

HOME & GARDEN

Landscape expert enjoys formal perennial garden

By LYNN STOWE TOMB
Recorder Correspondent

ERVING — A mother of two small children, renovator of two houses, with a master's degree in landscape architecture, this home and garden expert has carried her skills into some unusual areas.

Donna Nordbeck Jeanloz is co-owner with her husband, Claude, of Renovator's Supply in Millers Falls, and publisher of a new color magazine, "Victorian Homes." She also maintains a formal perennial garden at her home in Erving.

Ms. Jeanloz started her education in landscaping with a bachelor of arts degree in architectural horticulture from Vassar College. After graduation in 1969 she was married in Africa, where Jeanloz was stationed with the Peace Corps.

For two years after returning to this country, she worked for the Architects Collaborative in Cambridge, where she saw a need for further education to continue her career. On completing a year at the "Radcliff Seminar in Landscape Architecture," she transferred to the University of Massachusetts, Masters in Landscape Architecture program as a second-year student.

The Jeanloz' bought their colonial home on Route 63 in 1974 and spent three years on renovations. It was during this time that they realized the difficulty of obtaining old or reproduction hardware and fittings. "We had to buy, at flea markets, original hardware that often didn't match," said Ms. Jeanloz, "or museum quality reproductions that were very expensive."

She continued, "There were Norfolk door latches on our house, and we simply couldn't replace them. Today we carry them at Renovator's Supply."

In 1977, pregnant with their first child, Ms. Jeanloz moved to Quebec, Canada, where her husband was working. After being rejected for work because of her gender and condition, she decided to write. She wrote two articles for "The Old House Journal," a black-and-white newsletter for renovators, published in Brooklyn, N.Y. Entitled: "Landscaping the Pre-1840 House," and "Victorian Landscaping," the two articles were published as a series.

"I wanted to write a book called 'Victorian Gardens,'" said Ms. Jeanloz, "but I needed the resources of the Massa-



Recorder/Chuck Blake

Donna Jeanloz works in the perennial garden at her Erving home.

chusetts Horticultural Society Library in Boston." That book was never written, but she said that it may still be in the future.

While in Quebec, the Jeanloz' bought an 1830 brick house that they renovated specifically for sale. "It was a typical Canadian provincial cottage with a metal roof and casement windows," said Ms. Jeanloz.

Returning to western Massachusetts, they moved back into their Erving home and decided to start a business with the proceeds from the Quebec house. They began Renovator's

Supply, a mail-order catalog of reproduction, hard-to-find hardware and fixtures, in a back room of their house.

Within a year, the business had mushroomed beyond all expectations; they were completely computerized and had bought a building in downtown Millers Falls.

"Although I'm co-owner," said Ms. Jeanloz, "Claude has total control of the business, so I was looking around for my own enterprise."

Through the business at Renovator's, Ms. Jeanloz saw a huge interest in Victoriana. "I realized that there was a

need for a color magazine for Victorian homes," she said. "Two magazines: 'Early American Life' and 'Colonial Homes' cover the colonial period, but there was no source book for the Victorian lifestyle."

Three issues of "Victorian Homes" have been published," she continued, "and we are already breaking even."

The editor of "Victorian Homes," Carolyn Flaherty, lives and works in New York City. She is responsible for obtaining the content of the magazine. Coordinating free-lance writers and photographers, and writing some of the copy herself, Ms. Flaherty sends the material to Millers Falls where Ms. Jeanloz edits the copy.

"I handle advertising, circulation, marketing and promotion," said Ms. Jeanloz. "The magazine is then printed by Standard Printing in Cincinnati, who print Renovator's catalog."

Turning to the subject of her own garden, Ms. Jeanloz is obviously pleased. "I originally conceived of the garden as an outdoor room — an extension of the house," she said. "I have always wanted a porch or a gazebo but felt that a porch would ruin the lines of the house."

The garden has raised beds and paths paved with flat stone. "The raised beds provide better drainage, so the soil dries out faster in the spring and stays lighter," she explained. "I've had some trouble with the stones warming up in the spring and creating a micro-climate where the plants come up too early and get frostbitten."

The raised beds are very ornamental and, once in, can be easier to maintain. The stones have to be properly laid in order to avoid weeds sprouting in the cracks.

