

**Garden Conservancy
Media Coverage**

Outstanding American Gardens Book Release
Placement Highlights



October 16, 2015

Outstanding American Gardens Book Release

Coverage Highlights

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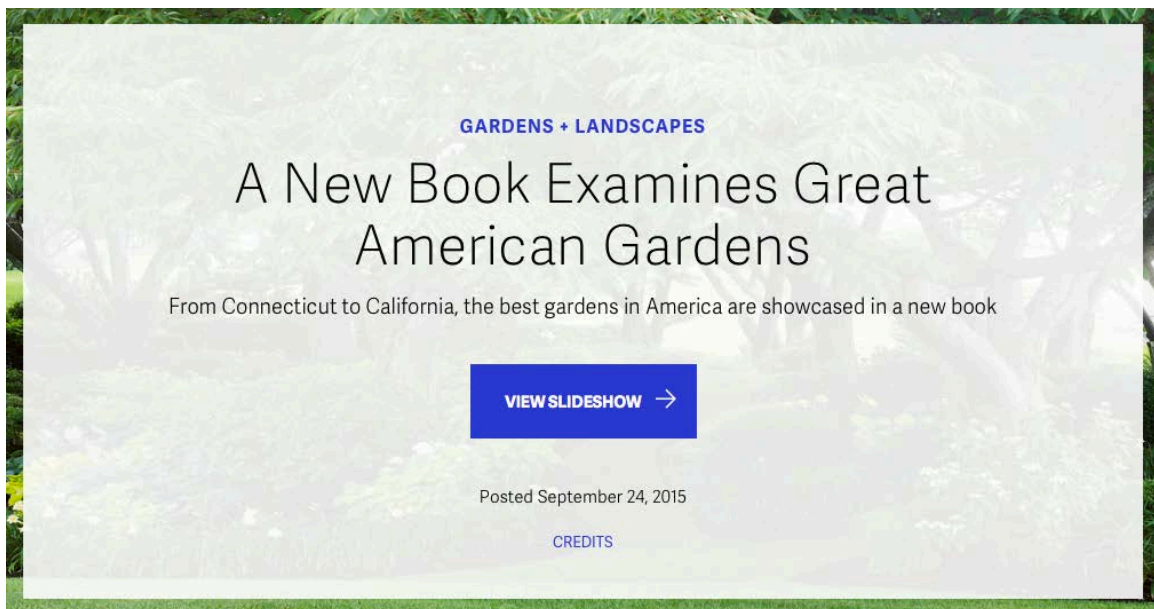
ARCHITECTURAL DIGEST

September 24, 2015

A New Book Examines Great American Gardens

From Connecticut to California, the best gardens in America are showcased in a new book

(14 photos with captions)





The Garden Conservancy, founded in 1990 by the late garden-world luminary Frank Cabot, has spent the past 25 years championing, chronicling, and helping to preserve great landscapes. The new book [Outstanding American Gardens](#) (Abrams, \$60) celebrates the nonprofit's silver anniversary by offering an in-depth look at some of the subjects of its efforts. Gorgeous photographs by Marion Brenner and nuanced essays edited by Page Dickey illuminate the histories of eight public and 42 private gardens. The chapter on Hooverness (pictured here), the garden of former Whitney Museum director Tom Armstrong, describes the transformation of the property, located on Fishers Island in Long Island Sound.

[HIDE CAPTION](#) ✕

Dickey has written two books about Duck Hill, the North Salem, New York, home where she has lived and gardened with her husband, Bosco Schell, for 30 years.

[HIDE CAPTION](#) ✕



September 22, 2015



TRAVEL

A great gift book for gardeners

By Christine Ryan



Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne's garden in Eugene, Oregon, has been forty years in the making. Photograph by Marion Brenner.

When [Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration](#) crossed our desk, we saw the book's (second) subtitle, *25 Years of the [Garden Conservancy](#)*, and thought, Oh, Connecticut lilacs and Virginia dogwoods. Then we opened it.

Of the 50 public and private properties that [Page Dickey](#) profiles in this volume, 14 are, in fact, in the West, including the stunner in the photo above. And here's an even more important Western connection: Frank and Anne Cabot may have been Easterners, but it was visiting Ruth Bancroft in Walnut Creek, California—and hearing her worries about [her collection](#)'s future—that led Frank to found the nonprofit. “As we drove away, I said to my wife, ‘We have to find some way to help this woman.’ And she said, rather facetiously, ‘Why don’t you start a [garden conservancy](#)?’ ” The rest, thanks to them, is gardening history. \$50; *Stewart, Tabori & Chang*.

Southern Living

September 24, 2015



The Grumpy Gardener

By Steve Bender

Why Can't My Son Mow?



