*(Revised March 2018)*

**Walking Tour**

**WESTERN KENTUCKY**

**BOTANICAL GARDEN**

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**This Walking Tour is made possible by the Butterfly Children**

**Learn More about Butterfly Children at Debra.org**

**October is Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB) awareness month**

*Enjoy the beauty, history and wonders of nature and our environment as you tour*

*this wonderful garden.*

1. **LEROY WATKINS MEMORIAL ALLEE**: Is located as you enter from the parking lot near the silos. This is in part made possible by donations from the Home and Garden Club in memory of Leroy Watkins, a local nurseryman.
2. **TICKET BOOTH FROM THE ELLENDALE INTERNATIONAL LIVESTOCK FAIR circa 1890:** The Ellendale Fair was held near Curdsville in western Daviess County from 1894 -1898. Vast crowds were attracted. Railroads offered special rates for fair-goers and steamboats carried passengers on the Green River. The Ellendale Fair Company built a hotel, racetrack, exhibition halls and other facilities.
3. **THE WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN:** This is a garden where students from the Department of Horticulture at Western, under the direction of Dr. Elmer Gray, experiment with new varieties of plants being developed in their department.
4. **THE COTTAGE IN THE GARDEN:** Donated by Dr. Trey & Allison Truett, the cottage was moved to the Garden in 2002. The black iron railing bordering the patio dates to about 1860 and was used as a fence to enclose the Daviess County Courthouse. The fence was repaired and installed around the patio in 2003 by Sherman Brunner, a local artisan. The Cottage contains a horticultural library and administration offices. The Cottage in the Garden and other areas of The Garden may be rented for private dinners, luncheons, weddings, meetings and other events.
5. **ROSE GARDEN:** Several nationally known rose growers and nurseries donated over 120 roses to begin the garden in 1998. During the last few years many of the roses have been removed due to infection with the Rose Rosette virus and will not be replaced until there is a treatment for the disease or resistant varieties are developed. The Rose Garden consists of miniatures, floribundas, climbers, hybrid teas, David Austin English and old fashioned roses. The beautiful water fountain in the center of the rose garden was donated by Betty Sue Hill. The six-foot tall fence surrounding the garden is patterned after the fence in the rose garden at the Missouri Botanical Garden and was made by Barbara and Wayne Russ. The entrance arch is a memorial to Nancy Murphy. The trees at each corner of the Rose Garden are Little Girl magnolias. The Rose garden has been sponsored by the Ryan Fund at the Green River Area Community Foundation.
6. **MARY TAKAHASHI JAPANESE MEMORIAL GARDEN:** This garden is a memorial to Mary Takahashi who was a well known Ikebana flower designer and author. It was completely financed by donations from her many students throughout the country and by local organizations. Traditional Japanese Gardens use much symbolism and Japanese culture requires the garden not be entered but be viewed as an entity from outside the fence. This garden was designed and installed by Masahi Oshita, a Japanese Master Gardener, and is arranged with a Japanese stone lantern as the principal element in the center. From the frontal view there is a Master Rock representing a Guardian Rock on the left, flanked by supporting rocks. Another rock grouping on the right-hand side of the garden provides a balanced composition. A traditional Yotsume-Gaki Japanese garden lattice fence frames the garden and evergreen holly trees in the background create an enclosed small world. The Master Rock and surrounding plants represent the scene of a profound mountain with shoals of river stones leading into a sea of pea gravel. This miniature landscape represents nature as a whole. The center is open, and the stone lantern placed near the back of the garden guides us like a lighthouse into this peaceful land. A variety of carefully selected plants and trees, the addition of the stone lantern and aspidistras "cast iron" plants, which symbolize Ikebana, ensure visitors enjoyment of nature through all seasons of the year.
7. **MOONLITE CHILDREN’S GARDEN**: This garden has many smaller gardens designed for children, each with its own theme. Some thematic gardens include a Butterfly garden, a Zoo garden, elevated vegetable gardens and a maze of China Girl Hollies. A “rainbow walk” provides a colorful entrance and a “yellow brick road” leads to The Children’s Playhouse. A Koi pond adds to the fun. A generous sponsorship by Moonlite Bar-B-Q Inn, in memory of Hugh (Pappy) & Catherine Bosley, makes this garden possible.
