# Charleston Friendly Yards

## Award Application

## Application:

To be eligible for a CFY Award you must respond to at least one question in each of the five categories below. You may submit pictures to help illustrate your written responses; pictures will become the property of Keep Charleston Beautiful and may be used in relation to Charleston Friendly Yards or other educational programs. This is an interactive program; your responses may be shared with others. However, all shared information will be anonymous; your personal information will not be available to anyone outside of Keep Charleston Beautiful. If you have any questions about the program or application process please call 843-570-7501.

Send completed applications to: Keep Charleston Beautiful
Attn: Charleston Friendly Yards
823 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29403
email: scalesj@ci.charleston.sc.us,
fax: 843-720-3858

Application Date: 8/22/2011

Applicants Name: James Liphus Ward and Victoria Eugenia Thomas

Phone Number: 843-763-1186

Email Address: wardj@cofc.edu

Address of Yard: 13 Sheridan Road - South Windermere

What is the main purpose of your yard (garden, entertaining, lawn, etcetera)?

*Front is decorative and a social place. It also has enough space for lawn games and to be useful for a rain garden as an area to provide retention of rain water on site. The east garden is for vegetables, herbs, and some flowers as well as a fish pond. The west area is primarily for service containing compost area, greenhouse, storage for tools, and work area. The rear yard is for more private entertainment with screened porch, patio, sitting wall, fire pit, and nice filtered shade.*

If applicable, may Keep Charleston Beautiful use your photos to promote Charleston Friendly Yards and raise awareness? X YES ____NO (with credit please)

**********Section Below is for Review Committee**********

Date Application was reviewed: _____

Name of Reviewers: _____

Was CFY Award Approved: ____YES ____NO
If not what reason was given?

# Plants:

- How did you select the plant species used in your yard?

*Based on hardiness for this zone, required size limitations, native species where possible, contrast in texture, and long term maintenance considerations. We also wanted mostly evergreen trees and shrubs with some flowers. They were placed towards the right of way to give some scale to the road and give a buffer there. It also opens up the grass to tie the other gardens of the house. The east garden is the sunniest and was chosen for vegetables and herbs. The rear and service areas have reasonable filtered light; so, we use more shade tolerant plants there. The site has quite a few larger trees just over the property line allowing us to focus on understory trees mostly. Many of the plants were actually reused from what folks threw onto the street, what neighbors chose to share, and divided from existing stock.*

- Do you plant for the Lowcountry's seasonal weather variations? If so how?

*We minimized plants susceptible to both frost damage except perhaps for the Sago in front and to the wicked hot weather and drought frequently occuring in Charleston. We opted not to install any irrigation and water the decorative perennials by hand. These perennials in pots we transfer to the greenhouse when the weather gets really cold. When it gets too hot, we relocate them into the filtered shade areas in back. Again, most of what we planted are either native or naturalized here including East Palatka Holly, Chaste Tree, Bay Magnolia, Drake's Elm, Mexican Fan Palms, and Redbud in front. The existing trees that are along the edges of the property are Live and Laurel Oaks, and one Water Oak as well as one truly specimen Dogwood. We did also plant a Fringe Tree and Japaneese Threadleaf Maple on the side garden as conversation pieces.*

- How do you reduce your lawn's environmental impact?

*We cut out a lot of lawn area, using groundcovers and native grasses like Spartina bakerii and Sweet Grass. In the shaped lawn areas, we do not fuss with a pure stand of grass, but allow a somewhat more eclectic stand as long as it is green and is controllable. We use organic fertilizers on the lawn with mostly compost topdressing in the perennial areas with some slow release fertilizers from time to time. In the back shaded areas, we have planted some culled Monkey grass (which requires only periodic hand weeding) but which gives a lush effect. To avoid washouts in the wintertime because we do not have a dense root structure in the lawns, we also overseed in the front with annual rye.*

# Water:

- How do you conserve water when caring for your yard?

