi)     | Jennifer & Geoffrey Suiters |
| 7. 1639 Georgetown Place<br>(BGC volunteers: Lee Borellis and Shelley Grotzinger) | Kathy & John McCann         |

You may begin your tour at any point.

In some tour booklets, there will be a special insert notifying you that you have won a tour prize: one of several botanically-themed, custom embroidered items, such as tea towels and aprons, created and donated by Blackridge neighbor, Emilie Freese (412-371-7611). If you are one of our winners, please fill out your name and address on the insert, and return it to Judy Diorio or Tara Taylor at 1730 Yorktown Place at any time during the tour to receive your prize.

## ABOUT THE BLACKRIDGE GARDEN CLUB



*Blackridge*

**P**lease join us and help us celebrate the 68th year of the Blackridge Garden Club! Membership is open to all residents of Blackridge.

Generally, meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at the BCA Clubhouse, beginning with a half-hour of social time at 11:00 am. Lunch is served at 11:30, followed by a business meeting and an interesting and educational program. We usually adjourn by 2:30 pm. We hold some meetings and special events (like this garden tour, our spring gardening workshop, and our popular plant auctions) in the evenings. Even if you aren't able to attend many — or any — of the daytime meetings, we would love to have you as a new member.

If you are interested in learning more about gardening, meeting your neighbors, or being involved with the upkeep of our beautiful corner entrances to Blackridge, please consider becoming a member by providing your name and phone number to any of the hostesses on tonight's tour. You may also contact President Ceil Greber at 412-247-5828 for more information.

## GARDEN #5 1644 GEORGETOWN PL - NENE AND BRUCE DIETRICH

1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?  
Ten years.
2. Please describe your garden.  
Extensive and time-consuming.
3. Please describe your “works in progress.”  
I am trying to plant more perennials.
4. Favorite plants in your garden?  
All of my plants—since most of them have been given by friends.
5. “Best growers” in your garden?  
Hostas and lilies, when the chipmunks don't eat their roots!
6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?  
Friends, Home Depot, Lowe's
7. Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?  
I am.
8. Any additional comments?  
Since most of my plants have been given to me by my friends, I've given the plants the names of my friends!

## GARDEN #4

### 2708 ORLANDO PLACE - WEEZIE AND ED WALTER

1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?

Since 1995.

2. Please describe your garden.

A heavenly setting of purple blooming rhododendron, wisteria, lilac and viburnum with ostrich ferns everywhere make spring a real treat at 2708 Orlando Place. We have created both shade and sun gardens (perennial) to continue the color display at all times in all areas around the house. A shade garden exists near our driveway, with sun gardens in front and back of the pool area continuing the purple theme with coneflowers. The pond area at the bottom of the driveway has a beautiful Japanese red maple and Japanese ferns under a nandina. We created a salad and herb garden on the deck with the kids and there are container gardens in the pool area and on the deck with a larger veggie garden out back for the kids to enjoy.

3. Please describe your “works in progress.”

What isn't? We are always dividing, moving and enlarging areas as needs arise. This is a work in progress.

4. Favorite plants in your garden?

Snowball viburnum, vancouveria, *Hosta* 'Blue Mammoth', coneflower, Japanese red maple, magnolias, ostrich fern, European wild ginger, silene, flax, foxglove, wisteria, boxwood, mountain laurel, you name it!

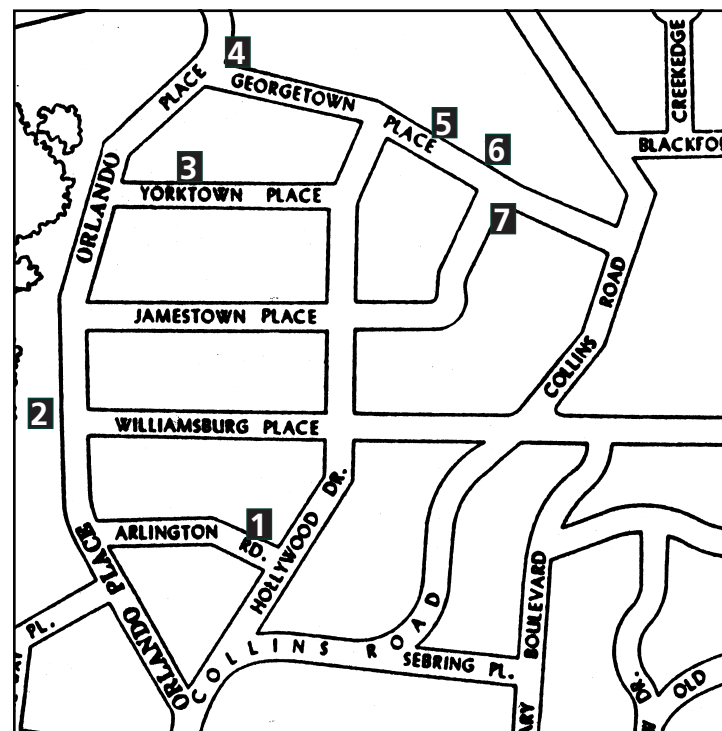
5. “Best growers” in your garden?