In retrospect, using a bagger wasn't the smartest idea.

Photo: jackssmallengines.com

Faithful reader D.T. Matthews writes, "When my son cuts the grass, it leaves clumps all over the yard. Everywhere he cuts, it looks terrible. My neighbors are ready to run me out of the neighborhood. What is he doing wrong?"

Grumpy's Surprising Answer: Don't be so hard on the poor guy, D. T. Do you know how many of us have sons who hang out in the man cave all day staring at their smart phones, laptops, and big screens — simultaneously? You could take a time-lapse photo and it wouldn't be blurred. Your motion detector burglar alarm system would be silent as a lamb. At least, your son cuts the grass.



Whoops! Missed one! Photo: weed-pro.com

Perhaps you'd like him to cut it more precisely, like above, but frankly that just ain't gonna happen unless you pay him per blade.

There are two main reasons grass clumps when it exits the mower.

1. Either the grass is getting too high between mowings or your son is mowing too low. Never cut off more than 1/3 of the grass blades in one cutting. Therefore, if the grass is three inches tall, don't cut it lower than two inches. Cutting off more not only injures the grass, but it also produces a shipload of clippings that clump.
2. Cutting wet grass. Never do this. Wet grass clumps. Wait to mow until the grass blades are dry.

Should Grumpy's brilliant suggestions fail to improve your son's performance, there is one last, albeit extreme, measure you can take.

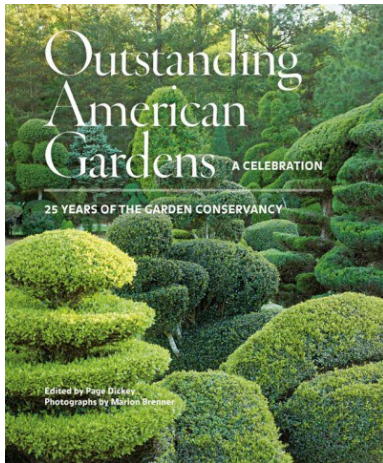


Photo: tomkellyconsulting.com_

Mow it yourself. Looking good.

Is Your Coffee Table Looking Empty?

Then you need a brand new book to make yourself look sophisticated, well-traveled, tasteful, and incredibly intelligent. Here's the perfect thing — Outstanding American Gardens: 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy by Page Dickey and Marion Brenner. Featuring incredibly beautiful and clever gardens from every corner of the U.S. (including nine from the South), it'll have you drooling down your shirt in five minutes. So wear a bib.



Pearl Fryar's South Carolina garden. Photo: Marion Brenner

Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, the Garden Conservancy is a beneficent organization that seeks to preserve and grant public access to the finest American gardens. In some cases, the Conservancy preserves gardens whose creators are no longer with us. In others, it partners with current owners who face challenges maintaining extensive gardens. On "Open Days," the public is invited to visit Conservancy gardens all over the country.

Grumpy has been lucky enough to visit many of the Southern gardens during his travels, like Pearl Fryar's in Bishopville, South Carolina (show above and below).



Photo: Marion Brenner

This is one garden you will never forget. A self-taught gardener, Pearl decided that vision combined with a gasoline hedge-trimmer could turn just about any plant into a fanciful work of art, called topiary. Pearl gives motivational talks to disadvantaged youth, telling them that if he could become a star by believing in himself and following a dream, so can they.

I love visiting Charleston, South Carolina (as do all members of the illuminati) and one of my favorite spaces to relax in is the courtyard garden of Peter and Patti McGee.



McGee garden, Charleston. Photo: Marion Brenner

I call Patti the “Grand Dame” of Charleston gardening. She knows everybody and everything about town and her garden is a classroom of classic Charleston design — exquisite attention to detail and inspired combinations of foliage and flowers that can only be improved by the addition of cocktails.

Right now, this beautiful, 272-page, hardcover book is available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) for a paltry \$29.99. So order it. Your coffee table will thank you — as long as you wear the bib.

The Washington Post

October 8, 2015

Give flowers and vegetables equal status in the home garden



Ellen Ecker Ogden's garden in late spring. "Your garden evolves over time," she says, "and changes your vocabulary. Work becomes play." (Ellen Ecker Ogden)

By [Barbara Damrosch](#)

I just discovered a new and beautiful book called "[Outstanding American Gardens](#)." It celebrates 25 years of [the Garden Conservancy](#), established to prevent important gardens from fading away. Most people may know the group for its Open Days Program, which gives the public a chance to see hundreds of private gardens around the country.

