



## PANTS10 Private Garden Tour

Chuck Feld, horticultural instructor at Williamson's Free School of Trade, planned the tour of private gardens for PANTS. This year's theme was to look at older residential settings and gardens. Chuck was joined by Sharee Solow of S.L. Solow Horticultural Designs. This tour gave participants a great chance to meet and share stories, not to mention to see some of the most unique gardens around.

A rare opportunity this year, the group visited Shortwood Gardens, the private gardens of author and speaker Stephanie Cohen, the Perennial Diva! One found a unique opportunity to look at unusual and rare plants, mainly perennials, in trials.

The group then traveled to the Morris Arboretum where they were able to tour various gardens and enjoy lunch. These gardens are home to more than 13,000 labeled plants. Lisa Jackson from Heather Hill Gardens in Virginia said, "We could have spent all day at each of the stops."

Offering a rare opportunity to meet with local private gardeners from the historical Chestnut Hill area in Philadelphia, Ken Leroy of Green Earth Gardens assisted with the identification of the private residential estate gardens to visit. Ken commented, "We decided to visit the estate gardens where we were able to demonstrate the concept of projecting the house into the woods

and then projecting and incorporating the woods near the house in a Wissahickon style." The Hozak residence offered a history of the house and the old estate gardens. The Reed residence offered an old classic house with modern gardens, a place that had lawns all around and was built into an orchard. Over the years, a rear pond and garden were added to the residence. "We have been integrating into nature and man into nature, and this was an opportunity to show that in this tour," stated Ken. The residential estates were extremely well designed and were designed in the 1920s. Lisa said, "I've never seen anything like it with the Cinderella houses, the hardscaping, and just the history of the houses."

Susan DeAngelo from The Garden Glove in Stroudsburg commented, "The gardens selected were excellent choices. I personally prefer older gardens. It was nice that various gardens were at different stages. The last house was breathtaking. We always can see the gardens in the front of a house. It was nice to see the gardens in the privacy of a backyard. The hosts at each garden were gracious, and the guides were nice to have along."

The tour was a great opportunity for those who attended to relax, engage, and be inspired.

Private Garden Tour photos by Sharee Solow