*We have an underground catchment that takes the roof water that feeds the fish pond that in turn is used in the vegetable beds. We also have an above ground rain barrell to harvest additional water. All roof water is collected in gutters and downspouts and is piped to the front retention areas that reinfiltrate excess water back into the ground. For miscellaneous watering, we keep a a timer on the hose bib as well as a backflow device. All beds are mulched or have thick stands of groundcover.*

- List the ways in which you protect nearby water sources from pollution.

*Roof water and all water from the site runs to the front rain garden which reinfiltrates it to the ground. Gutters all have leaf guards to keep them operational. There are no naturally occuring water sources very close but minimizing the quantity and quality of rain water runoff should help one lot at a time.*

- How are you limiting the impact of non-permeable surfaces in and around your yard?

*Driveway is broken by grass strips. The front walk drains to a section of plantation mix which is relatively more permeable. The side and rear areas also use the plantation mix as a wearing surface for the wheelchair but allows rainwater penetration. There are also two interim drainage inlets with soil filters which allow water to pond slightly on the side and rear yards to slow it donw a bit. The main culprit is the roof water and that goes directly into the rain garden and catchment in front.*

# Soils/Chemicals:

- What processes/tests do you use to better understand and work with your yard's soil composition?

*I have personally tested the soil with my own equipment. The grass needs occasional lime and some slight increase in nitrogen. It also tends to be poorly drained which is why I have raised the beds especially in front. The grades have been modified to allow for preferably 3% slope in the front but some areas are slightly less on the side yards. We also topdress areas with compost periodically to make up for leaching nutrients.*

- What methods do you use to care for or improve your yard's soil?

*The main thing is to compost all suitable kitchen waste. It is placed in the Burpee's Soil Master, then transferred to an open bin to make sure the seeds are dealt with. Finally it is sieved and collected in a work station built on the side garden. Grass cuttings are added in small amouts from the yard. This is especially useful for the plant beds, veggie beds and in the pots mixed with native soils. I also use collected leaf and pine straw mulch where needed from on-site sources mostly.*

- How do you reduce your yard's environmental impact in terms of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides?

*We use minimal pesticides and herbicides. Fertilizers are organic and only lightly applied. We try to plant in a natural design where weeds do not stand out so much. It does still require periodic hand weeding especially in full sun.*

# Waste and Pollution:

- How do you reuse, reduce or recycle your waste?

*We compost and recycle. Having enough room in the garage helps to maintain a dry and reasonable recycling area. Kitchen waste is kept in sealed containers and emptied into the composter a couple of times a week. Eggs shells are kept, baked and ground to facilitate their usefullness. I also have an outdoor fireplace which generates some ash which is turned into the compost as well. All wood used in it is culled from what we find on the street or is trimmed from our trees. Building materials are gleaned wherever possible including using broken concrete as edging and walls. The benches are collected from the street and rebuilt. we tend to find a use for a lot of items that are thrown out. Flooring, for example, makes great picture frames.*

- How do you limit the amount of chemical runoff from your yard?

*The retention area out front catches and holds and reinfiltrates most of the first flush of the rain water runoff. I also rarely use any chemicals in the yard. I have been forced to confront the fire ants, but that is only when they pose a risk.*

- How do you reduce your emissions output in relation to your yard?

*I use an electric lawn mower and trimmer. I share the ownership, maintenance and use of the lawn mower with a neighbor as well. Most trimming is done by hand with occasional need for the electric shears.*

# Wildlife:

- How do you provide for or encourage wildlife within your yard?

*we have three bird feeders and two hummingbird feeders which helps. There are, however, good nesting sites for small birds in the shrubs in front. Larger birds and squirrels use the trees in the back. The rain garden has a couple of racers in it. We have considerable berry production which helps as well. For fun, I also put in a flat top cap on the back and side fence which has become a squirrel highway away from the cats.We keep gold fish and Gambusia in the small fish pond on the side garden as well which has called the attention to a few herons, but we do not really encourage the wholesale depletion. The mus cadine vine and trellis has proven really popular with song birds who bathe when we water the veggies.*

- Explain how you have planted to attract and encourage pollinators within your yard.

