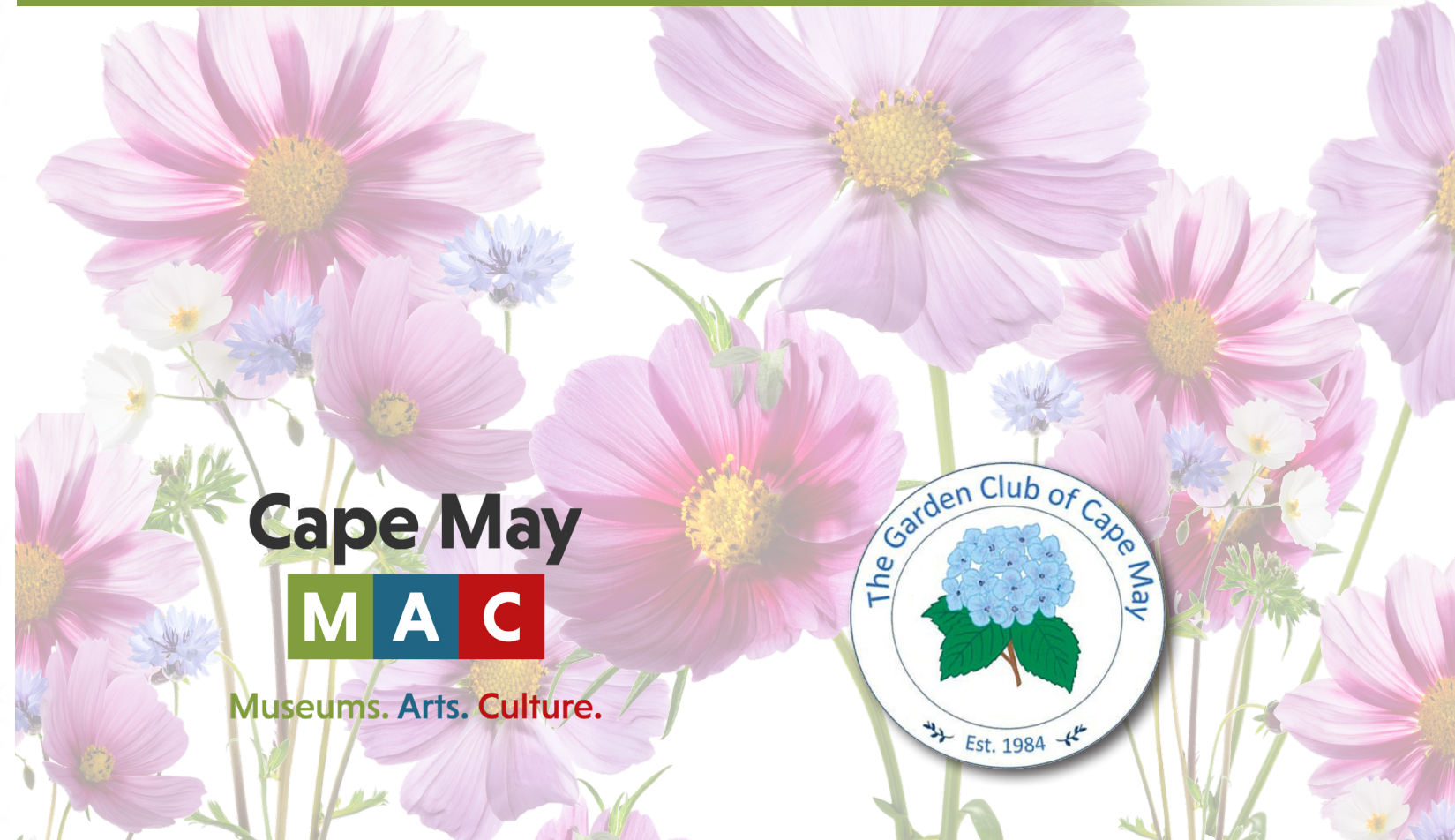


The **GARDENS**  
of Cape May  
2026 Tour



# The **GARDENS** of Cape May 2026 Tour

**SATURDAY, MAY 16TH**  
**10AM-3PM**



**Cape May**  
**M A C**  
Museums. Arts. Culture.



### **(1) THE BOWMAN RESIDENCE**

Pat has created a stunning garden that attracts pollinators of all kinds, with a special welcome to bees. Pat is an experienced apiarist who is rewarded with delicious, natural honey from the bees she shelters on her expansive property. Beyond the meadow, which was buzzing with bees, a shaded pond creates a peaceful oasis. Friendly neighbor horses were eager to meet visitors. Inside and out, Pat's home reflects her love of nature.

**1080 SEASHORE ROAD**

### **(2) THE BREMER RESIDENCE**

Welcome to 1035 Washington Street. Our home is 8 years old and over that period of time we have enjoyed building our own little paradise. We have planted and replanted annuals and perennials for our enjoyment as well as those passing by. We love spending time working in the yard and are excited to share it with you. Our backyard is designed for family time by the pool, outdoor dining and allowing plenty of space for our dog and grandchildren to play.

**1035 WASHINGTON STREET**

### **(3) THE CARLIN RESIDENCE**

The Blue Heron completed their renovation late last summer. Leverage the parking lot of the former Primrose B&B allowed design for outdoor living surrounded by expanded landscape, pool yard, and many new plantings! Local garden centers and landscaper were engaged for much of the efforts, with many of the new trees surviving and thriving post 2026 winter!

