



# FLOWER POWER WEEKEND



2024 ANNUAL HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR • JUNE 2



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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Ned Wolf Park** | pg. 5

7018 McCallum Street, West Mt. Airy

**Green Garden** | pg. 6

113 Bethlehem Pike, Chestnut Hill

**Clark-Aguilar Garden** | pg. 7

435 East Sedgwick Street, East Mt. Airy

**Bates Garden** | pg. 8

7007 Cresheim Road, West Mt. Airy

**Mt. Airy Eco Lab** | pg. 9

Carpenter Lane Station, West Mt. Airy  
*A Project of West Mt. Airy Neighbors (WMAN)*

**Coan Garden** | pg. 10

6812 Quincy Street, West Mt. Airy

**Wagner-Araujo Garden** | pg. 11

6638 Greene Street, West Mt. Airy

**Map** | pg. 12-13

**Maus Garden** | pg. 14

652 West Phil Ellena Street, West Mt. Airy

**Ames Garden** | pg. 15

6314 Wissahickon Avenue, Germantown

**Donover Garden** | pg. 16

6129 Wayne Avenue, Germantown

**Thank You!** | pg. 17

**About MALT** | pg. 19

**Sponsors** | pg. 20-22

## WELCOME

The gardens that Mt. Airy Learning Tree presents on our Annual Hidden Gardens Tour have never actually been hidden. Private? Yes. Secluded? Indeed. But gardeners are sharers by nature; these natural wonders are never truly tucked away.

At MALT we believe in Neighbors Teaching Neighbors; everyone has something to learn, and everyone has something to teach. What better community-building than gardening? Gardening is mindfulness, sustainability, exercise, food, crafts, and history, all in one. Through the Hidden Gardens Tour, we like to think we are cultivating community through the sharing and cultivating of these special spaces. Talk to each other today: share stories, trade plants, offer ideas, brainstorm solutions.

That's why we keep producing the Hidden Gardens Tour — we are a community of sharers. We are one big garden.

Thank you for taking this journey with us!



*One of the many beauties of the HGT is that it is self-paced and self-guided. You may find that the sequence we've listed can abbreviate travel time and save energy, but think of the sequence as circular, not linear. Starting out, say, at the second, third, or sixth listed garden can reduce congestion and enhance your enjoyment.*





## **NED WOLF PARK**

Southwest Corner, McCallum and West Ellet Streets

Once again, Mt. Airy Learning Tree is privileged to present Ned Wolf Park as this year's point of entry to our Hidden Garden Tour. Seventeen years ago, a Friends group adopted this then-neglected, half-century old "pocket park" and began its gradual rehabilitation. Today it's a cherished community oasis and gathering place funded and maintained by neighbors, many of whose home gardens reflect the same creative energies and care that have made this park a small botanic marvel.

A pleasing array of drought-tolerant shrubs, perennials and flowering plants prepares the eye for the rich ornamental displays you will encounter on your Tour. Plant lists and maps at both ends of the path that winds through the park can serve as a primer to inspire creativity, encourage notions of sustainability, and illustrate concepts of landscape design.

**Enjoy a guided tour of the park between 11:00 am and 1:00 pm  
by Susie Bash and Margie Dubrow  
members of the Friends of Ned Wolf Park.**

*Please park on McCallum Street or West Ellet Street*



## GREEN GARDEN

113 Bethlehem Pike, Chestnut Hill

Beth and Marshall Green have the best of both the city and the country at 113 Bethlehem Pike. The Chestnut Hill East train station is directly across the street and the shops are steps away. Walk down a well-planted slate walkway on the left side of the house, and suddenly you are in the country. A large comfortable patio leads to a gently curving path through the long sloping yard, profuse with trees, flowers, and foliage. When the Greens moved in eight years ago, the backyard was a grassy slope. With patience, experimentation with shade and sunlight, and trial and error, the owners have transformed their yard into a lush garden that includes weeping redbuds, miniature ginkgoes, European Beech trees, blue spruce bushes, hostas, and pollinator flowers and shrubs.

