

FEBRUARY 2022

# Northside **SUN**

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## THE *Garden Club* OF JACKSON

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The Garden Club  
of JACKSON

# SPRING GARDEN TOUR

By OUIDA DRINKWATER

**F**ive special gardens in Meadowbrook Highlands will welcome visitors to The Garden Club of Jackson's 2022 Spring Garden Tour, with proceeds going to improve garden educational facilities at the home of perhaps Jackson's most famous gardener, Eudora Welty.

The gardens and the homes run the gamut from whimsical to contemporary, from formal French to minimalist, with the Japanese Garden in Meadowbrook Highlands as the fifth tour stop.

One garden screams celebration with color and quirkiness waiting around every corner. Another garden, designed to block out city noises, offers relaxation in a stress-free environment of peaceful balance. A very English home offers a surprisingly sleek and contemporary landscape with pool and waterfalls in keeping with the homeowners' love of modern elements. Add a formal French home and landscape and a minimalist garden, the 2022 tour is sure to delight any gardening enthusiast.

The tour, scheduled 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., April 6-7, will include the homes of Shirley and Rick Griffin, Madalyn and Steve Hindman, Ashley and Douglas Hindman, and Martha Jo and Greg Vance, plus the Japanese Garden.

Meadowbrook Highlands, a premier Jackson neighborhood, was established circa 1980 but with roots dating back to when Angelo Kenneth "Pop" Primos purchased the property as a family home-site in 1945.

Family is a theme that reverberates through the GCJ's 12th biennial garden tour, including the honorary chairs, sisters and avid gardeners Carolyn McIntyre and Barbara Kroeze, longtime GCJ members.

Collette McIntyre and Evie Hines are co-chairing the 2022 Tour. Hollidae Morrison is GCJ president.

Tour tickets are \$20 each. The GCJ Tour will again offer a boxed lunch, this year from Newk's Eatery. Lunch reservations must be made in advance. Lunch boxes will be available for pick up or eating in the courtyard of Meadowbrook Highlands resident and GCJ member Joy Cannada.

Tickets for all GCJ Tour events may be purchased in advance



Colette McIntyre and Evie Hines, co-chairs of the tour, are dressed in the GCJ pink aprons taken in Meadowbrook Highlands Garden.

through The Garden Club of Jackson's website, [gardenclubofjackson.com](http://gardenclubofjackson.com). Tour tickets also will be available for purchase onsite at tour headquarters in the parking lot of Covenant Presbyterian Church, 4000 Ridgewood Road.

The 2022 tour will offer two extra ticketed events. An Evening Garden Party will be held Tuesday, April 5, from 6-8 p.m., at the beautiful Beaux Arts home and garden of June and Harper Stone

in Ridgeland's Greenwood Plantation. Marsha Cannon is chair. Tickets are \$100 per person; advance reservations are necessary.

A new event, Flowers After Hours, will be held Wednesday, April 6, from 5:30-7:30 p.m., at the Georgian garden and pavilion/pool house of Christie and George Walker in Eastover. Julia Putt of Fresh Cut Catering will be the flower designer, caterer, and sponsor for Flowers after Hours. An added bonus to Flowers After Hours will be artist-in-the-garden French Impressionist Jill Steenhuis, who will create a painting during the two-hour event. Tickets for Flowers after Hours are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance through the GCJ website. Margaret Palmer and Margaret Scott are co-chairs.

The Spring Garden Tour will once again feature a raffle for an original painting by GCJ member and artist Pryor Buford Lamp-ton. Raffle tickets are \$10 each or three for \$25. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the tour ticket table.

With a strong commitment to gardening with native plants, The Garden Club of Jackson is offering a native plant sale, Go Native, to sell "tried and true" native plants propagated or grown from seeds by GCJ members from their gardens. Part of the Secret Garden Shop, the Go Native plant sale will include purple cone-flowers, Stokes aster, salvia, red buckeye tree, blackeyed Susan, phlox, swamp sunflowers, bee balm, and mountain mint. Cheryl Welch is chair.

The Secret Garden Shop will also sell original art by GCJ members. Anna Burnett is chair. For the garden tour, the tented Secret

Garden shop will be located in the parking area at Covenant Presbyterian Church, the hub for ticket sales and tour parking. Shuttle service will be provided to Meadowbrook Highlands.

Proceeds from the 2022 Tour will restore and transform the stucco garage of internationally acclaimed author Eudora Welty (1909-2001) into dedicated classroom space for horticultural activities and workshops, and as storage for gardening tools and supplies.

Jackson's own Pulitzer Prize-winning author, Miss Welty was an avid gardener who personally tended the grounds around her Belhaven home, an area that has benefited over the years from GCJ financial gifts and weekly hands-on work.

