

Cape Fear Garden Club Azalea Garden Tour[®]

2018 Gardens

1. Blair Both and Inza Walston

305 S. 5th Avenue

Our homeowners fell in love with their house and its welcoming front porch when they purchased it in 2004. As time passed, their passion turned to their garden. Simplicity was their design esthetic for the front, focusing on boxwoods backed by loropetalum with the addition of a crepe myrtle and Japanese maple for height. The fountain was a gift from Inza's mother and the four antique urns are



from Inza's grandmother adding interest and fond memories to the entrance. Through the double gates to the backyard, the feeling of simplicity continues with holly ferns planted thickly at the base of crepe myrtles. The back is organized into two distinct spaces separated by an arch and a beautiful gate made of African sapele. The unfinished wrought iron grape vine insert is the perfect touch. This area brings secluded privacy with two chairs

for lounging nestled into the shrubs next to a gurgling fountain. Blair and Inza love the intangible aspects of gardening but especially enjoy having friends on their deck, eating, drinking and conversing while looking down on their "backyard-becoming-a-garden".

2. New Hanover County Cape Fear Museum Park

814 Market Street

Cape Fear Museum Park complements the museum's exhibits while taking advantage of being an outdoor, living environment. The Park



is a playful space, but not a traditional playground. It uses the landscape as a teaching tool that encourages inquiry all along the park's paths. The elements of xeriscape design, rain gardens and smart storm-water management are highlighted and used as teaching tools for the park visitors. By introducing native plant species, the park has

created new habitat and food sources for birds, butterflies and other wildlife. Within a few weeks of plants being installed, the monarch butterflies arrived. Butterflies enjoy eating the swamp milkweed and caterpillars attach their chrysalis on the Virginia Spiderwort. Wandering through this interpretive park makes learning about the natural and cultural history of the Lower Cape Fear region easy and fun.

3. Susan Johnson

1510 Chestnut Street

This 1920s bungalow is thought, by the owner, to be a Sears Roebuck Catalog Home. Color is very important to Susan, and she uses it abundantly on her front door and in the vibrant pots placed on her front steps. The purple leaves of loropetalum glisten in the sun and add an additional spark to this area. Searching for unique touches is a passion and her garden reflects many of her unique finds. Susan's dogs are another passion and her backyard is designed with them in mind. All plants that could be trampled by exuberant pets are elevated in pots and troughs for protection and easy maintenance. The bright red table with its painted top and mismatched chairs provides a colorful dining venue that delights the senses. On cool evenings the flagstone terrace offers eclectic seating around a fire pit and a wonderful place to relax and enjoy a glass of wine or a cup of coffee.



4. Jill and Bo Webb

1516 Chestnut Street

The welcoming walkway, bordered by topiaries, draws your eye to this warm brick home. Jasmine gracefully frames the front door and porch lights with greenery and fragrance. Don't miss the brick risers of the steps, which are covered with meticulously pruned ficus. To the right side is a gorgeous colonnaded veranda that provides an elegant, shaded seating and dining area. Most of the garden was planted in the 1950's with dozens of camellias and azaleas that still remain. A stunning Japanese maple greets you as you step into the rear garden, while just beyond is



a charming small playhouse that was built for Bo's Grandmother in 1903, complete with slate roof. The large copper roof finial also came from her childhood home in Raleigh. Jill is an artist and a muralist whose creativity is abundant in her garden. Jill's design for the back patio used only plantings of black, silver, white and green. The play fort was based loosely on the design of a Japanese Tori gate and built for their kids by Bo and a friend. The Webb's love the water features in their garden, which have the bonus of helping drown out traffic noise. The water feature on the patio is a salvaged dishwashing sink from a restaurant, home to four happy fish.

5. Bergen-Carpender House

The Dames Inn

1519 Princess Street

This 1924 Prairie-style home was built for Walter Bergen, secretary to mercantile magnate Alexander Sprunt. Listed among the historic haunts of the Port City, the current reputation for this house comes from the Dame of Wilmington, Catharine Carpender. According to Pat, the current owner, the Dame is very much still a force to be reckoned with in the house and garden. The interiors of the house and the layout of the grounds are almost exactly as they were when the Dame was alive. She doesn't like change and she lets Pat know if she is unhappy. Delightful to look at, the garden invites you to enter and enjoy the heirloom plants, which are enhanced with whimsical touches. See how many you can find. Pat, using bricks excavated from the construction of the front porch, laid the brick pathway herself. Colorful trowels are used for botanical identification, historical information and fun facts. Bed and breakfast guests love to stroll and relax in this peaceful retreat.



