

Garden 3:

Family Friendly Fun



Stalactite or Stalagmite?

our stalagmite “Harmony”, one of many beautiful pieces of **stalactite** and **stalagmite** that my father brought back from caves in China. These are mineral formations made from years and or centuries of slowly dripping water. A stalactite hangs like an icicle from the ceiling of a cavern, while a stalagmite rises from the floor of a cavern. As you are touring our garden, can you tell which one is a stalactite or a stalagmite?

Our yard has evolved and grown tremendously since its inception 33 years ago. Our **redwoods**, which were planted when they were each about one inch trunk diameter, are now 100 feet tall, with 2-3 feet diameter trunks. We had to remove several large trees due to drought, wind or other reasons. New plantings took the place of old. Recently, at the side yard by the patio, we started a **cactus and succulent** area. This spot used to be very shady with three birch trees in the lawn nearby. Now that the trees are gone, the succulents enjoy this hot sunny location.

We love living on our Victorian street. Our home’s outdoor space was a blank slate when we moved in 33 years ago in 1990. Our garden landscape was inspired by the *classic Victorian gardens* with large lawns, sweeping trees, pretty gazebo and many flower beds bursting with color. Growing up, our children and their friends had many happy years here including play-dates, Easter egg hunts, and Halloween parades around our circular walkway. Although the children grew up and moved away, and the play structure had been removed, we continue to enjoy outdoor living and entertaining in our garden. Our family enjoy hosting many events in our backyard, including our daughter’s lovely wedding in front of the gazebo in 2020.

As you enter our backyard from the garage side, where the check-in table is located, you will be greeted with





You will notice that we have hundreds of **amaryllis** plants interspersed everywhere in the front yard, side yard, on the hillside and in the flowerbeds. They are all progeny of 5 original Amaryllis bulbs that we

brought back from Holland over 25 years ago. We have continually divided and replanted them over the years. You will only see the long strap-like leaves now, often crowding out the plants around them. Soon the foliage will die back and by late summer, 2-3 feet high stalks will rise from the bare earth, each topped with clusters

of spectacular large pink trumpet-like flowers. When in bloom you can see why they are called ‘**Naked Ladies**’ as they are stunning with only flower stalks and no leaves. Throughout the garden, you will also see many **agapanthus**, **lilies**, and **daylilies**, all from bulb splitting. They are wonderful when in bloom during summertime.



Our flower bed by the front window with multitudes of Amaryllis and daylilies propagated from bulbs 25+ years ago, behind the Snapdragons and Icelandic Poppies.



Our garden is a labor of love! Now that we are in retirement, we have time do all of the yard maintenance (mowing, weeding, trimming, cleaning) and landscape design ourselves. This includes making the odd plant decision that a professional might not make. For example, a **8-foot hollyhock** volunteer planted itself near our patio, next to our **weeping cherry tree** and lady Quan Yin. A weed that looked too sturdy to pull out months ago is now a beautiful conversation piece, standing tall.

Please enjoy our garden as we do. Explore each area and you will discover our many joys scattered throughout your walk... pretty **peonies**, a **rose** bush with no

thorns, large clumps of **freesias** ready to be divided, a young **Cercidium ‘Desert Museum’** (replacing our large mimosa tree), or our miniature **maple** where the hummingbirds visit. As you leave our backyard by the side gate near the patio, you will to discover our new **shade garden** inspired by this Garden Tour. Don’t forget to see our front yard too... our **roses** are ready to bloom!