The Tudor Revival home and garage were built in 1925 for Miss Welty's parents, Christian and Chestina Welty in Belhaven, and served as Eudora's home until her death. In between writing her award-winning prose, the avid gardener joined her mother in tending the gardens around the house and often used elements of the garden in her books to establish a sense of place.

Since the garden tour's inception in 1993, the GCJ has generously donated more than \$215,000, in addition to its sweat equity, to conserve, beautify and enhance a variety of Jackson landmarks and gardens, including the Mississippi Children's Museum, the Cedars, the Mississippi Museum of Art Garden, Greenwood Cemetery, the cutting garden at the Governor's Mansion, Mynelle Gardens, and the Oaks House Museum, among other projects.



## EVENING GARDEN PARTY & FLOWERS AFTER HOURS EVENTS



The Garden Club of Jackson will offer two extra ticketed events during its 2022 Spring Garden Tour, April 6-7. On Tuesday, April 5, the GCJ will kick off the 2022 Tour with an Evening Garden Party from 6-9 p.m. in the Beaux-Arts home and garden of June and Harper Stone in Ridgeland's Greenwood Plantation.

Beaux-Arts, literally meaning fine arts, describes the Stones' beautiful home, completed in 2019, featuring a formal design with classical details punctuated by symmetry and highly decorative surfaces. The architect was Tim Taylor of Jackson.

From the salon, which features two beautiful French marble fireplaces, guests can glimpse a lovely view of the parterre garden, and may stroll through the garden rooms, filled with wintergreen boxwood, white azaleas,



June and Harper Stone will host the Evening Garden party in their Beaux-Arts style home



Italian cypress trees, yews, needlepoint holly, and Natchez crepe myrtles. Garry Graves was the landscape architect.

Tickets are \$100 per person and must be purchased in advance at [gardenclubofjackson.com](http://gardenclubofjackson.com). Marsha Cannon is the chair.

The second extra ticketed event is new to the GCJ Tour—Flowers After Hours—which will be held from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 6, at the Georgian pavilion/pool house and gardens of Christie and George Walker in Eastover.

Julia Putt of Fresh Cut Catering will be the flower designer, caterer, and sponsor for Flowers after Hours. Julia will create a spring floral arrangement as tasty hors d'oeuvres and drinks are enjoyed.

Interior Designer Annelle Primos, Pop and Mildred Primos' granddaughter, fashioned the pool pavilion for comfort and durability for swimmers and family pets, Annelle carefully selected high-performance, indoor/outdoor fabrics with a light,

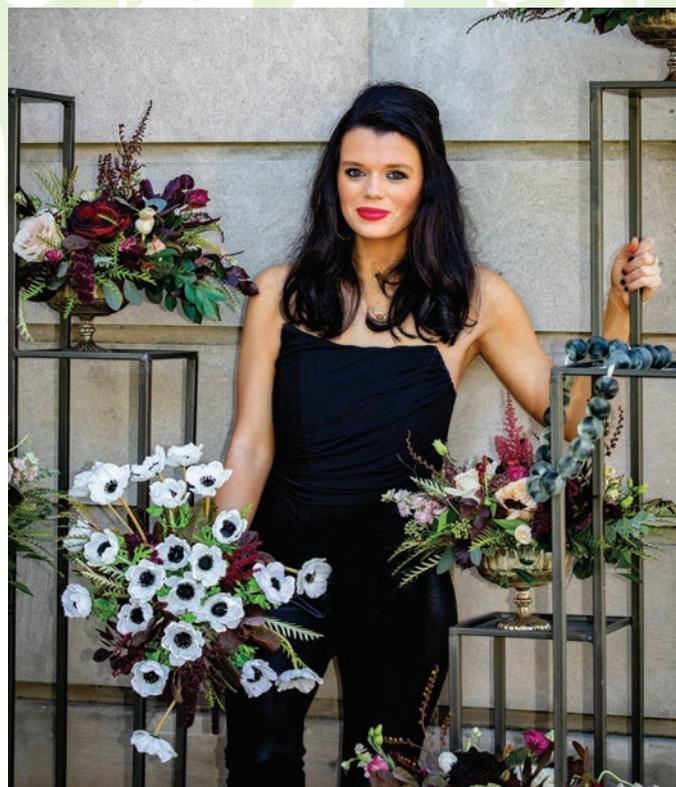
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**OPPOSITE PAGE: TOP PHOTO:** June and Harper Stone's living room. Tim Taylor was the architect of the home.

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** June and Harper Stone's garden room designed by Garry Graves.