Everything; the soil is very fertile. We are chemical free and the results are prolific for all types of plants. Notice the gooseneck on the driveway bed, with 5 plants we started 5 years ago! Help yourself!

6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?

Family (mother, grandmother and aunt), Plum Line, Friday's, McTighe's, Brenkle's, Sorgel's, Trax, and just about anywhere!

## TOUR MAP



- |                          |                             |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. 1712 Arlington Road   | Martina Hahn                |
| 2. 2401 Orlando Place    | Anne Morton                 |
| 3. 1730 Yorktown Place   | Pat & Jerry Lowry           |
| 4. 2708 Orlando Place    | Weezie & Ed Walter          |
| 5. 1644 Georgetown Place | Nene & Bruce Dietrich       |
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| 7. 1639 Georgetown Place | Kathy & John McCann         |

## A NOTE FROM THE GARDEN CLUB

### A Note on Treatment of Common Names of Plants in this Publication:

Although official botanical names of plants and animals follow established capitalization conventions, there continues to be controversy about the correct way to write and capitalize common names. In this booklet, the Blackridge Garden Club has followed the general professional practice of expressing common names as common nouns (in lower case letters), even when the common name is the same as the genus name, as in rhododendron and Rhododendron. If a common name includes a proper noun or adjective, only that specific word is capitalized, as in Chinese lanterns. For verification, we have consulted a single source, *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th Edition.

### Blackridge Cookbooks:

Copies of the Blackridge Garden Club's popular community cookbook will be on sale at the stops on tonight's tour. You may purchase cookbooks for \$12.00 apiece from the volunteers at each site, or you may give them your name and contact information, if you would prefer to order a copy. Proceeds from the sale of the cookbook help support BGC community service projects.

### 5. "Best growers" in your garden?

Primrose, oregano, Chinese bellflower, begonias.

### 6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?

Many were Father's Day gifts from my children (stargazer, purple aster); tulip bulbs were from my grandfather, some of which are now over 50 years old; primrose plants and *P. grandiflorus* seeds came from my grandfather over 30 years ago. Other plants are from local garden centers.

### 7. Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?

Pat and Jerry

### 8. Any additional comments?

There are three trees in our backyard which are a little unusual for this area. Visitors may examine them and guess what they are.

Also, our home is a fairly accurate reproduction of the George Wythe house in Colonial Williamsburg. George Wythe was a patriot, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and taught law to Thomas Jefferson and John Marshall. He was the first professor of law at the College of William and Mary. The Wythe house was built in about 1755 and served as headquarters for General Washington during the British siege of Yorktown. In 1776, the house accommodated Virginia General Assembly delegate Thomas Jefferson and his family.

More information is available at the following website, as well as many others: <http://www.history.org/Almanack/places/hb/hbwythe.cfm>

## GARDEN #3

### 1730 YORKTOWN ROAD - PAT AND JERRY LOWRY

1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?

Thirty-six years.

2. Please describe your garden.

**Front:** A formal garden, in the Williamsburg manner, with azalea, rhododendron, forsythia, bridal wreath spirea, and weigela; a picket fence with roses, begonias, *Hypoestes phyllostachya* (polka-dot plant), and tulips in the spring. Also pots with New Guinea impatiens, gazania, and *Osteospermum* hybrids (Cape daisy).

**Rear:** Informal gardens including a semicircular bed with hosta, *Platycodon grandiflorus* (Chinese bellflower), purple aster, gladiolus, and painted daisy, as well as *H. phyllostachya*, begonias, and coleus; rock garden with hosta, *P. grandiflorus*, dwarf dahlia, amaryllis, stargazer, yellow primrose, oregano, and some annuals. Peonies and coleus grow along the driveway.

