



**MT. AIRY**  
**LEARNING TREE**  
NEIGHBORS TEACHING NEIGHBORS



**2022**

**HIDDEN GARDENS TOUR**  
**JUNE 4**





## WELCOME

The Hidden Garden Tour has returned! The Mt. Airy Learning Tree joyously welcomes you back after a two-year hiatus. We've always recognized the power of community; the pandemic has helped us realize the need for it. And so this year the Tour celebrates three unhidden gardens that community spirit, cooperation and philanthropy have made possible.

We sincerely thank the Learning Tree's vibrant community that has made possible this 2022 adventure: our gracious Garden Hosts, generous sponsors, and dedicated volunteers. And here's to you, the Garden Tour participants. This event has become not only a much anticipated neighborhood happening but also a vital source of support for the educational and recreational programs the Mt. Airy Learning Tree is privileged to provide throughout the year.

Enjoy the Tour. Enjoy the day. And keep coming back!

- Janet Greenwood Gala, Executive Director

### Hidden Garden Committee

Susie Bash, Kay Baluarte, Sharon Corbin, Courtney Jewel, Lisa Handler,  
Sue Heckrotte, Janet Hoffman, Amy Jaron, Leslie Klinefelter, Naomi Leach,  
Carol Philips, Pat Robinson, Cyndi Skripak Rhonda Spencer-Sams, Wanda Speight, Anne  
Swoyer, Pauline Taylor, Bea Weidner, and Rivkah Walton

### Hidden Gardeners

The Friends of Ned Wolf Park, Patrick Hauck and John Haynes, the volunteers at  
Henry H. Houston School Garden, Sage Forte and Mike Benett of Backyard Eats,  
Lesley Shepard, Mark Klempner, Libba and Charlie Affel, Susan Yeager,  
Courtney Jewell, and the team at Awbury Arboretum  
- Heather Zimmerman, Nancy Pasquier and Scott May,

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Janet Greenwood Gala, Executive Director  
John O'Donnell, Education Coordinator  
Alexa Strus, Program Administrator



Booklet designed by Janet Greenwood Gala; Text by John O'Donnell





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### NED WOLF PARK

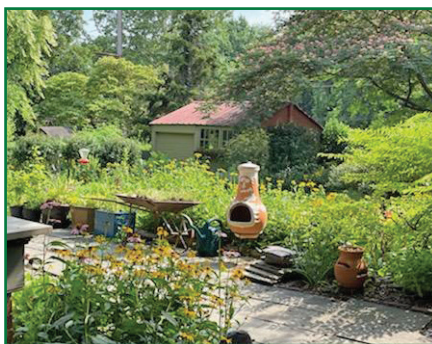
Southwest Corner, McCallum and West Ellet Streets

Ned Wolf Park is hardly hiding, but it's an auspicious place to begin MALT's 2022 Hidden Garden Tour. Fifteen years ago a Friends group adopted this then-neglected, half-century old "pocket park" and began its gradual rehabilitation. Today it is a cherished oasis funded and maintained by neighbors, many of whose home gardens reflect the same creative energies and discerning care that have made this park a small botanical marvel.

A pleasing array of drought-tolerant shrubs, perennials and flowering plants prepares the eye for 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.

*Park on McCallum or West Ellet Streets. This is the starting place of the tour.  
You may explore the garden when you arrive, or return by 3pm. Enjoy!*





Hauck Haynes Garden



Henry H. Houston School Garden





## HAUCK HAYNES GARDEN

Patrick Hauck and John Haynes  
7350 Rural Lane, West Mt. Airy

When veteran gardener Patrick Hauck and husband John Haynes purchased this property in 2004, they encountered a great house in need of care and a landscape with little plant materials save a few trees and a privet hedge bordering the backyard. Built in the late 1880s along the commuter rail line as one of four identical cottages commissioned by Henry Houston, the remastered residence is now gracefully anchored by a mature, welcoming frontage.

Enter the side garden from the driveway on the left and proceed to a lovely southern exposed, sunny backyard, which they have transformed into a verdant grouping of rooms separated by perennial islands, flower boxes and raised beds. Yes, there's a water garden too. Our hosts are pollinator gardeners and strive to provide birds and bees with native species of flowering plants. A fine borrowed view of the Cresheim woods and Wissahickon hills makes the enchanted plot seem much larger than its quarter acre.

