

—2008— Open Houses & Gardens



THE GARDEN CLUB OF BERMUDA

All proceeds will be used to sponsor scholarships related to horticulture and to fund community projects.

Open Houses & Gardens 2008

May 7th Warwick Parish
Harbour Road & Tamarind Vale

May 14th Hamilton Parish
Long Lane, Tucker's Town

May 21st Pembroke Parish
Between the Walls,
off Pitts Bay Road

Wednesdays - Rain or Shine!

May 7th & May 14th 1 pm – 4 pm

May 21st *New time!* 5 pm – 8 pm

Admission: Adults - \$30 Season Tickets - \$75

Tickets sold only at the venues on the day

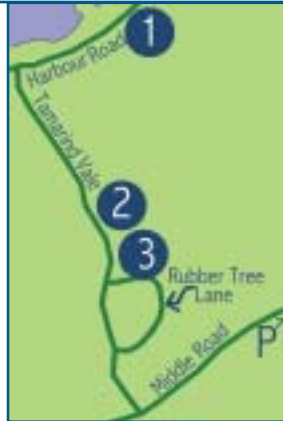
Experience Bermudian hospitality at the annual Open Houses & Gardens held each Spring for the past half century by the Garden Club of Bermuda. You will be welcomed into private homes and gardens which are open to the public for one day only. Houses are skillfully decorated with local flowers and foliage, and Garden Club members are on hand to guide you and to offer a cool drink.

- ◆ Admission includes entry to all properties open on the day.
- ◆ Houses may be visited in any order.
- ◆ Enquiries: Brenda Younie tel: 441-293-2103 or e-mail: bermudahouseandgardens@transact.bm
- ◆ Flat-heeled shoes are recommended.
- ◆ Houses are usually within walking distance. A complimentary shuttle is available to those who need it, although some houses, located on narrow lanes, can only be reached by foot.
- ◆ Please park only in designated areas. These will be clearly marked and volunteers will be on hand to direct you.

Week I

Harbour Road & Tamarind Vale **Warwick Parish** Wednesday, May 7th

- ◆ Bus no. 8 from Hamilton or Somerset to Middle Road, Spicelands Riding Centre stop
- ◆ Bus stop to Sunflower Cottage is 2/10 mile
- ◆ Sunflower Cottage to Tristan 1/10 mile
- ◆ Tristan to Fleetwood Manor is 1/2 mile
- ◆ Public Parking: PHC parking lot, Stadium Lane, off Middle Road, Warwick (Courtesy of PHC Club)



1 Fleetwood Manor

May 7th

39 Harbour Road

Elaine and Michael Darling

Fleetwood Manor is beautifully situated on land stretching from Harbour Road to the waters of Turtle Cove. The original Georgian house, one room in depth with two rooms above, dates back to the 1790s. Its proximity to the sheltered inlet, offering a safe mooring, suggests that it was the home of a seafarer. In 1910, the original house was extended on the south by a two-storey, gable-roofed wing and verandah. An American family, who bought the house in the 1920s, enclosed an end section of the verandah and later added a shed-roofed kitchen. For the past quarter of a century, the present owners have used their talents to blend the structures into a house full of character, charm and comfort and, at the same time, to establish gardens of great beauty. In 1981, with cedar beams salvaged by the owner from a derelict building, the shed roof of the kitchen was replaced by a traditional, open beamed ceiling beneath a pitched roof. In 1983, informed with knowledge of 18th century Bermuda vernacular architecture and guided by Sanders Frith-Brown, the owners built a glorious summerhouse using time-honoured, 18th century construction methods; one joined the crew to lay the rafters. In designing the garden they were equally involved, overseeing the levelling of the grass lawn that sloped to the sea and its enclosure within sheltering limestone walls. A broad path of antique bricks, laid by the owners, traverses the walled garden to an arched gateway and the vegetable garden planted in a quarry, protected from the northwest wind. Fleetwood Manor complements its gardens. Its cedar doors, door and window frames and massive beams were made by local craftsmen to replace those existing in the house; fireplace surrounds also were commissioned. The sweet Bermuda cedar lends a softness and warmth to the rooms furnished with handsome antiques including an early 19th century mahogany dining table, an 18th century cedar sideboard with its decorative, fretted brackets and a 1760s cedar chest with cabriole legs. Noteworthy, in the library, are graceful oars aligned on one wall. Three were won by the owner in

the years he attended Jesus College, Cambridge — one for an event at the Henley Royal Regatta, another for a distance race, and the third for victory in the Head of the River race in 1953. The other oar is his grandfather's; he also attended Jesus College, Cambridge, winning Head of the River in 1888.

