

GARDENS ON TOUR MAY 18-19 GLC-NARGS GALA

Brief Itinerary

Friday May 17th: Meet and greet at Tony & Susan Reznicek's garden, 890 Wickfield Court, Ann Arbor, starting at 6 PM—Park on the street (parking is a bit limited, so carpooling would be great)

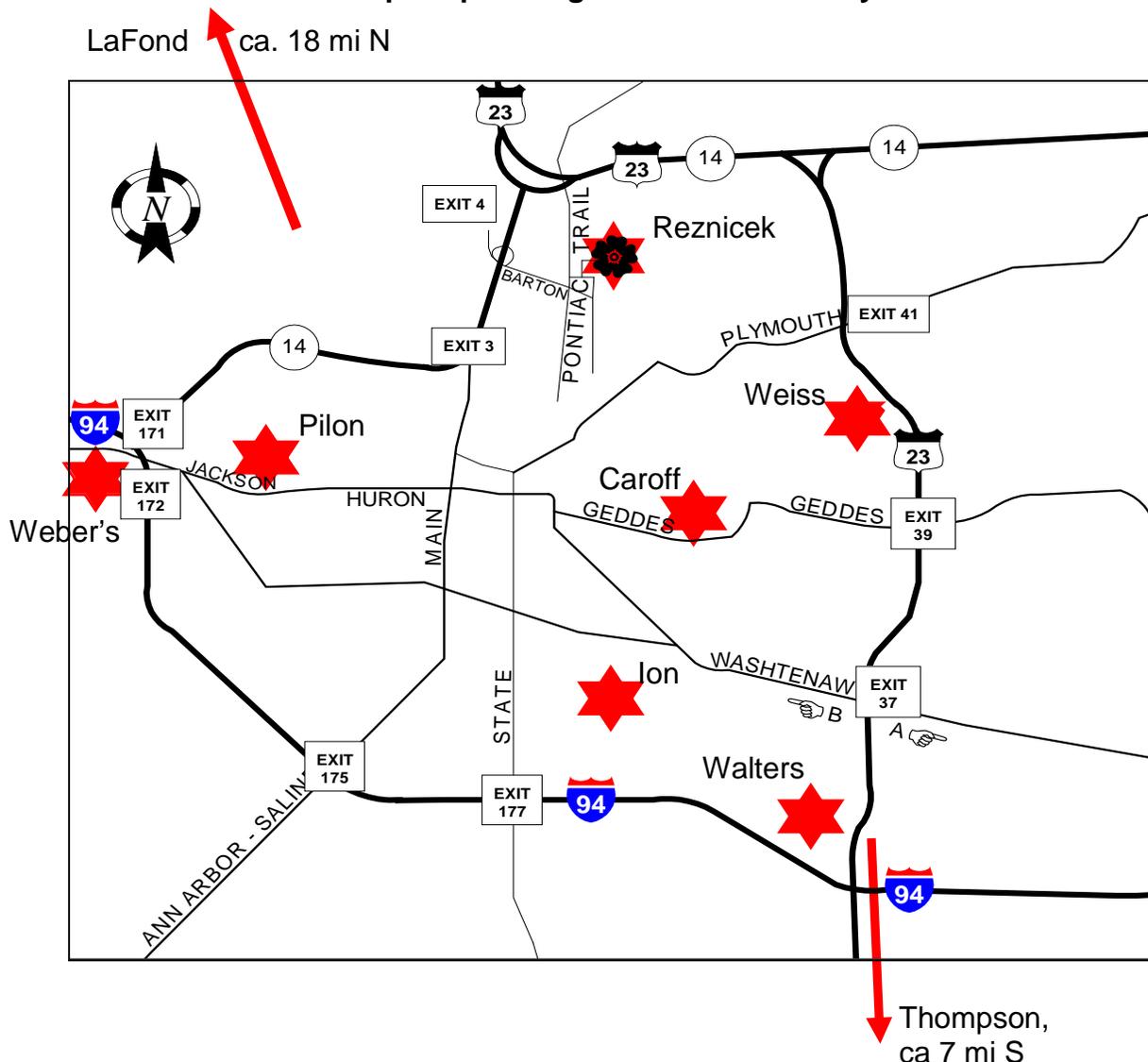
Here we will have our GLC spring plant sale; all can participate. Along with plants donated by GLC members we have procured plants from Wrightman Alpines and Sunscapes Nursery. Also Esther Benedict (Benedict's Nursery) will be selling her rock garden plants. If you are not a GLC Chapter member, do feel free to donate any special plants you would like to have distributed to other rock gardeners to help support this event.

Saturday May 18: 9 AM - 4 PM garden visits.

6 PM Dinner at Weber's in the Atrium Ballroom, 8 PM **Vojtech Holubec: *Happy in the Wild, Happy in the Garden***

Sunday May 19: 9 AM - 1 PM garden visits.