*Bonus Garden*

## HENRY H. HOUSTON SCHOOL GARDEN

7300 Rural Lane, West Mt. Airy

Don't leave Rural Lane without a visit to the Houston School Garden at the corner of Allen's Lane. Gardeners deal in futures and tend to see un-landscaped areas as gardens hidden only by time. It didn't take long for Patrick Hauck and neighbor Kaye Baluarte to notice that a Houston's STEM teacher, Christine Bush, had begun planting a modest schoolyard garden as the first step in developing an outdoor classroom. In Patrick's words, "We couldn't wait to get our hands on it and start gardening." A wonderful collaboration began, and others soon joined in. The still evolving result: a magical confluence of volunteer efforts and funding by neighbors, Families for Houston, and Weavers Way. The expanded gardens have become a neighborhood gathering place, an outdoor classroom, a community vegetable garden, a playroom for kindergarteners, and much more. Stop by. Weavers Way "cooperators" will be on hand as guides. Get inspired by this dynamic model of social cross-fertilization. And reflect that more things spring from gardens than plants.

*Park on Allens Lane, Cresheim Road, or Rural Lane for both gardens.*





## BACKYARD EATS GARDEN AND ORCHARD

595 West Gravers Lane, Chestnut Hill

Beauty is in the eye of the beholder, but consider the taste bud. Gardens can be as flavorful as colorful. Who said hummingbirds and white-tailed deer should have all the fun? Discover this hidden garden on Chestnut Hill's western edge and revel in a vast and magical garden full of fresh fruits and vegetables, patrolled by chickens and—occasionally—goats.

You'll visit nine raised beds, spanning nearly 1,000 square feet. Each raised bed has a different combination of hand selected edibles and medicinals, which are provided and planted by the experienced gardeners of Backyard Eats and maintained by them on a weekly basis. Labels on every plant variety offer tricks, tips, and recipes. Throughout the garden and the surrounding landscape you will find apple trees, pear trees, raspberries, blueberries, and blackberries that are beginning to fruit. The orchard care team that keeps them pruned and happy throughout the year is supplied by Backyard Eats, whose production manager Sage Forté will be on hand throughout the day to enhance your exploration.

*Please park on the grass at an angle in the space marked with lawn signs.  
No parking in the driveway. For safety walk on the grass, and not in the street.*