Leafing through the book, which is edited by Page Dickey, I kept looking for edibles among the flowers, having grown up in a family that gave them equal status. And edibles there were — at least a quarter of the 50 gardens include fruits and vegetables. My favorite, created by landscape designer [Bill Noble](#), has two gorgeous plots, one with flowers, one with veggies, sharing a place of honor on a

gently sloping hill.

Recently, I chatted with a garden designer while waiting in line for a buffet. “My clients never want vegetable gardens,” she said, “unless they’re a restaurant or B&B.” That’s odd, I thought. So I phoned three of my favorite designers, who told a different tale.

Heather McCargo, who now runs the [Wild Seed Project](#) in Portland, Maine, is best known for her work with native plants. In her own charming and colorful organic garden, “all the plants are native, edible or — in the case of nodding onion — both.” She grows lettuce but also loves unusual edibles such as the spinach-like green named Good King Henry, and Painted Hill corn (“great for polenta”). People often ask her for advice in putting in a kitchen garden. Why? “To grow healthy food for their kids,” she says.

[Ellen Ecker Ogden](#) is a Vermont-based author and landscape designer who specializes in kitchen gardens. She’s known for small, colorful, tidy gardens that are pleasant to spend time in. “Not just a workhorse garden,” she told me, “but a place to grow things that you can’t get at the store. It should be close to the door, with a bench. Your garden evolves over time, and changes your vocabulary. Work becomes play.” Like me, she includes flowers, close enough to attract pollinators that veggies need, but in separate beds so that they don’t encroach on growing space.

[Deborah Nevins](#), a high-profile designer based in New York, creates expansive, classic landscapes for clients throughout the United States and abroad. Known for the brilliant way she organizes spaces, often defined by monumental hedges, she speaks with special warmth about three large food gardens that have now been part of the owners’ lives for about 20 years — one in Los Angeles, one near Chicago and one in Roxbury, Conn. “There’s nothing like having your own lettuce and tomatoes to pick. These people are into old varieties too, and committed to organic gardening, to compost.” All have a formal, decorative structure, with flowers judiciously mixed in.

I was jealous when she told me the one in California has bay hedges and grows four successions of corn each year. Deborah grows lemons at her own Long Island house by bringing them indoors in winter. Her secret: a cool but sunny room.

These days she has requests for small potagers, but “now that there are such good farmers markets and CSAs, there’s less need to have a big vegetable garden.”

I say, that’s fine. Your “own” local farmer might be just as handy as that archetypal, tweed-vested estate gardener, with his trusty spade.

Damrosch is author of “[The Four Season Farm Gardener’s Cookbook](#).”



October 14, 2015

'Outstanding American Gardens' book highlights 3 Long Island sites

By JESSICA DAMIANO jessica.damiano@newsday.com



Included in the new coffee table book "Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration -- 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy" by Page Dickey is John P. Humes' Japanese Stroll Garden in Mill Neck. (Credit: Stewart, Tabori & Chang) I've seen a lot of gardens over the years, and if there's one thing I've learned, it's that they are as varied and unique as their gardeners.

Some comprise only turf and annuals. Some are tiered for height and carefully planned to ensure a succession of blooms from March through November. Others are formal and strictly symmetrical, or are created with the placement of potted plants on paved walkways. The one commonality they share is the ability to provide the respite, tranquillity, beauty and softness that only nature can.

The Garden Conservancy, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "save and share outstanding American gardens for the education and inspiration of the public," knows gardens better than anyone, and it's celebrating its 25th

anniversary with the release of "Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration -- 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy," by Page Dickey (Stewart, Tabori & Chang; \$50). Among the 50 gardens profiled in the commemorative coffee table book are three on Long Island.

The tome, edited by Page Dickey and beautifully photographed by Marion Brenner, accurately portrays the diversity found among gardens, from cottage and formal to vegetable and perennial, and desert to tropical. The featured spaces all have participated in the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program at some point since 1995, when the organization began partnering with the stewards and owners of public and private gardens nationwide to offer self-guided tours to the public.

On Long Island, scores of gardens have been a part of the program, and the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden in Mill Neck, Landcraft Environments in Mattituck and Hooverness, the garden of Tom Armstrong on Fishers Island, were selected for inclusion in the book, which was published Sept. 22. With its pebbled walkways, signature Asian plants and imported traditional teahouse, the John P. Humes Japanese Stroll Garden, featured in the book's Preservation Gardens section, is hailed as "a rare example of traditional Japanese garden design," whose defining feature is its "winding steppingstone and gravel path, which represents the spiritual journey to enlightenment through immersion in nature."

Landcraft Environments, a wholesale greenhouse that supplies tropical, subtropical and annual plants to nurseries throughout the Northeast, showcases the artistry and science of Dennis Schrader and Bill Smith, who opened the business 23 years ago after recognizing the need for warm-weather plants that would flourish in cold-weather climates.

