

Garden Walk, Saturday, June 20, 2009, 1 – 4 p.m. Visit the quaint, small village of Sainte Marie, IL, (Pop. 300) for a garden walk featuring six gardens of unusual variety. For example, one gardener is an older man whose garden started with a small plot and has expanded to front, back and side gardens around his house – growing like Topsy, using plants acquired from relatives and friends. Some of his paths and steps are made of sawdust from the local sawmill and from his own cabinet shop hobby.

In contrast, another garden has a six-stage water feature and over 150 varieties of hosta on a large corner lot rimmed with large oak, maple and varieties of redbud trees. A tall tree canopy shelters a cozy patio, surrounded with all-shade plants.

Another garden uses a small space to ultimate advantage, with an elevated flower garden edged with flagstone.

The Garden Walk, hosted by the Ste. Marie Community Club, is free; a \$5 donation per person is suggested. Maps may be picked up at 219 W. Embarras Street (look for sign with balloons opposite old parish hall).

Sainte Marie is in Jasper County, about 30 miles southeast of Effingham, off Rt. 130. View the website www.saintemariefoundation.org for more information.