

West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association's

2016 Designers' Choice Garden Tour

Sept. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Morgantown, WV

Beginning and ending at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, 1061 Tyrone Road

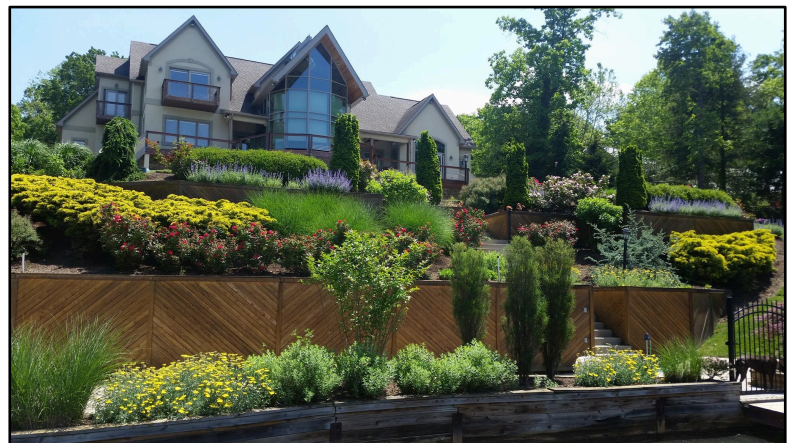
Celebrate the end of summer on September 17 at WVNLA's Designers' Choice Garden Tour in Morgantown. During our annual tour, members and invited guests will get an insider's look at five private gardens led by their designers. After touring these properties, we'll gather at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, where the garden's

Executive Director Bill Mills will point out the exciting changes and improvements at this unique, natural showplace, as well as share the details of WVBG's future plans. We'll also enjoy refreshments in the newly constructed Welcome Center with its sweeping views of the surrounding botanic garden.

Three of the gardens are conveniently located near each other on prime lots with views of Cheat Lake. Although each landscape provides a similar vantage of the lake, designers Michael and Patrick Biafore worked with the homeowners to incorporate their distinct personalities and wishes in the designs.

Water features prominently in one landscape, which is designed around an existing pond and pool. Some older plantings were removed to create space for more colorful and textured plants, while others were lifted and moved to new locations. A 30-foot Bloodgood Japanese maple shades a newly created hosta, astible and hydrangea bed. The garden features lots of color from roses, coreopsis, *Nepeta*, Russian sage and hibiscus. Boaters say they enjoy the view, including the oakleaf hydrangea and *Buddleia* planted along the lakeside wall.

Another design updates a kid-friendly landscape to an ornamental design for empty-nesters. The original design included the addition of 500 tons of fill dirt to create a level backyard for the children's games, a putting green and a dollhouse. The new design includes a pool, hot tub, fire pit, fireplace and pool house to accommodate the entire family.



Back garden plantings feature yews, hostas and viburnums, while summer annuals brighten the sunny spaces.

A large veneered retaining wall and 500 tons of fill dirt and topsoil are the building blocks of another lakeside landscape. The wall and dirt created level areas for a swimming pool and



landscaped beds. The plantings include river birch, weeping cherries, weeping blue atlas cedars, Japanese maple, roses and many ornamental grasses and perennials for color. The owners gained outdoor entertaining space by the pool with the addition of a paver patio and fire pit.

The two remaining stops are in South Park, a residential section of town with many historic homes. Greenway Horticultural Group's Bill Young will walk us through the large property surrounding a gracious Tudor home. Built in the early 1900s by the man who constructed

many of South Park's early homes, the house is surrounded by tall brick walls and land the equivalent of 11 city lots. The garden features some specimen trees old enough to have been in the original planting, an spacious gazebo, water feature, shaded landscapes along winding brick paths and a kitchen garden.

An addition to another historic home in South Park created the need for new landscaping, a job which Biafore Landscape Development completed. The design blends older elements with new using techniques such as reusing existing stone from previous landscaping on the patio and on entries. Concrete steps were veneered with stone to match the front porch. New plantings in the front and side of the house harmonize with existing cottage gardens. The thoughtful design considers even the needs of the family dogs, who have their own fenced and sodded area.



The tour begins at 1 p.m. at the West Virginia Botanic Garden, 1061 Tyrone Road. Participants will gather in the upper parking lot, and will then carpool to the stops on the tour. They will return to the botanic garden for Bill Mills' tour and the reception.

There is no charge for the event, but please reserve a space no later than Sept. 12 by emailing wvnlassoc@gmail.com or calling 304-553-1234.

The West Virginia
Nursery & Landscape
Association, Inc.



www.wvnla.org