

# OPTIONAL GARDEN TOUR – Sunday, July 15, 2018

**DON & DEBBIE McCOLLUM**  
**600 HILLDALE AVENUE**  
**WASHINGTON, IL 61571**

Don and Debbie McCollum purchased their home in August 1991 and began replacing existing landscape the following year. Not knowing anything about shade gardening, a local nursery was contacted to find out what could be planted that would survive. This is when they also learned about the Central Illinois Hosta Society. And thus began the McCollum hosta adventure - and a new collection for Debbie. Every few years a new bed would be added with Don doing the major soil preparation and edging and Deb doing planting – teamwork at its best!

Debbie maintains she doesn't have an eye for design but a love of collections, she has created 12 theme gardens. When looking for new plants, either in person or online, Deb is more apt to look for the name of a shade plant that will go into one of her collections as opposed to the characteristics or popularity of the plant. Therefore, you will find a variety of hostas in her garden that maybe you wouldn't choose for your garden and that's okay. The theme gardens include an *Angel Garden*; *Cat & Mouse Garden*; *Children's Garden*; *Christmas Garden* which includes h. 'Santa Claus is Coming' and h. 'Hear Comes Santa Claus'; *Garden of Faith* which includes a few of my favorites – h. 'Amazing Grace', h. 'Faith', and h. 'Majesty'; *Ghost Garden* (her high school mascot is the "Grey Ghosts"), *Girls in the Garden*; *Heart Garden*, which features a new sport of 'Delta Pride' which Debbie discovered in 2017 and named 'Heart of Joy'; *Moon Garden*; *Patriotic Garden*; *Tea Party Garden*; and the *Garden of U.G.H.* (Unidentified Green Hostas.) Tour goers will discover each garden embellished with appropriately themed garden "art" bringing out the artistic touch of the gardener.

**KARL & SUE DION**  
**139 BARRINGTON LANE**  
**EAST PEORIA, IL 61611**

With the purchase of their property in July of 2010, Karl and Sue Dion began the slow process of moving plants, a large rock collection, the fish pond, various garden decorations, and sculptures from their former home. This consumed six months of their days!

The garden now consists of three main hosta areas, a fish pond, a secret garden adjoining the wooded area in the rear of the yard, a perennial bed with roses at the front of the property, an in-progress butterfly garden, hydrangeas, and various plantings along the edges of the woods. The gardens are filled the plants the Dion's enjoy and provide a space for them to display rocks collected in their various travels, vintage garden tools, and garden art and sculptures they have made or collected through the years. This garden represents the varied interests and sense of humor of the owners. Some visitors may recognize some of the whimsical pieces from garden tours at their former home in Morton.

**TERRY & PAT POERTNER  
135 BARRINGTON LANE  
EAST PEORIA, IL 61611**

This property was previously owned and maintained by CIHS member Donna Cothrell. The current owners, Terry and Pat Poertner, have lived at this address only about a year.

The house was built in 2002 and the landscaping began in the fall of 2003. Originally, 40 hostas were brought from Donna's previous house and planted in the back fence area. Over the years, the beds were expanded to hold over 350 different hosta varieties.

In 2005, the bed on the west side was added for full sun. Donna's new found love of conifers and ginkgo's adapted well here.

A new neighbor moved in on the east side in 2012 and after discovering her love of hostas, too, the yards were merged to form one big hosta bed.

Scattered throughout the landscaping you will find over a dozen different hydrangeas---mid May brings the blooming of the Red Horse Chestnut tree on the east corner of the house---a sight to behold!

Enjoy the yard; it has a little bit of everything

**GARY & GLORIA SMITH  
106 RAVINE  
MORTON, IL 61550**

Gary and Gloria Smith fell in love with the Asian influence in garden design after touring gardens in Hong Kong and China. They transitioned some of those ideas to their garden. So, you will find oriental style garden items, such as pagodas, lanterns, and statues, sprinkled throughout the garden. With lots of shade around the yard, it makes the perfect setting for a hosta garden. They also built oriental style trellises as a backdrop to the garden. The hosta garden is mixed with a variety of companion plants, some of which are native Illinois plants.

**PENNY WILKENDORF  
535 DEER LAKES DRIVE  
GOODFIELD, IL 61742**

Lake House Gardens, owned by Penny Wilkendorf, is situated in an old growth oak and Hickory stand. There is a small lake that the gardens back up to, with about an acre of lakefront that has flower beds all the way to the water. The property has several two hundred year old white and other type oaks along with four Hickory trees. Planting in and around the trees and lake offers a manicured, yet natural feel. Sunshine being at a premium, daylily and perennial beds are positioned where they receive the best sun.

Visitors will be amazed at the over 700 different cultivar of daylilies! Some of them Penny has hybridized herself. Penny has several already registered and many more are in the process. In addition to the daylilies, there are 100 plus varieties of Hosta. The lake bed consists of daffodils plus other spring bulbs, daylilies, several varieties of perennials, as well as, Siberian and Louisiana iris. Around the largest of the old oaks is a bed the Wilkendorf's call the fairy tree bed. It has a fairy garden with mini Hostas and other mini plants as well as all the necessities a band of fairies might need. If you are so inclined there is a rope swing. The grands won't mind you using it.

There are also several other beds that hold not only Hostas and daylilies but perennials, annuals, bulbs, shrubs, and evergreens. To obtain a little English garden/cottage garden look, Penny likes mixing the plants. With symmetry in mind, still a just "toss the seeds outlook," this gardener enjoys color in contrasts with the different greens of hostas partnered with the jewel-like sparkle that daylily blooms add to make an enchanting garden.

If you tire there is a large hammock in which you may lay and rest allowing the breeze to cool you. There is always cold lemonade waiting for guests.

The Wilkendorf's have lived here for three years now. There was no real landscaping done by previous owners. However, Penny could see the great potential in the property.....her husband says she always buys properties that just happen to have a house attached. The yard is and will always be a work in progress as they add, move and redecorate the gardens.