General Ann Arbor area map for planning – see also inside flyer

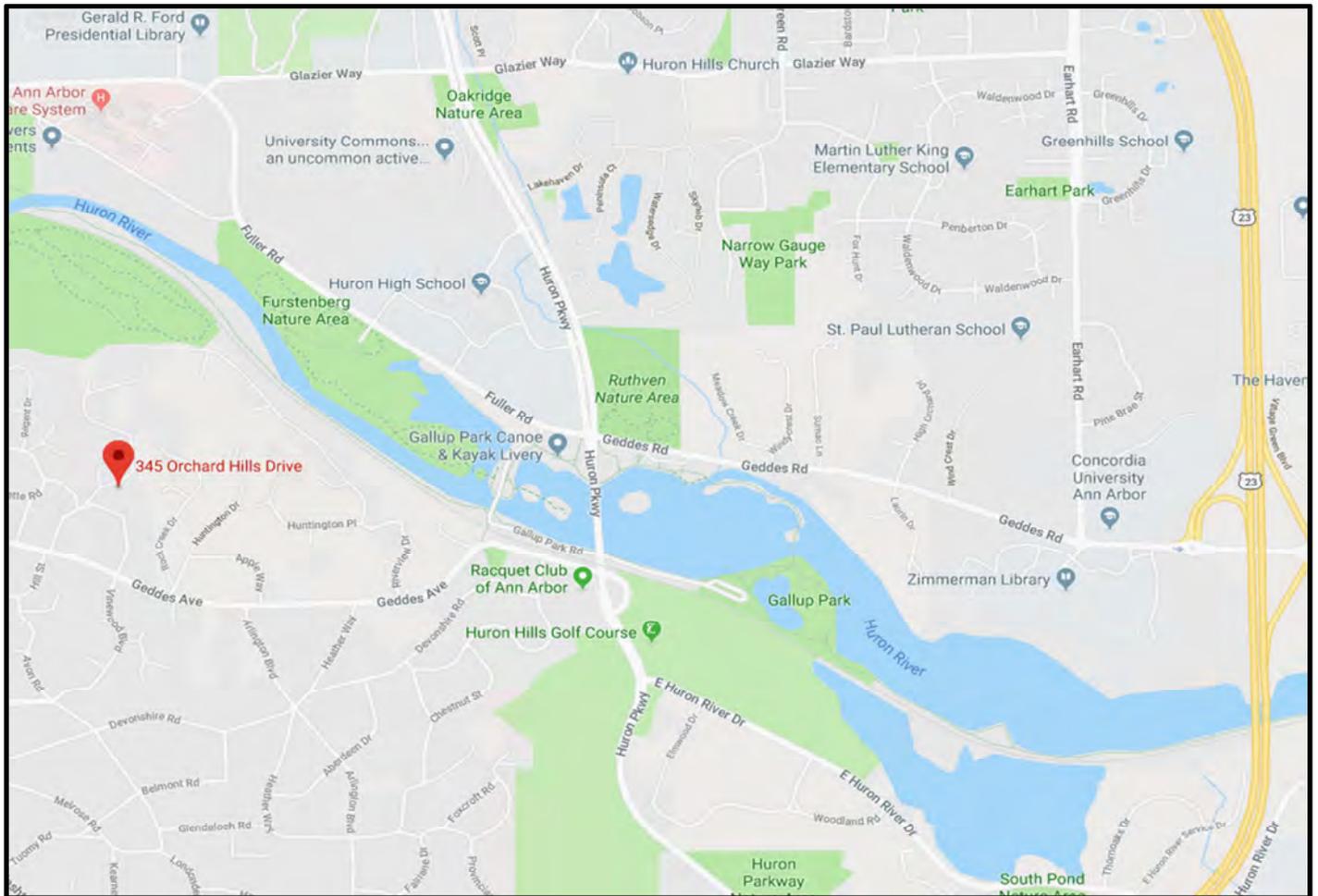


Garden Descriptions and maps in alphabetical order

Julia Caroff
345 Orchard Hills Drive
Ann Arbor Mi

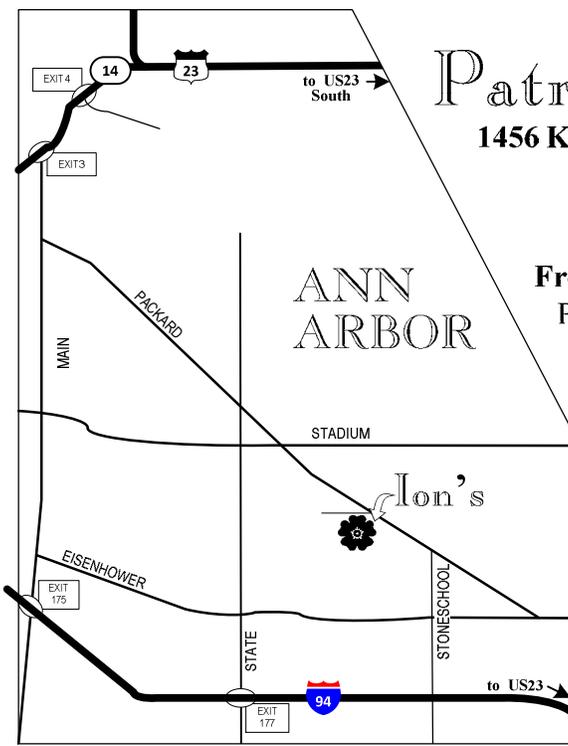
Parking is on the south side of the street.