*We use plants that are attractive to them. Buddlea, Esclepsia, Callestemon, Woodbine, Cannas, Water Cannas, and Ginger have all proven attractive.We also have hummingbird feeders.*

- How do you protect natural areas near your yard or garden?

*The yard is only a quarter acre and the house has only 15 feet of area on the rear and side yards. There are, however, a fair number of shade trees growing along the property lines. To preserve them, we have worked carefully in constructing near their roots. The fence in the rear we designed to allow for lattice break out panels to be changed when the trees get larger. Where we have a 4' fence on the working yard side, we altered fence post spacing to work with the trees locations. In the front, we had to route the drainage pipes under a grand Dogwood which we did completely by hand resorting to using a yard blower to get the pipes through the roots without damaging the tree. There are several large shrubs which also provide habitat to the smaller birds. We generally let them grow naturally without much trimming except to control the Eleagnus that tries to take control of the yard back. (When we first moved here we could not even see the Dogwood because of the overgrowing Eleagnus.)*

# Other:

Use this space to explain additional steps you have taken to create a Charleston Friendly Yard. If you have future plans for your garden, you may use this space to explain those as well.

*We have tried to create a garden that functions for our animal family as well as the critters, We have both cats and a dog and want them to feel a variety of habitats, shade, and places to be animals. The people also like to be outside as much as the environment will allow us. The house already had a screened in porch large enough to be a sleeping porch in the back. We have added a patio to that with a brick seating wall as an additional feature to enclose and give thermal inertia to the qualitiy of the outdoor space. To help with the bugs, we have an outdoor fireplace which helps to keep bugs down and gives us a place to cook large pieces of meat for en tertaining. There are some seasons where it is too hot or too cold, but it is possible to extend the season when one can be comfortable outside.*

*we also like to be sociable and have set up both a swing under the big Dogwood and a small patio area. This allows us to talk to neighbors passing by and enjoy the sunset, fireworks at the ball park, and rest while working in the garden. The entry walk has a small fountain next to it with a rock garden plantings, limestone stones for natural decorative touch, and "magic stones" which we keep for the children who wander by and are intrigued by the rain garden.*

