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TICKETS MAY ALSO BE PURCHASED AT:

The Georges River Land Trust Office,
on their website, or by phone.

Welcome

TO THE 2021

Georges River Land Trust

Gardens in the Watershed

We get to celebrate gardens together again! What a difference a year makes. Last summer we were all escaping into our own gardens. Yes, gardening relives stress and boredom, but when all the weeds are pulled there's only so much on-line garden shopping that can be done. What we want is company to share our passion for nature, right?

Luckily, this year you can be with other garden enthusiasts, exploring the weed-free gardens others have created. You will get to discover (safely, please) some of the most charming gardens in the watershed. Seven special gardens in the center of historic Thomaston are open to you. What could be nicer?

Well, for one thing, your ticket purchase also helps conserve the places you care about in this region. If you are not yet a member of the Georges River Land Trust, please stop by one of our tables and join. There's a world of trails and nature preserves to enjoy, and we'll even give you a map.

Also, please support the area businesses who have generously sponsored this event. They, along with a dedicated group of volunteers, make this garden tour possible.

Have a wonderful day!



Meg Rasmussen, Executive Director

P.S. Check out our new Member Discounts at georgesriver.org! It's our way of saying thank you for helping to conserve the places we all love.

TOUR TIPS

Lunch selections must be pre-ordered *no later than July 14th* via the enclosed order form.

Lunches will be available for pickup at Montpelier, The Knox Museum, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. on day of tour.

Porta-potties will be available at The Knox Museum (lunch site) and the Lyman-Morse staff parking lot at 84 Knox Street.

Bring along a handy road map and water bottle!

ADMISSION

\$27

in advance

\$30

day of tour

ADVANCE TICKETS FOR \$27
MAY BE PURCHASED ONLINE OR AT:

Belfast: Brambles

Camden: Planet Toys

Rockland: The Grasshopper Shop, Eastern Tire & Auto Service

Georges River Land Trust office by phone 207-594-5166

Rockport: Green Thumb, Plants Unlimited, Guini Ridge Farm

Tenants Harbor: Hedgerow

Tickets may also be purchased for \$30 at either of the two parking areas shown on the map—the Lyman Morse office parking lot at the bottom of Knox Street and the municipal parking lot behind the Thomaston Grocery Store parking lot.

Tickets will not be available at individual gardens.

207.594.5166

GeorgesRiver.org

GEORGES RIVER LAND TRUST



Featuring
SEVEN
fabulous
gardens
in Thomaston!

Gardens in the Watershed

30th Annual

SUNDAY • JULY 18
10–4 PM

RAIN OR SHINE

SPONSORED BY



GARDEN SITES

1 Gardens of Benie and Bill Colvin

This town garden focuses on perennials. The June show is over, but the echinacea, daisies, and rudbeckia are emerging. Hybrid winterberry can be found all over the yard along with native fern and rhododendrons. Below the driveway is a whimsical area—once weed choked and debris filled. The inviting firs and rock wall to your right invite both a cool retreat and fanciful play and are often home to fairy gardens. Between two drainage ditches, the owners have planted seven Cleveland flowering pears to form a living gazebo and installed a fort for their four grandchildren. Come and play!

2 Gardens of Greta Van Campen and Mike Silverstein

In 2017 we purchased the lovingly restored historic Overlock house on Knox Street. Anne Cox of Hedgerow worked with the previous owners to create the amazing gardens, now about 10 years old, that are the inspiration behind the new floral works Greta has been painting. Many small trees and bushes already on the property were saved and relocated during the landscaping.

The walk to the front door is lined with peonies that put on an incredible show in June, and gardens along the driveway include large beds of daisies and blue and pink hydrangeas next to the front porch. A small herb garden is near the kitchen door and patio. Lavender-lined steps take you between two Japanese maples, passing magnolia and small hydrangea trees, down to the lower drive and back gardens with more perennials including a variety of asters and daisies, Echinacea, phlox, poppies, peonies, Russian sage, pale blue delphiniums, as well as dahlias that we replant each spring. A climbing hydrangea below the barn studio windows has lily of the valley, Baptisia, and shade plants underneath. A large kousa dogwood and a chicken coop are beyond the yew hedge that borders the terrace gardens. Lilacs, rhododendrons, magnolias, hostas, and other bushes and trees make up the back-property border. Along the north side of the house are hostas, ferns, birch, and more small hydrangea trees.

This year, we will be creating space to grow vegetables. We are working hard to keep the gardens in shape and look forward to sharing them with you!

3 Gardens of Frances Hernandez

As a child I lived in Hong Kong and grew up in NYC so I longed to have a garden as an adult. In 1988, my husband and I purchased our house in Thomaston on 1/3 of an acre with no gardens except for a mess of thorny plants that took over most of the back yard. We dug the mess out and later learned they were blackberries.

Not knowing anything about gardening, we spent years peering into people's gardens evaluating layouts, seeking complementary plants and flowers, and learning what grows in our climate.

We created a garden the first year with one hydrangea tree. The following year: another hydrangea tree (not near the first one) and a bleeding heart.

We created the gardens very slowly, one garden at a time, through trial and error and planning, relocating, and replanting. We used mostly annuals when we started because of the variety of plants, colors, and the longevity of the blooms that invite birds, bees, and butterflies to feast. After a few years of planting just annuals we started to plug in a few perennials. Today, we have more perennials than annuals. Some were orphans from our neighbors and friends' gardens. We were given a small bag of dahlia over 25 years ago and don't mind the extra work required every spring and fall. We still plant them in a dedicated bed to create a privacy screen for the front deck facing the road. Extra tubers are shared with anyone who wants them.

This is not a professional garden. We created it for the fun of gardening and were surprised to be included in the tour. Please come, visit, and meander.