The pair "are passionate collectors" of plants, which they display in beautifully staged garden vignettes at their 1840s farmhouse, where, the book notes, "the visitor moves from the lawn around the house along paths opening to a series of garden experiences: vibrant perennial borders enclosed by hornbeam hedges, a vegetable and herb garden, natural ponds planted with water lilies and papyrus, and a shady woodland." The meadow there is home to grasses and birds, and "frogs [that] splash in the ponds, and lizards [that] skitter around the walls."

Farther east at Hooverness, the house of the late Tom Armstrong is described as a "modernist steel-and-glass pavilion set between a panoramic view of Long Island Sound on the seaside and an elaborately planned garden on the landside." Armstrong, a former director of the Whitney Museum of American Art, called his garden "a place where I can be thrilled and surprised," and his vast art collection completed "his lifelong wish to live in a garden with art."



OCTOBER 2015

FROM A SEED OF AN IDEA...

BY GEORGETTE GOUVEIA



In 1988, Frank Cabot — creator of Stonecrop garden in Cold Spring — took a trip to California with his wife, Anne. Already he had begun thinking about forming a national organization to preserve America’s exceptional gardens. But the idea crystallized when they saw the marvelous variety of cacti and other succulents in Ruth Bancroft’s garden outside San Francisco and heard her concerns about the garden’s future once she could no longer care for it.

“As we drove away, I said to my wife, ‘We have to find some way to help this woman.’ And she said, rather facetiously, ‘Why don’t you start a garden conservancy?’”

That quote comes from the glorious new book “Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration” (Stewart, Tabori & Chang, \$50, 272 pages), which is helping mark the silver anniversary of The Garden Conservancy in Cold Spring.

“The Garden Conservancy chose the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California as our first project because of its artistry. Fast forward 25 years to the current West Coast drought, and the educational value of preserving a model dry garden such as this becomes even more compelling,” says Jenny du Pont, president and CEO of The Conservancy and a WAG cover subject (May 2014). “The book features eight of our Preservation Gardens — a small sampling of the many we have helped save for future generations to enjoy. There are also 42 examples of privately owned gardens that have opened their gates to communities through Open Days, our national garden visitation program.”

The local Preservation Garden included in the book — which is edited by Page Dickey, with photographs by Marion Brenner — is Rocky Hills in Mount Kisco. Created in the mid-1950s by William and Henriette Suhr — a Frick Collection art conservator and an interior designer respectively who knew nothing about gardening initially, but everything about aesthetics — Rocky Hills is best known for its spring flowering plants.

“Thousands of bulbs — snowdrops, crocuses, and wood hyacinths — carpet the landscape, together with clouds of pale blue forget-me-nots,” the book observes. “The collections of rhododendrons and azaleas include rare varieties seldom seen in the area.”

Both Fairfield and Westchester counties are well represented in the larger “Private Gardens, Open Days” section of the book. Among the creations here is Redding’s In Situ, eight acres of open fields, woods and small creeks that serve as a backdrop for its mission.

“Its owner offers it as a setting in which art, fashion, music, and culinary arts companies can stage charity events; the resulting funds help provide college scholarships to underprivileged art students. With that mission in mind, landscape designer Richard Hartlage has created a series of garden spaces, or ‘rooms,’ that each offer a sense of surprise and celebrate the softly rolling land.”

In Ridgefield, Ken Uhle — a landscape architect for the Westchester County Parks department — presents visitors with a one-acre sanctuary of lily ponds, shrubs and small trees threaded by paths and a rocky stream.

Other Connecticut spaces include Lee Link’s Sharon place, known for its greenhouse; and the Falls Village garden of interior designer Bunny Williams, which combines her requisite formality and randomness in a series of sunken outdoor rooms that frame an elegant Federal manor house with a conservatory.

Back in Westchester, Ed and Vivian Merrin’s Cortlandt Manor garden offers a stumperie created by the Hurricane Sandy felling of a giant oak. The White Garden in Lewisboro, studded with neoclassical sculptures, features Japanese mosses and water effects. Dick Button’s Ice Pond Farm in North Salem spotlights figure skating touches as befits the two-time Olympic gold medalist, while at neighboring Duck Hill, owned by editor Dickey and husband Bosco Schell, boxwood balls prevail, drawing the eye hither and thither.

Geometric terraces and a contemporary house are softened by grasses and perennials in another Westchester garden, designed by Oehme, van Sweden & Associates, while some 1,500 visitors, many of them children, relish the red, yellow, orange and purple tapestry of Japanese maples at Iroki, the Mount Kisco garden of Judy and Michael Steinhardt.

