

Garden Walk Notes

Walk 1
4/21/07

Hi All-

Four of us gathered on this most magnificent first real spring day of the year! Because of the extreme cold and late snow, blooming has been delayed this year.

About all that was up to see at my house was a small display of crocus – my favorite, Ruby Giant (tommasinianus) – which are actually small but abundant, velvet purple w/ vibrant orange stamen'd blooms that seem to resist the squirrels best - coupled with some blue scilla and lovely early Kaufmannia tulips – 8" that open flat like stars, bright yellow centers with cream petals inside that blush to a lovely sunset color after a few days in the sun. The Ruby Giant and scilla come back year after year. The Kaufmannia – lasts a few years. The snowdrops had passed.



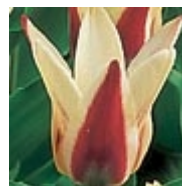
Galanthus elwesii
Snowdrops – 4"
Full shade to full sun
March



Crocus: Ruby Giant
4"
Part shade - Full Sun
March-April



Scilla
4"
Part shade - Full Sun
March-April



Tulip Kaufmannia
6-8"
Part to full sun
April



24-Ice Follies (P) 16"+
(Full sun-Part shade)
Early April



24-Dutch Master (W) 18"+
(Full sun-Part shade)
Early April

A handful of early daffodils were just starting to bloom: Unfortunately, an ill-placed snow plow took out a bunch of daffodils and hosta along the side of my drive. Small price to pay to avoid having to shovel that one awful snow-on-ice-on-snow storm.

We discussed that unless you put a strip barrier between lawn and pachysandra, the pachysandra will take over the lawn – even when you mow over emerging leaves. Everlasting summer is the new-ish variety of hydrangea that will bloom on both new stalks and old – providing a summer-long bloom. A real winner. If you're buying hydrangea – get it (there's a new pink version I have read)

News

Trish and Sherry have a new Shih Tzu pup, Toby, to keep Zach busy. Toni has a new bed started in her yard and actually bought full-priced daylilies from White Flower Farm. We all ooh-ed and aahed over Mildred's gorgeous new garage, her lovely stone work and her good fortune and determination to be able to get those hundreds of bulbs in the ground just before the January snow. And we took an unauthorized peek to check out the action behind Victoria and Patrick's.

We ran into Ray and Scott and Iliana – all of whom are coming to the Progressive dinner, as are we – everyone promised to officially RSVP to Tony and Randy (randy.anthony@prodigy.net). You should, too so they can figure out where to put everybody.

Iliana may have purchased a small home in WH Center (but her heart is here in the West End). She is asking for a recommendation of a good tree pruner, so if you have one, please let her (and the rest of us) know. She's at ayimx@hotmail.com.

Consultation Request for 95 Kenyon

Scott asked that we put him on the list for a consultation (or two) for his yard. As you may know, the 'real' previous owner, Mrs. Bush was an avid gardener. She and her husband lived in the house throughout the twenties (perhaps even earlier) and she was still in the house when I moved onto the block in 1973. So Scott has rampant perennials over grown with equally well-established weeds. He is now ready to deal with it, and very inclined to share his abundance of plant material with his neighbors.

He is not a gardener, and needs to be able to distinguish the chaff from the wheat. He's also considering adding a terrace area behind the house and needs to get the mounded dirt away from the siding on his garage – and solve a water drainage problem – so a small bucket loader rental may be involved. I told him I would give him a sketch for the yard, and that at least Mildred, Toni, Tony, Mark and if we can get him, Phil – all would be great resources to help him identify what perennials he has there.

I suggested that his best bet would be to temporarily claw out the existing plants from the bed into a holding area – prepare the bed and replant according to a plan. He has boxes of old records from the Bush's and he shared with me dozens of lists of handwritten flower varieties that Mrs. Bush kept over the years. They're all on the backs of old graduation invitations, garden calendars, etc. Reused just as my grandparents did – never throwing out that rubber band, ironing old wrapping paper and keeping bits of string– it might be just the thing you need someday. (This is the real reason for those deep garages – to keep old National Geographics - they certainly didn't have two cars.)

Everyone got more website business cards, and an 8.5" x 11" version of the West End Illustrated map (you can also download and print both from the website). And I demo-ed my garden journal – space for 5 years of notes for the first week of April, etc. Each year in a different colored ink. It works because I keep it (and it's pen) in a basket hanging on the back door. Every Sat AM I tour the "estate" (really just the driveway) and jot notes. I now have a two year record and can begin to see how this May first week compares with last May first week – what has survived my care, etc.

May 5 – Ron from Knox

The next Walk is for everyone who got a Knox tree last year. Ron will walk the block with us and inspect each tree, giving the owner advice on maintenance to keep our new trees strong and healthy. If you got an Elizabeth Park Centennial rose, Doug will pick them up at 10 am on the 5th, so the timing will be perfect.

Ron, Arborist from the Knox Parks Foundation
Sat. May 5
9 AM
Meet at 65

By the way, I got a chance to stop by the action on Sherman Street last week. They planted about 35 trees – I was a bit late to be very useful. They were all packed up and done by about 2PM. Many volunteers showed up – students from the Law School, Seminary and other neighbors from the West End. Looks beautiful! Another great bonding experience.

Website Back

Speaking of bonding – the website is back up. They were not able to tell me why there was a problem – so I bought a domain name and upgraded to a paid site. More room for stuff (we were almost out) and an easier URL for folks to find us. It hasn't completed registration yet, but the URL is: <http://www.kenyonstreethartford.org>

This new URL should be activated sometime next week. The old URL works, too, so your bookmarks are fine. The Hartford Preservation Alliance tells me there is room for all of us even if you didn't RSVP by their date (they just needed to plan for the food). The date for the award ceremony is Thurs, May 10 at 5:30 PM.

So mark your calendars for May 5th at 9:00 am for the tree Rx tour with Ron from Knox. RSVP to Tony and Randy for the Progressive Dinner. See you soon.

Carolyn