**THIS PAGE: TOP PHOTO:** Julia Putt of Fresh Cut Catering will be the flower designer, caterer, and sponsor for Flowers after Hours.

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** The Georgian pavilion of Christie and George Walker will be the setting for the event.



natural feel for the contemporary furniture. Handsome hand-crafted wood and iron tables are interspersed with interesting antiques—perfect for entertaining which the entire Walker family enjoys.

Stucco enhances the exterior of the pavilion, and an English-made glass dome sits over the fascinating octagonal pavilion entry which is flanked by classical English-inspired oval windows. Lewis Graeber designed the pavilion and home.

An added bonus to Flowers After Hours will be artist-in-the-garden French Impressionist Jill Steenhuis, who will create a painting during the two-hour event. Jill, who lives with her family in Provence, grew up in Atlanta and remains friends with many Jackson-area campers she met at Camp DeSoto. She was the GCJ's featured artist at its 2021 Art, Soul & Bloom fundraiser.

Throughout the two-hour event, guests may stroll through the formal gardens with winding flower beds which add definition and interest to the many garden rooms, used for entertaining and dining. Landscaper was Greg Shaw of SouthernScape LLC in Huntsville, Alabama. Garry Graves of Jackson was the original designer for the parterre garden, featuring 12 sculptured topiaries surrounding a classical antique fountain.

Tickets for Flowers after Hours are \$25 per person and must be purchased in advance through the GCJ website. Margaret Palmer and Margaret Scott are co-chairs.



**TOP PHOTO:** Christie and George Walker's pool house fashioned by Interior Designer Annelle Primos.

**BOTTOM PHOTO:** French Impressionist Jill Steenhuis will create a painting during the Flowers After Hours event.



# HONORARY CHAIRS

## Carolyn Newman McIntyre and Barbara Newman Kroeze



The Garden Club of Jackson has chosen sisters Carolyn Newman McIntyre and Barbara Newman Kroeze as its honorary chairs for the 2022 Spring Garden Tour, scheduled for April 6-7 in Meadowbrook Highlands.

The sisters will be recognized at the Evening Garden Party on Tuesday, April 5, at the home of June and Harper Stone in Greenwood Plantation, Ridgeland. The 6-8 p.m. party is a ticketed event.

The Jackson natives, members of the GCJ for 15-plus years, grew up on Hawthorne with brother Richard in a family of green-thumbed gardeners, extending from their mother's family, the Bentleys of Richton. Here are their stories:

### CAROLYN NEWMAN MCINTYRE

Carolyn said her mother, Elizabeth Newman, and her grandmother, Lizzie Bentley, were real gardeners at a time when activities were limited and gardening was something everyone did. "My whole family consisted of gardeners. I guess I have gardening in my genes."

However, the gardening bug didn't hit Carolyn until she and her husband, John (Buddy) McIntyre, moved into a duplex with a little yard. "I copied my mother and began planting flowers."

What she discovered was a real gardener's love of digging in the dirt. "It's good therapy, and I enjoy nature and getting outside. As she got older, gardening became an obsession, resulting in a "need" for a bigger space to garden. Carolyn convinced Buddy they needed more acreage, and when she came across property in Ridgeland that included a ravine, she was sold. "I just had to have it." It reminded Carolyn of happy days growing up playing in the Woodland Hills woods and ravine with her childhood best friend.

It's been 22 years since the McIntyres moved to the Ridgeland property—10 acres including a field fronting their home on Fox Hollow Place. The back yard contains a sun garden that Carolyn has planted with perennials, including pass-alongs from her mother and mother-in-law, to feed the birds and to attract pollinators. The ravine, where she spends most of her time, borders the back property, offering meandering gardening paths and shade for ferns, hydrangeas, Lenten roses, and about 25 varieties of camellias—a flower she dearly loves. To promote wildlife, the property has been planted with a variety of trees, along with seedlings from Buddy's home in Virginia where his mother and grandmother were members of the Dolley Madison Garden Club, Orange, VA.

Carolyn has been a member of The Garden Club of Jackson since 2005, where she has won blue ribbons for horticulture and photography. She enjoys sharing her gardening skills, starter plants, and new plant varieties with her family, club members, and

with friends. She is a faithful member of the Cereus Weeders at the Eudora Welty garden, and works in gardens both at the Governor's Mansion and at the Mississippi Children's Museum, GCJ projects.

Carolyn shares a love of flowers with her daughter-in-law Collette McIntyre, tour co-chair, often sharing special bulbs, heirloom seeds, and pass-along family plants. Collette, whose mother was an active gardener in Hattiesburg, says Carolyn has been a major influence and personal teacher, lovingly sharing her gardening tips and skills.