**Patio:** Hanging baskets and potted plants, primarily New Guinea impatiens, tuberous begonias, fibrous-rooted Begonias, *Osteospermum* hybrids, and Italian basil.

**Vegetable Garden:** Small fenced-in garden with four types of tomatoes, two types of bell peppers, and broccoli.

3. Please describe your “works in progress.”

The rock garden, in which the oregano and primrose are forever taking over.

4. Favorite plants in your garden?

*Platycodon grandiflorus* and the stargazer. The stargazer never fails to produce more than 20 large, fragrant flowers. The seeds for the bellflower were given to me by my grandfather over 30 years ago. The flower forms somewhat like a lantern and opens up into a beautiful blue star. Furthermore, this plant “minds its business” and doesn’t try to take over my gardens.

## GARDEN #1

### 1712 ARLINGTON ROAD - MARTINA HAHN

1. How long have you lived in Blackridge?

Nine years.

2. Please describe your garden.

Big, with lots of flowers. A work in progress and more of a cottage type garden.

3. Please describe your “works in progress.”

I would like to have a pond or water feature and would like to replace the shed with something nicer. I need to redo the area around the shed and I plan to have a fireplace in the garden.

4. Favorite plants in your garden?

Roses and hydrangea.

5. “Best growers” in your garden?

My veggies grow like crazy; I feed half the neighborhood every year!

6. Source for plants, shrubs, etc.?

Retailers, all kind of nurseries, and Simmons Farms for the veggies.

7. Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?

My fencing was done a long time ago — 9 years. Everything else I bought in different stores and at antique markets.

## GARDEN #2

### 2401 ORLANDO PLACE - ANNE MORTON

1. **How long have you lived in Blackridge?**

It is hard to believe, but I am approaching my nineteenth year living in Blackridge!

2. **Please describe your garden.**

My garden is simply a reflection of the things that I happen to run across and like for some reason. I am definitely more of a shrub and tree person, and continue to seek a lower maintenance garden which can still provide interest. I try to utilize flowering shrubs, but those that don't bloom usually make up for it with an interesting color or texture. I do my share of mixed containers for annual color, although I have actually cut back quite a bit on these this year.

3. **Please describe your "works in progress."**

It seems like every little area has something that still needs tweaking (or major reconstruction), but I think that is the nature of a garden anyway. My biggest "work in progress" the last few years is the lower half of my back yard. A microburst in June of 2004 took out a large oak tree which left a huge void. Additionally, it was increasingly difficult for me to drag a lawn mower down a steep set of steps to cut the grass. So I created another informal patio out of stone and am slowly filling in the area with shrubs that work with the different light that the area now receives.

4. **Favorite plants in your garden?**

It is hard to name only a few—I have many that I really have grown to love. I probably have more varieties of hydrangeas than anything, and my current favorites include oak leaf hydrangeas and a large climbing hydrangea by my patio. One rather unknown plant which I have really come to appreciate is a bottlebrush buckeye given to me by a friend—I had no idea what it was when I planted it years ago and I was just lucky that

I put it where I did. It has a natural "ramble" down my back hillside—it isn't the prettiest plant in the world, but it has a cool personality. Other favorites include a sweet bay magnolia, and two relative newcomers to my garden—a tri-color beech in the corner of my front yard, and Japanese forest grass which grows in shaded areas.

5. **"Best growers" in your garden?**

People always ask me about good ground covers for hillsides (since we all seem to have at least one hillside to deal with somewhere!) My vinca (Bowles) is downright aggressive, so it is certainly in the running for the "best grower" award. A lot of my plants are pretty well established now, so they are pretty much on auto pilot. Hostas, ferns, and shrub roses just keep plugging along...

6. **Source for plants, shrubs, etc.**

My job is in horticultural sales, so I get exposed to plants and shrubs by visiting garden centers in a number of states. Needless to say, I find it hard to resist bringing new stuff home all of the time.

7. **Who is responsible for any ironwork, fencing, or art in your garden?**

John Walter of Iron Eden did all of the ironwork, including trellises and gates. I would actually like to add more art or sculpture to my garden when I can.

8. **Any additional comments?**

It is amazing how many absolutely gorgeous secret gardens are lurking in back yards everywhere in Blackridge—just one more great thing about our neighborhood! Much thanks to the Blackridge Garden Club for allowing me to participate this year.