My garden is still in the making. In August 2013, I bought my house and spent the next two years clearing buckthorn, honeysuckle and removing overgrown foundation evergreens. With interests in native plants, ornamental shrubs and peonies, I have parts of my garden devoted to each, although sometimes I have mixed native and ornamental plants in beds. Of most interest to NARGS members are the rock gardens designed and built near the back of my home by Don LaFond. Last year, Don designed and built an L-shaped raised bed of cast stone around two side of a patio, with tufa and sand in the top bed. The year before, he created a flat gravel bed with Devonian reef rock. Both beds are planted with an eclectic collection of alpine plants. Also, he put in a small bog and pond.





Bonnie & Patrick Ion's garden is a city lot garden that has been worked on for over 30 years. Always with ecology and access in mind (and more recently grandchildren), the garden has evolved over time to include several types of sun and shade beds, a small pond, a 10x15 greenhouse from recycled materials, an ecologically-designed driveway keeping runoff on our property.... there are even some interesting plants in the mixed borders. We particularly like interesting bulbs from South Africa but there are other things to see on a short visit.



Patrick & Bonnie Ion

1456 Kensington Drive, Ann Arbor, MI 48104-6214

From US23/M14: Take Exit 3 (Main Street) South to Packard. Turn Left (Southeast) onto Packard and follow it to Kensington Drive.
Turn Right (West) onto Kensington and the Ion's house is on your Left (South).

From I94: Take Exit 177 (State Street) North to Eisenhower. Turn Right (East) onto Eisenhower and follow it to Stoneschool. Turn Left (North) onto Stoneschool and follow it to Packard. Turn Left (Northwest) onto Packard. Follow Packard to Kensington Drive. Turn Left (West) onto Kensington and the Ion's house is on your Left (South).



Don and Mary LaFond
11836 McGregor Road
Pinckney MI

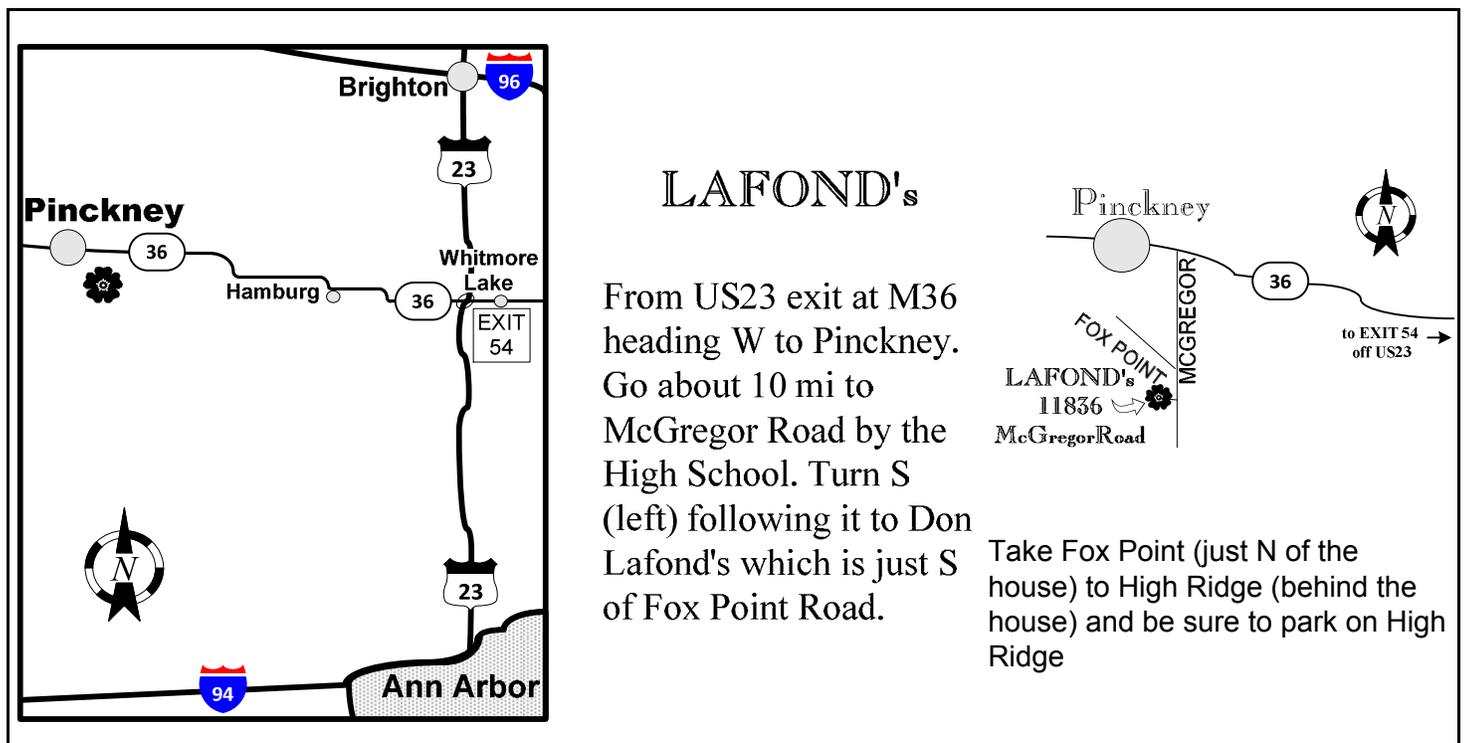
Note: there is no parking in the driveway or on McGregor Rd.– take Fox Point (just N of the house) to High Ridge (behind the house) and park on High Ridge. Do not park on Fox Ridge –you may get towed