Complementing the diverse plantings are Beth's collection of whimsical and unique garden artifacts plus a unique water feature. You might see flowers growing out of a tuba, a little red wagon filled with succulents, a blue mosaic, insect houses, or wooden animal sculptures. Generous two-level Victorian porches at the back of the house preside over the garden.

*Please park on Bethlehem Pike, Chestnut Hill Avenue,  
or in the SEPTA Lot at the Chestnut Hill East Station*



### **CLARK-AGUILAR GARDEN**

435 East Sedgwick Street, East Mt. Airy

Forty years ago, when Conna Clark and Ed Aguilar moved into 435 East Sedgwick, the yard was nothing but grass and a few ornamental trees at the end of their lifespan. The front of the house now has two lovely “Wedding Cake” dogwoods and a grassy front bank composed of many species. (The sea oats are especially wonderful in the fall.)

Walk up a few steps and follow a path around the right shady side of the house. You are suddenly in a bright green grass yard bordered by a circle of seasonal flowers and perennial beds. There are large trees around you, but this space feels open. Turn around and see the climbing “New Dawn” roses almost to the top of their trellis framing the covered back porch.

The gardens have evolved with lots of trial and error from the original design. Conna was inspired to develop a curved side garden bed, where peonies, Magpie Columbine, and mature shrubs hide a nearby fence. The focus is now on lawn reduction, native plants, and ease of maintenance. Conna welcomes you and is happy to answer questions!

*Please park on East Sedgwick Street*



### **BATES GARDEN**

7007 Cresheim Road, West Mt. Airy

Welcome to 7007 Cresheim Road where you see a profusion of foliage and bright flowers in the sunny front yard of this 1920s Mt. Airy 3-story twin. Tree peonies garland the front porch. Tall phlox, NY ironweed, bright dahlias and salvia complete the front yard planted to attract hummingbirds and butterflies. Bletilla (Chinese ground orchid, lilies, and anemone beautify the side yard which is also pollinator-friendly. For over 30 years, Carol Bates has enjoyed the evolution of her garden and as a photographer, has captured wonderful flower pictures.

The shady backyard reveals itself in gentle curves, with clumps of hosta, fern, hellebore, tiarella, heuchera, and asarum. Small trees and shrubs are planted to help make the backyard a vista from the kitchen & back porch throughout the seasons. This backyard is astonishingly deep, but you do not realize this at first due to the curving design and the open access to the neighbor's yard to the right, making both backyards seem even bigger. Tucked away in the far back are areas for many fallen branches, dead leaves, and compost. Ask Carol about her battles with bishop's weed!

*Please park on Cresheim Road or West Sedgwick Street*

*Photo by Carol Bates*







**MT. AIRY ECO LAB**  
**A PROJECT OF WEST MT. AIRY NEIGHBORS**  
 Carpenter Lane Station, West Mt. Airy

For years this 3/4 of an acre sat neglected, just steps from Carpenter Lane Train Station on the Chestnut Hill West Regional Rail Line. Cars were often parked here late into the night, and it became a dumping ground for rusty metal and old tires. Covered in invasives and years of railroad debris, over the past year it has been transformed! Led by West Mt. Airy Neighbors, and in partnership with SEPTA, the National Park Service River Trails Conservation Assistance program, and dozens of neighbors, we're working towards becoming a hub of ecological urban regeneration —utilizing the land to foster community engagement, education, biodiversity, and sustainable agro-ecology practice. Together we've created a space where neighbors can meditate under the shade of our central Linden tree, or swing from it's branches! So whether you're visiting for relaxation, active fun, or to get your hands dirty, we're thrilled you're here!



*Please park in the back lot next to the Eco Lab, entrance is off of Carpenter Lane*



### COAN GARDEN

6812 Quincy Street, West Mt. Airy

When Christopher Coan settled into his ground-floor apartment at 6812 Quincy St. eight years ago, he found a typical grassy front yard, mirroring its neighboring twins. With the owner's approval, he has transformed the space into a thriving raised-bed garden. As he toiled in the garden, tending to his plants, he began to forge connections with his neighbors, inviting them to join him in cultivating the garden. Together, they enjoy the rich rewards of their shared harvest. Inspired by Christopher's initiative, the front bank of his next-door neighbor's yard became a dedicated herb garden.