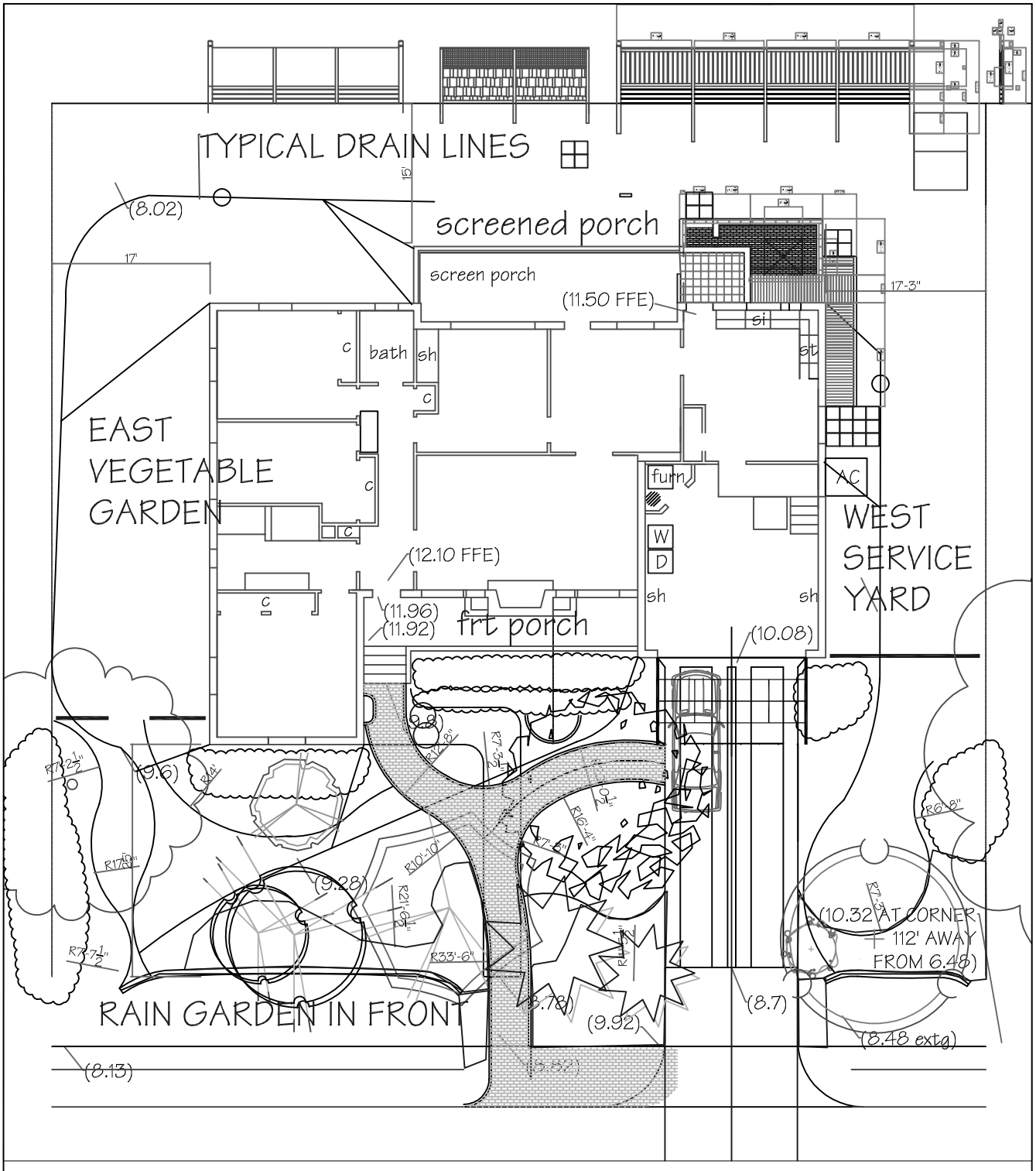
*The wife is cconfined to a wheelchair, so the garden is laid out to be accessible and allow her to work at maintenance as well. The plantation mix has proven to be very useful as a wearing surface although I have recently paved the front walk with an exposed aggregate to make it better when wet. (The neighborhood kids greatly enjoyed our introduction to concrete this summer.) The veggie bed is raised about 18" to allow her to work and enjoy it from outside and from her study right next to it. She also has access to the small side greenhouse at the bathroom as the grab bars are set up there for her to take care of her violets.*

*We have found the use of a small and accessible greenhouse helpful to keep our potted plants alive from one year to the next. This was built with a majority of recycled, reclaimed items. We like to work in the garden and do woodworking and masory project; so, the garage is used for work as well as the small adjoining side garden. We need areas outside where we can do things, preferably in the shade. This has been very useful. In fact, all the work to the garden and garden construction has been done with no contractor help.*

*Future plans include the building a small summer house (no plumbing) where we can write and be outside. We also want to expand the width of the front porch to allow easier use and to make the view from the living room better from the height of the wheelchair.*

Thank you for your efforts to create and maintain a sustainable environmentally friendly yard,