How do I describe Don's garden, he asks?!?! First thing that comes to mind is lots and lots of work! However, it is quite beautiful and breathtaking to look at. It is unique and he likes to section areas off but not in a square or circle but in odd shapes with winding paths all through the yard. It is eclectic as his garden has common, rare, and unusual plants along with a lot of deciduous trees and conifers to give the yard a lot of variety and things to look up at, things at eye level, knee level and things on the ground.

It started out with us both wanting azaleas, rhododendrons and lilies as those were our favorites back when we bought this land. Over time we expanded the beds and then Don joined NARGS and things went haywire from there! There were tons and tons of things that we didn't even know existed, then we came to the realization that some of the other things we wanted to grow we couldn't. That's where NARGS came in. After Don joined and we went to see Jacques and Dick's gardens and we were in awe of their rock gardens. Our soil is sandy and it was perfect for rock garden plants and the addiction began for Don! He took anything and everything anyone gave him and then purchased plants from the plant sales and even grew things from seed. He started expanding the garden every year since then and by the time he was done (if you want to call it done – yeah right!!!) we now have absolutely no grass. Our daughter was not happy anytime he turned any grass into garden and would get mad at him for taking away her play area. However, through the years he had plenty of sand piles that both of our kids enjoyed playing in.

To add to his addiction, he had a greenhouse that was small, then turned that into a garage for me (lucky girl that I am – actually I insisted on it). Then he added the greenhouse onto our house. Just this past fall he took an area that was a patio right outside of the house and covered it into a huge green house. Now I think I need a second job to pay to heat it through the winter. Just kidding!

To this day he still finds ways of moving things around or eliminating outbuildings and/or overhangs to put in more garden space. I suspect that once he has completely used every possible bit of land that he can he will just tear up an area and do something different. He is hopelessly addicted, and I think he will garden till the day he falls over in that garden of his!

