



# Visiting a Garden

## The Educated Visitor

Presented by: Kathy Molnar  
Lee County Master Gardeners

Created by: Lisa Lewis and Kathy Molnar  
Master Gardener Volunteers, Lee County Extension office.





# TIPS FOR TOURING GARDENS

The Educated Visitor: Visiting a Garden

By Gordon Hay Ward



# What we get out of a Garden

It's not up to the garden, it's up to us!

Expect to be surprised at the creative oasis that people have created.

Gardens are special places for family and friends to gather and create memories.



# GET READY TO EXPLORE

- Know what to look for – Research garden in advance.
- We do bring our own personal standards to measure gardens
- Explore gardens on its own terms, unique vision of its owner.
- Be open to new designs, features and plant ideas.
- Bring fresh eyes to the tour and take those ideas to our gardens.



**FULLY  
EXPERIENCE  
GARDENS WITH  
YOUR SENSES**

**Be interactive  
with your  
surroundings**

**Be in the moment**





## Use Sense of Sight Visually Pleasing Gardens

### Garden's Landscape: Views & Paths

Link to larger landscape

Link to Natural World

Mood created

### Feelings it Evokes - Transitions:

Pause & focus – rest

Stroll & move

## Relationship of garden to natural world

- Paths link you with surrounding areas
  - Draws you to beautiful water features - lake
- Intrigue Garden – White Oaks





## USE YOUR “SENSES” Sight & Sound

- Creek cascades down gentle rocky slope
- Pause-calming focus
- Rest on terraced patio & benches



Intrigue Garden



# Architectural Elements

- Use of Gates, Doorways, Stones, Walls, Hedges.
- Type of paths used to connect sections of garden.
- Pergolas, Gazebos, Arbors, Statues, Trellises, Fountains



# STRUCTURES & ARCHITECTURE

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- Enter – Centuries old White Oak.
- Look for public courtyard focal points.
- Framing views of garden: thunder house & reflective pool.
- Yashino cherry trees border  
Auburn University President's House







## STRUCTURES & ARCHITECTURE: Pergolas

Hidden Oasis – Potomac Court, Auburn

- Look for garden focal points - Mood
- Framing of Garden Views
- Intimate spaces – swings, benches
- Encore azaleas, camelias, Knockout roses



# ARBORS & WOODEN SWING

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- Look for garden focal points
- Arbor covered with clematis
- Wooden swing enveloped in wisteria
- Framing of garden views with calming plants
- Stone floor – mondo grass



