

WEST LAFAYETTE BEAUTIFICATION WINNER
SEPTEMBER 2009

Mike and Carolyn Gery of 530 Robinson Street are the winners of the September 2009 WL Beautification Award. Mike and Carolyn share the gardening duties; “a natural garden that is low maintenance” is their gardening goal. Lovely old oak, maple and walnut trees tower over a welcoming walkway, perennial sedum, hosta and vibrant annual mums in the front yard.

The back yard was the site of their son’s wedding in 2001 and is a calm retreat that includes Serviceberry (Amelanchier), hemlocks, azaleas, ferns, bird feeding stations and a Mike-designed deck. Hostas that came from good friends and Aegopodium that originated in the garden of Carolyn’s parents also grace the back yard.

In order to develop the garden the Gerys faced several challenges. One was the glacial-till type soil surrounding their home; a result of their location on the intermediate terrace overlooking the Wabash River. The heavy shade is another challenge. Repeated additions of soil amendments and careful selection of shade-tolerant plant material helped solve these challenges.

Flowers and colors abound in this garden in a continuous parade of color as spring bulbs, azaleas and flowering trees blaze in spring, Asiatic lilies bloom in summer, hosta blooms peak and then the warm colors of oak, maple and Serviceberry explode in autumn. The evergreens and a bright red front door give winter interest.