### BARBARA NEWMAN KROEZE

Barbara recalled that her mother's family loved gardens. "I remember at our family reunions, someone would get out the seed catalog and ask who wants this or that kind of seed, raise your hand, and they would send in a big order and everyone would swap plants," she said. "Where other people learned how to wash and iron, we learned how to weed. We grew up with gardening; it was part of our lives."

A well-known gifted cook, Barbara has always preferred vegetable gardening over growing flowers. She and her husband, Dr. Herbert Kroeze, owned acreage in Madison County where they had a big vegetable garden, raised chickens, and a few cows, along with a few flowers. Barbara could always be found tending her vegetable garden, or in the kitchen cooking gourmet meals utilizing those vegetables.

She did have a fondness for growing roses earlier in her adult life when she lived in Jackson on Roxbury Road. Barbara earned many awards in various competitions for growing beautiful roses. But one day she realized she was always searching for the flaws in her roses rather than their beauty, so she gave up competing.

Moving to Madison County, the Kroezes were devoted to rural life so when Barbara heard about potential commercial development on Highway 463 next to her church, Chapel of the Cross, she jumped into action, gathering with other concerned residents—Phyllis and Clinton Doby, the late Hermine Welch, Rita McGuffie, and Pam and Carlton O'Keefe.

In 2001, the group formed The Mannsdale Heritage Foundation with a mission to protect the historical and scenic property alongside rural Highway 463. The foundation was instrumental in establishing the Mannsdale-Livingston Heritage Preservation Overlay District along the Highway 463 corridor, from China Grove A.M.E. Church to the intersection with Highway 22 at Livingston. The "overlay has served us well," protecting the trees, establishing setbacks, and shielding residents from noise, light and signage pollution, she added. Barbara credits many others for the success of the effort, including the late architect Charles Craig and Larry Smith.

Today Barbara, who joined The Garden Club of Jackson in 2007, continues gardening on a small scale since moving to St. Catherine's Village five years ago, raising lettuce and a miniature rose bush. Both are thriving under her watchful eye.

# WHIMSICAL & QUIRKY GARDEN



The Garden Club of Jackson's second stop for the 2022 Spring Garden Tour is the home of Shirley and Rick Griffin, 3 Pierce Cove, with its chapel greenhouse and whimsical garden art. Rick is a well-known Mississippi landscape architect who believes a backyard should be a carnival, a place to sit and enjoy with the people you love.

His fondness of quirky elements, i.e., oversized garden art, bottle trees, and found objects, are happily evident throughout the garden.

Rick describes his garden and home style as English cottage meets Arts & Craft. The garden has lots of personality, lots of Southern touches, and overflows with art in every form. Upon entering the garden, guests will be greeted by the Griffins' large bottle tree—a southern form of folk art, standing as a sentry heralding the fun that lies ahead. The bottles, stuffed with string lighting to provide an evening glow, offer year-round color, interest, and funkiness to the garden during the day.

Rick and Shirley designed their home, garden, and interior space a quarter century ago. Since then, the garden rooms and outdoor spaces continue to evolve as Rick tries out new ideas with help from his business partners, another landscape architect, and daughter Amy, an interior designer.

**RIGHT PHOTO:** When Rick's daughter Amy said he needed an entrance to the East for good Feng Shui, Rick created a fake one from a large mirror framed by cedar tree snags foraged from local woods, and a curved wooden gate, painted a soft shade of green.



