



Grand entry: The yard of Debora and John Kubik features a mix of garden art, antiques and, of course, flowers.

Starting from scratch

Humble beginnings lead to great beauty in Canton

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In 1990, Debora and John Kubik moved into their newly-built Canton home. There was no landscaping, no trees, not even soil. They jokingly referred to their yard as Desert Storm, as sand blew everywhere.

"Topsoil from the farmers' cornfields was stripped away by the developer and replaced with sand, allowing them to build during the winter," Debora Kubik said. They soon planted trees, then shrubs, then added flower beds.

Eleven years later, the Kubiks now are the owners of one of the gardens featured on the Canton Garden Walk.

"I work constantly in the yard," she said. She jokes and laughs about her gardening, too. "Sometimes I forget I have kids, until they say 'Mom, I'm hungry!'"

"I go back there and I forget everything else during the day. It's a hobby that takes over completely, but I enjoy it."

Sue Kluz, who chairs the Canton Garden Walk with Judy Bloomquist, said the Kubik yard is "very cool." Uniqueness and a variety of flowers highlight gardens on the walk, Kluz said, and guests appreciate and respect the hard work of a neat and colorful garden.

Still, it is often difficult to get yards on the garden walk. Garden hosts put pressure on themselves to make their yards as beautiful as possible, Kluz said.

"It's difficult to get someone who is willing, because they go on these garden walks and they never think their garden is good enough, when, of course, it's beautiful," Kluz said.

Impressive yards

Kluz said all six gardens on the walk are impressive, including Sally and Jim Jarvey's. The Jarvey home is hidden in the woods with massive beds. The yard features a walled perennial garden, rock garden and a shade garden with more than 75 varieties of hostas.

Varieties of gardens and homes make the tour unique. An established ranch home at Palmer and Lilley will be featured, and a new home at Beck and Cherry Hill also will be on the list.

While properties and home sizes range, visitors will appreciate the homeowners' efforts in cleaning up their yards and each individual



Garden gurus: Debora Kubik sits on a garden chair, while husband John enjoys the view of the yard.

garden's beauty.

"Everyone loves flowers," Kluz said.

Walks help boost membership in the Canton Garden Club. The group started with 25 members in 1996, is up to 60 today.

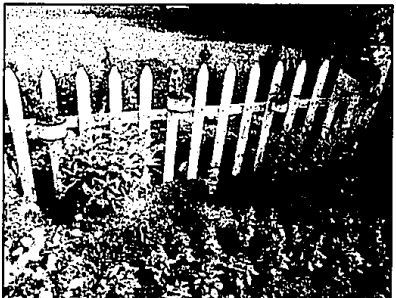
The Kubiks planted trees such as crimson king crabapples; weeping cherry, mulberry and beech; white star magnolia, red sugar maple, honey locust, ash, Bradford pear and pink flowering dogwood.

Next came the many shrubs, including hemlocks, arbovitae, blue spruce, boxwood, euonymus, forsythias, lilacs, hydrangeas, azaleas, weigela and viburnum.

Flower beds are added and enlarged every year. Among the perennials are astilbe, balloon flowers, bergamot, coralbelle, spiderwort, bell flower blazer star, gooseneck, blue lily turf, lambs ear, coreopsis, lily-of-the-valley, hollyhock, phlox, black-eyed Susan and tickseed. There's also Canterbury bells, sun drops, cone-flowers purple, obedient plants, loosestrife, sage, salvia, lavender, bleeding hearts, lupines and foxgloves. You won't forget the forget-me-nots, bachelors buttons, columbines and daylilies. Annuals are planted for added color. Ornamental grasses accent the beds.

The love of antiques spills into the yard in garden ornaments. Iron fences, metal gates, pumps, farm tools, mail boxes, wooden boxes, wire baskets, tin pails and a barn door are all flea market and yard sale finds or rescued from the trash.

Husband John put in a water garden and designs the flower



Fenced in: Flowers, shrubs and other plants make a wonderful border along this fence in the Kubik's yard.

beds. Debora takes care of the flowers.

That love of gardening brings a constant awareness of flowers, no matter where or what they are doing. One day while driving on Ford Road she noticed a construction crew was working on the new Kroger store at Canton Center Road. She noticed many irises in the field, which she believed was once owned by English Gardens.

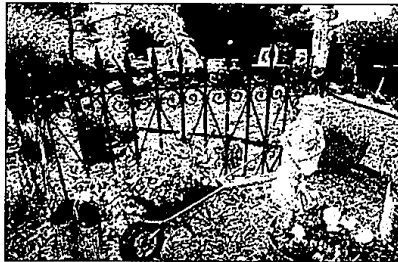
"I asked the (construction foreman) if I could dig up the irises and he said 'sure,' so I did," Debora said. "I embarrass my kids because we'll just stop when there are plants on Ford Road."

Walk in the yard and you'll see a huge arbor with an orange bugel vine, pond and massive flowers. Her husband made a path from bricks from old homes in Detroit. Another path features blue flagstone.

The Kubiks live on a court with five homes. The neighbors "just love" the yard, offering to help prepare it for the garden walk.

Jarveys create beauty

Sally Jarvey said variety is important in developing a garden. The Jarveys host a collection grew in the last few years in their



Artistic: A wheelbarrow, a statue and boots decorate a path of the Kubik's garden.

■ **Canton** - "Petals and Paths," 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday, July 14. Tickets \$8 in advance, \$7 day of walk, available at Keller and Stein, 42155 Michigan Ave.; Greys' Greenhouse, 882 Lilley; Vonessa's Flowers, 545 W. Ann Arbor Road, Mary's Farm Market, 47453 Ford Road. For information, call Judy Bloomquist at (734) 455-8283. No strollers, please.

■ **Garden City** - Walk hosted by the Garden City Garden Club, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, July 21. Tickets at Garden City Hall, 6000 Middlebelt; Rocky's Flower & Gift Shop, 32917 Ford Road, and Barton's Greenhouse, 6414 Meridian, Westland.

■ **Northville** - Seven gardens of Northville homes will be featured ranging from pristine and expansive to quaint countryside. The Gardens of Northville - Eighth Annual Garden Walk is scheduled 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 11. Tickets can be purchased for \$8 from Garden-views, 202 W. Main, and Morrison's Antiques, 105 E. Main. Patrons also can purchase tickets at the Mill Race Village, 100 Griswold, the day of the event. Tickets will not be sold at the homes the day of the event.

walled perennial section.

"It's like anything else," Jarvey said. "You try to bring variety into the garden. You really don't know their unique features until they've grown for about five years."

Husband Jim enjoys making wood furniture including a bench and two chairs as garden art, and birdhouses for the yard. The rocks and boulders also highlight the yard.

The garden features flowers and guests always ask where the Jarveys got the rocks. "Some of them already were on the property, others on farmers' fields. For a number of years, people just gave them away."

Her favorites include delphiniums, coneflowers, urtica, roses and light-flowering dogwood. Trees include conifers, Japanese maple and tri-colored beech.

The perennial garden features at least 100 perennials, including sweet peas, verbenas, delphiniums and Sylvias, highlighted in among an arbor in the middle of the garden.

"It's enjoyable to let other people see your garden because we spend a lot of time in it," Sally said.



Watered down: This pond adds another dimension to the yard, while a birdhouse sits nearby.

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