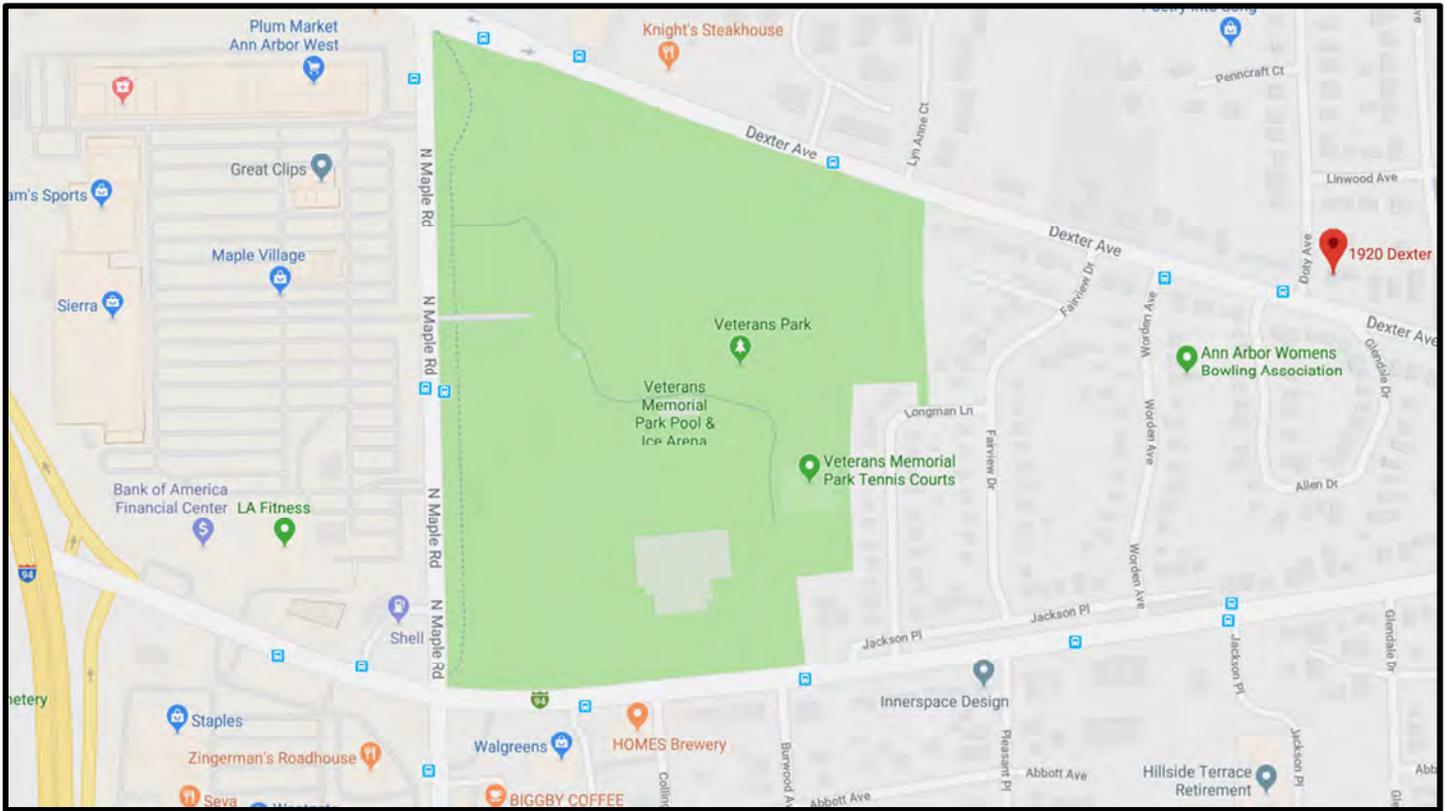




Don & Mary LaFond's garden

Holly Pilon
1920 Dexter Avenue
Ann Arbor, MI

There is more parking on Linwood Ave. – just past the house, off Doty Ave.



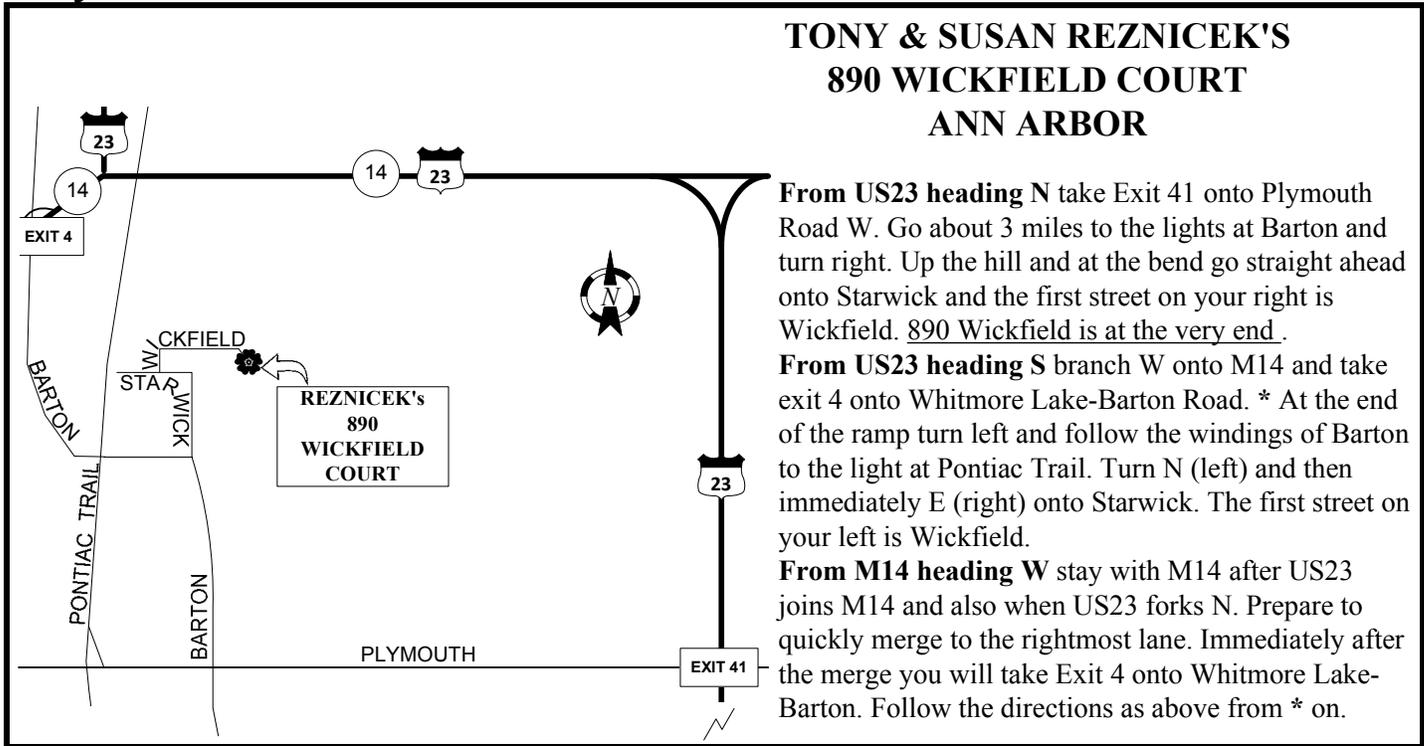
We live on a corner, in a house built in 1927. There are many old trees on our neighborhood, dating from the 1850's or earlier. We have red, white and swamp oaks, black walnuts and several varieties of hickories. In our yard we have a dogwood over 30 feet tall, maybe dating from when the house was built and one of the biggest in the neighborhood. Some of our conifers were stray seedlings we transplanted to their current spots or brought home from school on Arbor day years ago. We have a lot of shade and that determines what we plant.