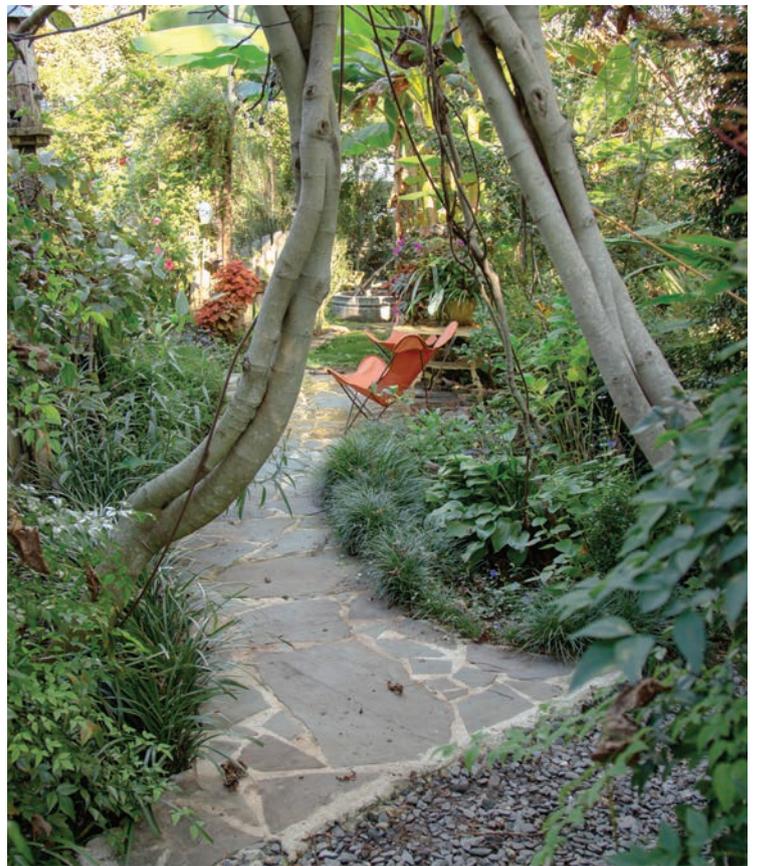
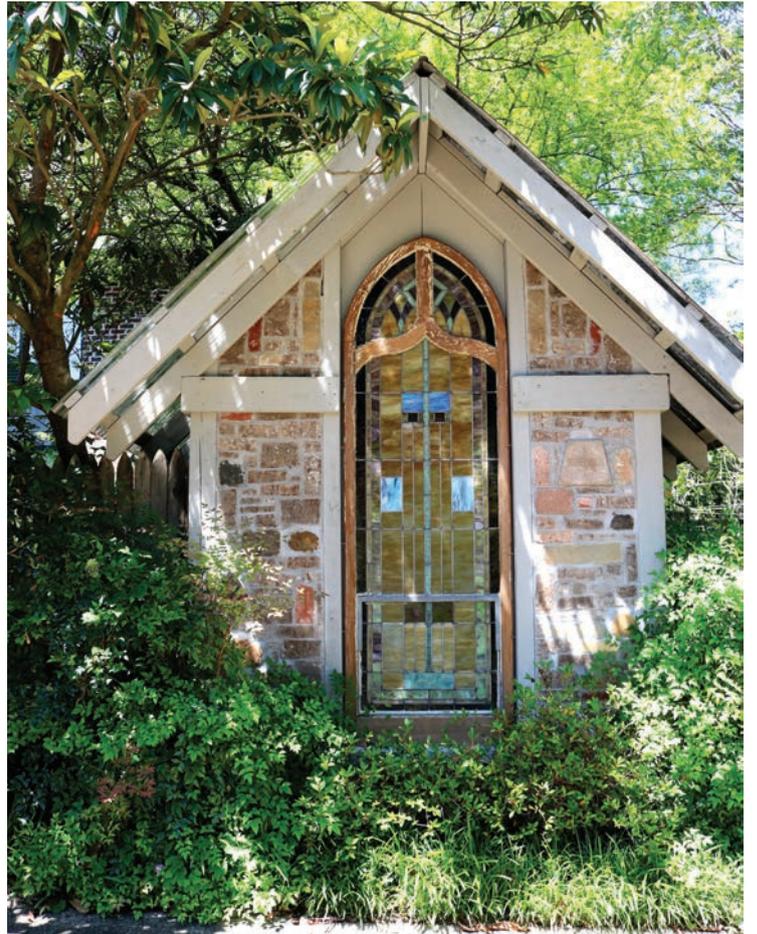


A professional landscape architect and co-owner of Latitudes, Home Furnishings and Accessories, Rick is known for going “off the book and thinking outside the box.”

Another charming element is an 8x8-foot chapel that Rick designed around a stained-glass window from his mother’s family Lutheran church in Cullman, AL. Shirley refers to it as their gardening shed, but Rick tends to call it their chapel “because when we are out there, I feel like I’m taking time to worship.”

A long, covered porch connects the house to the garage and to the garden. Together with the tree canopies, this provides shade, making it more pleasant to spend time outdoors in Mississippi summers. The porch features an outdoor kitchen, plenty of seating, and colorful art, silently urging family and friends to linger. Steps lined with potted annuals lead down to a paved patio with several more seating areas, each providing a different garden perspective.

The garden features many unique elements that carry a story and a history of their own. For example,





when Rick's daughter Amy said he needed an entrance to the East for good Feng Shui, Rick created a fake one from a large mirror framed by cedar tree snags foraged from local woods, and a curved wooden gate, painted a soft shade of green. The faux entrance provides a home for part of Rick's extensive collection of hand-made birdhouses – gifts from his long-time business partner, Clifton Egger.

