

Yard and Garden – 05-12-2018 - Ted Griess / Extension Horticulture Assistant

Rita and I enjoy taking a morning walk around our yard checking out the progress of what is growing. Another of our favorite activities is to stroll through other people's yards— of course with their permission. Many times, garden strolls are made possible through organized garden walks. Such strolls give visitors, a chance to find inspiration and beauty. For me, an organized garden walk bestows a bounty of ideas as well as an opportunity to talk shop with fellow gardening enthusiasts.

I offer you a chance to get inspired! The Soil Sisters and Misters Garden Club will once again host a *Summer Celebration Garden Walk* on Saturday, June 30, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For



those of you not familiar, the Soil Sisters and Misters Garden Club chartered in 1967. Their meetings are open to the public and generally meet on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in the South Platte Room, at the Kearney Library. In addition to hosting garden walks, they provide a number of community services.

On June 30, one can spend time walking through seven

beautiful gardens. The following individuals have agreed to display their talents: Mike and Kathy Finkner, Pax Runge, Rhonda and Jim Berger, Karla Bonner, Randy Tonniges, Gerald and Kim Rehtus, and the Kellaway Gardens at Yanney Park.

The Finkner garden spans over two acres and has several features including fountains, small ponds, iron gazebos, brick arches, a vegetable garden, antique lighting, patio area, a Fairy Garden and many garden paths.

The Runge garden features tropicals and other favorites including elephant ear, shrimp plant, purple shamrock and re-blooming immortality irises. The Runge garden places emphasis on plants that attract migrating butterflies and birds.

When the Berger's moved to their property seven years ago, little landscaping existed. They have since planted numerous trees and shrubs. They enlarged a small berm and turned a horse pen into a flowering garden. A multitude of plants have been added, including 800 bulbs of all kinds, sixty peonies, lots of mums, a number of clematis in assorted colors, hardy hibiscus, and all kinds of lilies.

Karla Bonner has been working on her landscape for seven years. Flowers are the main feature of her landscape including lilies of many varieties, hibiscus, Rose of Sharon, Clematis (red, white and purple), many colors of iris, mini roses, Star of Hope and peonies. Yard art and a gnome tree make her garden special.

Randy Tonniges's garden is relatively new. When he moved to his current address four years ago, only one tree existed and a few perennials. Since then, he has planted hundreds of trees, and other plants. His goal is to achieve a low-maintenance garden.

For Gerald and Kim Rehtus, landscape design has been one of their long-standing interests. When their home was built in 2012, a great amount of time was devoted toward the exterior of their home. Their goal was to maximize the beauty of their corner lot while keeping maintenance reasonable. Although the trees, shrubs and perennials are the backbones of the design, a number of containers are used to enhance some of the outdoor living spaces.

Lastly, the Kellaway Gardens is one of Kearney's best-kept secrets. Like many projects in Kearney, several business and individuals worked together to complete the ambiance of this beautiful garden project. You will learn more about the history of the project and future projects at the location.

One can purchase tickets at a number of venues. They can be secured at Centerline Financial, 109 East 52nd Street Kearney 8:30 am – 4:30 pm M-F. Tickets are also available at Steinbrink's Landscape Nursery on June 9 and June 23 from 10 am - 1 pm. One can obtain tickets at the Yanney garden location on the day of the walk. All proceeds go to support further educational programs and future landscaping plans at Yanney Park. If one prefers, give Rhonda Berger a call at 308-293-1062 for more information.

As I began, garden walks give visitors a chance to find inspiration and beauty. Plan to attend; you will be glad you did!