

Eastern Shore of Virginia
HABITAT for HUMANITY

SMALL GARDEN TOUR

JUNE 6

Chincoteague, Virginia

Noon to 6 p.m.

\$20 for 9 gardens Rain or Shine

For more information call: (757) 442-4687



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SMALL GARDEN TOUR

This year's **Small Garden Tour** is located mainly on Chincoteague Island. In very *small* spaces on the island, eight gardens feature flood tolerant plants, planted berms, a Japanese garden room, whimsical garden sheds set along a creek, and much more. Just off the island, the garden of Terry Thomas, owner of Thomas Gardens Nursery, highlights plantings of both native and exotic plants.

Tickets for \$20 will be available at each garden the day of the tour. Tickets may be purchased in advance for the two weeks prior to the tour for \$15 at Shore Banks, BB&T Banks, PNC Banks, and Thomas Gardens.

A quick **lunch** of a "Southern gourmet" sandwich, salad, dessert and drink, all for \$8, is available at home #2, 3616 Main Street. Sit on the Bakely's front porch or in the gazebo across the street on the channel. Proceeds go to Emmanuel Jenkins Bridge Episcopal Church.

The tour begins on New Temperanceville Road just off route 13, near the Chevron Corner Mart. Turn towards the ocean onto New Temperanceville Road. Park in the cemetery on the left, 1 mile from Rt. 13. Handicap parking is available on the property.

1. Queen Hive, 31198 Temperanceville Road, Temperanceville, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Thomas

Nestled at the head of Assawoman Creek, the house was built in 1786. Several additions followed. Once part of the Queen Hive Plantation, the acreage was bare farmland when the Thomas's bought the property in 1976. The garden has been a labor of love for Terry ever since. As you enter the property, the woodland garden to your left contains oakleaf hydrangeas, camellia sasanqua (the fall bloomer), ferns, and ginger as a ground cover. This garden continues on up to the house, with mahonia, hydrangeas (including climbing varieties), viburnum, azaleas, rhododendron and clematis – both climbing and shrub varieties. Perennials include hellebores for winter interest, ligularia, epimedium, Solomon's seals, hostas, pulmonaria and sweet woodruff. There are many difficult to locate species and varieties throughout the plantings. Look for the variegated may apple, Kaleidoscope. In front of the house is a native plant garden of which Terry admits that after planting, some turned out to be come-heres. Especially notice the Jeffersonia or twinleaf or rheumatism root, a rare plant which can be found today, as you would expect, at Monticello. At the rear of the house are formal boxwood gardens and water gardens. Outside the kitchen door is a picket fence enclosed vegetable garden, with mixed borders in its outer ring displaying perennials, shrubs and vines. Notice the large kiwi vines that hug the picket fence.

Turn left out of the cemetery onto New Temperanceville Road Continue east to Atlantic Road. Turn left. Continue on Atlantic Road past The Pony Pines Farm, listed below, to Royal Farms. Turn right. Follow Chincoteague Rd into Chincoteague. Turn right off the bridge and continue to 3616 Main Street. Park in the lot with the gazebo across the street on the channel side.

2. 3616 Main Street, Ron and Cathy Bakely

The Bakelys purchased the house in 1985. The house was built by Mr Savage, a local waterman, in 1911. According to one of the Savage children, the owner of "Mr. Whippy," it cost his parents \$750.00 to build. The Bakelys are the third owners. They call their garden a "Before and After Garden". At the time of purchase, the garden had fruit trees, a grape arbor, figs and wild roses, with hydrangea plants across the front porch. Now they have a bird and butterfly friendly garden (with deer at times) and an amazing variety of annuals, perennials, flowering and evergreen trees and bushes which border the house. The back yard is entered through a honeysuckle-covered archway and surrounded by an iron fence. Four-seasons figures peek out through the flora. The deck is covered with potted plants, statuary and a water garden.

