

“Art in the Garden” Garden Tour 2017

Wimberley Garden Club’s 22nd annual garden tour theme will be “*Art in the Garden*”. On April 29, from 10am to 4pm, the Garden Club will join forces with the Wimberley Art League. Each garden will include work by local artists, and many gardens will have art exhibitions. Garden art and native plants will also be for sale.

Two of the gardens are located on the Blanco River with parking in between. The parking location will also be the site for the Garden Club’s Yard Art and the Native Plant Sale.

The Dunn home landscaping is a family friendly experience. Coming through the front gate is a basketball hoop, leading to a wonderful stand of mature juniper trees, with several seating benches and two tire swings for the kids. Following the crushed granite and mulch pathways around the home you will find an arbor leading to an orchard, raised vegetable garden, potting shed, and a 2,000-gallon rain barrel for the garden area. Further down the path is a Bocce ball court with a flagstone path, enhanced with additional native and adaptive plantings. Continue down the path to a delightful fire pit, more seating, tables and four grills. Close by is a play house for the little ones, a beautiful stone fountain, and another patio with additional seating and an outdoor fireplace. The view of the Blanco River is spectacular, and so are the steps that lead down to it. The stone path also leads to a small bridge over a seasonal creek and up to the home next door, where a sister lives. (Artists: Stan Allen, Tim Leibrock, Lotus McElfish)

The Barchfeld home boasts a spectacular view of the Blanco River from high atop a cliff. Seated on two acres of Hill Country limestone and studded with native live oaks and ash juniper trees and additional native trees, shrubs and grasses were added for color and diversity. A mulch walkway provides a perimeter path. Raised, fenced gardens protect plants of fresh vegetables for the kitchen. Berms and a 70-foot swale retain and direct rain runoff from the property. A 29,000-gallon tank captures rain water from the roofs of the main house and several out-buildings. A solar system supplies some of the home’s electrical needs. A large outdoor seating area off the back patio features a pool with a hot tub and is a great place for bird watching and conversation. There is a path off the deck that leads to a secluded reading area overlooking the

Blanco. (Artists: Rebecca Briley and Vicki Hujsak)

Tickets for this year's tour can be purchased at the Wimberley Visitor Center (14100 FM 2325) beginning April 1st. Tickets purchased April 1-21 will be \$15. Tickets purchased April 22-29 will be \$20. For more information- www.wimberleygardenclub.com

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The Wimberley Garden Club and the Wimberley Art League are joining together to produce a spectacular garden tour. There will be a total of 18 artists who will be showing and/or demonstrating their art as well as the Garden Club sale of garden art and native plants.

The next 2 gardens are unique in that they are not "homes," but boast noteworthy gardens.

Nestled in hill country oaks and cedars, an innovative event center is slowly taking shape. The Cedars Ranch is a "green" wedding and wellness retreat center, designed to blend with nature and be largely self-sustaining with rain water collection and solar management. A garden pavilion now welcomes guests as they enter through the main gate. The pavilion is accented with limestone raised beds, filled with flowers blooming in a riot of color. Rows of fruit trees are planted in permaculture style with swales and berms alongside the pavilion. The event bar and garden shed buildings stand near large, temporary tents. The area will soon have a reception pavilion, dance hall, bridal cabin and landscaped outdoor ceremony site. With twenty acres to roam, this center will soon become a hill country location to visit for inspiration and fun. (Artists: Jan Fitzhugh, Kathie Carlson, Alyssa Surabian, Connie Schaertl, Sara Thurman, Lynn Myers)

Students at Jacob's Well Elementary School don't just learn reading, writing and arithmetic; they put these skills to work in the garden and eat the fruits of their labor in the cafeteria! Their art work is on display within the raised beds adding a whimsical and humorous effect. Accented with benches, bird baths and bird feeders, the whole effect is delightful. Different styles of raised beds are displayed including a keyhole garden, claw foot tub and portable metal grill. But, most of the raised beds are constructed of cement blocks and planted with all sorts of vegetables and flowers selected and planted by the club members. The garden is private,

sheltered on three sides by wings of the school building and fenced at the open end. A covered alcove doorway shelters a potting bench, supplies and tools for the garden club. (Artists: students)

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Three spectacular gardens complete the roster for this year's Wimberley Garden Club Tour: one with a view of a creek, one with a view of a river and a creek, and one with a view of Wimberley Valley from high atop Paradise Hills.

The Ellisor home perches on a hillside with a grand, hill country view. The home sits on a cliff surrounded by 8 acres with Lone Man Creek below. The creek separates the home from its additional 22-acre wildlife preserve. Steps and trails lined with olive trees make their way down to the creek. Behind the home an infinity pool and hot tub beg visitors to soak in the quiet and calm of the hill country while watching wildlife. A large porch with fragrant plants and herbs, provide a place to read with an unobstructed view across the creek. Here nature has been enhanced by native grasses and shrubs surrounding a limestone home. A large drainage area, which creates an impressive waterfall during heavy rains, was reinforced and surrounded with plants to form a calm pool for quiet contemplation during dry periods. A fine strand of little bluestem, sotol, and yucca complement the live oaks and bunch grasses. Be sure not to miss the newly constructed bridge linking one part of the property to the other. (Artists: Jeff Peterson, Russ Bragg, Danny Jones)

Next, meet the artisans and artists of Wimberley at the Sander's picturesque 1970's home in the middle of town, close to all the action. Built on the peninsula between the Blanco River and Cypress Creek, the multi-level house clings to the hillside overlooking the creek. It is vintage old Wimberley: not fancy, but eclectic. An addition from 1983 is accented with vintage German leaded stained glass and artisan sculpture, providing a perfect background for local art work. Beds of bamboo, adapted and native plants in the front yard lead inside, where before and after photos

of the infamous 2015 Memorial Day Flood are on display, showing the damage from five feet of water. Local artists will be displaying their works both inside and on the large deck off the back, overlooking the creek and its small dam. (Artists: Al and Jean Sanders)

The Barta home is definitely worth the drive up to the top of Paradise Hills. Finding this location is an adventure! It will require a leap of faith to continue when it crosses the Blanco River over a few inches of flowing water. This home has a stunning view of the valley below, with magnificent sunsets and sunrises. Distinct garden areas are on display here, planted with over fifty varieties of native and adapted plants. A fenced in vegetable garden and seating area line the driveway. On the right is a more formal hill country garden with mulched perennial beds and mature oak trees shading verdant carpet grass. The formal garden covers an eco-friendly aerobic septic system, which keeps the landscape lush and full in mid-summer. Mulched stone and rock trails lead around back to a secret garden. A large deck juts out over the sloping lot where you can see for miles and take in the beauty of Wimberley Valley. Art work and pottery will be on display and for sale here. (Artists: James and Rosemary Barta)

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