Because we are a corner lot, we have a lot of extension which we treat as xeric, giving it supplemental water only rarely. The plants there like it on the dry side. We have butterfly weed, Russian sage, gauras, sedums, iris and daylilies to name a few. We also have many bulbs that flower and go dormant before the summer heat and dryness arrive. In spring we have Galanthus, crocus, tulips-especially the wild varieties, daffodils, fritillarias, alliums and others. We also have some fall bloomers, like autumn crocus, colchicums and Sternbergias or autumn daffodils.

We're planted a lot of shrubs, too. Smaller means you can fit more in. Some of what does well are dwarf conifers, a tree wisteria that can be very fragrant, some viburnums, various small maples, mock oranges, dwarf beeches and a few rhododendrons. The star magnolias bloom early, the blue berries give late fall color and a little fruit. Around the yard and under the shrubs and trees are many bulbs which have seeded around to form carpets of color. The lilacs were here when we bought the house, as were the bleeding hearts and many of the hostas. The river birch and dawn redwood were planted to replace oaks we lost.

There is also wildlife-birds at the feeders, chipmunks and squirrels are everywhere. The rabbits are the reason many plants are fenced. No deer recently, although they are in the neighborhood. We grow lots of different plants, so there is usually something blooming from February to November.

**TONY & SUSAN REZNICEK'S
890 WICKFIELD COURT
ANN ARBOR**



From US23 heading N take Exit 41 onto Plymouth Road W. Go about 3 miles to the lights at Barton and turn right. Up the hill and at the bend go straight ahead onto Starwick and the first street on your right is Wickfield. 890 Wickfield is at the very end .

From US23 heading S branch W onto M14 and take exit 4 onto Whitmore Lake-Barton Road. * At the end of the ramp turn left and follow the windings of Barton to the light at Pontiac Trail. Turn N (left) and then immediately E (right) onto Starwick. The first street on your left is Wickfield.

From M14 heading W stay with M14 after US23 joins M14 and also when US23 forks N. Prepare to quickly merge to the rightmost lane. Immediately after the merge you will take Exit 4 onto Whitmore Lake-Barton. Follow the directions as above from * on.

This garden is one of contradictory desires, a love of both trees and shrubs and sunny rock garden plants, mesic woodland plants and even bog plants and also dryland species bulbs, and hardy succulents. Fitting them all together means a focus on microhabitats and careful siting, taking advantage of a steeply sloping site, and dense planting. Overall themes include an emphasis on small plants, on diversity and, like many rock gardeners, on species rather than cultivars. Besides traditional



rock garden plants, this includes Michigan natives, Chinese and Japanese woodland plants, hardy members of tropical plant families, hardy succulents, and anything of evolutionary interest, no matter how