Continue north on Main Street to 4006 and park on Main Street or go to the Municipal parking lot on Mumford Street. There is a "Free parking" sign at the corner of Main Street and Mumford. Jennings house and Channel Bass Inn are within walking distance of the Municipal parking lot.

3. The Powell House, 4006 Main Street, David and Shawn Jennings

Home to David and Shawn Jennings since the spring of 2001, the house is known as the Powell House, named for Mr. James Powell and his family who owned it around 1902. The Powells were owners of the Chincoteague Theater and The Powell Theater, two silent movie theaters, which operated on Chincoteague through the 1930's and 40's. Giant shrubs were all that was left of the garden when David custom made window boxes, whose corbels date back to the late 1800's Victorian home up the Shore in Crisfield, Maryland. The window boxes are filled annually with every color bloom and unique plant Shawn can find. The side garden planted in the fall of 2008 for Shawn's birthday features limelight hydrangeas, Gold Mound spirea and Encore azaleas, all anchored by the magnificent deep purple Muscogee crape myrtle.

4. Channel Bass Inn, 6228 Church Street, Barbara and David Wiedenheft

The house, currently owned by Barbara and David Wiedenheft, was built in 1892 as a private home (it is 6800 sq ft) and became an hotel in the 1920s. Rooms were about \$9.00 a night in the 1950s! Later the Channel Bass Inn was a 4-star restaurant, as equally famous as the Inn at Little Washington, near Warrenton, VA. Barbara and David bought the Channel Bass Inn in 1995 and now run it as a Bed and Breakfast, with an English Tea Room open to the public. (Barbara's scones are world-famous.) The Japanese garden, with its beautiful Japanese maple tree, dates back to the 1970s. Visitors will notice the wonderful 60 year old trumpet vine on the little house/shed. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, who worked at the Channel Bass Inn, actually lived in that little house in the 1920s. One can still see traces of wallpaper on the walls. Terry Thomas, of Thomas Gardens, planted the English garden in 1997. Knockout roses were added about 5 years ago. The tall blooms on either side of the garden walk are phlox, which will eventually grow to 5 feet! There is a "hedge" of Vitex, also known as the Chaste Tree. The ever-blooming hydrangeas at the front of the house are a mere 6 years old.

Exit the Municipal Parking Lot onto Mumford Street. It is the only exit. Turn right and go to Main Street. Turn right. Go to Church Street. Turn right. Proceed about .4 mile to 6248 Church Street. Park either at the Church Street Supply Company parking lot or the vacant Napa building across the street.

5. 6248 Church Street, Ginny Coyne

The home is a traditional Fisherman's Cottage. It was floated over from Assateague at the turn of last century. Some flowerbeds existed at the time of purchase, but plants and paths have been lavishly added each year. Befitting an English country garden bordering on the wild, roses climb over the roof of the garden shed and flowers ramble at your feet. Situated on a tidal creek full of life, floods often inundate the garden. June blooms will include several types of roses, Louisiana Iris, late daffodils and yellow water iris. Wild and native plant life abound.

6. The Chicken House, 4235 Filmore Street, Theresa Bulger and David Bourne

The house, currently owned by Theresa Bulger and David Bourne, got its name because at one time chicken pens nourished the soil adjoining this typical Chincoteague style cottage. The house, built on Assateague, was floated over at the turn of the century. It was home to bootleggers during prohibition due to the fact it was situated on Swan Gut, a tidal creek that used to mark the incorporated town limits. The house was empty and doorless when purchased by Theresa and David, and the garden was non-existent. The garden features a Victorian folly/shed/studio, which is gaily striped in pastels. As Theresa fully believes that more plants equal less space for weeds, annuals and perennials are planted next to and on top of each other. As it ends at the creeks edge – otters, bald eagle, owls, deer, rabbits, frogs, toads, muskrats, heron, ducks and geese are but a few of the part time residents and visitors.

