

## **“One of the gardens in the Cable Natural History Garden Tour”**

**My Jardin du Voyageurs** by Cindy Merrill-Power

Jardin du Voyageurs is literally an extension of our summer living space. As is any garden, it's a work in progress, ever expanding and changing, but always interesting.

I have a few rules I follow. First, keep it harmonious and intimate with both the cottage and the woods and second, make it interesting by having something special to see from any vantage point. I love to experiment and learn with perennials. Can Zone 4 plants survive our winters? What kind of soil do they like? Do I have enough sun for them? Will the rabbits and deer leave them alone?

As a decorative painter and faux finisher, color and texture are extremely important to me. In some areas I favor monochromatic color schemes, and in others, I want bold contrasts. This year the main palette is a collage of pink, coral, salmon, orange, red and crimson contrasted with chartreuse, aubergine, and splashes of bright blue.

The plants that achieve my living artwork are too many to list, but include perennial hibiscus, oriental lilies, bearded and siberian iris, monkshood, peonies, poppies, echinacea, foxglove, hostas, ferns and coral bells. Bright annuals, both in pots and in the ground, supplement the setting and add season-long color. There are also many vigorous vines, as well as herbs and groundcovers such as moss, thyme, moneywort and lamium.

But the best part is taking a stroll around the garden with my coffee or glass of wine at the beginning and end of each day to see what's budding and blooming. Then I sit for a time, in our screen porch overlooking the main garden, and smell the flowers.

**The Cable Natural History Museum Garden Tour is scheduled for July 16<sup>th</sup>. You can purchase your tickets at Big Brook Greenhouse, Firefly Trading Company or the Cable Natural History Museum. For more information about this events go to [www.cablemuseum.org](http://www.cablemuseum.org) or call 715-798-3890.**