

Water on the Home Front Tour – Xeriscaping in Wells Branch 2014

We'd like to start by saying that it was impossible to choose one yard over the other for this tour; logistics governed our choices. While we have beautiful xeriscaped yards throughout Wells Branch, we limited the area covered so that we might visit several examples of each of the styles you heard about, but in an efficient manner. We chose areas with clusters of water smart yards. In the next few weeks, we plan on adding a page to the WBNA website featuring homes throughout Wells Branch. We'd love some help with this endeavor so please email any addresses you'd like added to the site to info@wbna.us along with your thoughts, ideas and comments. Thank you for joining us today. We hope you enjoy the tour and will join us back at the library for refreshments and Q & A with Master Naturalist, Shelley Palmer.

**Please check the WBNA website and Facebook pages for updates as new homes are added. If you need any additional information or contacts, email info@wbna.us.*



14533 Donald • Don Harrell • Cottage Style Garden

Don has been a resident of Wells Branch for 25 years. He began converting his yard to xeriscape around seven years ago. Don's front yard is landscaped with sun loving perennials however he does occasionally indulge in a few seasonal beauties. His back yard consists of mostly low maintenance shade gardens. This photo is from last summer.



14583 Robert I. Walker • Marlene Counts • Classic Xeriscape

Another beautiful water smart yard. A long-time Wells Branch resident, Marlene began converting her yard in 1999. The larger portion of the yard is completely covered in mulch except for pavers, a swing and a picket fence. She paints with flowers; it's simple and lovely. There's an ornamental tree in the foreground completely surrounded by pink creeping phlox. Her side-yard is traditional St. Augustine at the moment, but she has plans for it...



14566 Robert I. Walker • Brooke Grantham • Desert Xeriscape

This home has a very clean, straightforward style with river rock, a crushed granite walkway and two mulched beds with symmetrical plantings. Her backyard is xeriscaped as well, but currently undergoing its spring facelift.



14221 Anita Marie • Rebecca Stanton and Gail VanMeter • Desert Xeriscape

Rebecca and Gail moved to WB 21 months ago. They decided to xeriscape their yard after seeing several amazing examples of such yards around Austin and wanted a yard they could aesthetically enjoy while still being environmentally conscious. Their transformation was labor intensive but the upkeep is not. They weed occasionally and blow out unwanted fallen leaves. They're still learning what succulents work and invite suggestions.



2119 Margalene Way • Karen Long • Cottage Style Garden

Karen began her conversion to a low water garden around 13 years ago. She uses drip hoses for watering when necessary, but all of her plants are established and need very little care. Be sure and come back by in a few weeks when her poppies are in full bloom. Karen scatters the seeds after they bloom every year and they cover her yard each Spring; they're magnificent!



2004 Surrender • Rhonda Jordan • Combination

Rhonda is an original resident of Wells Branch and the very first one to convert her yard to xeriscape in 1990. Her yard is tiered for drainage, planted with perennials, and even hosts a pretty little grass patch in the center of the side yard sodded with Zoysia. She watered the Zoysia until it was established; it requires very little care now. All of Rhonda's water comes from her rain barrels. Her next project includes a water feature for her back yard, fed by rain-water only, with a pump that runs on solar energy.



1815 Michael Wayne • Ben and Andrea Simon • Texas Pride

When Ben and Andrea moved to Wells Branch a year ago, their front yard was partially covered with crushed granite, ornamental grasses and cacti. Their first edition to the yard was to commission the steel planters they have along their nuisance strip. They followed with the addition of ornamental rocks and look forward to spreading the xeriscape coverage to the rest of their lawn.



1902 Gaylord • Brad and Felicia Herold • Cottage Garden/Texas Pride

Brad and Felicia moved to Wells Branch in 1999. A desire to both conserve water and have a beautiful yard led them to completely convert both their front and back yards. They hauled in truckloads of dirt, added an elaborate irrigation system fed by a massive rainwater collection system, and installed raised limestone beds and pathways. As it turns out, they only used the irrigation system the first two years. Once the plants were established, it was no longer necessary to irrigate the whole yard. They're currently working to add more rocks to the landscape.



2009 Gaylord • Georgianna Herold • Cottage Garden

Georgianna has been in the process of converting her yard to a tiered cottage garden for the last three years. Heavy shade and leaves from the oak trees made it difficult to maintain a St. Augustine yard. With help from her son and daughter-in-law, they dug out all the grass and have replaced it with native perennials and mulch. Georgianna also added a large flagstone patio, a limestone planter box, and limestone stepping stones throughout her yard for the grandchildren.



2010 Gaylord • Heather Poitras • Texas Pride

Heather has a huge corner yard that once was covered in grass. She began converting her yard to xeriscape 3-4 years ago. It's now heavily populated with native grasses, flowers, and succulents with a mulch ground cover and requires virtually no maintenance aside from occasional weed pulling and topping off the mulch. Heather watered with drip hoses until the plants were established.



2012 Gaylord • Sandra Chavez • Classic/Texas Pride

Sandra moved to Wells Branch just 3 1/2 years ago. She was inspired by her next door neighbor Heather and began working on her yard a year ago. Sandra's front yard has a very traditional feel with numerous raised limestone beds surrounded by mulch. She has perennials in the main yard and an organic vegetable garden along the side of her house in raised beds. Sandra wants everyone to know that anything is possible if you set your mind to it. She has done most of the work herself, converting small areas at a time after work and on weekends.