Go east on Church Street to Chicken City Road. Turn left. Follow Chicken City Road until it intersects with Deep Hole Road. Turn right. Go .1 mile and turn right onto Circle Drive. Go straight on Circle Drive as it turns into Hancock Lane. Hancock Lane ends at Georgies Lane. Turn left or right to park.

7. 5206 Georgies Lane, Patricia and Craig Beitzel

The house was built in 1898 and is situated on Little Oyster Bay. When Craig and Patty purchased the property in 1995 there was not a shrub or perennial on the grounds. The garden has been a work in progress and has evolved yearly primarily due to the challenges of salt water flooding, salt spray and porous soil conditions, as well as numerous home additions. They raised the house after they experienced flooding several times. All the plants are survivors of those floods. The garden is best described as an all-season, eclectic English garden which features bulbs, flowering shrubs, a wide variety of perennials and roses. A sample of the featured perennials include Shasta daisy, Rudbeckia, Prairie Mallow, Yarrow, various Lily and Hosta varieties as well as Japanese lanterns and Knock-Out roses.

Return to Deep Hole Road in the reverse order. At Deep Hole Road, turn right. Go .3 to Hibiscus Drive. Turn left. The first right is Holly Court. Parking is available on either side of Holly Ct. Do not park directly in front of the house.

8. Bay Pointe, 5443 Holly Court -- Lance and Layne Lavenstein

The cottage, Bay Pointe, was designed by Dan Sampson of VA Beach. Bobby Umphlette a master craftsmen and third generation Chincoteague builder completed building the house in 2005. The cottage and garden were designed to blend in and compliment trees, the neighborhood and the environment. Terry Thomas of Thomas Gardens designed and installed the landscaping. Extensive berming was used to preserve trees, provide drainage and screening and establish intimate courtyards. Featured plants include crape and wax myrtle, dwarf Japanese pine, river birch, cotoneasters, plum yea, vitex, hellebores, and ornamental grasses. The garden borders the Refuge and Oyster Bay, providing for an abundance of wildlife and breathtaking vistas. The garden is a sanctuary for birds and butterflies.

Return to Deep Hole Road. Turn Right. At the 3rd right, Halle W. Smith Drive, turn right. Take Halle W. Smith to Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street. Go 0.1 mile past 4 streets on the right. Park on the left at the Habitat sign.

9. 4691 Main Street, Tom Myers & Greg Myers

The original simple "Cape Cod" structure was constructed by hand in the late 40's, early 50's, by a local Merchant Marine. Several owners have transformed it into the Nantucket style cedar shake home that sits on over 200 ft of waterfront on the Chincoteague Bay. Older foundation plantings and newer major plantings are subject to salt spray winds and the voracious appetite of the island's deer population that enjoy munching on everything green or blooming. Although situated directly on Main Street, the garden is remarkably private and quite a surprise when discovered. The "casual" shore garden theme consists of a variety of mature plantings of trees, shrubs and perennials, which have thrived in spite of sometimes harsh weather conditions by the bay and hungry deer. Shaded areas are planted with specimens that grow and spread under mature, dense trees. In summer, the fishpond is covered with blooming aquatic plants and the ornamental goldfish put on a show of color for any passers-by. The south lawn is an expansive area containing different varieties of recent and older plantings and a small water feature close to a sitting area. The 98 ft. veranda facing the bay is fronted with specimens that provide color, texture and softness to its foundation.

Pony Pines Farm, 12044 Atlantic Road. Owned by Donnie and Lynn Matthews, the farm will be open between 2 and 4 p.m. on Sunday and allow people to watch the Chincoteague Pony Drill Team perform a series of drills with Chincoteague ponies.



Hours 11 am – 10 pm daily. 6243 Maddox Boulevard
10% of all purchases by Small Garden Tour participants who show their ticket will go to Habitat for Humanity



Thomas Gardens

NURSERY & GREENHOUSES

6374 Lankford Hwy.
New Church, VA 23415
Store 757-824-3610
Fax 757-824-6443
