

Ever-popular biennial House and Garden Tour tops BTG's busy 2018 programming calendar

A “painted lady” that housed registration for the original St. Elmo Hotel, a garden of edible flowers, and a peek into one of the most elegant of all Chautauqua houses — these are among the offerings for the 2018 Bird, Tree & Garden Club House and Garden Tour from noon to 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 12.

Guided tours of several Chautauqua Institution public gardens and three beautiful private gardens — along with 14 unique Chautauqua homes — will be among the offerings for the 2018 tour.

The tour will also showcase the 100-year old BTG Arboretum, which has a new life with fresh plantings of trees, hedges and under tree perennials. Following the devastation of the emerald ash borer in recent years, the Arboretum is again an example of nature in balance as well as a traditional catalogue of trees.

Among the 14 homes to be featured is the historic and beloved Hollyhock House. Located at 10 Ames, Marnette and Paul Perry wonder if their home is a great painted lady with a garden or a great garden with a painted lady. Built in 1889, the “Hollyhock House” proudly states its heritage of Queen Anne design by showing the full seven colors of a true “painted lady.” The house looks surprisingly like it did when H.L. Johnson built it on what was an old tent site as a single family home.

In 1904, the Hollyhock House was converted to a boarding house for women by the Norton sisters, who ran a very tight ship. No gentlemen were allowed above the first floor. Later, guests of the new St. Elmo Hotel registered as hotel guests at 10 Ames. The cylinder desk located in the living room today is the desk used for those St. Elmo registrations.

Each of the four gables has a different shape and pattern of shingles. Many architectural details inside the home including the original jewel-tone stained glass windows, beautiful staircase and period rosettes on moldings throughout the house remain and reinforce the Queen Anne style so popu-



Provided Photos

Above, Marnette and Paul Perry's Hollyhock House at 10 Ames, one of 14 homes featured in the Bird, Tree & Garden Club's 2018 House and Garden Tour, scheduled for July 12. At right, the arbor at the 100-year-old Arboretum on the south end of the grounds, part of the garden portion of the tour.



lar at the end of the 19th century.

Many Chautauquans remember the infamous incident during the 1998 renovation when the team that was raising the house to create a new foundation dropped the house from its structural supports! Benefits of that restoration include the creation of the beautiful garden that the current owners have developed on the lot next door, which has been part of the property of 10 Ames since 1909.

In addition to the 14 homes and unique gardens that will be highlighted on the tour, special discounts and

gift drawings will be available at Chautauqua shops and restaurants. Tour tickets include an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. gate pass to Chautauqua's historic grounds.

Tickets are \$43 for individuals, \$38 each for groups of 5 to 24, and \$35 each for groups of 25 or more. A limited number of tickets are available and can be purchased online at chautauquabtg.org. Proceeds allow the BTG to provide programming about the natural world — birds, trees, gardens, lakes, bats, butterflies and more — during the nine-week Chautauqua season.