Keep Charleston Beautiful

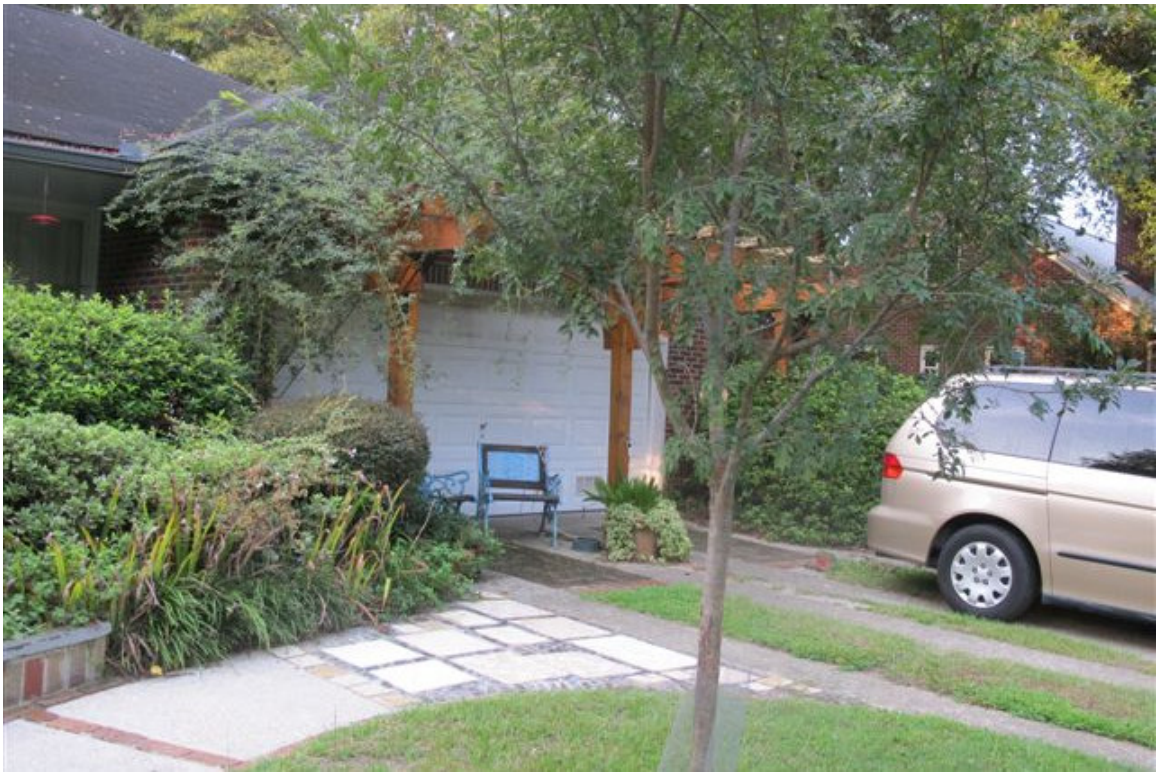


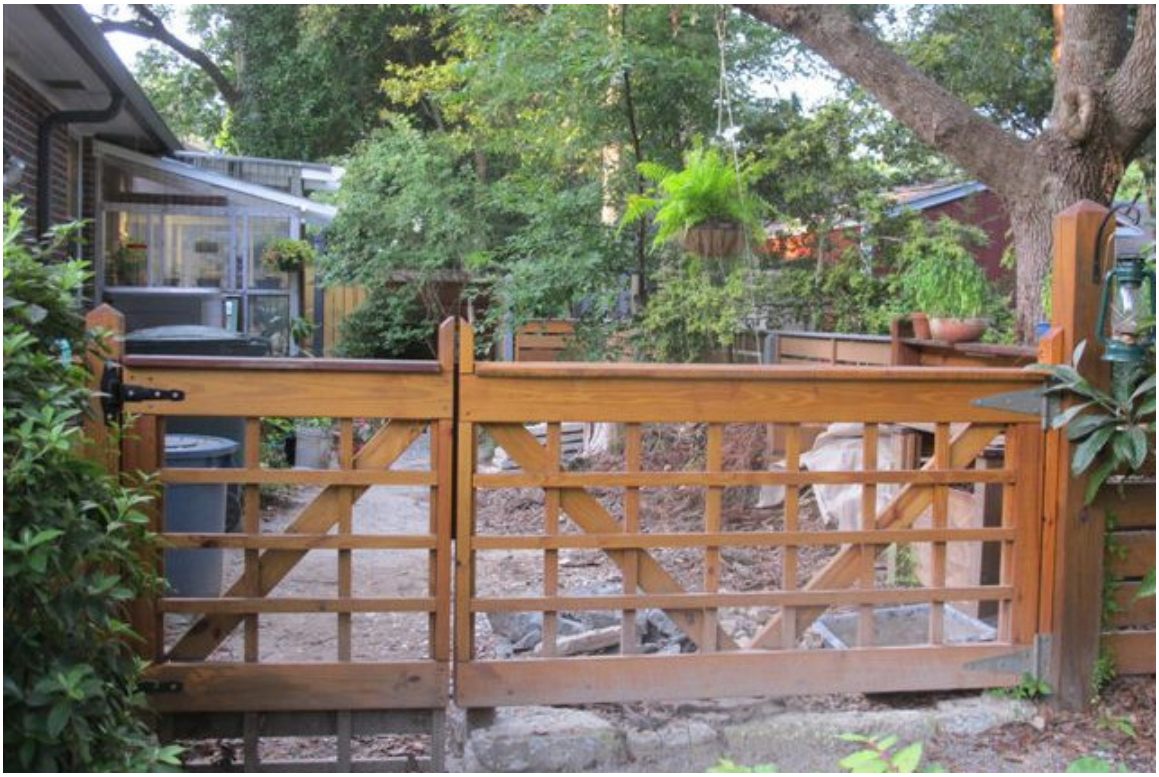

All dimensions are approximate based on interior taped dimensions and observations on site.

