

# Sneak peek at The Friendly Garden Club's 20th annual summer garden walk

By SALLY D. KETCHUM  
Special to the Record-Eagle

Seventy-nine is not the usual age to encourage walking in the hills, but that is exactly what The Friendly Garden Club of Traverse City plans to do July 18, from noon to 8 p.m., rain or shine.

Organized nearly eight decades ago in 1923 and federated in 1931, the club will host its 20th Anniversary Garden Walk this year. Tickets

go on sale in June at most local garden centers, the Traverse City Visitors Center and from Friendly Garden Club members.

"Gardening in the hills" is the theme this year and seven selected gardens located in Traverse City's Holiday Hills area will display many sites that, according to club member Terry Harding, "present unique solutions to landscaping problems such as hilly sites, small or large yards, or limited sun exposure."

The purpose of the walks, according to long-time member Edna Rosenfield, is to showcase the "know-how" of gardening in specific areas.

"Through the years, the gardens have continued to be outstandingly beautiful and educational with features such as ponds, container gardening, and use of decorative ornaments being added in more recent years," said Rosenfield.

Besides sponsoring one of the area's favorite summer events, mem-

bers of The Friendly Garden Club are committed to advocating the knowledge and love of gardening.

Among the seven gardens on display are those by Sally Frye, an area teacher; Bobbie Shutler, who displays an "open air garden;" and artist Carole Donaldson, with an unusual rustic woodland garden.

All the tour's gardens have distinctive features. In Donaldson's, wandering paths are lined by hostas, lilies and grasses. Accents of hollies, rhododendrons and boxwood form various beds.

"Tuberous begonias in pots sitting in twig plant stands and hanging from trees are used for color," said Donaldson.

Garden furniture and ornamentation is in keeping with the spirit of Donaldson's entire garden. Containers of different sizes with bright colored annuals are on the decks and rustic wood is used extensively in garden furniture, fences and plant stands.

Donaldson has not forgotten that viewing is one of pleasures of gardening and she places benches in settings that are both beautiful and appropriate for viewing, such as a garden bench under an arbor. Several handmade birdhouses, some made by family members, encourage wild life. Following major principles of garden design which leads the eye from one focal point to another, a visitor on the back deck can view a small water fountain near a raised garden topped by a rock garden.

Besides the popular Walk, the Friendly Garden Club has promoted and participated in Arbor Day plantings, provided scholarship awards to teachers for Environmental School, donated memorial books to the Traverse Area District Library, participated in civic improvement projects such as planting the Open Space's logo garden and Senior Center's gardens.

In addition, the club sponsors awards to Traverse City businesses, participates in the Children's Garden and Learning Garden, is active in the restoration of the Arboretum and plans to landscape the new Grand Traverse Heritage Center.

Rosenfield added that the club has also sponsored scholarships to Traverse Bay Area Intermediate School District horticultural students and encouraged other garden clubs to have walks to enable them to accomplish what