**1102 LAFAYETTE STREET**

### **(4) THE COLONIAL HOUSE**

The Greater Cape May Historical Society manages the Memucan Hughes Colonial House Garden. The Garden Club of Cape May is responsible for designing and maintaining the garden. The plantings include authentic colonial plants used for teas, cooking, and medicine. Early colonists used yarrow for digestion, chamomile for colds and inflammation, sage as an antibiotic and antiseptic, and angelica historically for curing bubonic plague. The Colonial House opens for the summer season on June 15. Tours are available each Wednesday through Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 PM until September 15th.

**653 ½ WASHINGTON STREET**

### **(5) THE DIDONATO RESIDENCE**

"The Essential Garden" is a cottage food garden and living lab, where horticultural science, creativity, permaculture and generational cultivation practices convene to produce joyful chaos amid a 52-week harvest in Growing Zone 8a. Christine DiDonato has been cultivating Cape May soil since 1980. She culls her Rutgers' Master Gardener education, her years in healthcare and research and her love of working the ground to champion local food sovereignty, to improve physical strength and mobility and to instill excitement and pride in what we grow and share with our community to nourish both our bodies and spirit. Her planting strategy employs the benefits of native flora to support biodiversity to create resilient, food producing landscapes and native habitats in harmony with nature to create a veritable food forest that feeds many especially her dog, Stella, a dedicated taste tester. Points of Focus: Soil solarization, fig trees, apple trees, blueberries, strawberries, peach tree, vermicomposting, invasive species, seed saving, water conservation, composting. Christine would like to dedicate her 2026 Garden to her mother, Eleanor.

**1352 VERMONT AVENUE**

### **(6) THE EMLÉN PHYSICK ESTATE**

Tour seven different gardens on the grounds of Cape May's only Victorian house museum. The Oval Garden is a colorful recreation of a Physick Family Garden from historic photos. The herb garden features ornamental and culinary herbs. The Fred and Sarita Kuhner Memorial Shade Garden offers a refreshing retreat on a hot summer's day. The Elvira Turnao Memorial Garden features a fountain, benches, and young fig trees. The Pollinator Garden focuses on a collection of native plants to attract butterflies and bees. Lastly, the newest garden, the Walter Lindheimer Memorial Garden is a tribute garden by the Kiraly family to "Uncle Walter" who was the gardener for the Physick Family for many years.

**1048 WASHINGTON STREET**

### **(7) THE LOVITZ RESIDENCE**

Evelyn Lovitz welcomes you to her garden, a wildlife-friendly garden comprised of trees, bushes and perennials that attract, feed and protect wildlife. Evelyn chooses to grow these plants to enjoy beautiful, hardy plants, to save time and money, to bring in birds and butterflies and to improve water quality. You will see mostly South Jersey native herbaceous plants shrubs and trees here. The sedum (non-native) are covered in butterflies in late summer. In back on the left of the yard are water-loving shrubs. This was a very wet area when Evelyn created this bed, and now the plants address that problem, soaking up the water. There are two ponds: one is a moving pond for the birds and the other is a still pond for dragonflies.

**1012 CAPE MAY AVENUE**

### **(8) THE OLAH RESIDENCE**

The most repeated comment we have of our property is that you'd never know the beach is a half mile away. Located on one acre on Sunset Blvd, trees cover much of the secluded rear yard. Two small ponds and a natural vernal pond provide water for birds year round. Wild turkeys, coyotes, fox, ducks, and migrating birds visit regularly. Plantings, mostly native, include mature oaks, maples, holly, cedar, redbud, a magnificent climbing hydrangea, hosta, daffodil, daisy, and plenty more. Meandering stone paths lead you through the natural landscape.

**600 SUNSET BOULEVARD**

### **(9) THE OREM RESIDENCE**

This block of Columbia Avenue was built in the "Cottage Era" of Cape May. During World War I, the home was operated by the owner and her daughter as a tea house, with proceeds devoted to war relief. The home was painted white with red and blue accents, including flowers. More recently, the current owners have had two daughters' post wedding brunches at the home. The landscape is traditional Victorian with roses, hydrangeas and boxwood, with mostly white (weddings) perennials and annuals. You will notice a touch of blue and light pink as well. On the garage rooftop there are two large garden boxes containing herbs and vegetables. The owner is an active member of the Garden Club of America, Darien, CT chapter.

**701 COLUMBIA AVENUE**

### **(10) RUZZI RESIDENCE**

This hidden gem of a garden not only includes many annuals and perennials, but also some plants not often seen in Cape May. Come see the fig trees and Italian persimmons along with the full herb and vegetable garden. Make sure to take a moment and see the unique Japanese fan tail willow tree!

**1342 VERMONT AVENUE**

### **(11) TODARO-FRANCESCHI RESIDENCE**

A kaleidoscope of blooming color from Spring till frost, the front and rear cottage gardens were created in 2005 to support wildlife. Comprised of various host plants and nectar sources—both annuals and perennials—visiting bees, butterflies, and hummers are many, as are numerous other beneficial insects and of course birds! In 2020 we added a small pond, which is visited by toads, birds, rabbits, and even the occasional possum. A rain garden was created in 2021, with a number of native plants to support the environment. The gardens are pesticide-free, wildlife certified and are also listed in the national Monarch way-station registry.

**514 ELMIRA STREET**

### **(12) WILLOW CREEK WINERY**

The Garden Club of Cape May cordially invites you to attend the 2026 Flower Show, themed "Flowers & Fairytales," at Willow Creek Winery from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. This event offers an excellent opportunity to enjoy lunch and explore floral displays inspired by timeless fairy tales such as Cinderella, Tinker Bell, Snow White, Rapunzel, Beauty and the Beast, and Alice in Wonderland. Horticulture exhibits will also showcase Fairy Gardens.

**168 STEVENS STREET**

**FOR A MAP OF PROPERTY LOCATIONS, SEE THE BACK PANEL**