Christopher expanded his garden further, adding raised beds along the sidewalk and additional boxes to increase growing space. The garden is spectacular, as summer matures, boasting towering sunflowers and perennials that attract and nourish local pollinators. The fenced-in area bursts with edible plants, encircled by a buzzing halo of pollinators. A cozy fire pit, bird feeders, and a compost pile complete the scene in the backyard, providing both leisure and nourishment. This transformation is a testament to what can be achieved with modest means and a small, concentrated space, showcasing the beauty and productivity that can arise from a shared community endeavor.



*Please park on Quincy Street or Carpenter Lane*



### **WAGNER-ARAUJO GARDEN**

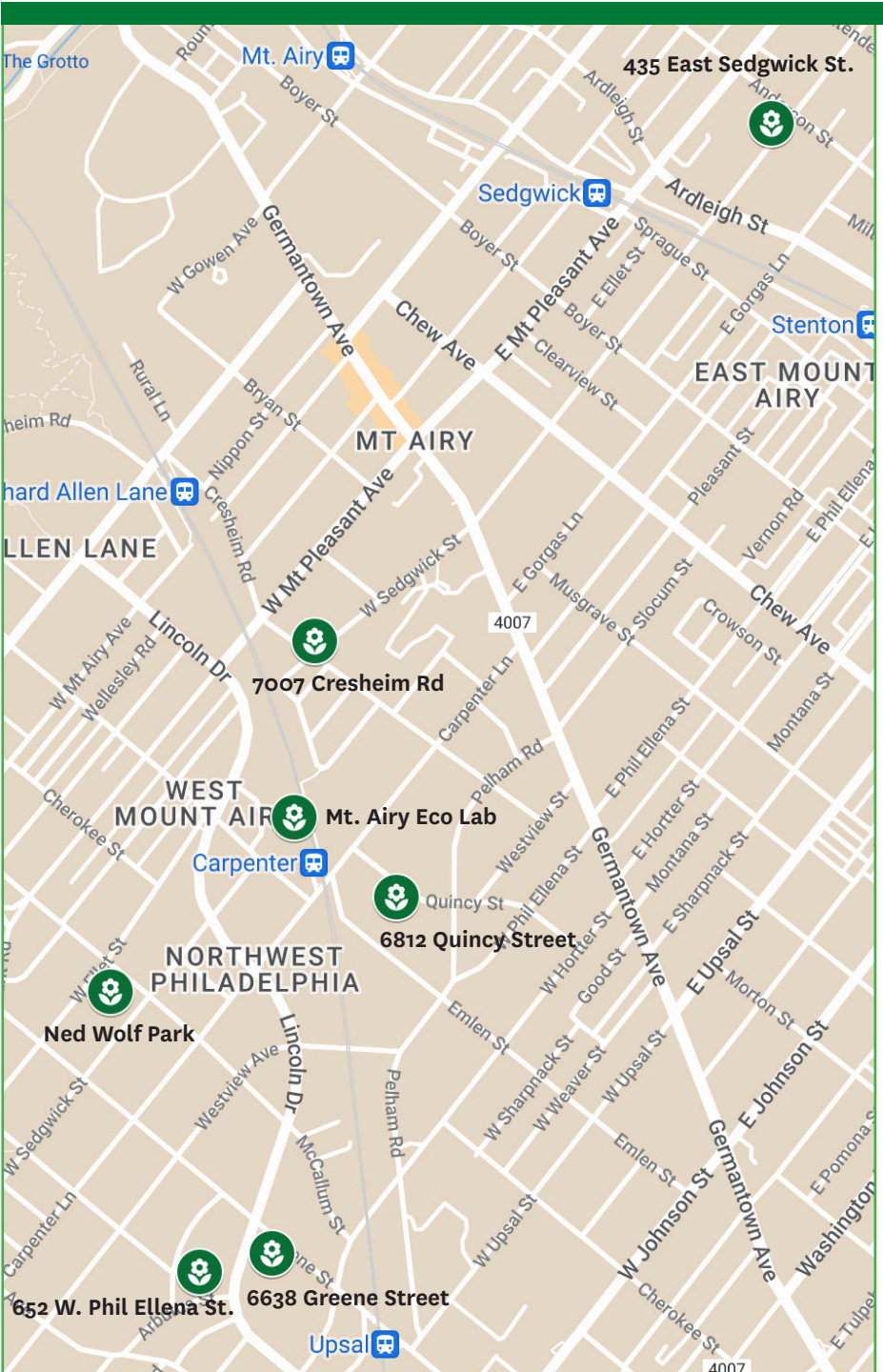
6638 Greene Street, West Mt. Airy

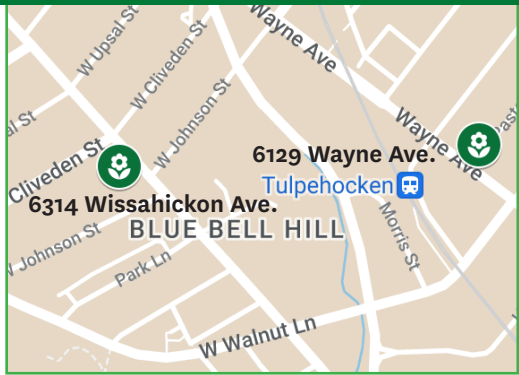
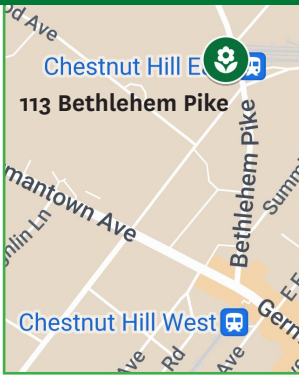
Just up the hill from Lincoln Drive is 6638 Greene Street, an imposing brick single built around the turn of the century. Walk up a long driveway to enter the backyard. Stephen Wagner and his partner have only owned the house for a few years, and they have accomplished a lot! The yard slopes down from the back of the house to the fishpond. First up was to dredge the silted-over fishpond – a very big job!

The gardeners took the large rocks previously scattered through the yard and used them to enhance the fishpond and create a waterfall. Rocks are also used to define the edges of the garden beds.