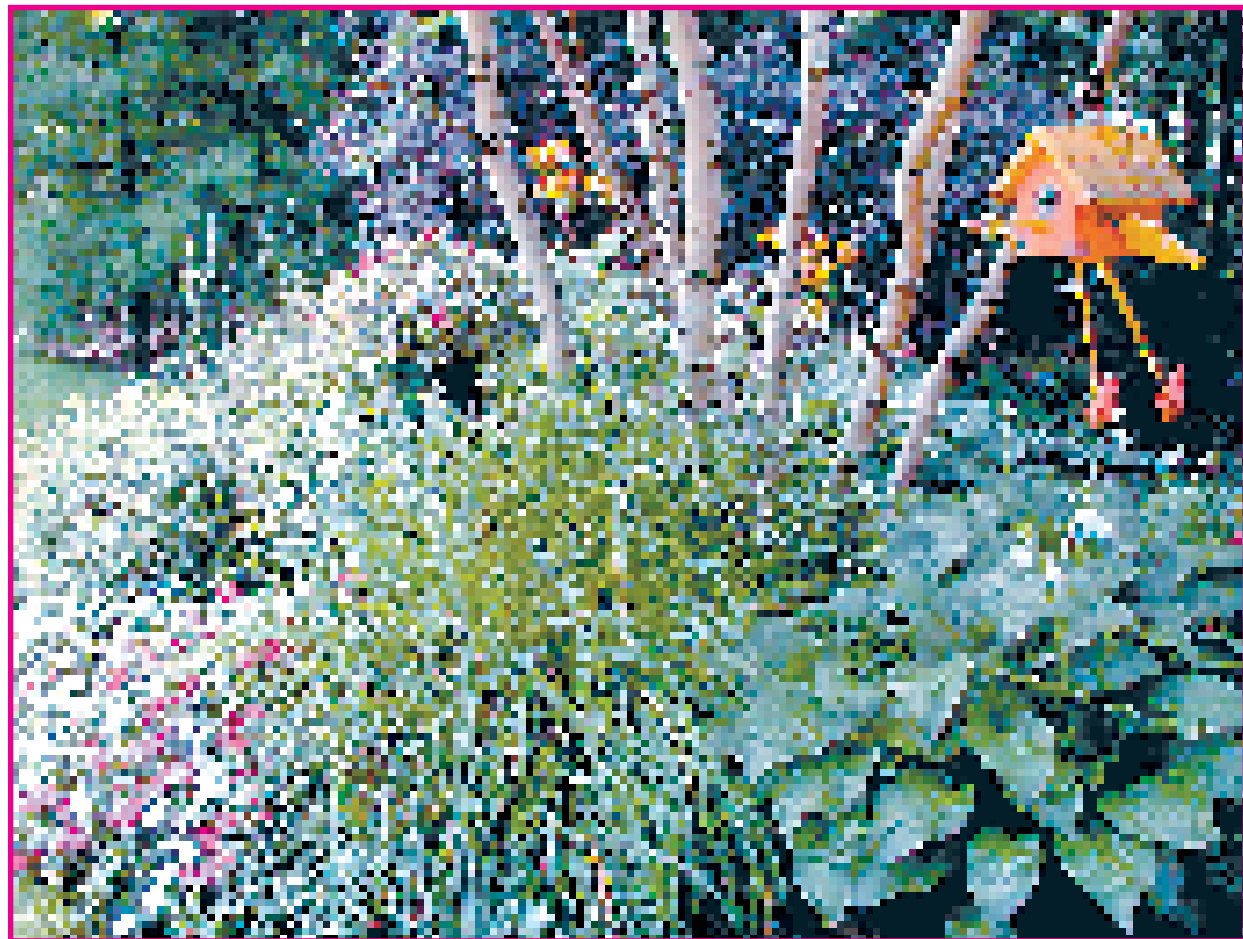
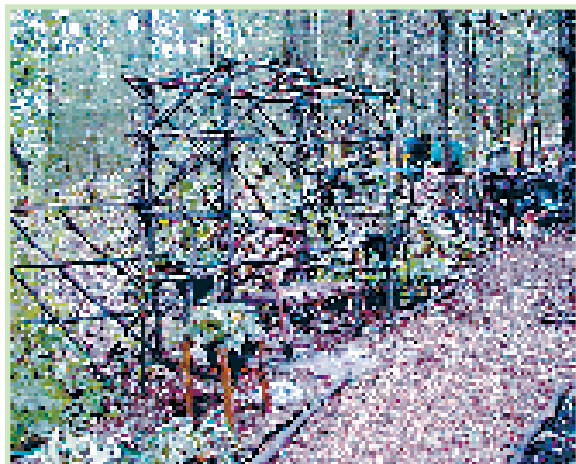
Photos courtesy of The Friendly Garden Club

The Friendly Garden Club has done. "The day of the walk is a day of pleasure for our visitors who have increased in numbers from the first walk to the present," said Rosenfield. "Pleasures of longtime gardening might be the dubious distinction of 'dirty fingernails' but we can't deny that it is the nation's number one hobby."

Ticket prices are \$5 in advance and \$7 the day of the walk. For more details, call Garden Walk chair Cathy Hamilton at 946-1015.

Sally D. Ketchum is a local freelance writer and avid gardener.

These are some of the gardens that will be on display at this year's Summer Garden Walk, July 18, rain or shine. The gardens on this year's tour are in Traverse City's Holiday Hills area.



## Friends of the Kingsley Public Library host first Spring Garden Walkabout fund-raiser

Just as Traverse City's Friendly Garden Club's garden walk has become a tradition, the Friends of the Kings-

ley Public Library hope to duplicate that success with their own Spring Garden Walkabout.

The debut walkabout will be on

June 20, from 2 to 8 p.m., with five Kingsley area gardens on the tour.

And like the Traverse City club's walk, the Kingsley walkabout is for a good cause: proceeds will be used for a new library.

The gardens on display will be at the homes of Cindy Bartnick, Flossie Bauer, Carrie Armstrong, Dorothy Westrate and daughter Julie, and Helen Brother.

Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 the day of the tour.

Ticket outlets include: Dobies Landscaping and Garden, Garden Goods, Helen's Beauty Boutique, Kingsley Floral, Lark

Lawn & Garden, Inc., Northwestern Bank, Village Garden, Wallins Farm Greenhouse and Nursery, the Kingsley Public Library, Traverse Area Public Library, East Bay Branch Library, Interlochen Public Library and Friends of the Kingsley Public Library members.

For further details, contact Jennie Lewis at 263-7245 or the Kingsley Public Library at 263-5484.



Helen Brothers' gardens is one of the stops on the first Friends of the Kingsley Public Library Spring Garden Walkabout, which takes place June 20, rain or shine, with proceeds to be used toward a new library.

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