2 Tristan

May 7th

12 Tamarind Vale

Heather and Tom Conyers

Tristan is a lovely, rambling, one-storey house set amidst tranquil gardens where citrus, old cedars and bird-of-paradise grow. Originally a small stone cottage, built some ninety years ago, rooms were added as the living requirements of a family changed, often at the time of the birth of a child or to accommodate a maiden aunt. Bermuda was noted for having a disproportionate number of aging spinsters well into the 20th century; historically, a third of Bermuda's men, at any one time, were signed on to ships and sailing the seas. To meet their own requirements, both practical and aesthetic, the current owners who bought Tristan in 1988, have recently added a splendid kitchen and established several secluded, small gardens surrounding the house. Welcoming natural light filters down through a new skylight placed above the central hallway. The reception rooms are painted intense, rich colours and furnished with fine Bermuda cedar pieces and Canadian pine antiques. Many of the Island's artists are represented in the owners' collection of paintings; especially beautiful are the two landscapes, "Vivienne's Garden" and "Poppies on Gibbs Hill" by Sheilagh Head. A covered porch extends the house into the gardens where a waterfall cascades over stones into a free-form swimming pool bordered by massive Delaware River rocks. The pool appears to be part of the natural landscape, as intended in its design and confirmed by a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron that often lands on a rock to peer into the pool, angling for a fish.



3 Sunflower Cottage

May 7th

12 Rubber Tree Lane

Debbie and Chris Brown

A path meanders past an old cedar tree and the dark green fans of *Diets grandiflora* (African iris) to the entry of Sunflower Cottage, banked by its well-tended gardens. Built in the 1970s and bought from a family member in 2001, the restoration of the house and establishment of its gardens has offered the new owners steady work for their hands and their imaginations.

In the front hallway, a graceful staircase with cherry treads and an open spandrel was designed to replace an earlier one and built by a Bermuda craftsman without the assistance of a plan on paper. Delicate watercolour botanicals attributed to Lady Ramsbottom, wife of a former Bermuda Governor, line the stair carriage. The hallway contains a lovely Irish pine chiffonier, dating from the 1860s, and paintings by Maria Smith and the owner. The cherry floors are new as are the baseboards, doors and hardware; second storey windows were repositioned and doubled in width, and the old verandah looking out on the swimming pool has been enclosed to create a sunroom. Throughout the house are wonderful collections of wind chimes, miniatures in shadow boxes, aqua glass, Harrods' bears and chickens; each collection started on a whim, then seemed to multiply. One shelf of the living room holds spotted chickens from the Cayman Islands. Their counterparts in the kitchen are porcelain and pottery, carved from wood or hand-painted on a panel beneath the waist-high hearth. Two needlepoint chickens were cross-stitched by one of the owner's grandmother. From the small table by a kitchen window, the view of the lovely garden is framed by the Spanish cypress woodwork of the verandah. The gardens boast mahogany, poinciana, fig, guava, banana and olive trees as well as many species of tropical palms.