The yard has a large maple and a weeping cherry tree complemented by hostas, ferns, and columbine. The property also has some interesting items salvaged from an old school. Check out the blackboards on the garage doors and a simple but elegant green metal fence that runs the length of the driveway. The front bank of the house contains fuzzy deutzia, blue-eyed grass, golden ragwort, and toad lilies.

*Please park on Greene Street between Hortter Street and Lincoln Drive*





**Ned Wolf Park** | pg. 5

7018 McCallum Street. West Mt. Airy



**Green Garden** | pg. 6

113 Bethlehem Pike, Chestnut Hill



**Clark-Aguilar Garden** | pg. 7

435 East Sedgwick Street, East Mt. Airy



**Bates Garden** | pg. 8

7007 Cresheim Road, West Mt. Airy



**Mt. Airy Eco Lab/WMAN** | pg. 9

Carpenter Lane Station, West Mt. Airy



**Coan Garden** | pg. 10

6812 Quincy Street, West Mt. Airy



**Wagner-Araujo Garden** | pg. 11

6638 Greene Street, West Mt. Airy



**Maus Garden** | pg. 14

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**Ames Garden** | pg. 15

6314 Wissahickon Avenue, Germantown



**Donover Garden** | pg. 16

6129 Wayne Avenue, Germantown



### **MAUS GARDEN**

652 West Phil Ellena Street, West Mt. Airy

Tucked away just off Lincoln Drive is 652 West Phil Ellena Street, a 1920's single home with two magnificent Yew trees in the front yard. Walk down the driveway to the right of the house to a garden gate entrance into the bi-level backyard. Here you find a charming seating area with the soothing sound of trickling water accompanying a small fish pool. This level also features a small brick circle with a mix of herbs, annuals, and perennials.