8. **DAYLILY GARDEN:** Established in 1998 with plant donations, there are now approximately 500 different cultivars in this garden. Peak bloom season is mid-June to mid-July, but some varieties will re-bloom until frost. All colors shapes and sizes of daylilies are represented. The American Hemerocalis Society has designated this garden as a national Display Garden. Some of the nationally known Kentucky hybridizers are highlighted in this garden including Daylily World, Thoroughbred Daylilies and Wonderland of Daylilies. Many of the plants for the annual Daylily sale are provided by this garden. The fountain was donated by Alice and Marvin Reynolds; the picket fence behind the Daylily garden was constructed and installed by Dick Temple, a founder and important Board Member for many years.
9. **HISTORIC DOCTOR'S BUILDING**: This building was built in Curdsville in western Daviess County, Kentucky, in the 1890's and was moved to the WKBG in May, 2005. The building was first owned by Dr. H.H. McCain who practiced medicine there until 1904. At that time Dr. W.L. Tyler (grandfather of Doctors Bill and Terry Tyler) purchased the building. He practiced medicine there until 1927. The preservation of the building is important because it represents the era when herbal medicine was actively practiced in Daviess County. It is located near the Herb Garden so you can see some of the plants used medicinally at that time. The building will be developed into a museum showing how herbs were used to treat disease in the early 1900's in Daviess County.
10. **FRUIT AND BERRY GARDEN:** This garden, located behind the Doctor's Building, was planted in 1994 and was the first garden to be planted. It includes Saturn peach (also called donut peach), various apples, and crab apple trees as well as blackberries.
11. **GAZEBO:** The lovely Vora Gazebo is dedicated to the memory of Rashmi Vora.  It was designed by Bob Remark. The iron work with its East Indian motif was designed by Rita Jacobs, a local landscape architect, and created by Sherman Brunner. The nearby elm trees were donated by Ammon's Nursery in Burlington KY as part of a project to re-establish elm trees resistant to Dutch Elm disease.
12. **HERB GARDEN:** This garden was started in 1997. The design is based on the Herb Garden in the Cleveland Botanical Garden and contains many theme areas: medicinal, tea, culinary, fragrant, dye, a Peony walk and a Knot Garden. The Knot Garden is of early French design and is created of purple barberry, boxwood, germander and santolina. The original plants for the Knot Garden were donated by the Owensboro Herb Society. The perimeter border contains Yews, Canadian hemlocks, Foster hollies, Northern Bayberry and boxwood. The fence is of English design and was constructed by Wayne Russ out of cedar which was once used as a medicinal herb. The armillary sundial was donated by the Fleur de Lis Garden Club. The very special pieces of sculpture in the herb garden were provided by Mary Alice Riherd.
13. **THE PLAYHOUSE:** A magnificent children’s playhouse in honor of Morton Holbrook was finished in 2008. This is a very unique and special building designed as a place for fun and education for children. Toys are included as well as a kitchen to provide instruction on cooking, especially using fresh vegetables grown in the Moonlite Children’s garden, popcorn, potatoes, as well as herbs from the herb garden. There is an area for bird watching. Sculptures made at the Owensboro Museum of Fine Art children’s camp surround the building and a “yellow brick road” leads to the front door.
14. **THE PREYING MANTUS:** This wonderful piece of art was done by Monty Helm and his students at OCTC as a promotion for the David Roger’s Big Bugs show in 2008. It was in front of the library and was purchased by Betty Sue Hill and donated to The Garden.
15. **THE KENTUCKY SYMBOL AND QUILT GARDEN:** The sculpture pieces in this garden are creations of local artist Rex Robinson. They represent several of Kentucky’s symbols as well as Bill Monroe. Included in this garden there are plants with specific importance to Kentucky and a quilt design.
16. **THE JOANNE FIELD WELLER MEMORIAL GARDEN:** This is a contemplative garden for sitting, relaxing in a quiet area and thinking about the wonders of nature or reading some Shakespeare.
17. **THE ‘GG’ TALBOTT MEMORIAL:** This monument was built to honor a very popular coach, educator, counselor and community leader. The stone weighs 8 tons and came from Henderson county. The medallion was created by the nationally known artist Rex Robinson. The plantings represent various balls from GG’s sports activities. This wonderful memorial was sponsored by Owensboro Municipal Utilities.
18. **WILLIAM & JEAN DANHAUER ENGLISH COTTAGE GARDEN:** This includes a small cottage with surrounding plantings including herbs and a small vegetable garden. The large shrub in the back of the garden is a Tamarix. Apple trees are a part of the garden. The benches were donated in honor of Ann Bittel and Polly Yeiser.
19. **THE BILL & MARILYN YOUNG EDUCATIONAL CLASSROOM:** This building was sponsored by the Marilyn and William Young Charitable Foundation and is an important part of the active educational program at The Garden.