Week II

Long Lane, Tucker's Town

Hamilton Parish

Wednesday, May 14th

- ◆ Bus no. 1 from Hamilton or St. George's to South Road, Long Lane stop
- ◆ Bus stop to Humdinger is 3/10 mile.
- ◆ Humdinger to Roughill is 4/5 mile.
- ◆ Roughill to Hillside is 3/10 mile.
- ◆ Public Parking: Smith's Parish Community Field, corner of Harrington Sound and Sommersall roads (Courtesy Department of Youth & Sport)
- ◆ No entry for event traffic except for shuttles to Long Lane



1 Humdinger

May 14th

4 Long Lane

Shirley and Karl Wildi

(Hostesses and Flower Arrangements - The Hibiscus Garden Club)

On the Ordnance Survey Map, prepared in 1898 and 1899 by British Lt. A. J. Savage, Humdinger appears as a modest cottage named Mariposa. At that time, the scattered cottages of Tucker's Town housed a small community of fishermen, boat builders and farmers. Thick growth cedar, fiddlewood, palmetto and sage, overgrown with jasmine, covered the hills. In the financial boom after World War I, Furness, Withy and Co. agreed to build luxury steamships for Bermuda in return for the right to buy swathes of land in Tucker's Town where the company would develop the Mid Ocean Club and golf course on property requisitioned from the owners.

Overseeing the work force, the superintendent lived in Mariposa where he viewed the transformation of the land into green and grassy fairways. The current residents, who enjoy their golf, have a similar commanding view from their verandah facing south. Across the cottage's terraced lawn, bordered by eleven stately palms, is the second hole of the course and the wide ocean beyond; the location could aptly be described a "humdinger" — the name that the new owner cheerfully christened the cottage in the 1950s. Renovations, completed in 2003, joined the original cottage to the separate nanny's cottage built in the 1950s and added a terrace and swimming pool. Its spacious rooms beneath high ceilings contain handsome oak furniture, hand-carved in Toronto in the late 1920s. The collection of art includes paintings by Bermuda's first modernist painter, Alfred Birdsey, and 20th century Canadian artist and family friend, Hilton Hassell. Particularly beautiful is an oil of a market place in Marseille by W. Lee-Hankey. Offering rich accents to the rooms are vividly coloured kilims, woven by nomadic tribal women and collected on travels through Morocco.

2 Roughill

May 14th

6 Long Lane

Rebecca and Mark Byrne

From its spectacular vantage point, Roughill overlooks both land and sea. Below the 2½ acre hillside property are the green ribbon lengths of the second and fourteenth fairways of the Mid Ocean Club golf course and, to the south, the blue waters of the Atlantic. Built in 1957 from a design by architect, Pack Hunter, with additions in 1964 and renovations in 2000, the house affirms both tradition and 21st century technology. The Byrne crest is carved in sandstone on the archway above the front entrance. In the entry hall, a large canvas titled "The Cherry Blossom" is by Vietnamese artist, Le Quan. The reception rooms beneath lofty tray ceilings are rich in Bermuda cedar, its fragrant wood panelling one wall of the living room. An exquisite antique rock crystal chandelier in the dining room and a companion pair of chandeliers in the living room originally lit the Royal Box for Princess Diana at the Royal Opera House in London, England. The fireplace surrounds, dating from the 1820s, were brought from Ireland. To minimise maintenance, curtains, lights, music and room temperatures are computer controlled. Rainwater levels in the tanks, propane gas, pool temperature and alarm are also built into the system. The family album of splendid photographs, taken by the owners, is transformed into moving pictures on digital screens hung in several rooms. In the kitchen, a grand, granite island with birch cutting boards, copper pots and several sinks is designed for family and friends to join in the pleasure of preparing the food. Fresh



vegetables are grown in the garden and citrus, in season, is picked from the orchard. For drink, there is Roughill's pub; its bar is part of the original bar from New York City's Hotel Waldorf Astoria. The pub's stained glass windows were made in Chartres, the French cathedral town noted for the beauty of its stained glass. The children of the family enjoy outdoor play on a trampoline beneath a high harness, allowing safe somersaults; nearby is a swimming pool, bubble covered in winter, for year round use.