Spacious natural stone steps with a stunning hand railing of several long yew branches lead down the lower "forest" level of the yard. The trees in the garden include a scarlet oak, a dogwood, a weeping cherry, and two white pines. The trees and shade-loving plants provide a privacy screen between the neighboring houses. There is another peaceful seating area surrounded by Brunnera, bleeding heart, hellebores, epimediums, gingers, and foam flower. Various unique metal sculptures are on both levels of the garden. Forty-plus years of love have gone into this garden and house. The gardener, Kate Maus, looks forward to welcoming you and answering your questions.

*Please park on West Phil Ellena Street*

*Photo by Kate Maus*





## AMES GARDEN

6314 Wissahickon Avenue, Germantown

Brian Ames owns Wissahickon Landscape Design and lives and works at 6314 Wissahickon Ave, a 1920s single home on a large property. When he moved in five years ago, he converted the large garage into his business office. He has gradually transformed the grassy lawns and formal garden into a home for native plants and pollinators. Two large, curved garden areas surround the center lawn and contain flowering seasonal perennials and small trees. The owner is an advocate of the “forest floor technique” of yard care using all natural and organic materials.

At the back, the old brick patio extends to an under-construction outdoor kitchen complete with a pizza oven. A large flagstone slab provides a serving table. A raw white oak grape arbor leads to an irregular slate walkway, with edgeworthia, a collection of climbing roses, and a cut back paulownia with huge leaves. A large grassy area serves as a soccer field for Brian’s 8 and 11-year-old sons. These lucky kids also have a two-room tree house. The other side of the house contains a Japanese garden complete with a fishpond and a diverse collection of Bonsai trees.

*Please park on Wissahickon Avenue or Cliveden Street.*

*Note: Docents will greet attendees at this garden starting at 11:00 am.  
The gardener will not arrive until 1:30 pm due to a prior commitment.*

*Photo by Brian Ames*



## DONOVER GARDEN

6129 Wayne Avenue, Germantown

6129 Wayne is set back from the street with large trees providing shade to the house. On the side, the meadow garden extends along a quiet city street. The front yard is both ornamental and edible, as fruit trees and blueberries are planted amongst flowering shrubs and perennials. Fruiting cherry trees lead into the backyard. A woodland shade garden greets guests entering the back of the garden from Pastorius. In the backyard a terrace wall was built separating an upper grassy play area and four raised beds from the lower terrace plantings of spring bulbs and flowers for cutting. Near the garage there is a fruiting fig and productive pomegranate. Tucked away from the street is a fishpond complementing a charming patio and eating area.

Sandra has been working with Laureen Griffin of Garden InSites to plan and transform her outdoor spaces; from shade gardens to pollinator to edibles that now seamlessly integrate with the manmade pond and terracing.

*There is street parking on Wayne Avenue. Enter the garden from either Pastorius Street or Wayne Avenue. There are a few handicap access spaces if needed, please ask docent upon arrival to the back gate.*

*Photo by Laureen Griffin of Garden InSites*





# THANK YOU!

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## Our Raffle Donors

Maryfran Cardamone for donating her botanical inspired artwork.  
Visit her gallery at [www.mfcardamone.com](http://www.mfcardamone.com).

Courtney Jewell of Jewells in Bloom for donating a 4-week flower share:  
Visit her site at [www.jewellsinbloom.com](http://www.jewellsinbloom.com).

Author Nicole Juday and Photograprer Rob Cardillo for donating a signed copy of their book, *Private Gardens of Philadelphia*.

## Secret Garden Party

Thank you to Courtney Jewell, owner of Jewells in Bloom, for hosting our party at her beautiful flower farm in East Mt. Airy!

The party features beer from Attic Brewing, a spread of sandwiches, hors d'oeuvres, and savory treats from Weavers Way Coop, and The Frosted Fox Cake Shop's exquisite desserts.