These speak to the infinite variety of the gardens — and their generous owners.

“Gardens stimulate all five senses. They bring beauty, spirituality, and solace into daily life,” du Pont says. “Over the course of 25 years, we have found that anyone — or any community — has the potential to build and sustain wonderful gardens that can be enjoyed for years to come.”



September 18, 2015

'Outstanding Gardens' book includes Knoxville garden



"Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration — 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy" (Abrams, 272 pages) contains 194 photographs and spotlights 50 stunning gardens from coast to coast, including the Knoxville garden of Caesar and Dorothy Stair.

Historic, modernist, traditional, cottage seaside, exotic, tropical, classic Southern, farmhouse — all are among the many types of gardens photographed by Marion Brenner and accompanied by descriptions curated by Page Dickey.

The book features eight of Preservation Gardens — a sampling of the many the Garden Conservancy have helped save, as well as 42 privately owned gardens that have opened their gates to communities through Open Days, the Conservancy's national garden visitation program.

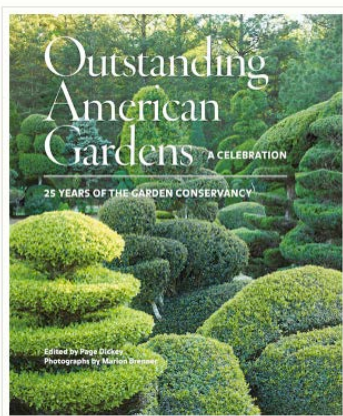
The book will be released Sept. 22.

For 25 years, the Garden Conservancy's core mission has been to save and share outstanding gardens for the education and inspiration of the public. Info: www.gardenconservancy.org.



SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

Local authors and book events, Sept. 20 and beyond Signings, new releases, events in Midlands



Signing events

Wine and Unwind: Tom Poland, *Southern Writer*: Local author Tom Poland will discuss his new book "Classic Carolina Road Trips from Columbia: Historic Destinations & Natural Wonders," from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday at the Lourie Center, 1650 Park Circle Columbia. Books will be available for purchase and signing. Beer, wine, and pizza will be served. \$5 requested donation. Open to all. RSVP to info@louriecentersc.com or call (803) 779-1971 ext. 12.

Upcoming releases

"The Lower Quarter," a book by Elise Blackwell, who teaches at the University of South Carolina, is scheduled to publish Monday. Blackwell has written four other novels: "Hunger," "The Unnatural History of Cypress Parish," "Grub," and "An Unfinished Score." More on Blackwell at <http://eliseblackwell.com/>.

Upcoming events

Camden writers host writing workshop: "First One Word, Then Another" is a half-day creative writing intensive sponsored by the Camden chapter of the South Carolina Writers' Workshop, set for 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sept. 26 at Central Carolina Technical

College, 1125 Little St. in Camden. S.C. author Bob Strother will deliver the keynote address. Strother has published more than 80 short stories, a short story collection, and two .The workshop offers classes in writing and shaping fiction, family histories and memoir, poetry, and the editing process. A panel discussion with professional authors will offer publishing advice. A boxed lunch will be served. Books by faculty members will be for sale, and authors will sign copies. The cost of the workshop is \$20 for SCWW members, \$25 for non-members. Register at myscww.org.

Farm to Table Event Co.'s September Harvest Dinner with David Shields: 6:30 p.m. Monday at City Roots. Shields, author of "Southern Provisions: The Creation & Revival of a Cuisine," a look at the history of Southern cooking and ingredients and the early nineteenth century chefs that elevated Southern foods to the level of cuisine, will be speaking at the dinner and hosting a book signing. Tickets for the four-course meal are \$75 per person at eventbrite.com

Featured gardens

SC gardens in new book: The Pearl Fryar Topiary Garden in Bishopville, and the gardens of Cindy and Ben Lenhardt, Gene and Betsy Johnson, and Peter and Patti McGee, all in Charleston, were selected to be four of 50 in the Garden Conservancy's debut book, "Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration – 25 Year of the Garden Conservancy." The Pearl Fryar is one of the Preservation Gardens. The three in Charleston are Open Days gardens.

From Staff and Wire Reports

Register-Star

September 12, 2015

LIVING TODAY: Margaret Roach's secret garden in Copake Falls

The Garden Conservancy's 'Open Days' let public in

By Katie Kocijanski Columbia-Greene Media



Margaret Roach photo
The gardener and author's garden at her home in Copake Falls.

COPAKE FALLS — Guests at the eighth annual Copake Falls Day on

Aug. 15 had an opportunity to take an inside look at a one-of-a-kind garden located in the middle of Taconic State Park.