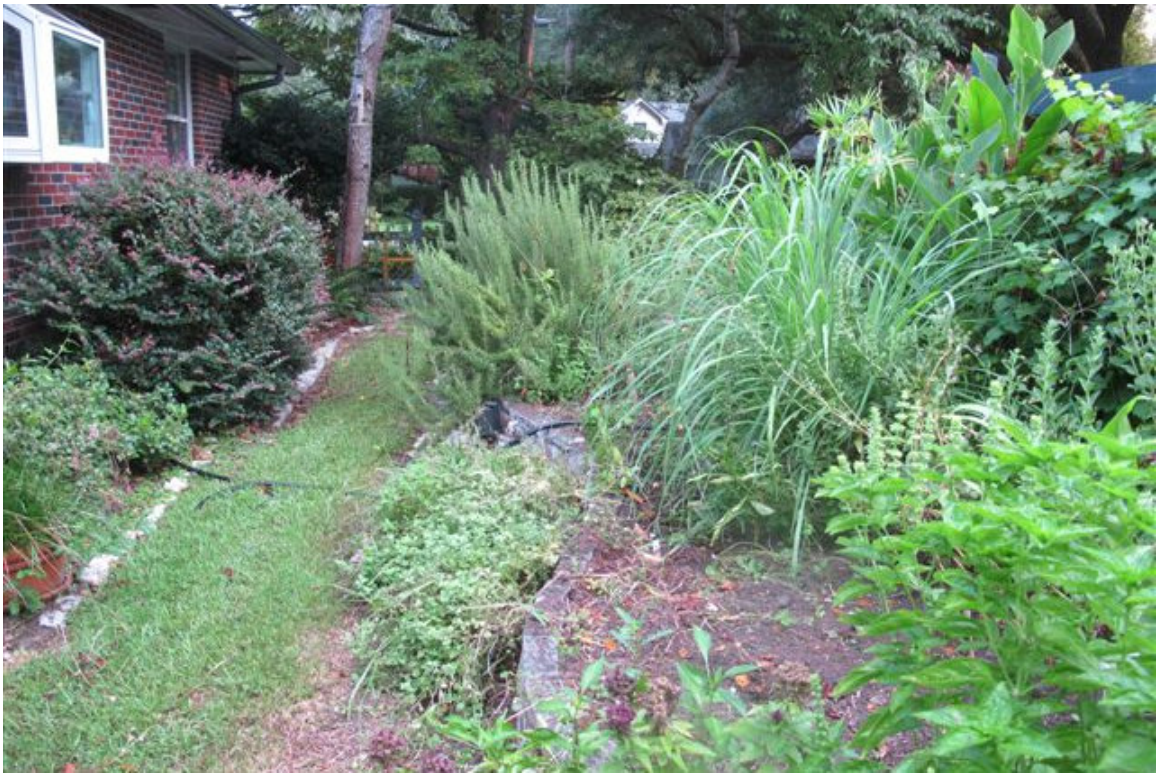
# 13 SHERIDAN GRADING

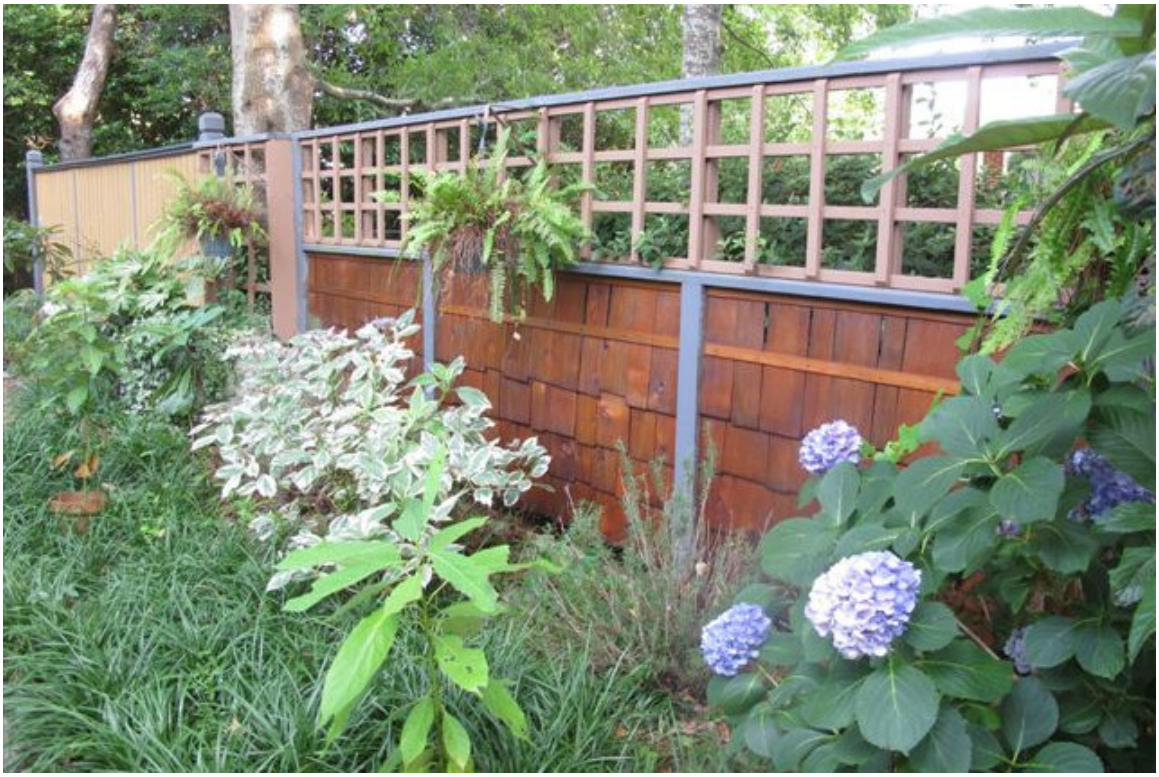
## SOUTH WINDERMERE

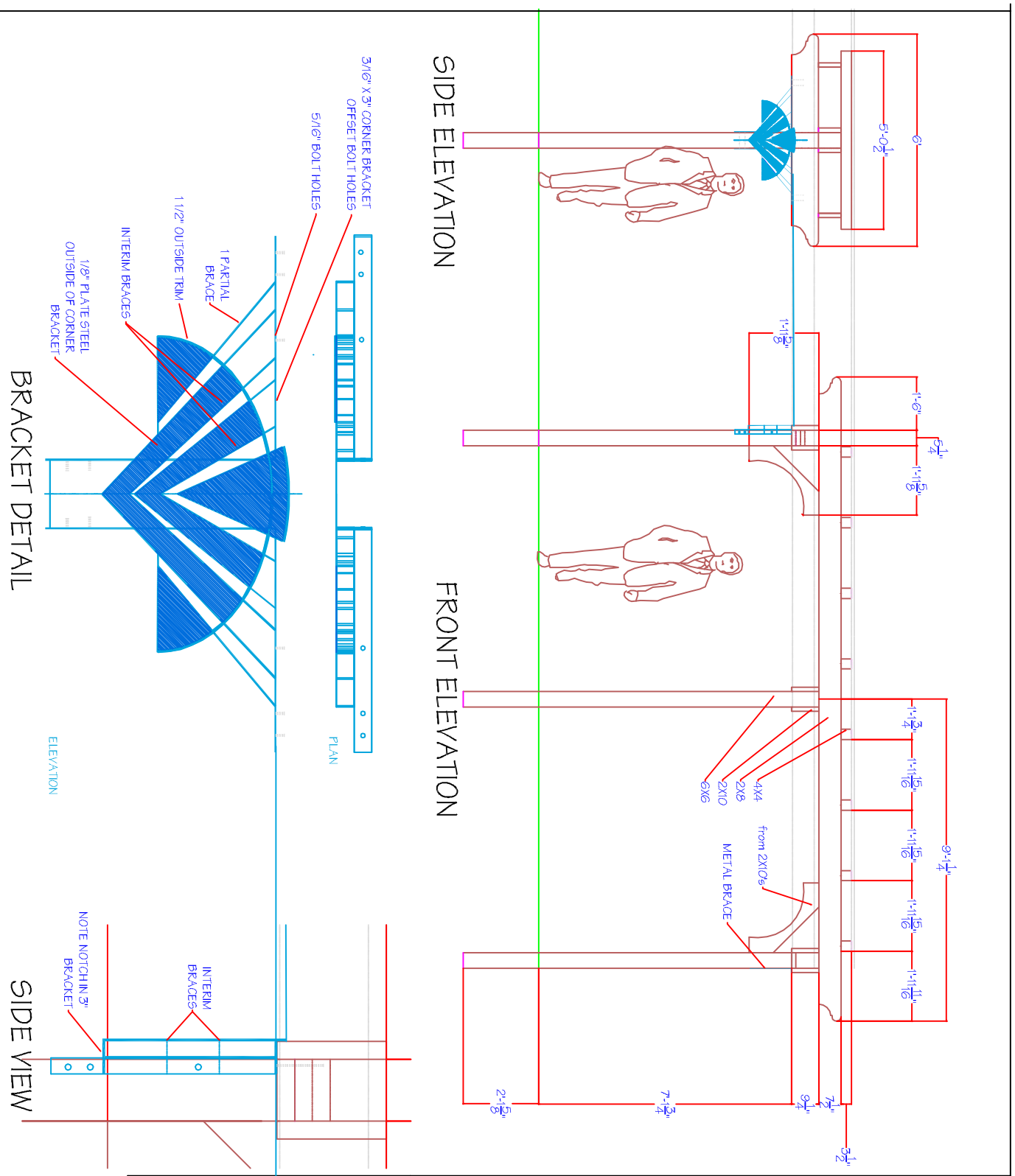
| Drawn by: | SIZE | FSCM NO. | DWG NO. | REV |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| James L. Ward | | | 1 | |
| | SCALE | 1/16"=1'-0" | SHEET | |












All dimensions are approximate based on interior taped dimensions and observations on site.

# 13 SHERIDAN ARBOR

## SOUTH WINDERMERE

Drawn by:

James L. Ward

6/30/08

| SIZE | FSCM NO. | DWG NO. | REV |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 | |

| SCALE | 1/4 & 1"=1'-0" | SHEET |
|---|---|---|