

Kenan Gardens

The Kenan Center gardens are a legacy of the late William R. Kenan, Jr. who owned the



Lockport estate that now serves as the Kenan Center. Educated as a scientist and engineer, Mr. Kenan was also an avid horticulturist, and spent many enjoyable hours in his greenhouse, applying his scientist's eye for detail to his hobby. He was especially enamored with a rare Night Blooming Cereus and was known to leave the fragile blooms on neighbor's doorsteps. Mr. Kenan enjoyed keeping his grounds beautiful and spent a great deal of time and money decorating the extensive grounds.

Today the Kenan House gardens are a feast for the senses year round. Brick pathways lead visitors through a vine-covered trellis and under century-old trees to reveal an old stone pond, a fragrant herb garden, as well as a secluded wood deck for sitting

and reflecting. In the summer months, a lush perennial garden blooms in a painter's palette of colors.



GARDENS & GROUNDS HOURS:

Open daily 9:00 a.m. to dusk from May through October. Please call to inquire about facility rentals for weddings, meetings & special occasions.

GENERAL HOURS:

The Kenan House is open weekdays from 9:00 am -5:00 pm. The Gallery is open Monday-Friday, noon to 5:00 pm, and Saturdays and Sundays, 2:00-5:00 p.m., from Labor Day through Memorial Day. The campus is closed on major holidays. Because of private events, the gallery may sometimes be closed to the public. Please call ahead to confirm before your visit.

GROUP TOURS:

The Kenan Center welcomes groups to visit the House Gallery and Gardens with advance notice. Please call, (716) 433-2617 at least one week ahead to schedule your tour.



433 Locust Street
Lockport, NY 14094
716.433.2617



www.kenancenter.org



Gardens
Historic. Beautiful. Timeless.

GENERAL GROUNDS (A & B)

The Kenan House and Gardens are reflective of a Victorian Period style that was popular in 1800's European estates and castles. The grounds are broken up into garden rooms with the extensive use of evergreen plants such as pines, hemlocks, firs, yews and ground covers. There is an old Japanese Maple (A) that has fantastic fall colors of red and orange on the opposite side of the front walk are Kastura trees (B) planted in the 1960's.

EDUCATION BUILDING (C & D)

In the space between the Educational Building and the Taylor Theater is a 150 year-old locust tree (C) and a honeysuckle (D).

WESTHAFER PERENNIAL GARDEN (E & F)

On the north side of the theater and flanking the entrance is a garden that was planted and dedicated to Dr. James Westhafer, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church which received Mr. Kenan's estate in exchange for committing the property to serve the community. The shady section (E) consists of rhododendrons, yews, hostas, astilbe, pulmonaria, bleeding hearts, lamium, ginger and heucheras. The bones of the garden are a backdrop of river birches, hemlocks and crabapples. The sunny part of the garden (F) boasts daylilies, filipendula, artemisia, black-eyed susan, purple cone flowers, salvia, geranium, coreopsis, lupines, yuccas, iris, foxglove, columbine, echinops, sedums, Joe-Pye weed, phlox, and monkshood. Mixed in with these plants are kousa dogwood, river birches, white pines, yews, boxwood and junipers. Across the pathway is an old butternut tree.

OLD ORCHARD [G-H]

Much of the area east of the main residence was originally an orchard of fruit and nut trees, with a few old pear and crabapple trees remaining as well as the cut stump of a spectacular Turkish Hazel with its "alligator hide" bark. (G) New saplings, which include crabapples, Japanese lilac and maple, were added in recent years in celebration of Arbor Day by area students. (H)

*Donated by the WNY Landscape Association.



HERB GARDEN & MEMORIAL GARDEN (I)

The Friends of the Kenan Herb Club established the garden in its current location in the early 1990's and continues to maintain more than seventy varieties of herbal plants including tea, dye, medicinal, culinary, and repellent herbs (I). Directly behind the Herb Garden is a small section which is being developed by the Herb Club as a memorial garden to honor club members.

*Map painting produced by Manning McCandlish & photography done by Sydney Wolf.

POND; EAST & WEST FORMAL GARDENS (J-M)

Heading west along the brick path and directly across from the greenhouse is a stone pond (J) circled with ferns. Two Dawn Redwoods stand opposite each other. Just past the pond is the West Formal Garden (K) featuring a landscaped area and trellis. Just beyond the trellis, to the right and left of the small steps are a pair of very rare Golden Cyprus, planted sometime in the 1960s, and several 150-year-old yews (L). The East Formal Garden (M) is a highly stylized, artistic type of garden which reflects the Italianate-Victorian style of the house.

WISTERIA (N)

Next to the house is one of the oldest living wisteria vines (N) in Niagara County, planted when the house was first built in 1859.

DECK (O)

Surrounding the deck and ramp (O) is a garden filled with shade loving heucheras, hostas, and rhododendrons transplanted from the John Henry Historic Millennium Grove in 2004. There are two concolor firs, a golden arborvitae, an old pear tree, a lilac shrub, weeping mulberry, and burning bush as well as a butternut tree.

TAYLOR THEATER TERRACE (P-Q)

Directly behind the Taylor Theater is a slate terrace patio that was completed in 2007 and provides a wonderful outdoor setting for warm-weather functions. Directly across from the terrace is a small octagonal garden honoring Thomas S. Kenan III, great nephew of William R. Kenan Jr. whose generosity has helped to preserve many areas of the Kenan House and campus.

SCULPTURE LEGEND

1. "Guardian" by Robert Wood in honor of William B. May
2. "Echo" steel and granite by Mark Carroll *
3. "Big, Big Bird" by Dave Stevens *
4. "Scala" by Scott Bye
5. Anonymous art sculpture
6. "Arianrhod 1994" ceramic, by Deborah Stewart *
7. Pond Fountain recognizes donors to the 2008 & 2009 Annual Fundraising Campaigns
8. Visual Arts Experience with the Ashford Hollow Foundation 2012-2015. Youth ages 10-12 created their own metal sculptures and contributed to three group designed pieces. **

* Sculptures produced and donated by Western New York artists. The Carroll sculpture recognizes donors to the 2004 Annual Fundraising Campaign; the Stevens Sculpture recognizes 2005 donors.

** Funded by the Estate of Wendy Gibson, The Grigg Lewis Foundation, and The Mr. & Mrs. Samuel F. Ward Foundation.

Other generous donations made by the Kenan Arts Council, Kenan Quilters' Guild and Friend of the Kenan Herb Club.