

Congratulations to our neighbors, Olivia and Bill Alsbrooks of 3416 Country Hill Drive. They are the October 2017 Beauty Spot recipients.

We have watched this yard for several years and are impressed by its beautiful, thoughtful landscaping. Repetition of pattern and texture, through plantings such as Japanese maple, rose bushes, nandina, liriope, and ajuga as groundcover, as well as the use of ornamental species, provides symmetry and adds uniqueness.

The bed in the center of the front yard sets the stage, with the spikiness and draping of weeping Norway spruce juxtaposed with lush dense leafage of euphorbia and ornamental grass that stands upright, swaying in the breeze. To the left of the driveway, the crepe myrtle, with its wonderful mottled limbs, harbors a Japanese maple in the understory, and rich, deep green, almost purple, patches of ajuga create a thick carpet of groundcover.

To the right of the driveway, another Japanese maple anchors the bed, surrounded by leafy liriope, Nandina with bright red berries, and rose bushes.

There are beds that run along the whole front of the house. Again Japanese maple, more rose bushes, dogwood, and nandina, and here, juniper ground cover, maintain the symmetry and accentuate the striking river birch, with its shredded papery bark, anchoring the far corner of the bed.

The beds bordering the walkway to the front porch have a variety of plantings: variegated japonica, globe-shaped boxwoods, pine, nandina, and ajuga. Around the corner of the house, leading to the back yard, a conical shaped boxwood stands at attention with purple geranium, leading you to the arbor covered with wisteria.

The landscaping is enhanced by various garden ornaments interspersed throughout the beds, and assorted potted plants remind us of the beautiful colors of autumn.

Do stop by and take a look. We are sure it will inspire you with ideas for your own yard to take it from ordinary to extraordinary.

And thank you, Ernie Klimonda, for taking these wonderful pictures. You can see more Ernie's pictures of the Alsbrooks's yard on our CCH website.