

What an inspiring time to cruise through Country Club Hills in search of Beauty Spot of the Month! It was a tough choice this month because it is evident that many folks have been working in their yards. Nonetheless, one yard stood out for the work being done. Congratulations to Steven and Debbie Lane of 10019 Morningside Court: You are the recipients of the June 2014 Beauty Spot of the Month!

Corner lots can be a challenge because there are so many areas within public view. Some gardeners might find that overwhelming, but the Lanes have handled this potential challenge beautifully by working their yard in sections.

The first area that struck us was the bed right on the corner of Andover and Morningside. The highlights of this area are the rocks outlining the bed, barberry and spirea bushes that anchor the bed, and yellow irises that provide a pop of color against the purple petunias, salvia with its purple blooms, and the spiky leaves of the daylilies, just beginning to bud. We also noticed the new crepe myrtle (which we found out replaced one that did not survive our recent winter).

At the top of the driveway, there is a row of hanging baskets along the edge of the screened-in porch. Along the driveway and the front of the house are beds of assorted shrubs and trees: dogwood and crepe myrtles with a smattering of pink impatiens at their roots; an eye-catching euonymus shrub with its full yellow foliage; blooming lace cap hydrangea with white flowers; a pop of burgundy color from the barberry bush. Hostas add another dimension of foliage rounding out the beds.

The fenced-in area along Andover also deserves a peek. Along the house are well-established beds planted symmetrically on either side of the stairs: large acuba plants with yellow leaves with green speckles bookend the beds, followed by nandina domestica, hostas, butterfly bushes, and spirea. Continuing to the right, along the inner perimeter of the fence, you'll see a hydrangea that was cut way back and is beginning to flourish, a bleeding heart plant (in front of wisteria) that is so large it looks like a bush, rose of Sharon, and phlox. And in the left corner is a bed with a new birch and some transplanted pachysandra and lilies.

As if this weren't enough, there are five tiers of boxed garden spaces along the right side of the house filled with tomato plants (notice the colorful cages over the plants) and other vegetable plants.

When we chatted with the Lanes about their yard, Steve indicated that they had returned last year from three years of living overseas and they were working now to get their yard in order. Though Steve says the yard will look even better next year, we love it just the way it is now—as a work in progress and a great reminder that using a variety of shrubs, trees, bushes, and perennials in a variety of colors, shapes, sizes, and textures is a great way to create a landscape full of visual interest that can withstand some benevolent neglect (while you are traveling the world) and still thrive and flourish.

To see a picture, click here:

http://www.cchca.org/photos.cchca.org/albums/userpics/10001/IMG_6955-C-T-S.jpg

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Judelsohn with Joyce Skoglund for Country Hill Garden Club

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