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Above, Sean and Bridget McManus' garden, house number two on the 2011 Romeo Area Garden Walk, featured many different species of flowers in the front yard, as well as a greenhouse and gazebo in the backyard. Below, Joyce Kerr's English cottage-style dwelling, stop number three on the Garden Walk, held a collection of bird houses in addition to a variety of plants and brightly colored lilies, and a 200-year-old chestnut tree.

(Observer photos by Annalise Frank)

Garden Walk in Romeo full of color, creativity

by ANNALISE FRANK
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The sprawling map of unique Romeo gardens included in the Friends of the Romeo District Library's Garden Walk gave Romeo residents a chance to share and learn about gardening.

The 2011 Garden Walk featured nine different gardens, based at the homes of Romeo residents stretching from Raap Road off of 33 Mile Road to Main Street, and a new artist market Saturday, July 16.

"It's so fun to see these immaculate houses - I love Romeo houses - it's great to see them up close and learn about the gardens," said Debra McKillop of Washington Township.

Sean and Bridget McManus' backyard is a wide open space.

There's a gazebo, a greenhouse and some flowers, spaced apart with room to breathe. The McManus' front yard, on the other hand, is another story. The space, packed with dinner plate dahlias, zinnias, lilies, sunflowers, geraniums and daisies, is full to bursting with every color of the rainbow. Onlookers coming upon the display smiled and pointed at different flowers, picking their favorites out of the sea of brightly colored plant life.

"It's nice to see what other people create in their gardens," said Alice Miller of Armada. "All the new ideas, you can incorporate them into your own garden."

Sue Kane, whose garden was stop number one on the walk, said she modeled her garden with the DIA interest in town in mind. Kane included artwork in her garden, such as a painting of tiger lilies, framed underneath a small stool, displayed near a patch of real tiger lilies. Her backyard, while engorged with nature, also incorporated the man-made beauty and color of patio furniture, wine glasses and outdoor antiques to add to the artistry of the display. Kane's garden was landscaped by landscape architect Jason Arnott of Earth Environments.

Ticket sale proceeds benefited the work of the Friends of the Romeo District Library.

