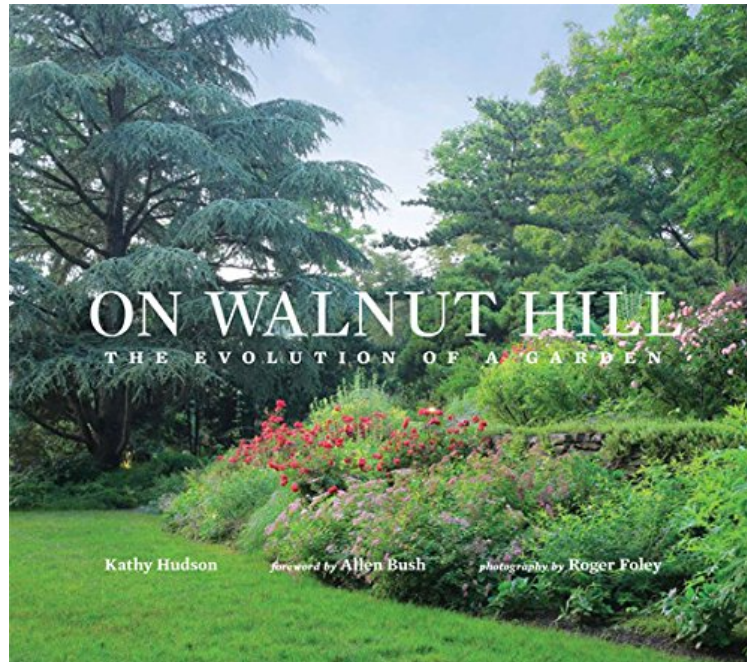


(Get free) On Walnut Hill - The Evolution Of A Garden

## On Walnut Hill - The Evolution Of A Garden

*Kathy Hudson, Photographs by Roger Foley, Foreword by Allen Bush*

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**Kathy Hudson, Photographs by Roger Foley, Foreword by Allen Bush : On Walnut Hill - The Evolution Of A Garden** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On Walnut Hill - The Evolution Of A Garden:

9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. On Walnut Hill, A Gift for All Seasons By John Tagliabue Kathy Hudson's On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden is one of those rare garden books that does far more than tell the story of a showcase garden. Hudson's spare prose, combined with award-winning landscape photographer Roger Foley's lush photos, paint a verbal and visual history of this spectacular garden, which utterly transformed a sunny hillside near Baltimore over the course of 46 years. It helped, of course, that the young couple who bought the house and grounds in 1969 -- and did all the work themselves for years -- was able, later, to fund what started as a dawn-to-dusk, weekend hobby into what ultimately became their life's passion and work. It also helped that early on they began working with a European garden designer who was one of the pioneers advocating the replacement of staid, static rectangular patches of lawn and flower beds with sumptuous curvilinear sweeps of perennial plantings and ornamental grasses. Designer Kurt Bluemel laid out an overarching plan for A.C. and Penney Hubbard's sunny, two-acre site: an evergreen background, a middle ground of shrubs like rhododendrons, viburnums and azaleas, and a foreground of annuals and perennials. Just as important as the plantings, however, were Bluemel's stunning hardscape plans -- the low, dry-laid stone walls that curved throughout the property, and his meandering pathways, large enough for two people to walk side by side, conversing. A rock-lined fountain wall with multiple cascades of water, the rough, wide stone stairs that curve and twist up the hilly site, the seemingly random but perfectly placed stone accent pieces -- all add to the tamed wildness of the garden's appearance. Novice gardeners -- like those who find themselves regularly moving new acquisitions until both plant and gardener are happy -- can take heart here: when Bluemel announced that

a rock-lined pool would be sited where the Hubbards already had a stand of conifers, the trees were dug out, moved to a temporary holding bed, and re-planted after construction. Unlike most garden books, *On Walnut Hill* serves up a seven-season year that mirrors the actual stages of garden life: one winter, one autumn, but two springs (early and late), and three summers (early, midsummer, and late). Foley has chronicled each of those seven seasons in long, evocative photo essays. As testament to the strength of the Hubbards' garden as well as to Foley's photographic eye, each of the seven seasons delights and beguiles. Foley's winter photos -- the curve of a snow-covered dry-laid stone wall overlooking a distant valley; an Asian sculpture with a ruff of snow on a terrace wall; the riotous bark of a leafless, rust-colored paperbark maple -- are every bit as captivating as his spring and summer shots -- the glory of tiny white bleeding heart mingling with enormous Hosta "Big Daddy;" a granite column seemingly strangled by electric purple clematis trailing across a blue spruce; towering yellowed Allium "Mount Everest" rising out of a green sea of bottle brush Amsonia hubrectii. Each of Foley's seven photo essays is introduced by a prose poem in Hudson's lean style that clearly reflects decades of her own gardening life. One has to spend endless hours in endless gardens to understand how "After snowfall comes the deepest stillness of the year," or to describe those early spring miracles, "to see again ... coiled fern fronds and scrolled hosta leaves pushing through the earth." Perfect for giving at any time of the year, *On Walnut Hill* will drive winter-bound gardeners to their seed catalogues. All the rest of the year, they'll be driven outdoors, in hope, and brimming over with ideas. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A beautiful book. By Customer I curled up one afternoon during the recent blizzard with a cup of tea and this book and was lost to the world for the next several hours. The photography is stunning and moves effortlessly between botanical studies of plants and portraits of the garden as a whole. Kathy Hudson's prose poems are lovely and I imagine I will reread them as the season changes for many years to come. The book tells the story of a family as well as the garden and it makes one want to start working on one's own garden immediately. I recommend this book to gardeners and lovers of gardens of all stripes, those who are always mucking about in the dirt and armchair gardeners alike. While the story is grounded in Baltimore and is delightful to read for those acquainted with the city, my aunt, who has no particular connection to Baltimore, also loved the book. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. With Kathy Hudson's almost painterly essays and Roger Foley's striking ... By M. Marani With Kathy Hudson's almost painterly essays and Roger Foley's striking images, *On Walnut Hill* will inspire gardeners of all kinds. Whether you're planning to transform your entire property or simply tweak around the edges, this lovely book is full of ideas, shown in Foley's award-winning photographs and told in Hudson's elegant prose.