Serendipitous Garden - Auburn

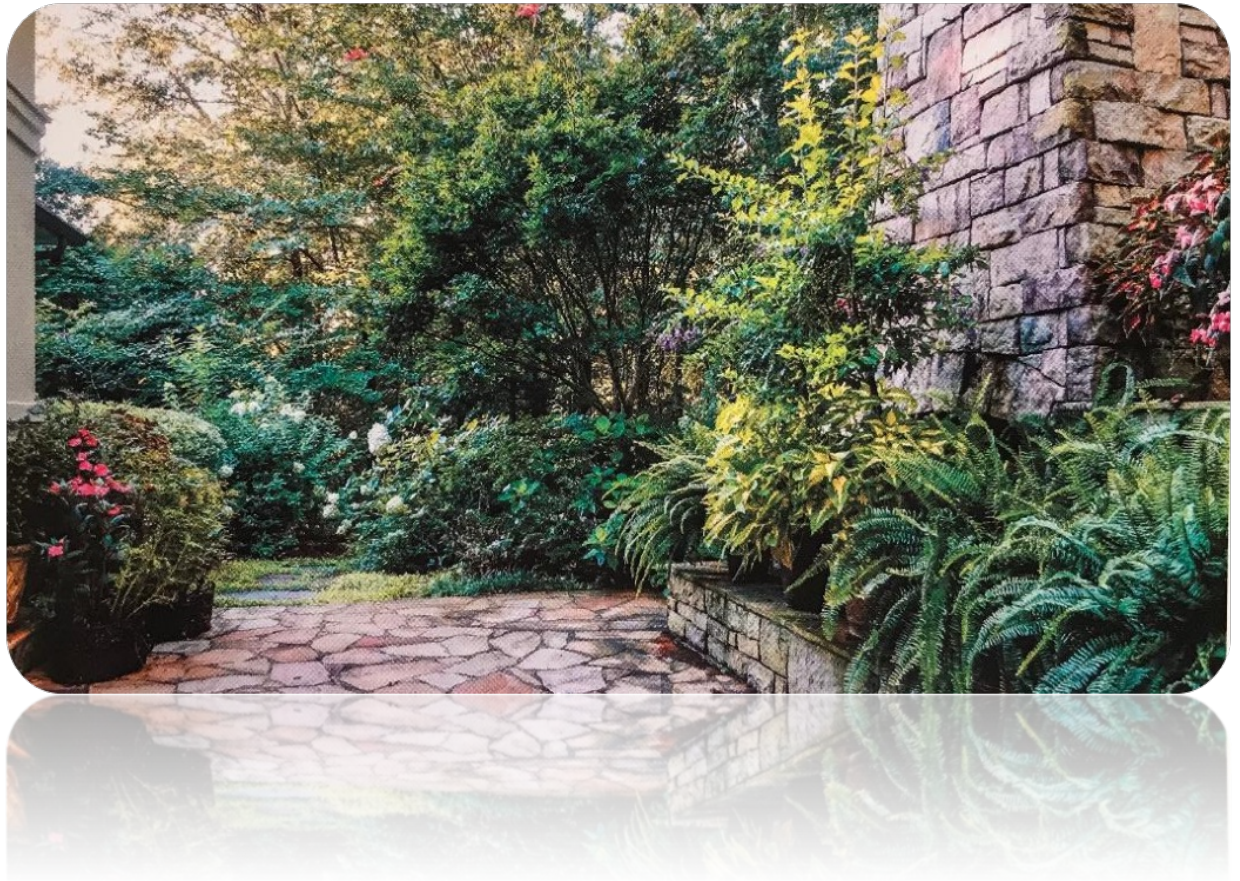


# Plants Combine into a distinctive whole

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- Plant choice based on patterns of sun and shade
- How they create a restful mood
- Used to frame garden views
- Back patio – stacked stones
- Wildlife Habitat

ArboREEDum – Auburn



# PLANTS



- Notice plant choices & the dominant trees or perennials.
- How do plants combine to create a distinctive whole - mood?
- How does the pattern of shade or sunlight affect the garden and the plant choices?
- How do different textures and heights compliment each other?





Col

**Large amaryllis surrounded by creeping jenny  
Intrigue Garden – White Oaks**

## **PLANTS: Colors & Textures**

**Colorful annuals & perennials by flagstone patio  
Legacy Garden – Opelika**







**Native Indian Pink – *Spigelia marilandica***  
**Serendipitous Garden – Moores Mill**

**PLANTS: Sense of smell**  
**Attract Pollinators-butterflies & bees**  
**Varied planter box featuring parsley**  
**Intrigue Garden**





# Japanese Maple

- A favorite for many garden owners – beautiful natural focal point.
- Offers elegant forms & colorful foliage.
- ArboREEDum features them (60/9).
- Over 1,000 varieties & cultivars.
- They can live for over 100 years.





# SUM OF ITS PARTS

 Once you have seen the entire garden, ***GO BACK TO THE BEGINNING !!***

 Prioritize particular areas of interest.

 Take a more measured look.

 What did you miss the first time through?


 Did you notice an overall theme of the garden?

# TOP PLANT APPS OF 2023

- Plantsnap – Best Overall Identification
- LeafSnap – Most Accurate
- PictureThis – Best ID *and* Plant Care



# SUM OF ITS PARTS

 Now you can become a designer & make your vision a reality – focus on challenges.

 Transitions – pathways, plant beds.

 Using a unique perennial or shrub in a border.

 Siting outdoor structures or ornaments.

 Choose & use special features that evoke a special response in you.



## OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPERIENCE NEW GARDENS

- 2023 Master Gardener's Spring Stroll
- Pop-Up Garden Tours
- Donald E. Davis Arboretum
- Callaway Gardens
- **Conservancy Gardens –**  
[www.gardenconservancy.com](http://www.gardenconservancy.com)  
(can sign up for Virtual programs)





## OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE NEW GARDENS

Mission: To preserve, share and champion  
America's diverse gardening traditions.

- Membership: Individual - \$50  
Family - \$75
- Conservancy Gardens –sign up for virtual programs [www.gardenconservancy.com](http://www.gardenconservancy.com)
- Have opportunities to connect and interact with other Garden Conservancy members.



*“My garden is my most beautiful masterpiece.”*

**CLAUDE MONET**





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Thank you for attending today!

Call our Gardener Helpline, 877-252-4769

Presented by: Kathy Molnar, Lee County Extension, Lee County Master Gardeners

