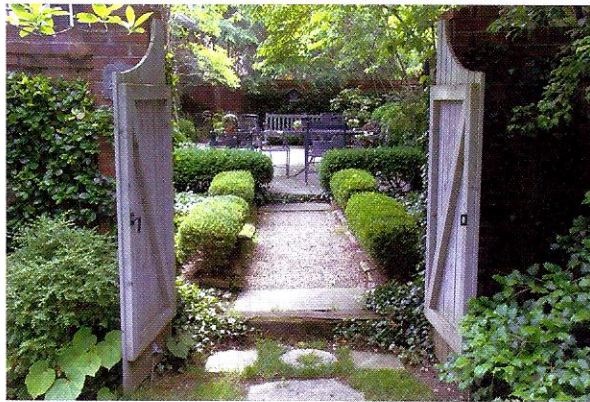


# Mary Webb

It is said that one's eyes are the passage to their soul. This is truly the case with Mary Webb whose sea-green eyes are exquisite jewels in her sun-drenched face. Her big smile, on such a petite woman,



is a charming, introduction to this lovely and talented landscape designer who has left her mark on multitudes of homes and gardens in the region.

Mary began her career decades ago when she worked for Anne Bruce Halderman, a renowned landscape architect from Glenview, Kentucky. Halderman was included among the ranks of Frederick Law Olmstead, Ellen Biddle Shipman and other nationally recognized legends of the era. Their philosophy profoundly influenced Mary and her approach of creating a park-like atmosphere emphasizing majestic shade trees, strategically placed on sculptured grounds of manicured lawns, developing a tailored, evergreen backbone (and therefore a 365 day-a-year structure) with perennial and flowering shrub borders providing a seasonal accent. This approach to "simplifying" a landscape varied significantly from other local designers and she has been frequently known to say, "It is not how much you have, but how well maintained it is".

I had the privilege being in partnership with Mary for eighteen years. What has always been true for her is even more true today: few people in these busy times have the desire, time or means to keep up with what they have, much less creating more! I have on numerous occasions heard her respond with her heavy Southern drawl and a twinkle in her green eyes to a client's request for large gardens "But honey, do you have a man?" Mind you, this is not inquiring as to one's marital status, but the amount of help needed to weed and prune! It certainly encourages clients to think about what is realistic to maintain and how they use their exterior spaces.

Once one meets Mary she is not easily forgotten. She not only possesses the capability to produce an extraordinary design, but her charming and engaging nature creates lasting friendships that take priority over business engagements. Over the years working together, she and I would take road trips for a job out of town and she would

often propose that if I would drive she would pack a picnic lunch. We would only be on the road for less than an hour before I succumbed to the cooler in the back seat filled with chilled, homemade

crustless chicken salad sandwiches, neatly cut into triangles. Cooking and entertaining friends and family for supper are routine. Her big heart extends beyond her close circle of friends. She continuously graces notable occasions with homemade goodies or little vases of freshly cut flowers from her garden, with a hand-written note on recycled paper conveying her sentiments.

Mary is truly a legend in her field because her approach to landscaping mirrors her personal life; both are based on classic principles which emphasize simplicity and elegance, with nothing fussy or pretentious, eliminating clutter and anything excessive, and nurturing what you have with impeccable detail. To this day I cannot look at a dandelion next to my walk without thinking of Mary because she often quoted her mother saying "Sister, there is no excuse to ignore the weeds, at least within an arms reach of the path you walk every day!" Whether it is friendships or landscapes, Mary has indeed left an indelible mark on our community! **K**