## SHEPARD GARDEN

Lesley Shepard

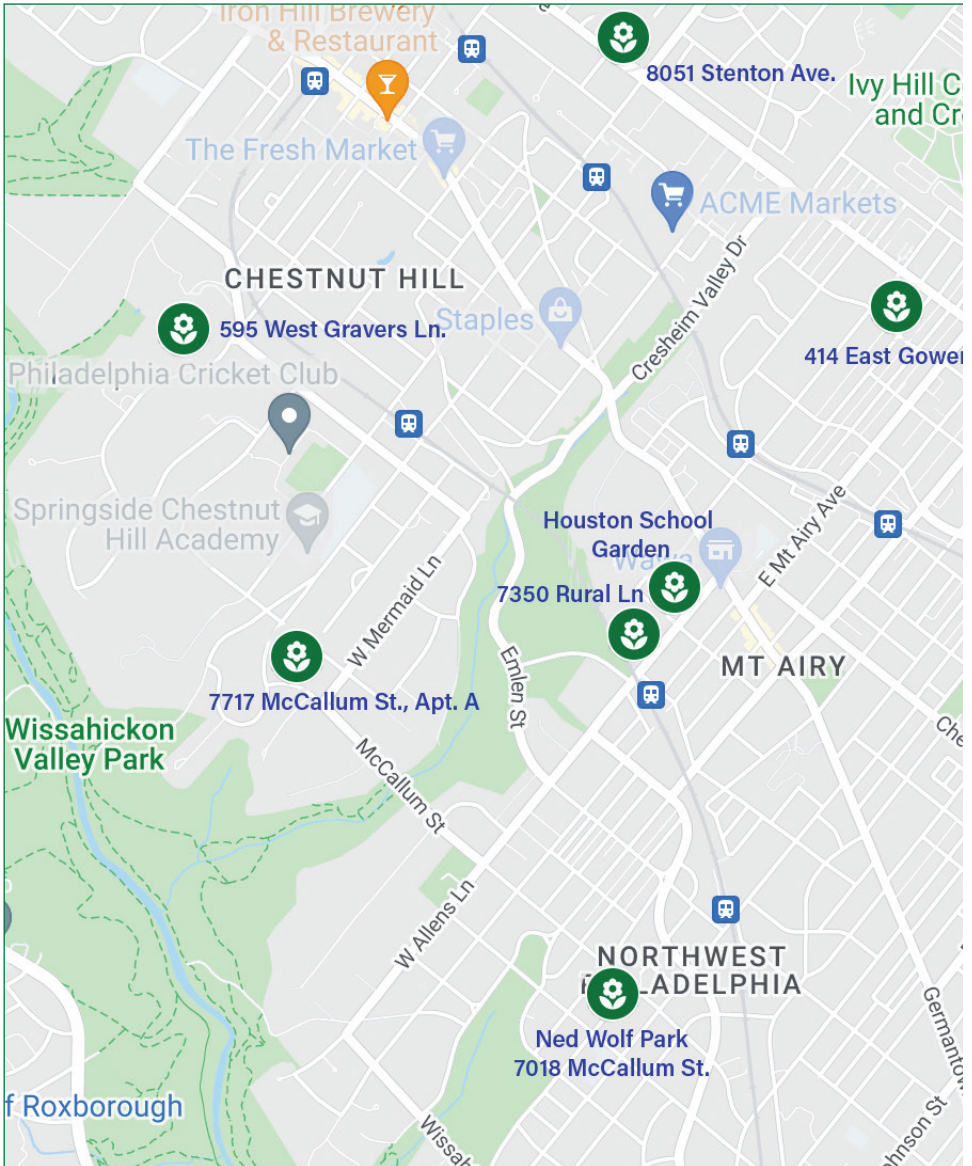
414 East Gowen Avenue, East Mt. Airy

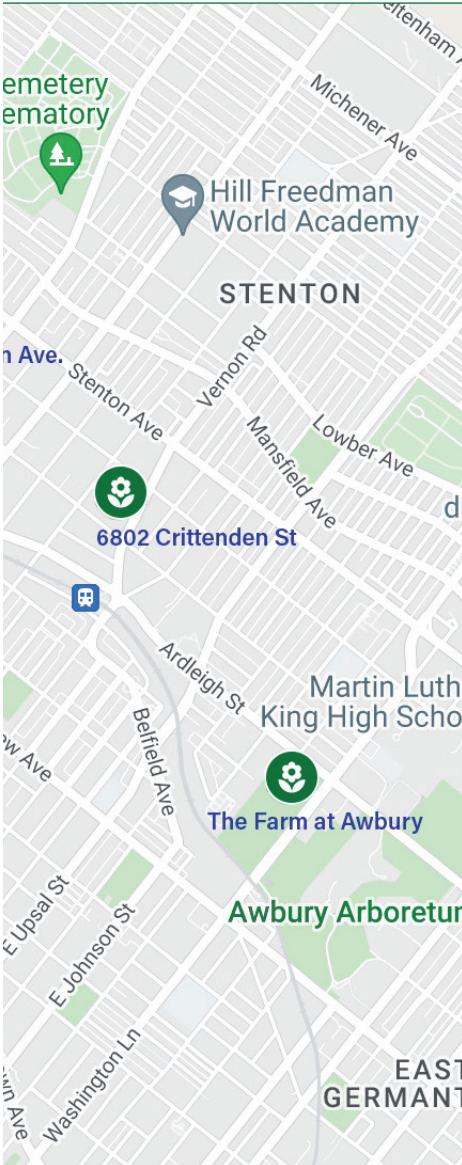
Gardens, their flowers and fragrances, not only evoke memories but even perpetuate them. Lesley Shepard, who has tended the gracious gardens surrounding her East Mt. Airy home for nearly three decades, will point to a fig tree that came from a cutting carried to America in an immigrant's pocket from a Mediterranean orchard a century ago. A cherished white peony has descended from a plant, whose progeny has graced the gardens of her German-American family for generations. Propagating the plant is a familial rite, and prospects for the peony's proliferation seem as bright as its blooms' red spots.

Mature ilex, lilac, and croton grace the front yard. Entering from the driveway, guests will encounter an elegant English border garden. Initially its traditional Victorian symmetry matches the colonial home's elegance. But as it recedes toward an old stone wall, Victorian order gives way to a less structured display. The transition from formal to "cottage" to near-wild is almost unnoticed—until one steps back. A singular, stately white oak anchors the property at the northern end of an expansive lawn. The lush carpet is not without its resting places and water features. Take time to inspect the kitchen-door rock gardens with herbs and cat-protected veggies.