**The Conservatory** is attached to the classroom and provides a home for many tropical and near tropical plants including a collection of over 100 orchids. Educational opportunities are expanded throughout the year by the use of The Conservatory.

1. **SOLAR SMARTFLOWER:** The solar Smartflower augments the electricity needs of the Educational Classroom.  There is a monitor in the Education Classroom lobby that displays the amount of electricity that is being generated.  This model can produce up to 3,650 kWh per year. The Smartflower moves horizontally and vertically along with the sun’s position, even when it’s cloudy.  When the sun sets, or the wind picks up, the petals of the flower close up.  This introduction of solar power to The Garden was made possible by The Charles D. Ralph Estate & The Charles Mason Ralph Fund of the Green River Area Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Community Foundation of Louisville. The Smartflower is manufactured in Pinkeafeld, Austria and installed by Casey Electric LLC of Tell City, Indiana.
2. **THE POND AND NATIVE PLANT AREA:** This is a very popular area filled with wildlife including frogs, snakes, turtles, muskrats and many insects. The native area with wildflowers provides cover for various forms of wildlife. A working windmill is present to demonstrate the use of wind power as an alternative source of energy.
3. **IRIS GARDEN:** Many irises have been donated by individuals and by the local Iris Society. They include bearded, Siberian, Japanese, Louisiana and dwarf irises. Most irises bloom in the spring though some bloom later and some re-bloom in the fall. A very nice collection of Japanese Iris was donated by Mittsy Blackham from her garden in New York; parts of the collection are behind the Cottage in the Garden, by the windmill, and by the pond.
4. **THE LUETTGEN ERICACEOUS GARDEN:** This garden is located on the north sideof WKBG. An Ericaceous garden is a garden for plants such as azaleas and rhododendrons that prefer soil having a higher than average acid content. Many different varieties of rhododendrons and azaleas have been planted as recommended by the Luettgens. Funds to develop this garden were given by Dr. Chris Luettgen in memory of his parents who were rhododendron enthusiasts in Pennsylvania.

**Jacob Johnson Eagle Scout Project is** behind the Luettgen Garden and an area for rest, reflection, and meditation. It was created in the Summer of 2015.

1. **SANDSTONE ROCKS:** The wonderful rocks near the pond and placed throughout The Garden are sandstone and came from Henderson County and the Bon Harbor Hills area.
2. **A BOUQUET FOR MARJORIE:** This sculpture was dedicated in June 2016 in memory of Marjorie Hager. It was gifted by the Marjorie M. Hager Fund for The Arts. Marjorie was a longtime friend and supporter of The Garden. Artist Darin K. Evans created and installed this sculpture which stands 21 feet tall.
3. **THE GARDEN’S GREEN CAR:** This car uses no energy and goes no place. It has growing over the car a plant that may have added to its demise --- Hops.
4. **DAYLILY BED #2:** This bed contains part of the Pinecliffe collection including part of The Queen’s Collection, some seedling daylilies and some for sale on an individual basis.
5. **ORNAMENTAL GRASS GARDEN:** There are over 10 different varieties ranging in size from 2 feet to 15 feet. Some are native to Kentucky and all are perennials. They are cut down to the ground in early spring and will grow to their full height during the summer.
6. **THE DISPLAY RAIN GARDEN:** This provides an educational display of how a garden can help slow storm water runoff.
7. **UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY EXPERIMENTAL GARDEN:** This garden is used to demonstrate new plants and to compare different plants in a controlled area. Local Master Gardeners plant, maintain and evaluate this garden.
8. **“WIND SCULPTURES”:** These wonderful, fascinating and fun pieces of art were done by Lyman Whitaker, an artist from Utah. This form of kinetic art provides for constant movement in The Garden. These pieces were a gift of the Marilyn and William Young Charitable Foundation.
9. **THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE GARDEN:** Each year The Garden does a different theme of red, white and blue in honor of our country and the men and women who serve to keep us free.

**SEASONAL GARDENS:** Various gardens are planted with annuals which are changed seasonally.

**HISTORICAL TREES:** There are historical trees in various locations in the Garden. These include the Elm trees, Colonel Sanders Ash, Kremlin Ash, Johnny Appleseed Apple, Ming Dynasty Cypress, Isaac Newton Apple, and Casey Jones Willow Oak.

**MEMORIALS:** Memorials are present throughout the Garden. They are available as gardens and as items such as trees and benches. Please contact the Director if you wish to give a memorial.

**ADOPT-A-SPOT:** There are many spots that are available for adoption. Please ask the Director for more details.

**WILDLIFE:** The Garden has quite a bit of wildlife. We have had a fox, many ground hogs, rabbits, raccoons, opossums, nesting killdeer, mocking birds, robins and many others. A bald eagle and a snowy owl have been seen flying over The Garden. Yearly there are barn swallows that nest in the gazebo. In 2009, with the help of Dick Temple, martin boxes and gourds were installed and many martins immediately moved in.

**FUTURE GARDENS:** Some gardens planned for the future include a garden for the developmentally disabled, a Native Plant garden, a Shade garden and a Pinetum.

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:** We rely on volunteers for Garden tasks big and small. Every 1st Saturday of each month, we have a volunteer work session. We also have other volunteer opportunities. Please inquire by either emailing us at wkbg@bellsouth.net or call 270-993-1234.

**Feel free to keep this information, but if it’s in good condition, and you’d like to return it, please place it in the mailbox. Thank you!**

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