

# Garden Walk Notes

## Walk 5 8/26/06

Hi All-

Meet on my porch, Saturday at 9 AM for the next garden walk (9/9). We will be going to Mark and Luciano's for a house tour and a tour of the garden. Walk over with us or meet us at 21 Sherman Street.

We went to Martha and Dave's garden first, and then to Victoria and Patrick's for an advice session.

To simplify matters, Dave kept Lucy, the dog, in the truck. Martha and Dave's back yard is an eclectic version of cottage style on a series of terraces. It begins with steps from the drive up to the deck, draped in a mature wisteria vine. Steps lead past the near beds and through a rose arbor to the upper yard with the vegetable garden and running lawn. We also got a peek of the renovations going on inside – bringing in the enclosed hexagonal porch into the living room space. It should be gorgeous when it's complete. See a list of some of the many plant materials in their yard (75).

Here is some of the advice we gave Victoria on maintenance and pruning:

- ?? Leggy, tall rhododendron in front:  
Fertilize. Prune in the spring immediately after bloom. Prune so some light can filter to the center.  
Prune into the shrub, just above a leaf cluster where you want to encourage multiple branches.
- ?? White Spruce – clump is a reversion to the species:  
Remove. Called a witch's broom.
- ?? The Japanese holly is a male and doesn't create berries.
- ?? Remove the poison ivy (which Phil pointed out). NOTE: Poison ivy is dropped by birds (which are immune) and also spread underground by runners. The oil can effect you without any visible ivy leaves, so wear gloves when working in the garden.
- ?? In the back, prune the burning bush to the size desired.
- ?? Eliminate the poke weed – it has extremely poisonous berries.
- ?? Don't remove any plant material until you clean out the area and prune. Then you can see what you have to work with.

Note:

- ?? Martha recommends the weekly Garden Lecture Series beginning in January in Elizabeth Park (\$5 a week). Many of us plan to participate this winter – more later on that.
- ?? To trim a privet hedge, trim 12-24" below where you want the top of the shrub to reach, and narrower than you wish the width. This encourages dense branching for most of the hedge. (You can radically prune a privet right down to the first branches.) Shape the sides with a slight slope so that the sun reaches the bottom to prevent a bald foundation.
- ?? Victoria recommends mums from Caldera Farms (sp?) in Simsbury- full and tightly budded. Across from Rosedale Farms.

See you all next time.