*Park on Gowen Avenue or Crittenden Street*







**Affel Garden** 8051 Stenton Avenue

**Shepard Garden** 414 East Gowen Ave.

**Backyard Eats Garden & Orchard**

595 West Gravers Lane

**Henry H. Houston School Garden**

7300 Rural Lane

**Hauck Haynes Garden** 7350 Rural Lane

**Klempner Garden** 7717 McCallum St. Apt. A

**Jewell Garden** 6802 Crittenden Street

**The Farm at Awbury** 6336 Ardleigh Street

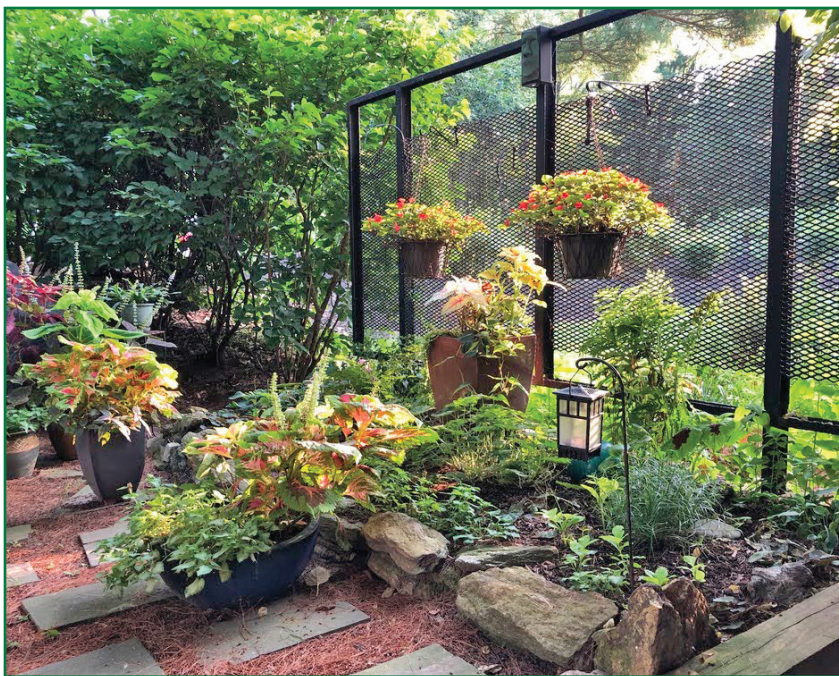
**Ned Wolf Park** 7018 McCallum Street

Scan Qr code for Hidden Garden Google Map



Scan to view the tour  
on your smart phone  
with google maps!







## KLEMPNER GARDEN

Mark Klempner

7717 McCallum Street, Apt.A, Cherokee Apartments, Chestnut Hill

When Mark Klempner lived in West Mt. Airy, he volunteered his time and gardening skills at our tour's starting gate, Ned Wolf Park. Six years ago, he bade farewell to his own substantial garden and Victorian house on Greene Street, opting for the relative simplicity of apartment living. Finding his green thumb still twitching and his need for a serene oasis undiminished, he set about creating a jewel of a patio garden.

Atop hardened ground and rocky sediment, Mark shoveled truckloads of topsoil, built schist borders, set flagstone walkways, acquired appropriate shade tolerant plants and scores of colorful pots to put them in. One could say that he has managed to contain his enthusiasms. Through creative re-purposing of discarded decor, found objects and yard sale castoffs, this clever gardener has created a compact, personal retreat at once tranquil and whimsical.

## BONUS MINI-TOUR

Cherokee Apartments, Chestnut Hill

Cherokee Apartments residents cherish the complex's seclusion. Its high canopied overstory once shaded the H. H. Houston-commissioned estate of Stonehurst. Today the property still possesses rich historical interest and architectural significance. Surprisingly few otherwise savvy locals are aware that its surrounding six acres belong to the National Lands Trust, its trees—including Atlas cedars and Himalayan pines—have been inventoried (and many tagged) by the Morris Arboretum, or that its grounds feature a delightful sculpture park.

As an extra treat, Mt. Airy Learning Tree will provide Hidden Garden Tour participants with a map of the Sculpture Park for your own self-guided mini-tour.

