

Misty Tour Delights

By Kay Van Allen, GCV Horticulture Chairman,
The Lynchburg Garden Club

The fragrance of wisteria, the smell of newly trampled grass, the glimpse of a tree peony through the mist...is this England? No, it is Horticulture Field Day 2008 in Leesburg. From the shy beauty of late spring ephemerals to the brazen brilliance of red poppies, the show is on. Eda Dennis's European garden with her prize tree peonies and precisely pruned topiaries is a delight...as is her woodland walk out to the bluff overlooking a lazy stream.



Cabell West and Kim Nash

Photo: Linda Consolvo

Peggy Rust's fabulous stone house, built by her husband's father, commands a spectacular view of the Potomac River and the fauna that flourish in its environs. The enclosed swimming pool, hidden from view by a green hedge, is equaled by her parterres that are planted wisely in deer-disdained plants such as lamb's ears, boxwood and salvia. Peggy's woodland walk is lovely now, but cries for another visit in the earlier spring when the Trout Lilies, Dutchman's Britches and Spring Beauties are in bloom. Edgehill Farm, even in the rain, is sumptuous. The spring, not far from the old stone house, feeds two ponds created by owner, Eleanor Adams. The first, and larger pond, is surrounded with yellow flag irises, cat tails and other bog plants, while the smaller pond serves as a swimming hole for the grandchildren. Eleanor has an array of plants that range from haughty named peonies to hardy pass-along plants whose names have been forgotten over the years. The spring provides ample water for flowering beds, raspberry plots and vegetable gardens. Her folly is a stunning lattice half-dome, which is usually covered with New Dawn roses, and provides a shady lifeguard station for the swimming hole.

Along with these unique private gardens, Field Day in Leesburg offered visits to Birchwood, a private arboretum where one could linger for days, as well as an opportunity to visit Oatlands and Little Oatlands and the majestic gardens of Morven Park. The weather was chilly, but the welcome in each garden was warm and wonderful.

Di Cook flanked by deodora cedars.



Di Cook flanked by deodora cedars.

Photo: Linda Consolvo