At the end of 2007, New York City native Margaret Roach stepped down from her job as executive vice president/editorial director of Martha Stewart Living and moved up to her weekend home in Copake Falls, full time.

Her 30-plus-year career in the publishing industry had included stints as an editor for the New York Times and garden editor for Newsday.

When she settled in at her Valley Road home, she wanted to focus on her own creative writing and her passion for nature and gardening. Roach bought her home in the hamlet 30 years ago and began to transform her 2.3 acres of land into her own garden.

"I've been up here in the hamlet now going on nine years and I love it," Roach said. "I'm surrounded by thousands of acres of parkland; it's an amazing area to live in terms of the diversity of nature and plants."

Roach took up gardening as a way to cope with her mother's sudden Alzheimer's disease diagnosis at the age of 49. At 24 years old, she moved back home to help care for her mother.

She saw her new hobby as "optimistic occupational therapy; she fell in love with it," she said.

"I had to figure out what to do with myself during the day since I worked nights and needed to stay close to home," Roach said. "I started digging stuff up in my mom's yard and picked up gardening as a hobby at an odd time in my life."

After she moved to the hamlet to be a year-round resident, she also began her gardening blog, called "A Way to Garden" (www.awaytogarden.com). She has hosted a public radio podcast of the same name, produced in Sharon, Connecticut, at the NPR affiliate Robin Hood Radio.

In addition, she is an author, writing her memoir in 1989, "And I Shall Have Some Peace There" and in 2013, "The Backyard Parables," a garden memoir wrapped into a how-to book.

Today, after working on cultivating her garden for 20 years, visitors say each part of her garden has defined spaces that make each part of it different to the eye.

Roach described her garden as having a curvy shape to it. Each part of the garden has its own unique feature to it. She did find it challenging to make her space work with a steep hillside on her property, she said.

"I pride myself on being an organic gardener, I don't use any kinds of chemicals or pesticides when I grow my plants," Roach said. "I make it a point to put in plants that are more appealing to birds, butterflies and bees."

Roach's garden includes several waterfalls and ponds for frogs and salamanders. Some of the plants have fruit and seeds to attract different kinds of birds to the garden.

"My garden is really about engaging with nature. All of the fruits and seeds I've planted attract birds during all four seasons," she said. "I wanted to promote beneficial insects we need in our environment today."

The public has been able to get an up-close look at her garden several times thanks to the nonprofit organization The Garden Conservancy, based out of Garrison, Putnam County. The organization holds "Open Days," when privately-owned gardens open their gates to the public for a limited time, spring through fall. Roach is part of a national network of gardens that participate. The last day to see her garden for this year is Sept. 19.

"The organization is celebrating 25 years this year. It was founded by Frank Cabot in Cold Spring to conserve exceptional gardens across the country," said Jenny du Pont, the conservancy's president and chief executive officer. "Margaret has been a part of our

program for the past 21 years.”

The first garden chosen for the organization was the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek, California, noted du Pont. She said the organization operates in 38 states and has helped preserve 3,500 gardens throughout its 25 years.

Roach’s garden will actually be featured in a special 25th anniversary book celebrating the conservancy, titled “Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration — 25 Years of the Garden Conservancy,” due to be released nationwide on Sept. 22.

The book is edited by Page Dickey and all of the photographs were taken by Marion Brenner. It features 50 gardens across the country that are open to the public with 194 photographs capturing each garden’s uniqueness.

“I’ve visited many gardens and each time, I hear people saying how beautiful each garden is,” said du Pont, who believes gardening is a transformative experience for some people.

“The program really is a great educational experience for not only novice gardeners but master gardeners too.”

One of The Garden Conservancy’s most noted projects is the restoration of the gardens along Alcatraz Island in the San Francisco Bay. The conservancy is hoping to help transform more gardens across the country in all 50 states in the future, she said.