"I first planted here in 1975," said Ms. Jeanloz, "and still don't have all perennials. I fill in each year with annual flowers." Besides the flowers, she has eight different types of ground cover and 11 varieties of herbs.

"The center bed is supposed to be the focus and should be filled with roses in a classical garden," she said, "but I've been unsuccessful with roses. Some people have called this a Renaissance garden, but it really isn't. It's my own design."

Ms. Jeanloz would like to be involved in garden design and especially return to writing about gardens, but "not when I'm doing so many other things."



Small garden: attractive, productive

By PAT LEUCHTMAN
Recorder Columnist

A gardener needs soil, sun, water and seeds, but he doesn't necessarily need a lot of space. A garden can be made in a nice 20x20-foot plot if you have the room to spare, but sometimes yards are tiny, or shady or heavily trafficked, and it is difficult to think of growing a vegetable garden.

It is not impossible however. It just requires thinking of yard space in a different manner. Landscaping with ornamental plants and shrubs is quite common, but there is no law that says beans and cabbages cannot be used as part of a landscaping plan just as well as bridal wreath hedges.

My first garden in Greenfield was tiny, and the landscaping may have been unusual but not unattractive, and it was very productive.

Much of my gardening is based on my cooking needs and the problems I meet. I use a fair amount of parsley, scallions and chives, but before I had a garden I would have these things for a particular recipe then something would happen, and I would not make that particular dish and somehow nothing else I thought of making would call for parsley or chives. But it was inevitable that as soon as the bunch of herbs had moldered away quietly in the back of the refrigerator I would need it for a new dish I wanted to cook, and I'd have to race off to the store. Ever since that small garden in Greenfield this problem has been solved for me.

Parsley and chives make very attractive borders around a flower bed, whether moss curled or the more flavorful Italian flat parsley. They grow to be about 12 inches high and can be neatly arranged to trim a bed of flowers whether

BETWEEN THE ROWS

you have exotic perennials or more humble annuals.

Once you have a border of chives established you will have a lifetime supply, and they will be ready to snip almost as soon as the snow is gone in the spring and will last well into the autumn. They do not require a rich soil, but they should be planted where they will receive a good amount of sun.

Other members of the onion family make good flower borders. Bunching onions that can be used as scallions are delicate enough to be used in the flower garden as are garlic and shallots. Shallots are a delightful thing to grow if you like French cooking, especially when you consider that they can cost \$5 a pound in the supermarket — when you can find them at all. Also, if you are a rose fancier, these onion plants are said to be good companions to roses and help keep away noxious pests.

Most herbs require a lot of sun in a well drained location, but a soil that is only moderately fertile. For very little time and effort expended on their behalf they will repay you with a new vitality in your cooking. If you do not have space for an elaborate colonial knot garden, you might have a little space along your driveway that would suffice. I've noticed that many houses have a narrow strip of earth between the foundation and a walk or driveway. Usually this space goes to waste, but if it is on the south or west side of the house, it could be a perfect spot to plant some annual herbs more commonly used in the kitchen.

Basil goes wonderfully with tomatoes whether it is chopped into a sauce, sprinkled on top before broiling or made into a pungent pesto. Since tomatoes are so popular basil should definitely be included in your garden.

Dill is another easily grown annual that is vital during the pickling season and for a hundred other summer dishes. Caraway that is so good when baking breaks or cooking cabbage would also find this narrow spot next to the foundation a good place to grow.

In that first Greenfield garden we ripped out some ancient and dying hydrangea bushes and put in an attractive foundation planting of tomatoes in front of the porch. It was particularly handy. We could set and rock and sip wine and harvest our cherry tomato canapes without missing a beat.

Many people have paved paths leading to front or back doors and it is traditional to line those paths with flowers. However, to my mind a healthy and flourishing cabbage is as appealing as a petunia. When I lived in Maine, I was fascinated by a tiny house by the side of the road where the front path was lined with red cabbages. Not only tasty, but colorful.

A border of lettuces, whether a semi-heading type like Buttercrunch or a leaf lettuce like Salad Bowl is also cool and attractive. Bush beans, green or yellow, could be used in a similar fashion.

When planting a border like this, it is very easy to dig in compost, peat moss, manure or other fertilizers. You are dealing with a small space and the work can be done by hand just as you would with an intensive vegetable bed.

It's easy to see that just a little space and a little work will give you a bountiful harvest — good things cooking.