*Parking on the street within the Cherokee Apartment Complex.*





### **AFFEL GARDEN**

Libba and Charlie Affel

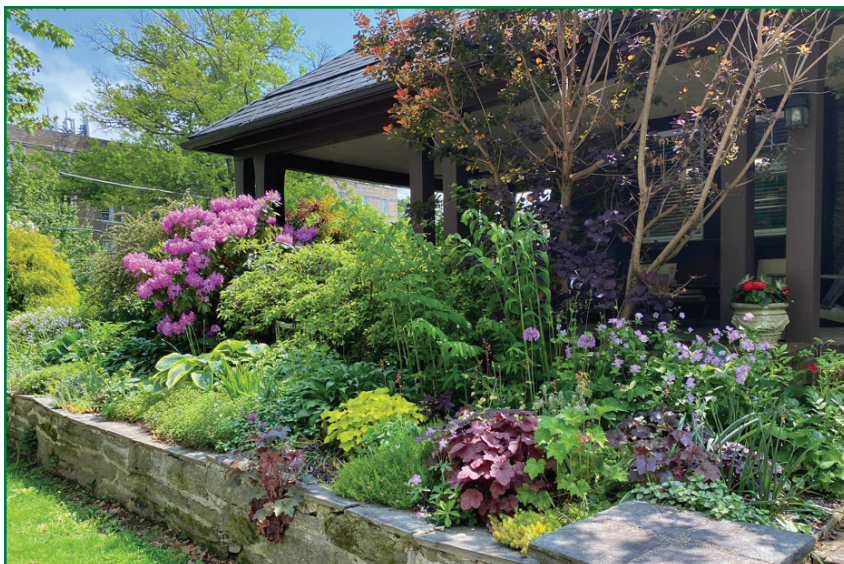
8051 Stenton Avenue, Wyndmoor

The backyard garden of the Affel home is so sufficient in its spacious privacy that its glorious frontscape seems an expression of public benevolence. Approach the gate on the right side of the house through an ample, jasmine-draped arbor, passing a Kousa dogwood and Japanese maple planted from seedlings shortly after the Affels arrived three decades ago.

It's hard to believe that Libba and Charlie began seriously cultivating their garden only ten years ago. Let's just say it's mature for its age. They credit much of their success to the guiding vision of their friend, former neighbor and professional gardener Susan Yeager. Visitors will arrive in the midst of some formidable changes (what garden is not a work in progress?), but our hosts are undeterred and have instructed the peonies to put on a good show.

*Park on Wyndmoor Avenue or Cresheim Valley Road*





### **JEWELS IN BLOOM FARM**

Courtney Jewell

Southwest Corner, Vernon Road and Crittenden Street, East Mt. Airy  
Philadelphia Urban Flower CSA

Not everyone has the luxury of time and space to cultivate a garden. Some of those who do either find it painful to snip the blooms of showy outdoor treasures or possess gardens that by design or natural conditions fail to produce the seasonal blooms that the bedroom bureau or dining-table centerpiece invites.

The enterprising Courtney Jewell devised a community-supported solution—Jewells-in-Bloom. Courtney moved to Philly in 2003 and has lived in East Mt. Airy for over ten years. There she started gardening and designing small gardens for neighbors and friends and taking horticulture classes. Now there's a farm in the middle of East Mt. Airy! But to passersby her cottage industry looks like a colorful cottage garden. Come see the farm from inside the gates and learn more about organic gardening, floral arranging and garden design. Find out how you can earn a regular share of the abundant, varied harvest, sign up for workshops, or schedule a home consultation.

*Park on Crittenden Street or Vernon Road*





### **The Farm at Awbury**

Awbury Arboretum  
6336 Ardleigh Street, Germantown

For over a century, Awbury Arboretum has flourished not only as a 56-acre nature sanctuary, horticultural collective, and cultural historical preserve but also as an idea. The former Cope family estate stands as a sort of laboratory of the turn-of-the-last-century idea that society benefits when nature, history and community can be made to cohere. That ideal is vibrantly expressed in the 16-acre slice of the Arboretum's striking green-space, the Farm at Awbury. Once known as the Agricultural Village, this cluster of organizations dedicated to the non-exploitative cultivation of nature's resources may not be hidden, but it is surely under-appreciated.

For example, the Farm is the working site of the Philadelphia Guild of Handweavers Dye Garden. Who knew? Its representatives will be on hand to talk with you. As will ambassadors of Weavers Way Co-op's Mort Brooks Farm, the Philadelphia Goat Project, and Philadelphia Horticultural Society. Embrace serendipity on this portion of your tour, for there may well be workers buzzing about the Beekeepers Guild's apiaries, the Penn State Extension Master Gardiner's pollination habitat, the Many Hands Apothecary's medicinal herb garden, and much more. Visit Awbury's greenhouses, community gardens, and food forest. Then, if you have time, ramble about the stunning open spaces of this remarkable public heritage.

*Park on Ardleigh Street and walk into The Farm*





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