

# Garden variety

## Garden walk features many different garden styles

BY KEN ABRAMCZYK  
STAFF WRITER

Visit an old country garden in the city with a 100-year-old milk house. See a kitchen garden. Enjoy a Victorian shed, an angel carving and a pond. Of course, there's an abundance of perennials.

Garden lovers can view all this beauty at the eighth annual Flowers are Forever garden walk Tuesday, June 24. The walk is organized by the Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth.

The walk features six gardens, including variations on themes with waterfalls and the creative use of antique containers and garden decor, and another with vines, fountains and statuary.

The Trailwood Garden Club is a branch of the Woman's National Farm and Garden Association. Proceeds help the club's projects, including plantings in downtown Plymouth, bird-feeder and planting at West Trail Nursing Home, Plymouth Fall Festival Perennial Exchange, Christmas decorations at the Plymouth Historical Museum, Michigan 4-H, Detroit Agricultural Network and other activities.

Complimentary refreshments will be available, along with a raffle and a sale of garden-related items made by members. The Plymouth Community Arts Council will feature an art exhibition by Connie Lucas.

Georgia Randinitis of the Trailwoods Garden Club said the walk features small homes with yards and plants maintained by the homeowners, not planted by hired help.

"We tried to get gardens that are doable," Randinitis said. "These weren't planted by a nursery, but the people have managed to take care of it themselves."

One couple removed a 16-by-30-foot pool and created a garden in that area. Another installed a waterfall in a garden at a home near M-14. A pond and fountain were installed along with accents at another.

Steve and Pat Ribar's garden will be on the tour. Pat describes the garden as "organized chaos." Actually the yard is more of a natural setting.

"Flowers don't grow into natural rows," Pat said. "I'm more into the natural look."

The yard features perennials, with ferns and hostas in shaded areas. The garden contains accent pieces, such as a black kettle and wood carvings of a bear and an angel. Antique bricks create a path. A 120-year-old barn sits in the yard.

"It really looks like you're in the middle of the woods," Pat said. "From early spring to the first frost, the yard has coloration."

This year marks the third time for the Ribar to be on the tour. "It's fun," Pat said. "I'm really proud of not just my yard, but my whole surroundings."

"It's like another world in the middle of the city."

**What:** Flowers are Forever garden walk, presented by the Trailwood Garden Club of Plymouth  
**When:** Noon to 8 p.m.  
**Tuesday, June 24**  
**Tickets:** \$7 presale, \$8 the day of the tour. Available at Saxton's Garden Center, 587 W. Ann Arbor Trail; Backyard Birds, 627 S. Main St., and the Plymouth Community Arts Council, 774 N. Sheldon.  
See inside today's At Home for a listing of area garden walks.



A white dogwood graces the front entrance to the Ribar home.



Pat Ribar inspects a Clematis growing next to an old milk shed they brought onto their property to be used as a storage shed.





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This iris was in bloom last week.