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June Garden of the Month named

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Ashlee Kunkle waters the flowers in her garden which was recently named Garden of the Month by the Gettysburg Garden Club. (Darryl Wheeler/Gettysburg Times)

The Gettysburg Garden Club, through its Garden of the Month Committee, presents June's Garden of the Month award to Ashlee and Ryan Kunkel, 96 Battalion Lane.

This eye-catching lawn and garden sits atop Herr's Ridge on a property where the Kunkel's have lived for the past 15 years. What started as some basic bushes that were put in by the builder has evolved into a beautiful series of gardens that seem to draw you in no matter where you look.

For each new garden that is created, Ashlee and Ryan work together to dig out the bed and add soil; after which Ashlee takes on the design, planting, and aftercare. Ashlee's green thumb runs in her family.

Her grandparents started Musselman Greenhouse in Cashtown in 1948; and her family still runs the business. Although she chose a different career path and is not involved in the greenhouse business, gardening has become an important hobby in her life.

She spends time tending to her gardens nearly every day during the summer and enjoys carefully researching the details of the perennials she decides to plant.

Over the past several years, Ashlee has been transitioning her garden beds from annuals to perennials. Although she has a wide variety of perennials throughout her yard, some of her favorite varieties that are planted in multiple beds include coneflower, hummingbird mint, salvia, blanket flower, and veronica.

There are still some annual flowers that are used in the pots that decorate the back deck; Ashlee uses these flower pots to add a splash of color onto the deck space. The use of annuals allows her to swap out or modify the colors and textures on these deck flower pots from year to year.

Ashlee and Ryan's most recent (2024) and largest flowerbed addition has proved to be particularly challenging due to last year's drought.

Like many local gardeners, they lost quite a few of the new perennials that were planted due to the extreme heat and lack of rainfall in July and August. Through a lot of hard work this spring, this garden has bounced back in a spectacular fashion and is alive with the colors of early summer blooms.

Another feature of the yard that helps make all the gardens stand out is the carefully manicured lawn. The neatly trimmed edges around each flower bed serve as a perfect frame to the floral picture they surround. Whether large or small, the simplicity of a well-kept lawn against the backdrop of vibrant bushes and flower gardens is a staple of most beautiful home landscapes.

To nominate your property, or someone else's, within the 17325 zip code for the Garden of the Month, visit the club's website at www.gettysburggardenclub.org.

Gettysburg Garden Club is a 501©(3) organization affiliated with the Garden Club Federation of PennsyIvania, Central Atlantic Region of State Garden Club Inc., and Nationals Garden Clubs Incorporated.