3 Hillside

May 14th

7 Long Lane

Ann Smith

Lovely Hillside is the stuff golfers' dreams are made of. The house is idyllically situated at the crest of a hill looking out on the twelfth green of the Mid Ocean Club, a course said to equal any in the world and planned by Charles Blair Macdonald, the father of golf in America. Distant green hills frame the course and the view. Eight years ago, the present owner bought Hillside, then a simple cottage designed by Onions & Bouchard in the 1950s. Envisioning its possibilities, the owner and her husband, a civil engineer, opened the living room by adding glass doors, a covered terrace (which can be enclosed in a storm) and, below the terrace, a swimming pool, thus creating a grand space for entertaining. Down the hillside, dense brushwood was cleared from the land with chainsaw and machete to reveal a rockery and patches of lilies, long forgotten. Two hundred-and-eighty feet of low, dry stonewall now delineates the contours of the land. The garden is every passerby's pleasure as confirmed by the award of the Garden Club of Bermuda's Gold Certificate, honouring homeowners who have established beautiful gardens. Hillside contains fine porcelain pieces, including rare, antique plates from Russia. In the collection of art are favourite paintings of coastal and beach scenes by a contemporary English artist, living in the East Anglia countryside, whose work the owner discovered on a visit to London. Many handsome antiques, collected over the years and often found at auctions, furnish Hillside's rooms, painted the pale, soft colours of flowers.

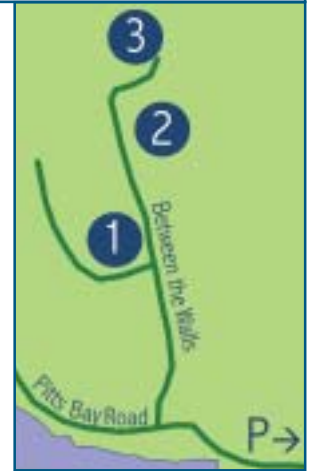


Week III

Pembroke Parish

Between the Walls, off Pitts Bay Road Wednesday, May 21st

- ◆ From Hamilton Ferry Terminal to Viscaya is 3/5 mile walk, west on Pitts Bay Road
- ◆ From The Fairmont Hamilton Princess Hotel to Viscaya is 2/10 mile walk, west on Pitts Bay Road
- ◆ Viscaya to Woodcroft is 100 yards
- ◆ Viscaya to Cedar Mews is 100 yards
- ◆ Public Parking at the underground parking facility at 90 Pitts Bay Road (Courtesy Waterfront Properties Ltd.)
- ◆ No entry to Between the Walls for event traffic



**Please note the time for this week
only: 5 - 8 pm**

1 Viscaya

May 21st

13 Between the Walls

Sita and Jeff Stirling

Viscaya draws its inspiration from many cultures - Bermudian, Mexican, Swiss and Indian, the nationalities of the owners' parents. (Pirates play a role, too!) These cultural traditions resonate in the design of the house, its materials, its strong and striking colours and thoughtful use of space.

Originally a one-and-one-half room cottage, Viscaya now has three levels reached by a detached, spiral stairway. The interior is open in plan, simple in its lines and contours and luxurious in its use of materials. The graceful window frames are handmade of Virginia cedar; their shapes and placement allow daylight to naturally model the interior of the house. In turn, the lofty, vertical stained glass window by the stairway allows daylight to illuminate its beautiful abstract of shapes and colours. The Edinburgh Stained Glass House in Scotland was commissioned to make this window and several other smaller ones in the house; finished pieces of coloured glass were sent to Bermuda to be reassembled and inserted into the window spaces.

The second level of Viscaya makes maximum use of square footage. A shared bath creates room for a laundry, efficiently tucked between two bedrooms. In the hallway of the master bedroom, a handsome wool runner, in reds and black and made by the owner's mother, provides a fine accent to walls painted the deep purple-brown colour of aubergines. An open-beamed ceiling and balcony enhance the sense of space. Works of art throughout the house include prints by the Mexican artist Diego Rivera, Bermudian surrealist, Graham Foster and the Austrian Symbolist painter, Gustav Klimt as well as a Brazilian mask and wood carving. On the third level, appropriately, is a small gym; after a workout, the pocket-sized, square pool in a brick courtyard, beside the house, is an inviting place for cooling off.