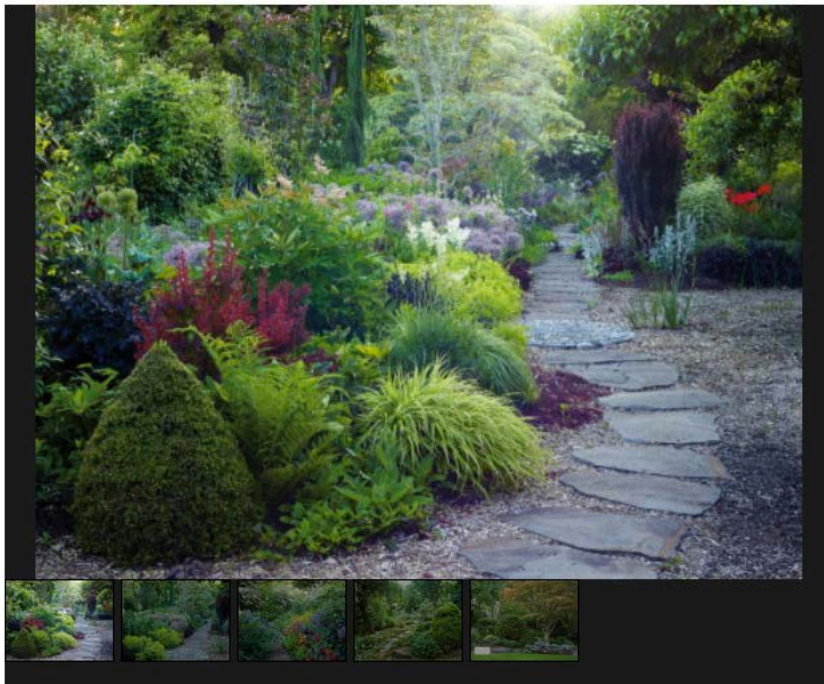
To find a garden or learn more about the Conservancy, visit www.gardenconservancy.org.

“What is so great about the conservancy’s program is it shows the diversity of the gardens open to the public across the country,” commented Roach. “The public can visit private gardens that are not just the botanical gardens in New York City.”

To reach reporter Katie Kocijanski, call 518-828-1616, ext. 2495 or email kkocijanski@registerstar.com.

September 12, 2015

Two outstanding Oregon gardens: See one Sunday



In a small 1 1/2-acre lot, Ernie & Marietta O'Byrne have created a striking garden in Eugene filled with eclectic plants in bold color combinations, a rock and scree garden with slabs from local quarries, huge trees, tiny alpine and even vegetables - many coaxed to life from seed. Photo by Marion Brenner from the

book, "Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration--25 Years of the Garden Conservancy"

By **Homes & Gardens of the Northwest staff**

Two incredible private Oregon properties are included in the new book, "Outstanding American Gardens: A Celebration—25 Years of the Garden Conservancy."



The 272-page hardcover (\$50, Abrams) will be released Sept. 22 by [the Garden Conservancy](#), which for 25 years has helped save and share American gardens that otherwise might be lost to development or remain hidden behind gates.

The book showcases 50 gardens with a range of styles and elements, from historic to modernist designs, traditional to exotic materials, and all levels of sustainability, including organic and xeric.

Eight of the properties are Preservation Gardens, which the nonprofit Garden Conservancy worked to save.

The other privately owned gardens are open to the public through the group's [national garden visitation program](#), says Jenny du Pont, president and CEO of the Garden Conservancy.

"Gardens stimulate all five senses. They bring beauty, spirituality and solace into daily life," says du Pont. "Over the course of 25 years, we have found that anyone — or any community — has the potential to build and sustain wonderful gardens that can be enjoyed for years to come."

Descriptions of the gardens, curated by Page Dickey, are paired with 194 photographs by Marion Brenner to reveal each gardener's ingenuity and artistic talents.

The Jane Platt Garden in Portland

Jane Platt's lushly layered 2 1/2-acre property in Portland's West Hills is one of [five private gardens open during the Portland Garden Tour West](#), a benefit for the Ainsworth Elementary School PTA, that takes place from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13.

According to "Outstanding American Gardens," the late Jane Platt inherited her love of gardening and rare plants from her father, Peter Kerr, a Scottish immigrant who, at the end of the 19th century, developed Dunthorpe's [Elk Rock Gardens of the Bishop's Close](#) overlooking the Willamette River.

In 1939, she married John Platt and moved to a gently sloping former apple orchard. She created distinct gardens with "walls" of deciduous trees and conifers and a variety of shrubs. She was especially fond of rhododendrons and unusual and unique plants from around the world.

Today, many of the specimens she planted are among the oldest and largest to be seen outside their native habitats.

In 1988, Jane's youngest son, David, took over the maintenance of the garden. He consults with his daughter [Kailla Platt](#), a landscape architect, on the garden, and his wife, Lisa, urges him "toward the big changes that need to be made."

Ernie & Marietta O'Byrne's Garden in Eugene

Ernie and Marietta O'Byrne began collecting plants more than 40 years ago and are legends in the horticulture world for creating a "magical" garden with thousands of plants, especially hellebore, growing on their 1 1/2-acre property.

There is a large rock and scree garden, crevice garden, damp-peat garden, conifer and heather garden, and a water-wise chaparral garden.

In 1992, they opened [Northwest Garden Nursery](#) after years of propagating hard-to-find plants to use in their landscaping business.