Gardening to Rick is supposed to be easy and fun, so the landscape architect favors plants that are dependable, grow in reasonable soil without a lot of watering, are resistant to insects and diseases, and don't require a lot of pruning or weeding.

He relies on trustworthy favorites, including black-eyed Susans and canna lilies, to form the backbone for his beds. "Cannas used to be thought of by designers and garden club ladies as 'po folk' plants, but they are such durable perennials and have bold leaves and eye-popping flowers. If they ever get ratty-looking I just cut mine down. They sprout right back out and bloom up to frost."

Also found in the garden are favorite shrubs like camellias and bottle brush, and favorite trees like fig, wild Cherokee plum, and loquat. Crushed slate forms pathways through the garden, and moss is encouraged to creep between the bricks of a patio to add the illusion of age. The kid-friendly garden is informal and casual and proved to be the perfect setting for hosting his church's youth group on numerous occasions while he served as the youth group leader. Playing hide and seek in the garden was never so cool!

Like a lot of gardeners, Rick and Shirley cannot resist adding seasonal color to their established garden. So, with each new season, the Griffins tend to cram as many annuals as they can fit into every inch of dirt and into pots and planters, lining the steps and pathways with bright colors.

The Griffins' garden, happy and colorful during the day, and cozy at night with ambient lighting, brings abundant joy to share with others around the fire place or fire pit, at the step rail kitchen, or around the hot tub. It is definitely a garden to be shared and enjoyed.



**BELOW THREE PHOTOS:** The three photos shown below are a triptic of Rick in his studio painting his floor in his unique whimsical and quirky style.





# MERGING ENGLISH AND MODERN STYLES

When Ashley and Douglas Hindman moved into their Meadowbrook Highlands home at 6 Rivers Creek three years ago, it was the very English-style architecture that appealed to the couple. They envisioned how beautifully they could remodel the entire first level of the home by upgrading the house with a new modern look.

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The owners knew they wanted a timeless and elegant look but also wanted their home to feel inviting and comforting. And they sought a vision for how that would work. By merging the 19th and 21st centuries, they accomplished exactly what makes this home so beautiful.

The Hindmans love entertaining and wanted a backyard retreat designed for lounging, play, and most of all pure enjoyment. They contracted landscape architect Garry Graves who showed the couple how easily they could meld their two favorite styles.







The results are stunning, and are sure to be a favorite among tour visitors.

Renovating both the brick house, which has many beautiful details in the existing façade, and the entire landscaping gave these owners the opportunity to get everything they wanted in a home for their family. The owners purchased vintage pieces while mixing beautiful modern but timeless fabrics from interior designer Jane Shelton. As described by the owners, “Even though the home décor is timeless and elegant, it is also very welcoming and makes you feel at home.”

As for landscaping, Ashley, who loves gardening, made sure she had beds for planting both vegetables and herbs to use in her cooking. An abundance of ingredients flourish just outside the kitchen door. She loves pops of color in the garden for summer but enjoys the simplicity of mixing white to pop against the evergreen shrubs during the winter months.

The family’s favorite feature of the backyard is the swimming pool and outdoor kitchen that they enjoy during the summer months, making memories with their young son. During the colder months, the family enjoys gathering around the warmth of the fire pit while making s’mores, beneath the soothing sound of the waterfalls flowing into the pool.

Garry Graves said the Hindmans’ back yard was raised about

six feet above the floor level of the house, with a six or seven-foot slope going uphill from the house. In consultation with the owners, Graves designed a pool sitting on top of the slope with a brick and stucco wall and a waterfall on the downhill side of the pool. This created a walled terrace area on grade with the house. The waterfall is visible from all rooms of the house that open onto the lower terrace, and provide a dramatic view from inside the home.

The backyard landscape also features steps leading up to a cabana on one end, constructed of painted wood beams, posts, louvers, and cedar shake roof, and outdoor kitchen for grilling while another set of steps lead to a pool terrace with a gas fire pit—perfect for creating those s’mores or sipping on a glass of wine with friends during the beautiful fall months.

Materials reflect the original classic sophistication of the house. The paving material is a light colored “Fire Rock” that lends a clear contemporary look, said Graves.

The terrace and cabana are furnished with clean, contemporary furniture that adds a light, festive look. Landscape lighting and plants finish the overall look. Why would they need to go anywhere else when they have the ultimate stay-cation oasis in their very own backyard.



# FOCUS ON OUTDOOR SPACES

Martha Jo and Greg Vance's two-story home in Meadowbrook Highlands, 10 Pecan Hollow Drive, was creatively designed to take advantage of their double lot's wide but shallow footprint. Their architect, Will Ballou of Ballou Design Group, conceived of a home that is basically one room deep, and focuses on the couple's outdoor spaces. The clever plan has suited the family well since the home construction by Tim Neese was completed in 2018.

