

## The Jackson Garden Story- A Spacious Natural Setting

I like to refer to my garden as a "Hillside Retreat". As you tour the garden you will understand why.

We moved to our home in 1996 and have been developing the surrounding acre since then. Eight large oaks were removed for safety and due to storm damage. We started with a blank slate to create the gardens we envisioned.

**Of course, it came with problems we had to overcome.** The hard clay soil was in poor condition, tree roots remained and drainage issues had to be addressed. Each spring we top-dress with mushroom and other types of compost to improve the soil. The critters like my garden as much as we do. Deer, voles and armadillos visit frequently. Drainage improvement is a constant work in progress.

As you walk through the gardens you will see various statuary pieces collected over the years, a fountain, birdhouses and numerous wrought iron arches that lead to the meditation garden. You may even hear a chicken or two from their private quarters.

**Shortly after moving here, we built a garden building.** We use it as a typical shed, but it did have a special use. It became the setting for a garden wedding for one of my friends. The mural of hollyhocks, hydrangeas, daisies painted with a soft blue, purple, yellow and pink palette made a beautiful backdrop to exchange vows and celebrate.

**My favorite plant in the garden is a large pink and white camellia.** I associate happy thoughts with it. My mother took me to a nursery when I was a child and introduced me to the grower and hybridizer. Later, a friend gave me the bush and it was moved three times to its current location.

**Each season in the garden brings a new look.** Spring starts with edgeworthia, hellebores, wisteria, dogwoods, azaleas, rhodendrons, forsythia, lilac and magnolias followed by clematis and jasmine. In early summer, hydrangeas, iris, oriental lilies, gardenias, climbing and bush roses and a large collection of daylilies decorate the garden.

In Fall, Japanese and red maple trees of various sizes take center stage in the woods. My prized collection of red, pink, white and variegated camellias dot the landscape in fall and winter.

**Two of our garden areas have been under renovation for the past two years.** Overgrown shrubs have been removed or cutback. We have learned to simplify, carefully select plants and create a more natural space.

It has been a labor of love, a place to escape and talk to God during difficult times and joyful times. It has been a privilege to dream and walk in this garden. My husband has been so helpful and supportive. And through this garden I have met so many dedicated gardeners from all walks of life that have enriched my life tremendously.

**Welcome to our garden and enjoy it.**

Alice and Mike

## Catalog of Plants- Jackson Garden

Roses – climbers, old garden shrub

Lilac

Camellias – Japonica and Sasanqua

Native dogwoods and Kousa

Japanese and German Iris

Hellebores

Moss phlox

Purple coneflower

Daylilies

Coreopsis

False Indigo

Annebelle and Macrophylla hydrangea

Vitex

Magnolia – Sweet Bay and Little Gem

Japanese Maple, Red Maple

Eastern Redbud

Fringe Tree

Crepe Myrtles

Dahlia

Beebalm

Salvia

Ornamental grasses

Gardenias

Anise

Juniper

St. John's Wort

Boxwoods