2 Woodcroft

May 21st

12 Between the Walls

Kathy and Peter Watson

Woodcroft is a handsome, Edwardian house, built around 1910, at the time C. W. Woodford Walker was developing land along the quiet lane, Between the Walls. With the City of Hamilton, schools and a market close by, the neighbourhood quickly became fashionable and for almost a century, families have valued the location. Parents walk to work and to the local food market. Children are free to ride bicycles to school and, afterwards, in the late afternoon gather to play games on the wide lawns. When the three athletic young sons of the present owners arrived at Woodcroft in 1987, they found more than an acre of gardens to explore and a splendid flat, open, field for baseball games or football matches, both English and American. The house is cement washed with deep, double verandahs extending across the front and side; delicately bordering the verandah is the pink-tinged foliage of snow bush. *Philodendron 'Xanadu'*, its leaves deep-lobed and glossy, grows in urns by the front door. Woodcroft opens to a spacious hall beneath a flat, high ceiling. The exquisite wall colours of the interior are an effective contrast to the simple, gray exterior. Rooms are artfully arranged and eclectically furnished with a mixture of beautiful antiques and modern pieces; fabrics create an imaginative interplay of patterns, textures and colours. Among the paintings, etchings and prints are watercolours by Steven Masters. Charming primitive paintings, brought back from travels, are evocative of the cultures and countries in which they were made. A new kitchen, designed to satisfy the gourmet cook, was finished last spring. In all seasons, the garden room, looking out on the pool, is a favourite family gathering place.



3 Cedar Mews

May 21st

27 Between the Walls

Nikki Lines

In London, until the early 20th century, mews had horse stalls and a carriage house on the ground floor and stable servants' living accommodation above. Located in the wealthiest districts, the mews houses now are fashionable residences. Cedar Mews, fitting this description, was once a stable on the estate of neighbouring Quickwood. Tucked away at the end of the lane, the house is entered through the garden. At the garden's edge, a birdbath made by the owner from chips of pottery is one expression of salvaged beauty; another, nearby, is the children's climbing frame, now outgrown and transformed by roses and bougainvillea into an arbour.

Herbaceous perennials flower in the bordering beds and allamanda climbs a citrus tree. The fanciful house, with kitchen walls and cabinets painted the lilac colour of wisteria, contains fine black-and-white photographs and several works of art created by the owner. In lovely portraits by Sonia von Walter, a Masterworks Artist in Residence, the owner's children are painted, one with hands poised on the keys of the grand piano in Cedar Mews' living room, the other holding a fist full of cut flowers looking out onto the garden through French doors. Furnishing the house are handsome oak antiques brought from England. The children have their own small study where they can sit side-by-side to finish homework and bedrooms, painted pastel colours, that would satisfy the dreams of a princess or a botanist. Beyond the house, the bronze sculpture of a dolphin dances at the edge of the swimming pool.

Open Houses & Gardens Committee 2008

Chair	Brenda Younie		
Advertising	Veronica Lowry		
Brochure	Dace McCoy Ground	Lucy Toland Murphy	
Computer Input	Michael Owner		
Flowers	Cindy Young	Debbie Burville	
Gardens	Claudine Wilson		
Hostesses	Anna Fulton	Jane Clipper	Carole Lobb
House Finders	Felicité Davidson	Elaine Stevens	
Refreshments	Elaine Stevens		
Sales	Janet Owner		
Signs	Dace McCoy Ground	Sally Madden	
Traffic & Shuttle	Diana Chudleigh	Sylvia Outerbridge	
	Anna Fulton	Barbara Simon	
Treasurer & Ticket Sales	Dianna Doe		

Front Cover and inside illustrations by **Alan Noyes**,
Bermuda Masterworks Artist in Residence, 2007

Please note: The illustrations are drawn from the artist's body of work in Bermuda and are not illustrative of the houses being opened.

Our thanks to the Bermuda National Trust for information on the historic houses.

The Garden Club of Bermuda, its officers and servants, together with the owners of the individual houses, cannot be held responsible for loss, damage or injury, howsoever caused during the operation of this programme.

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