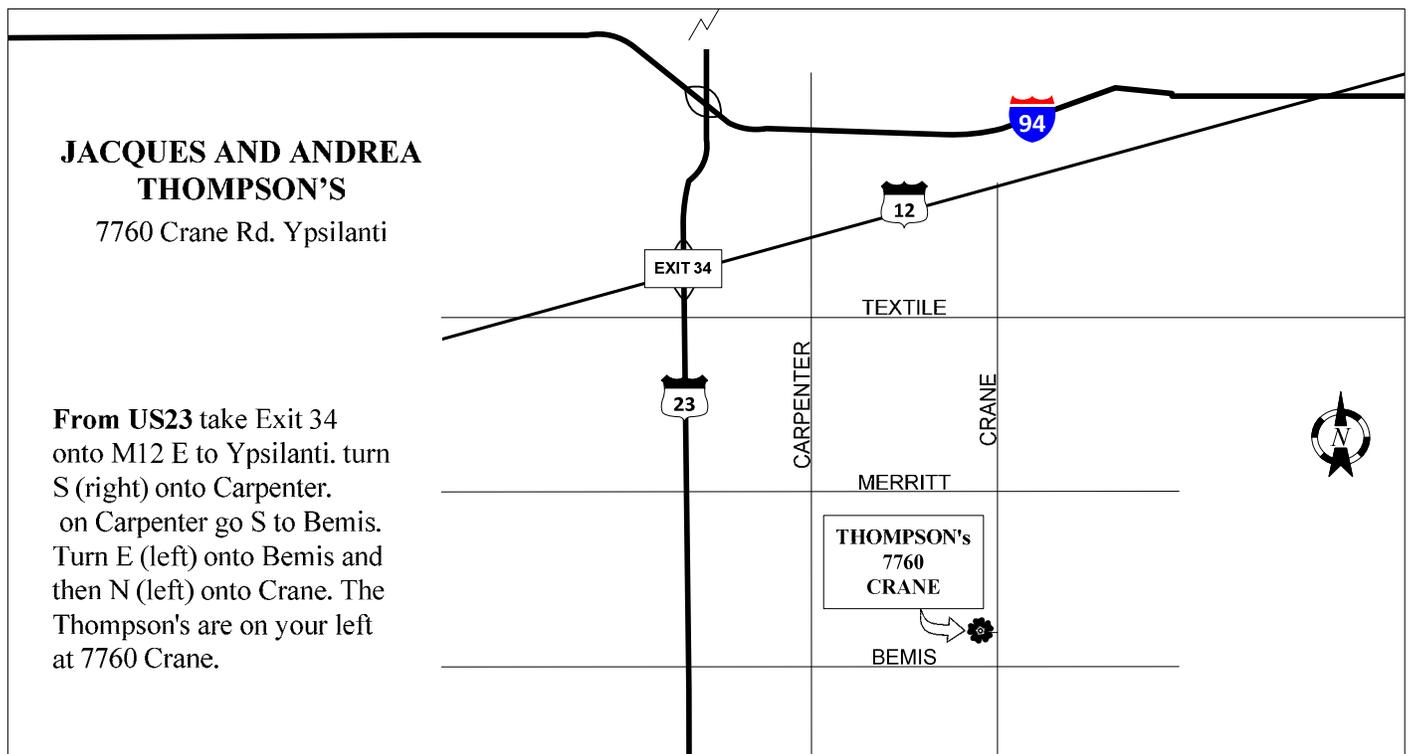
ugly. Special areas include a crevice garden and a front sand bed, both in sun, and several tufa slopes and walls with varying exposures for ferns, gesneriads, and saxifrages; all these in a matrix of more traditional rock gardens and beds for woodland plants and small perennials, plus a relatively small bog garden. The steepest slopes are devoted to lower maintenance shrubs, and the upper portion is mostly modeled after natural woodland.

Jacques and Andrea Urda-Thompson
7760 Crane Road
Ypsilanti, MI

Our garden in Ypsilanti Michigan began as a two acre parcel, one of lawn and another of field, along with a number of larger conifers. By incorporating native grasses and flowering grassland plants (and annual spring burning), the field was transformed into “our prairie”. While the lawn was broken-up by small isolated rock gardens. Shrub borders (mostly planted with mail-order shrubs and trees) would in time screen the beds from each other.

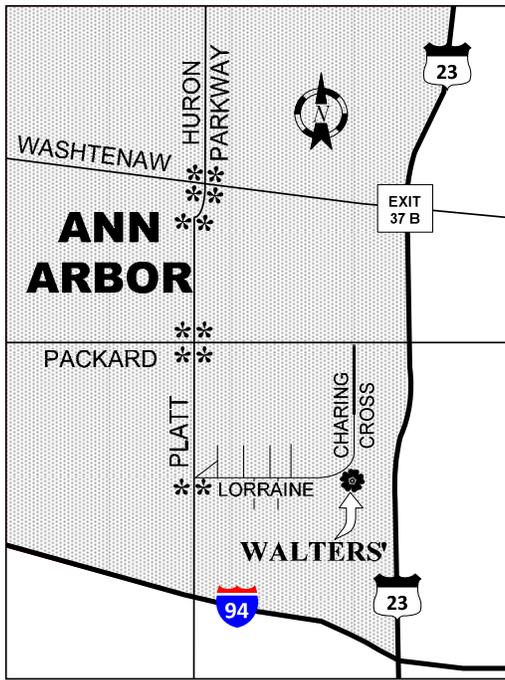
Our first rock garden, constructed of rounded rocks of native glacial till was followed by a limestone fell field, and an ever-expanding tufa hillside. Over the years our once sizeable prairie has been greatly reduced by the addition of a wind-break of (now large) conifers, a pond and a propagation area that includes a pit-house and seed-frames. In the ensuing decades, the once sea-of-lawn was consumed by the ever-expanding archipelagos of island beds, until it was merely grass pathways. As those green paths were the greatest source of weeds in the various beds, I am now working on replacing those lawn paths with crushed stone.

The weather that we have experienced these past several years has been so widely variable that we cannot say precisely what will be in flower. We expect that we will be into our third wave of bulbs, with some fritillaria, narcissus, and tulips coming on. With any luck, this past winter will not have spoiled the show of Native as well as Asian Woodlanders. The jury is still out on the flower blossoms on the woody plants. Still, we trust that enough of the alpinines will have pulled through to give visitors something to look at besides a lot of rocks and conifers!





