

The Beauty Spot of the Month for June goes to the Thompson-Yang home at 3413 Andover Drive. CCH's Garden Club president Joyce Skoglund and I have had our eye on this yard for a couple of years now, and it was an easy choice this time—the yard is a wonderful example of balanced symmetry where different textures, shapes, and color play off of each other. You'll understand as you read on...

In the center of the front yard is a striking, tall, mature tulip poplar that provides a wonderful canopy of shade. In the circular bed around it are hosta, heuchera, Asiatic lilies, rhododendron, pulmonaria, azalea, and variegated liriop.

On the left side of the driveway are a couple of small beds. Of particular interest is a grouping next to the carport that includes variegated grasses, flock, and a sand cherry tree with beautiful purple leaves. Also here are cleome and a couple of super-tall, "crazy" lilies, which will soon be in bloom with a plethora of white flowers.

At the very top of the driveway is a spacious bed with more tulip poplar, as well as holly trees, liriop, hosta, and a few well-placed rocks. The overall feel is meditative.

On the right side of the driveway, flanking the house, is a bed filled with several containers full of impatiens and other colorful annuals. Nearby are dusty millers and calla lilies (which are not yet in bloom), along with peonies and rhododendron.

Chimes hanging under the carport, baskets hanging under the eaves of the house, a gourd birdhouse, and sculptured metal frogs that hold garden tools add visual interest to the area.

In a bed along the front of the house are nandina, irises with variegated leaves, encore azaleas (which bloom in the fall), white and pink hydrangeas, day lilies, pulmonaria, and sweet pea (whose white flowers are currently in bloom). A variety of ivy provides ground cover. As the bed continues around the house, we find black-eyed Susans and deep purple hydrangeas.

All of the beds are lined with either wood, stone, or brick, for a neat, finished look.

The backyard is even more delightful than the front. It is an enchanted garden, filled with variegated liriop, red-hot poker, spirea, and flat hydrangea. In another area are white rhododendron, rose of Sharon, heuchera, pulmonaria, camellia, and climbing hydrangea. Also present are holly lauders walking stick and Japanese Yoshima cedar pine.

A wooden arbor is covered in clematis and is surrounded by more rose of Sharon. Nearby are hosta and plumbago, whose lovely blue flowers provide delightful ground cover.

There's more: dwarf hydrangea with fuschia flowers, more Asiatic lilies, gardenia, yarrow (with tiny red flowers and lacy leaves), dwarf crepe myrtle, barberry, and dwarf bamboo. Scattered throughout the yard are a variety of statuary, chimes, and birdfeeders.

Believe it or not, this doesn't even begin to describe the gamut of plantings in this amazing yard. You really have to see it to fully appreciate it.

For a beginning gardener like myself, this yard—and its owner, Jean Thompson—has some very valuable lessons to pass on to you, dear reader. Jean told us she moves things around every year, to keep things fresh and interesting, or to find new locations where things will thrive more fully. So, the lesson is: Don't be afraid to dig things up. She also splits plants so that she has them to put into other areas of the garden, without the expense of buying new plants—a great money-saving tip. It also produces a sense of flow and continuity, so that the eye is constantly drawn on to the next area and the whole remains cohesive. And, Jean outlines the beds with wood, stone, or brick to give her landscaping a professional look and eliminate the need for constantly edging the beds.

All in all, this yard is an inspirational and very appropriate choice as Beauty Spot of the Month. We are pleased to recognize it, and we encourage all of our CCH neighbors to stop by for a look sometime!

Respectfully submitted,  
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