



By Carolyn Lee
The Imperial Republican

Secret gardens. That's what came to mind when the Adams Bank & Trust first annual Garden Tour was held Saturday in Imperial.

Who knew such wonderful gardens bloomed behind seven houses in town?

They ranged from a stunning and formal garden surrounding a statue behind Lou and Ron Hegwood's house, to islands of plants behind Tim and Rhonda Sutherland's house, to a shady retreat under pine trees at DeMarys Cooper's house.



At Mitch and Sara Stretesky's fairly new house, guide Tom Gaschler described the plans the couple has to expand their gardens and yet keep the yard kid-friendly.

About 30 people followed maps to the locations of the gardens highlighted. Despite a light mist, people lingered to ask the residents questions and to take notes.

Organizer Laura Gaschler of Adams Bank said "I think it was a very big success. The host families were thrilled and the weather was perfect!"

Gaschler said she already has tentative hosts for next year's tour, to be held earlier in the summer.

Volunteers from the Imperial Rotary Club were stationed at each garden site. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Chase County Food Pantry.