6. Roberta and Earl Smith

111 Forest Hills Drive

Roberta and Earl fell in love with this Tudor Revival style house that was built in 1939. Since purchasing their home, they have tackled an extensive interior and exterior renovation of both their home and garden. Much of the existing plant material was removed, retaining only the mature shrubs and trees in the front and back. One of the Smith's goals is to develop a diverse ecosystem of native plants that attract birds and insects. The dining area leads to the relaxing patio surrounded by Japanese and shade gardens. The shade affords both a trial and a blessing as it provides a challenge to find plants that thrive and deliver beauty through every season. The small grassy area was planned specifically for their pets. On the left side of the driveway, do not miss the old, contorted wisteria trunk. This garden is a haven for Roberta and Earl, who enjoy sharing it with visiting family and friends.



7. Thomas L. Crittenden Jr.

1144 Princeton Drive

Tom and his late wife Pat, who was an avid gardener, created this beautiful landscape over the last 45 years. The azaleas are at least 80 years old and were a gift from Hargrove Bellamy from the Pleasant Oaks Plantation and the owners planted every one. Large crepe myrtles shade the front along with an incredible diversity of annuals, perennials and shrubs. The brick pathway leads you through more delightful plantings to the back. A jasmine covered pergola shades the rear terrace with its soothing fountain. Half of the north side is a rose and organic vegetable garden planted in raised beds. In the southwest rear of the backyard is a mound that was at one time a boiling pit for the turpentine and pinesap industries in the late 1800s. Charred wood still remains in the pit. This lovely garden is beautiful and a delight to visit.



8. Dax and Kelly Hawkins
1402 Country Club Road

This Tudor style house was built between 1928 and 1931 by Colonel Walker Taylor as a wedding present for his daughter Katherine and her fiancé John Bright Hill. As you enter through the arched door in the back wall you, will find yourself in a secret garden room that echoes the musical sound



of its large basin fountain. The view from here into the backyard highlights the swimming pool that resembles a formal English reflecting pond. The covered outdoor den gives an additional place to lounge with the warmth and comfort of a fire pit on cool days or nights. Exit through the gate that leads to the front with its crushed slate circular drive. The planting beds are full of color and bloom throughout the year. Rosemary, however, has a very special significance for these homeowners, reminding them of their daughters and their playtime outside rolling in the leaves. The girls always say that rosemary smells like home and wonderful emories.

9. The Wigglesworth Family
1411 Live Oak Parkway

The owners fell in love with their home, built in 1950 by a prominent Wilmington banker. When the Wigglesworth's moved in 17 years ago, their renovation plan was to preserve the beauty already there and add the classic southern garden style that they loved and



remembered from the Virginia gardens they knew from childhood. Boxwood hedges exemplify this style as they welcome you to the formal front lawn and entry. The backyard was designed for family and friends to relax and enjoy outdoor living with the pergola providing shade and privacy for grilling and dining. Note the accent color of Charleston Green on the shutters, the fence and the pergola, which adds another element of southern charm. The home occupies two lots, which gives the opportunity to keep a natural greenspace. A secret path winds through this area, where their son and the neighborhood children

love to play under the trees. This beautiful space has provided the perfect retreat that these homeowners were seeking.

10. Mike and Debbie Caulder

6206 Mallard Street

This is the second Azalea Garden Tour for the Caulder's. Their previous home of 42 years was on the Tour in 2013. They have opened their new garden this year but with a special focus. The couple created an Alzheimer Awareness Garden in honor of Mike's mother and all people afflicted with the disease and their caretakers. Visitors stroll through the garden and enjoy the peace and tranquility. The grandchildren have their own colorful space to enjoy the play set built by their father. The vegetable garden was an inspiration Debbie had when a neighbor put some fencing in the trash. She cut the posts down from their 4-foot height and created the whimsical area you see today. The Caulder's have put in many hours in the garden moving 120 roses and adding more. They have also added banana trees, statuary and almost a thousand bulbs to enhance the spring color. This energetic pair have completed all the design, planting and maintenance themselves. A true masterpiece and credit to a wonderful hardworking couple.



11. Airlie Gardens

300 Airlie Road

Open Saturday and Sunday only

Last admission at 5:30 each day

Airlie continues to amaze visitors with its breathtaking combination of formal gardens, wildlife, walking trails, sculptures, views of Bradley Creek, 10-acres of freshwater lakes, Minnie Evans Bottle Chapel, more than 100,000 azaleas and the grandeur of the magnificent 467-year-old Airlie Oak. A member of the North Carolina Birding Trail, Airlie Gardens' diverse ecosystems provide unique habitats for a variety of colorful wildlife.