This is the story of a garden. It is also the story of a family in their garden. The garden began in 1969, when A.C. and Penney Hubbard moved to Walnut Hill in Ruxton, Maryland. Over nearly a half-century, passionate gardeners A.C. and Penney Hubbard collaborated with renowned plantsman, the late Kurt Bluemel, to transform a two-acre hillside into a horticultural masterpiece. Listed in the Smithsonian Archives of American Gardens, the Hubbards' elegant garden has been featured in national and regional magazines and as a destination for prestigious national and regional garden tours. The new book *ON WALNUT HILL* features essays and text by noted garden writer Kathy Hudson and the images of award-winning photographer Roger Foley. Bluemel's fellow plantsman, Allen Bush, contributes a foreword. Featuring more than 270 pages filled with breathtaking photographs of the Hubbards' exquisite gardens, *ON WALNUT HILL* details this couple's passion and tireless efforts to create the ultimate living landscape.

Kathy Hudson's *On Walnut Hill: The Evolution of a Garden*, is not just a well-told tale of A.C. and Penney Hubbard's 46-year learning curve on a sunny, two-acre hillside on the outskirts of Baltimore. It tells and shows, with Roger Foley's eloquent photographs how two beginning gardeners, with three small children, rooted their lives in the steeply sloping land. First they planted those ubiquitous rows of red tulips and daffodils then later, sweeps of grasses and rare trees, as they embraced an entirely different aesthetic through the eyes and guiding hand of Kurt Bluemel. His nursery in nearby Baldwin was famed not only for its plants but also for his masterful sense of space and scale. The Hubbards' square spaces gave way to curvilinear paths; masses of perennials and groundcovers began to weave themselves beneath layers of trees and shrubs; terraces shaped the old sledding hill; hidden paths descended gently down wide rocks into the woods. Now, grandchildren live next door, taking their own little path to the rock ledge pool. Any great garden changes with the seasons, and every hour of the day, but this one has changed the Hubbards and become their world. --Anne Raver, former garden columnist for *The New York Times*. There's just something about a good coffee table book: the luscious photos, the poetic words, the feel of the thick, shiny pages. At a time of year when hostess gifts are in high demand, this chronicle of the Hubbard family's five-decade quest to turn their two-acre property in Ruxton [Maryland] into a garden might be just the ticket. This isn't just any garden, mind you, but a lush, pleasingly designed masterpiece that melds foliage and flowers with architectural elements such as rock walls and sculptures. But it's the Hubbards' story, paired with depictions of the garden throughout the year, that makes this book a pleasure for all seasons. --Gabriella Souza, *Baltimore Magazine*. About the Author Kathy Hudson has been a writer for 30 years. For decades she has written garden articles for *Baltimore Style* magazine, *Baltimore Fishbowl*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Chesapeake Life*, and *Chesapeake Home*. Her bimonthly essays have appeared as Hudson's Corner in *The Baltimore*

Messenger since 1995. She worked at the Library of Congress and for 11 years at Maryland Public Television before returning to her childhood home in Baltimore, Maryland, where she tends the garden with her husband, the painter Greg Otto. Photographer Roger Foley specializes in landscape architecture and garden design. His work has been featured in hundreds of books, magazine articles, and websites. He is the sole photographer of eight garden books, two of which won Award of the Year from the Garden Writers Association. His previous book, *A Clearing in the Woods: Creating Contemporary Gardens*, features gardens by noted landscape architects and designers across the country. Foley also lectures and leads workshops on garden photography. Foreword Author Allen Bush has been with Jelitto Perennial Seeds since 1995 and currently serves as Director of Special Projects. Jelitto offers over 3,000 varieties of perennials, herbs and ornamental grass seeds. Allen coordinates public relations, works with domestic seed producers and searches for potential new varieties around the world. From 1980-1995 Allen was the owner of Holbrook Farm and Nursery, Fletcher, NC, a national mail order nursery growing perennials, wildflowers and rare trees and shrubs. Allen introduced to the US market: *Stokesia* Klaus Jelitto and the sweetshrub, *Calycanthus* Michael Lindsey . In 2002, The Royal Horticultural Society awarded the Award of Garden Merit (A.G.M.) to *Heuchera* Molly Bush . Allen received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kentucky in 1973 and was an International Trainee at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England 1978-1979. He has been a regular contributor to the Garden Rant since 2013 and serves on the board of the Olmsted Parks Conservancy in Louisville, Kentucky.