## Annual Hidden Gardens Tour

Thank you to all of our garden docents who are volunteering at our Annual Tour today!

We are especially grateful for the gardeners who are welcoming us into their glorious creations to share their hidden gems with our attendees. The gardens are a labor of love, and we will always remember this day and our visit.

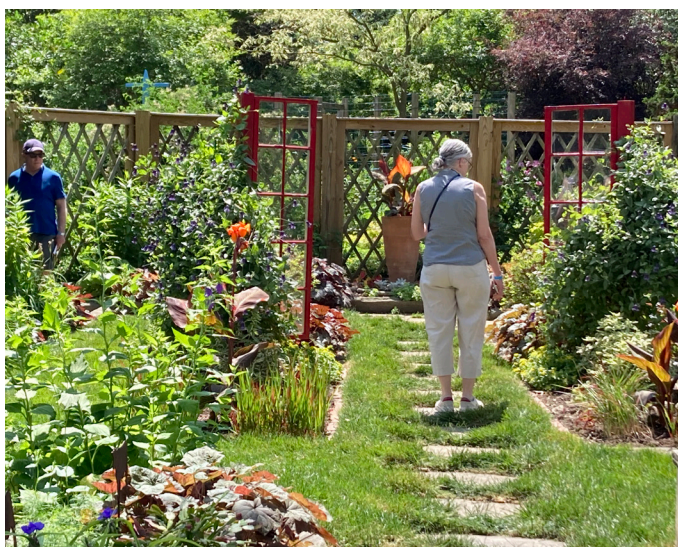
And to you, our attendees, thank you for joining us and for supporting the mission of Mt. Airy Learning Tree. We are all together, a garden, and a community.  
Enjoy Your Tour!

## Flower Power Committee

Libba Affel, Susie Bash, Lynn Berkowitz, Lanina Cavicchio, Maggie Chapman, Sarah Claxton, Sharon Corbin, Margie Dubrow, Annette Gibbs, Janet Hoffman, Courtney Jewell, Allyson Katzman, Pat Robinson, Bob Rossman, Barbara Sheehan, Cyndi Skripak, John Stanchak, Anne Swoyer, Flossie Tumaszk, Rene Vargas, Rae Whatley, and Marjorie Winther.

## Interested in having your garden featured on MALT's Annual Hidden Gardens Tour?

Give us a call at 215-843-6333  
or email [janet@mtairylearningtree.org](mailto:janet@mtairylearningtree.org).



*Top photo by Patrick McGrath*



# MT. AIRY LEARNING TREE

NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS

## **About Mt. Airy Learning Tree:**

Founded in 1980, MALT is a nonprofit that offers over 750 classes to approximately 4,500 students each year. Held at locations throughout our community — in local churches, schools, businesses, and homes or outdoors in the Wissahickon and at local points of interest—our classes bring students of all ages together through engaging educational and recreational activities. MALT’s community-focused program creates a welcoming place for neighbors and helps define what we love about living in Northwest Philadelphia.

Please visit our website at [www.mtairylearningtree.org](http://www.mtairylearningtree.org) to view our classes, register and learn more about Mt. Airy Learning Tree.

**MALT’s Fall term begins on Sept. 16! Online registration opens on August 19; printed catalogs arrive in mailboxes the last week of August.**

Follow us on social media: @mtairylearningtree

## **MALT Board of Governors**

Rene Vargas, President; Lanina Cavicchio, Vice-President;  
Janet Hoffman, Secretary; Bob Rossman, Treasurer

Christopher Coan, Allison Cooper, Rachel Falkove, Annette Gibbs, Allyson L. Katzman,  
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## **MALT Staff**

Janet Greenwood Gala, *Executive Director*  
Sammy Lifson-Neubardt, *Program Administrator*  
Marisia Robinson, *Office Coordinator*

*Booklet designed by Janet Greenwood Gala; Garden text by Janet Hoffman.*



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Thank you for a great tour! See you next year.



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