

The Beauty Spot for August has been awarded to two homes together: Ann Marie and Mike Bartholme, of 3302 Spring Lake Court, and Patty and Steve Rodgers, of 3304 Spring Lake Court.

Why have we awarded Beauty Spot to two homes, you ask? Because it is evident that the landscaping of the two houses is so beautifully coordinated that it would be a crime not to.

Here's the story:

Ann Marie Bartholme, and her husband, Mike, moved into the house at 3302 Spring Lake Court. The landscaping, which is lovely, was already there: A path of small rocks bordering both sides of the driveway, a beautiful stone wall, mature dogwoods, a camellia shrub and crepe myrtle trees, ground cover of pachysandra, and beds blooming with phlox, helleborus, stargazer lilies, bleeding hearts, bee balm, black-eyed susans, coneflowers, and coreopsis. Ann Marie does a wonderful job maintaining the landscaping! The yard always looks beautiful and well-maintained.

The house next door went on the market. Ann Marie's parents were living about a half-hour away at the time. Ann Marie's father, Steve, thought that was too far to be away from the grandkids, so he and Patty bought the house next door!

At 3304, in the front and along the right side of the house, the beds are planted with azaleas and hydrangeas, providing the ease of care afforded from perennials along with the burst of colors when the plants are in bloom. The front yard has a beautiful cherry tree that provides wonderful shade. The bed along the right side of the driveway (that shares the property line with 3302) has a Blessed Mary statue, one striking pink naked lady flower, a bunch of chrysanthemums, lilies of the valley, and knock-out roses. The ground is covered in ivy. And there is a beautiful brick walkway between the two yards.

Being here for a few years already, Patty and Steve thought they'd make some changes to their landscape. Being ambitious folk, they decided to continue the stone wall along their property line, and add the same small stones to border their own driveway. They laid the stones themselves, and three months later they have an amazingly beautiful reward for their efforts. Bravo, Patty and Steve!

Congratulations, Ann Marie and Mike, and Patty and Steve! Your beautifully coordinated yards are an inspiration to us all!

Jennifer Judelsohn  
for Country Hills Garden Club