4 Gardens of Patricia Hubbard, Hilltop Gardens

Hilltop Gardens has been a work in progress for 15 years, and that is the glory of it. Every year it unfolds in its own exuberant way. For me, exuberance is what gardening is all about. What a joy it is to see big blowsy blossoms weighed down with pollinators, bobbing around in the breeze, and luscious foliage—in every imaginable shade of green—as only Maine green can be.

And there are surprises everywhere. I always welcome volunteers and every year new ones show up—the birds make sure of that. Great blue lobelia, elegant mullein, even pagoda dogwood, and always calendula—placing themselves where they please and blending in—or standing out! There are birds everywhere rummaging around through the garden, eating, looking for nesting material, arguing amongst themselves.

My job in all of this? I offer water and build glorious soil full of all sorts of yummy stuff to eat. And, with the help of lots of compost, bags and bags of homemade mulch, billions of tiny below-ground helpers, and various critters flying in or crawling through on their way to somewhere else, this tiny, one-third in-town acre teams with life. Welcome!

5 Gardens of Christina Banks

In late 1996, when I first arrived at this house, the garden consisted of rough grass, a sloping area filled with discarded material from the furnace (coal bits and other rubble), overgrown wild, invasive roses and barberry, and, of course, Thomaston bishop's weed. With no plan, and while renovating the house, I began working to sort through the overgrown shrubbery, discovering a blackberry patch with the fattest, sweetest blackberries I had ever tasted.

This find stirred memories of picking berries with my grandmother and was the inspiration to begin dreaming about a future garden.

The evolution was slow. Over the years, swales were laid on the slope, the blackberries were tamed into rows, two apple trees and a pear tree were planted, and beds were added. Using permaculture practices as a guide, the beds were finally completed about three years ago. Shade moves across the garden during the day so there is a mix of full sun and full shade areas, with much of the garden being in between.

A small garden house for resting sits at the back corner, covered with Bridal Veil clematis that blooms in August. Along one side of the little house is a bed of rosa rugosa with sage and ladies mantle and on another side is a long border of shade plants such as Mayapple, ferns, rogersia, actea, ligularia, aruncus, and bugbane. A shady area features lily of the valley, sweet woodruff, ligularia, and ferns. The sunnier spots contain fruit trees, herbs and vegetables, and mixed perennials.

6 Gardens of Diane Walden-Repaleya

Fourteen years ago, we settled on this property because we fell in love with the view—overlooking Thomaston harbor to the east and the St. George River to the west.

The view was so magnificent that it trumped the fact we were knowingly buying a steep slope rife with goutweed, barberry, bittersweet, creeping buttercup, jewelweed, knotweed, multiflora rose shrubs the size of VW campers, rugosa rose, sumac, and assorted thistles. I dubbed it The Big Bank and spent five years watching it from the safety of my deck before I laid a serious hand on it. My gardening partner spouse wisely hung up his secateurs and sails Penobscot Bay instead.

From our extensive gardens in Pennsylvania, we moved two species peonies and one black hellebore. I'm slowly working clockwise around the house, starting with the north kitchen walkway

LEGEND

- Garden 1 | 225 Main Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 2 | 54 Knox Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 3 | 25 Dunn Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 4 | 31 Dunn Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 5 | 35 Dunn Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 6 | 53 Wadsworth Street, THOMASTON
- Garden 7 | 66 Hyler Street, THOMASTON



Lunch site



Port-a-potty available

(shade), lacing in many of my favorite perennials & shrubs to replace the invasives.

Instant gratification is provided by an assortment of terra cotta pots on the deck, filled with a meadowesque assortment of annuals pleasing to pollinators. I'm a big fan of rich jewel tones, saturated screaming orange, and gorgeous foliage.

Most of my specimens are labelled. I collect seed for sowing annually and giving away to gardening pals.

In 2006 I also first visited Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and started volunteering there immediately upon our arrival in April. I joined the staff in 2009 and am currently responsible for the special event florals, maintaining the Burpee Kitchen Garden, and lecturing about my passion, slow flowers.

7 Gardens of Nancy Baker

In 2008, I moved into my Thomaston Victorian home, built in 1892.

The garden was limited but had wonderful mature rhododendrons, sculptural mugo pines, enormous white and purple lilac, variegated hosta that wrapped the granite foundation, and lovely old linden trees. Over the years I've established a few areas with rotating blooms of a variety of lily, iris, tulips, climbing hydrangea, daisies, groundcovers, peonies, perennials, and annuals that catch my eye. I am a delighted novice prepared to experiment and these

gardens are in a constant state of change to correct my mistakes, rescue plants that are not thriving, and building on the additions that work. If there is a plan, it's an evolving one!

The house is oriented above the St. George River—the heart and history of this town—and my first project removed and limbed trees that were blocking the view. I renovated a woodshed attached to the original house and added a deck to open the house to the river and meadow that's below it.

Over the years I've added what I love. I planted peonies and rosa rugosa in a sloped bed with wonderful southern exposure. A perennial bed that lines an old brick walkway is loaded with tulips in the fall for a wonderful spring showing. I planted a delicate fruit tree in the corner of my small lot, a dramatic smoke bush, and a staggered screen of giant green arborvitae that augment an old stand of hemlocks. Yew line the front porch of the house in a year-round deep green.

Thoughtful, green-thumbed friends dividing their perennials have offered the extras to me. I treasure that many of the flowering plants in the garden are here now because of this generous neighborhood exchange.

SPEAKER AT 1:30PM

ALLYSSA GREGORY, District Forester for the Maine Forest Service, will speak at Montpelier at 1:30 p.m. Her talk will address forest management, sequestration, and biodiversity.

GARDENS IN THE WATERSHED TOUR 2021 MAP