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The Vance home features a wide entry foyer opening into the combined living and dining room with a wall of glass focused on the rear porch and pool beyond. A sunny breakfast room connects the main house to the garage and service area of the home. This room looks forward towards a garden area, and then to the rear on to a large grilling porch. All other first floor rooms have large windows that focus towards the Vances' lovely outdoor spaces. Pamela Houchins was the interior designer for the contemporary furnishings.

But the backyard landscaping will be a big surprise to tour visitors. Landscape architect Rick Griffin used the latest version of artificial turf to "sod" the small back yard surrounding the pool. Griffin said the two-story home is white and the use of a white concrete apron around the pool would have been too much white.





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*“Looking outdoors from the inside, you see the blue water of the pool, the green turf, and neatly trimmed hollies” which edge the back property line, Griffin said. He describes the landscaping as minimalist.*

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For a more casual approach, Griffin suggested artificial turf in lieu of grass, which means a lot less maintenance for Dr. Vance who enjoys tending to the yard.

“Looking outdoors from the inside, you see the blue water of the pool, the green turf, and neatly trimmed hollies” which edge the back property line, Griffin said. He describes the landscaping as minimalist.

The design of artificial grass has changed over the years and looks nothing like the industrial, functional turf used on

sporting fields, Griffin noted. The new turf is designed with longer and wider blades which are tinted with different shades of green to imitate real grass. “It doesn’t look perfect and fake, but it is very even like it is perfectly mowed,” noted Griffin who has used the artificial turf in areas of numerous client yards and in his own landscape to test how it holds up. “Unless you point it out, visitors don’t realize it is artificial.”

In the front yard, Griffin created clean lines with neatly trimmed shrubs, a few trees, and real grass in his landscaping plan to mimic the home’s straight and symmetrical lines.

The front circular driveway was tinted a darker shade as a visible contrast to the white house.

Martha Jo, who describes herself as a want-to-be gardener, questioned including her home and landscape in the GCJ’s 2022 Tour until Griffin pointed out that visitors want to see all different facets of landscape design to get ideas for their own homes and gardens.

The use of the artificial turf in the Vances’ backyard is one idea that is sure to get visitors talking.







# A LABOR OF LOVE

**Dr. Steve and Madalyn Hindman's formal French home at 1 Pecan Tree Place has been an ever-evolving project—a labor of love—since moving in 20 years ago.**

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The home, designed by Lewis Graeber and built by Pop Primos' grandson Victor Smith, is classic in design with a formal garden. Interior designer Jane Shelton says the exterior and interior mirror the owners' love of precision.

While formal both inside and outside, the house offers pops of color to add a fresh approach to the warm and inviting home. "The unexpected color and contemporary art make a pleasing blend of the new and old," said Jane. "It is truly a jewel—a feast for the eyes."

The couple's extensive art collection includes Mississippi artists Eric McDonald, Bill Dunlap, William Goodman, and Lisa Busby, among others. Madalyn favors modern art to Steve's preference for traditional art. Among his favorites are Busby's bird dogs, reflecting Steve's love of quail hunting.

Similarly, the couple's furniture choices reflect diversity, a blend from French to modern pieces. "We like an eclectic mix," she noted.

The Hindmans enjoy entertaining, whether it is their dinner club or Madalyn having friends over for lunch, or hosting different club meetings. She enjoys cooking and sharing the love of her home with others.

Since moving into the house in 2001, Madalyn and Jane have "touched every room," she said. "I wanted a house where I could sit and enjoy each room. The decor affects your mood; it affects everything." The home is designed with a foyer across the front of the house. During each day's normal activities, Madalyn



**TOP PHOTO:** The Hindman backyard has a comfortable, classical feeling as if it were a large courtyard.

**LEFT PHOTO:** The formal French garden has a bench painted French blue, paired with blue and white garden stools against neatly trimmed boxwood.



and Steve go through or by each room in the home's first floor. "We live in the whole house. I love the design because you see every room every day; it's not closed off."

Madalyn describes their home as a classic Lewis Graeber home, built with a motor court in front with back and side gardens. But the home and garden continuously evolve. Landscape architect Garry Graves said the Hindmans have altered the front of the

original home, adding a canvas awning and metal posts, new pots with topiaries, a change of paint on the shutters and doors as well as some other subtle improvements to make it their own.

The back of the house has a similar paver for the original terrace and crushed stone pathways. Over the years the back was refined with new landscaping, lighting, a new terrace with oversized rectangular "Firerock" type paving. Canvas awnings placed over some of the windows gives the backyard a comfortable, classical feeling as if it were a large courtyard rather than just a backyard, Graves noted.