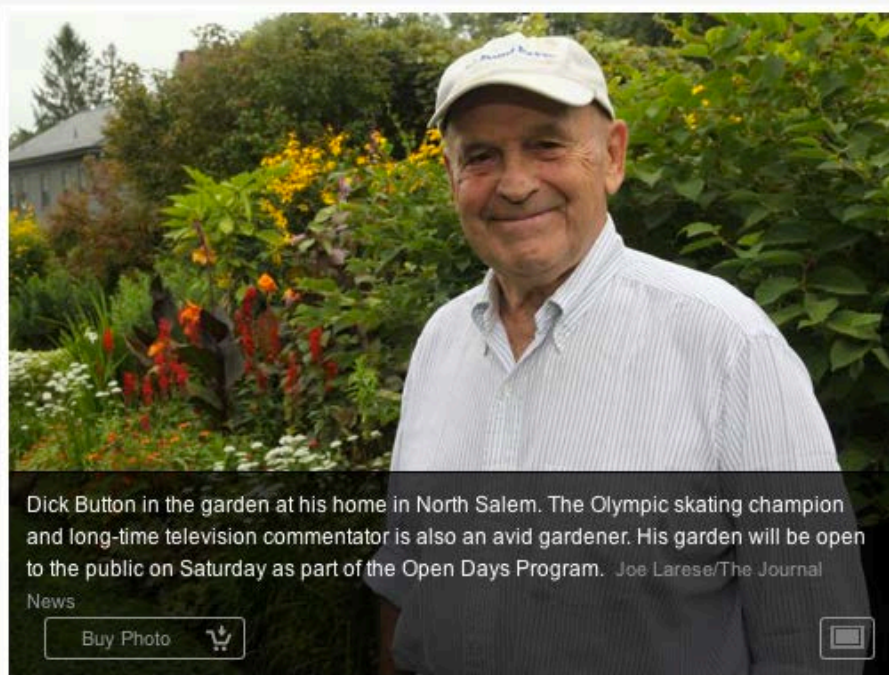
-- Homes & Gardens of the Northwest staff

September 10, 2015

New book honors 7 local gardens, including Dick Button's



Bill Cary, wcary@lohud.com



(Photo: Garden Conservancy/Marion Brenner photo)

See Button's garden Saturday, along with two others in northern Westchester

To celebrate its 25th anniversary of preserving and celebrating America's best

private gardens, the Garden Conservancy has just come out with a gorgeous new coffee-table book.

Called “Outstanding American Gardens,” the book features 50 favorites of the Garrison-based Garden Conservancy. Seven are in Westchester County.

You can see two of the seven on Saturday when figure-skating legend Dick Button and philanthropist Shelby White open the gates of their terrific northern Westchester gardens as part of the Conservancy's Open Days Program. (Video of Dick Button's garden at end of story)

The book, which is published by Stewart, Tabori & Chang and costs \$50, is edited by garden writer and longtime former North Salem resident Page Dickey. The gorgeous photos in the book — she visited all 50 gardens — are by Marion Brenner.

In 1995, Dickey co-founded the Open Days Program with former Bedford resident Pepe Maynard. Duck Hill, the garden Dickey created with her husband, Bosco Schell, in North Salem (right near Dick Button's) is prominently featured in the book.

Other local gardens in the book include Rocky Hills, the late Henriette Suhr's 13-acre property in the heart of Chappaqua; Ed and Vivian Merrin's garden in Cortlandt; and Iroki, the spectacular 50-acre garden and menagerie in Bedford owned by Judy and Michael Steinhardt.

See the gardens

Two of the seven Westchester gardens included in the new Garden Conservancy book, ones owned by Dick Button and Shelby White, will be open on Saturday as part of the Open Days Program. The Marquez-Fish garden in South Salem will also be open.

Sept. 12: Dick Button — Ice Pond Farm, 115 June Road, North Salem. Noon to 5 p.m.

- J. Bernard Marquez and Tim Fish, 74 Hemlock Road, South Salem. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

- Shelby White — the White Garden, 199 Elmwood Road, Lewisboro. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Oct. 31: Judy and Michael Steinhardt, Bedford. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; last visitors admitted at 2. \$10 admission. Call the Garden Conservancy for address and directions.

Open Days are rain or shine and no advance reservations are needed. Admission is \$7 per garden, unless otherwise noted. For more information, including discount offers and a complete list of gardens with hours, directions and owner descriptions, visit www.gardenconservancy.org/opendays or call 888-842-2442.



Famous figure skater and ice skating analyst Dick Button talks about the gardens at his home, Ice Pond Farm in North Salem. Joe Larese/The Journal News