Jacques & Andrea Urda-Thompson's garden



Bev & Bob
WALTERS

3437 Charing Cross
Ann Arbor

From US23:

Take Exit 37B (Washtenaw) W toward Ann Arbor. Turn S (left) onto Huron Parkway at the lights, following this when it becomes Platt, then through the lights at Packard. Turn E (left) at the lights off of Platt onto Lorraine & following this to Charing Cross at the bend. Bev & Bob Walters are on the bend at 3437.

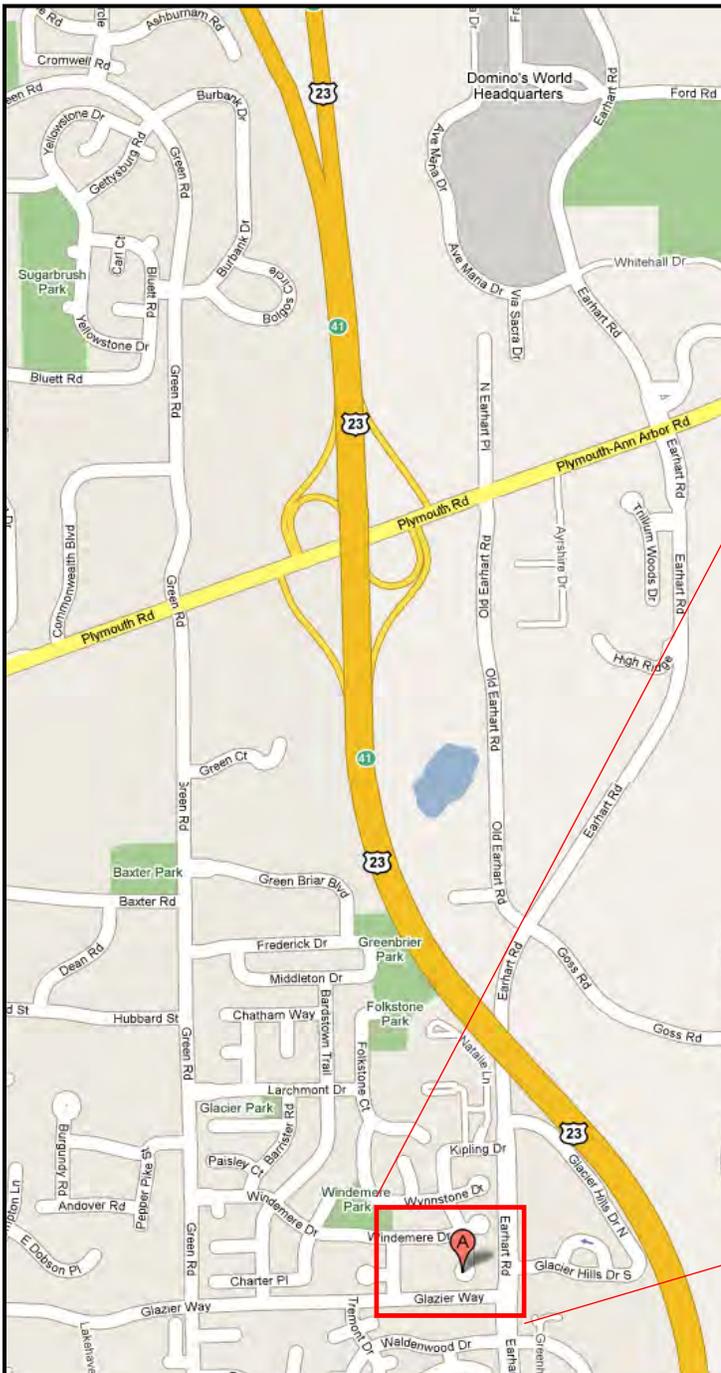
Bev and Bob Walters garden surrounds their residence on a 3 acre lot in SE Ann Arbor. The front garden is home to shaded perennial beds with a shrub border, while the sunnier backyard displays the rock gardens and water features. *Iris* and *Allium* are favored genera here, along with numerous cacti.



Ed & Colleen Weiss 1005 Fairmount Ann Arbor, MI

The Weiss garden is located on an irregular suburban lot near the North Campus of The University of Michigan. Relatively new, their garden was started after they moved to Ann Arbor from Detroit in 2010. Confronted with where to begin, they centered more on the aesthetics of design over getting more & more plants. That lasted, as every gardener knows, only for a short while, until it became quite apparent that there is always room for one more plant.

The heart of the Garden was built around their conifer collection. Over 100 different conifers and conifer Brooms were arranged on a 4- 6 ft. high berm that separates the property from the road. Holding the Berm in place is a 100 ft. bolder wall which provides countless opportunities for crevice plants of all sorts. New to the Weiss effort, is their beginnings on collecting Cold Hardy cactus (sans *Opuntia*). This is an interesting garden to visit to see how a medium size suburban back yard can be transformed by thoughtful plantings of alpiners and conifers. For more information about how the garden came into being, there is the article "Form Follows Function" in the Summer 2018 issue of the Conifer Quarterly.



Inset





Ed & Colleen Weiss' garden