Madalyn's gardening style is "very green, neat, and manicured." Outdoors views from the home show off their formal French garden with bench painted French blue and paired with blue and white garden stools against neatly trimmed boxwood. She enjoys being outside, working in her long backyard with its shade garden of hostas and ferns on one side, and a sunny garden on the opposite. Moving from a three-acre yard in Dogwood, Madalyn was delighted with the size of her compact yard in Meadowbrook Highlands.

She hopes hosting the GCJ tour visitors will inspire her to finally install some raised beds for a flower cutting garden.

# JAPANESE MEDITATION GARDEN

The Japanese Garden within Meadowbrook Highlands—a true organic garden—utilizes the elements that speak to the passion that The Garden Club of Jackson (GCJ) members feel about protecting the health and biodiversity of planet Earth: organic horticulture, a strong emphasis on native plants, local composting, and permeable walkways, built from recycled and foraged materials.

The Japanese Garden is the first stop on the GCJ's 2022 Spring Garden Tour, April 6-7, in Meadowbrook Highlands.

Garden designer and horticulturalist Allen Burrows was inspired by various Asian elements in his plan for the Japanese meditation garden, although he emphasizes that he is not schooled in Japanese design. "It is more of an unschooled study," Burrows noted, adding that his fascination with details of construction techniques and the availability of materials were the big influencers of the design. He continues to head up the work on the ever-evolving garden.

The site of the Japanese Garden was the original driveway for the Mildred and "Pop" Primos family home from the 1940s-

1970s. Burrows began reclaiming the property in 2014 as ideas evolved for a garden with teahouse.

Today, the Japanese Garden's main features include a classically inspired and proportioned teahouse for quiet meditation or neighborly conversation, a traditional arched footbridge over a koi pond, and a large sitting Buddha, poised in peaceful meditation to bring a sense of tranquility and calm to the garden. Five granite lanterns, large stones, a moon gate, babbling water to add a soothing sound, and several bonsais add other traditional elements to the Japanese Garden. The teahouse, Burrows noted, sits precisely on the footprint of the Primos family's former storage room.

The enclosed space was built using a technique known as bricolage or "something constructed or created from a diverse range of available things." Fascination with this concept—and Burrows' mantra of 'repair, recycle, reuse'—drove the design for the Japanese Garden; Burrows challenged himself to find a home within the garden for leftover construction materials.

The results are pleasing to the eye and uplifting for the soul.







The journey of the various garden elements showed ingenuity and resourcefulness. The arched Japanese footbridge, which the garden is designed around, was left over from another construction project. The garden's retaining walls were constructed from broken-up driveways, and the paving materials were donated or leftover from neighborhood house construction. When the pavers were squared to cover the area abutting the teahouse, the irregularly-edged drops were used to create the stacked stone walls. The teahouse roof tiles were ordered, but the bathroom countertop was a dumpster rescue. The plaster walls at the entry gate also use surplus slates.

Burrows said the garden is basically organic; they use Neem oil and Safer soap to control lace bugs on the old azaleas or scale on camellias and holly. The plants in the woodland garden are growing on two to three feet of sediment that was reclaimed onsite. The crew let it weather under cover crops and mixed it with compost before adding the new plantings.

With a strong emphasis on native plants, most of the garden's low shrubs are different cultivars of Dwarf Yaupon holly, including 'Eureka,' 'Micron,' 'Bordeaux,' and 'Oscar Gray' with a few 'Nana.' The



shrubs are pruned in the “tamamono” manner—the Japanese term for shaping shrubs in a semi-spherical way. There are also several azalea varieties, hydrangea, japonica, rhododendron, Japanese barberry, iris, magnolias, and more. Burrows said the northern edge of the garden was purposefully aligned on the southern border of Mildred Primos’ woodland garden.

Fertilizing the garden is handled using a concoction of fish emulsion and seaweed extract added to compost tea and the soil augmented with lavish amounts of composted leaves. For a little extra bump, they use a high-grade composted chicken manure, modifying the chemistry a bit with muriate of potash, a mined mineral. Microscopic amounts of glyphosate herbicides and nutsedge killers are used to combat tough weed problems. No pine bark, pine straw, planters mix, or topsoil are purchased. Instead, Burrows and his crew rely on garden waste onsite—pruned materials, weeds, wood chips, and debris composted with copious amounts of bagged leaves collected on nearby streets.

The Japanese Garden is a labor of love, design, and skill, and it has become a popular and welcoming place for Meadowbrook Highlands residents to enjoy.

