

# Garden Walk Notes

## Walk 4 8/12/06

Hi All-

Meet on my porch, this Saturday at 9 AM for the next garden walk (8/26). We will be going to Martha and Dave's garden first, and Victoria's for an advice session.

Mark Fisher and Luciano Valles joined us for our walk last time (by special request). Mark and Luciano live in one of the second empire houses on Sherman Street. If you see them out walking their rescue greyhounds, say 'Hi". Mark is a landscape architect at TO Design in New Britain. We will be seeing their house and yard on Sept 9th.

Below are the notes from last time.

We took a quick recap tour of my yard, Phil's and Toni's. Most of our focus was on Trish and Sherry's yard. Trish has come a long way from the bulldozer stage - the 'bones' are laid in beautiful stone steps, walks and a circular min-patio, and the lawn is rolled out. Trish is planning to convert the old laundry umbrella pole to a decorative wooden umbrella shading the mini-patio - it's already perfectly placed. They are also looking for a way to contain Zachary, their Shitzhu, and would like a decorative tree in the rear of the yard on the north side. Trish plans to place one or two of her sculptures in the yard. (We also got a preview of Trish's impressive studio.)

Here are some of the group's suggestions to solve the immediate problem: screening for the proposed hot tub area (and where to store the wood). Ideas included a range of possibilities:

- ?? Plant a small tree (Oxydendrum Arboreum or an small arborvitae (Emerald Green gets to 10-15' and 3-4' wide), etc.)
- ?? Phil's patio tree is a fastigate European hornbeam.
- ?? Build a curving trellis with gate, finished with a thin row of plant material (A Stewartia tree has a beautiful bark.)
- ?? Add extra privacy at the critical corner with a Victorian fan feature with vine.
- ?? Create a high lattice arbor overhead running from the back door across the back to the house edge. Plant with deciduous screening vine overhead (Sweet Autumn Clematis, etc.).
- ?? Split your 7 cords of wood in two deliveries - store most in areas on the sides of the garage-workshop, and keep immediate needs by the backdoor with a three-sided, roofed shed. Use some of the space to the north of the back door for immediate-needs wood as well.

Other thoughts:

- ?? Extend the grassy area to reach the workshop steps- just 3' or 4' wide.

- ?? Consider an electronic fence for Zachary to avoid having to pen-in your yard.
- ?? Plant a focal tree (and for screening) in the rear yard farther back than the rose of Sharon it will replace.
- ?? Leave some space on the south side of any screening trellis to take advantage of the sun.
- ?? Consider placing your sculpture with views from the house in mind, and add some small outdoor seating to view the piece from a distance.

Other miscellaneous points:

- ?? My trellis in the rear of the house comes from Gardener's Supply, but the site shows it's no longer available. Go to <http://www.gardeners.com/> and search 'trellis'. There are a couple that look good and are on sale - \$40-\$45.
- ?? Russel used Toni's trick of pruning old Mt. Laurel hard - in a sculptural fashion. It works well to provide light screening with a pretty view.
- ?? John Kehoe, the City Forester (722-6533) also has his own business.
- ?? Both Trish and Wayne Blean successfully jacked up their wood-floored garages to replace the footings. If you want Wayne's number, let me know.
- ?? Toni's hebeborus (three colors) came from Wayside.
- ?? The plant growing up Trish and Sherry's tree is euonymus.
- ?? The fungus that killed my rudebeckia was [sclerotinia](#). It completely killed three healthy plants in less than two weeks. Thrives in the very hot, humid conditions, and if overwatering. Look for a mushroom smell and white spider veins on the soil around the roots. Solution according to UConn Cooperative Extension Service: Remove the plants (don't compost), remove the mulch and 2" of soil (place the soil where nothing is growing. It will be usable in a few years.) Replace with fresh soil. Do not replant with rudebeckia for three years.
- ?? [UConn Cooperative Extension Service](#) - 570-9013 (for Hfd County)  
<http://www.CAES.state.ct.us/>  
The Extension Service is a great resource for us - they are at 1800 Asylum - just past St. Joe's. Go to the back and up the ramp. Bring your diseased plants in and they will identify the culprit and solution (it takes a bit of time for some things). They do soil testing, etc. There is also a wealth of info on their website. Here's the link to their plant pest handbook:  
<http://www.caes.state.ct.us/PlantPestHandbookFiles/pphIntroductory/pphfront.htm>

See you all next time.