

Great Lakes Trade Expo

A Tour of the Great Gardens of the East Coast

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

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**Lecture Description:** From our founding fathers to the pillars of American Industry the estates and gardens of the East Coast have been at the cutting edge of horticulture since the birth of our nation. Innovators like John Bartram, Thomas Jefferson, and Pierre du Pont have shaped the culture of gardening in America. This lecture will explore the great gardens of east coast from the brisk shores of Maine to the southernmost point in the U.S. with a strong emphasis on the Philadelphia Region. With over 30 gardens within 30 miles, the Greater Philadelphia region represents the greatest density of gardens and arboreta within our country. From the excellence of the display gardens of Longwood, and the mastery of plant composition of Chanticleer, to the natural beauty of Mt. Cuba; we will explore some of gardens that will be part of the Design Tour for the MNLA next August.

### **Overview of the East Coast Gardening Excursion:**

- Images of Andalusia in NJ, a private residence in Chester County, PA, Chanticleer, The Scott Arboretum, The US National Arboretum, Vizcaya, and Spicer Park in Miami Dade County, FL.
- Our lecture covered 1,801 miles from Maine to Miami

### **1. Getting Started in Northern New England:**

- Discussed the Algerian fir (*Abies numidica*) and Witch-hazel (*Hamemalis sp.*) at Coastal Maine Botanical gardens as well as the Lobster Rolls nearby.
- Shared images from the Arnold Arboretum including the Japanese tilia (*Tilia japonica*), Arnold's Promise Witch-hazel (*Hamemalis x intermedia* 'Arnold's Promise) which was not blooming, Dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), and Vernal witchhazel (*Hamemalis vernalis*).

### **2. Heaven along the Hudson:**

- Stared by discussing Opus 40 and the masterpiece of Harvey Fite
- Looked at images of Storm King Art Center and discussed the scope of the garden and its relation to the surrounding landscape with sculptures of a grand scale.



- Viewed sculptures created by: Alexander Liberman, Ursula von Rydinsvgrad, Isamu Noguchi.
- Toured Kykuit, the John D Rockefeller Estate which included images of several unique sightlines and hardscape features. The plant that was featured was the Hydrangea vine (*Hydrangea anomala* subsp. *petiolaris*) which had been pruned for many years in a *faux* pollarding fashion.
- Mentioned the features of the Sleepy Hollow Cemetery in nearby Sleepy Hollow including the Old Dutch Church, Washington Irving's Gravesite, and the creek of the Headless Horseman.
- Viewed the fountains, frescos, and breathtaking grounds of Untermyer Gardens. We discussed its recent renovations, plans of future restoration, and its importance in the Yonkers region of New York.
- We then visited Wave Hill where the mastery of plant combinations, intriguing designs, and diverse collections were mentioned.

### **3. Big Gardens in the Big Apple:**

- In this next section I started the discussion around the fact that several gardens and parks in NYC and Long Island could be presentations on their own and apologized for not including The High Line, NYBG, Brooklyn Botanical Garden, and the estates on Long Island.
- We focused on Central Park including Conservatory Garden located at 5<sup>th</sup> avenue and 105<sup>th</sup> street, mentioned the zoo, and Belvedere Castle which often go overlooked during trips to the park amongst the estimated 30 million visitors.
- Following the overview of Central Park we traveled to Brooklyn Bridge Park which occupies a 1.3 mile stretch along Brooklyn's East River riverfront. We discussed their emphasis on reviving a location which was once shipping docks using native plants in inventive ways and featured Short-toothed mountain-mint (*Pycnanthemum muticum*)

### **4. America's Garden Capital:**

- After moving south from NYC we moved to Philadelphia, America's Garden Capital. Which opened with images from Independence Hall, A Cheesesteak Restaurant, Reading Terminal market for a shot of a soft pretzel, then onto Bartram's Gardens where we discussed the Franklinia



(*Franklinia alatamaha*), Haverford College's Arboretum, Winterthur Mansion, and Grounds for Sculpture.

- The amazing grounds of the Scott Arboretum at Swarthmore College were the first garden we looked at. It included images of ornamental grasses, the Korean sweetheart tree (*Euscaphis japonica*) which I mentioned was not hardy past zone 6 and the Tiger eyes sumac (*Rhus typhina* 'Tiger Eyes').
- We then moved onto a journey through the breathtaking grounds of Chanticleer where we discussed the desire to have it be a pleasure garden, the unreal combinations of hardy and non-hardy materials, and the ability of the horticulture staff to dream...
- Moving into Delaware, we took a look at Mt. Cuba Center and the integration of native plants from the Piedmont in both naturalistic gardens and the trial beds which are the showplace for future native plant introductions into the mainstream nursery and landscape industry. Some of the plants discussed were the Bottle-brush buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*), pitcher plants (*Sarracenia* sp.), Carolina wild petunia (*Ruellia caroliniensis*), and clematis (*Clematis* sp.)
- The recent article, Exploring the Nation's Garden Capital, published in the current issue of the Michigan Landscape™ was also featured.

### **5. The Excellence of Longwood Gardens:**

- Originally established in 1906 to save the trees that were part of the Pierce Arboretum, Longwood Gardens has been one of the most innovative gardens in the United States.
- We discussed its history and mission, the five unique seasons, performing arts events, and education.
- The two plants featured were the Himalayan blue poppy (*Meconopsis* 'Lingholm') and the 1,000 bloom chrysanthemum.

### **6. Capital Collections:**

- The collections of plants at the US National Arboretum and the United States Botanical Garden were presented in a very brief overview highlighting each of these two great institutions. The plant highlighted was the Welch's Pink Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana* 'Welch's Pink') which is unfortunately not reliable past zone 6b.



## 7. Great Southern Gardens:

- The tour of southern gardens along the East Coast started at Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. It was presented that the gardens especially the vegetable garden and vineyard represent a strong segment of our nation's past full of plants used during the time of the Jefferson. The Harvest and Heritage Festival was also highlighted as an event to add to your calendars.
- The Gardens within the Research Triangle, North Carolina Botanical Garden, the JC Raulston Arboretum, and Sarah P. Duke gardens were discussed as a great place to search for new plant material and exciting examples of great southern gardens. The dedication to native plantings and native pitcher plant (*Sarracenia* sp.) collection at North Carolina Botanical Garden were presented as was the Japanese garden and terraced plantings at Sarah P. Duke.
- Brookgreen Gardens® was the final garden mentioned in this section. The Live oak (*Quercus virginiana*) promenade as well as several sculptures whether by or in the style of Anna Huntington were shown.

## 8. Getting Tropical:

- Getting its name from David Fairchild, Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden is in the epicenter of horticulture research and exploration. The amazing gardens were featured in the presentation but I did fail to mention the million orchid project which I encourage all of you to check out (<http://www.fairchildgarden.org/science-conservation-/the-million-orchid-project>)
- Celebrating its centennial, Vizcaya was referred to as one of the great display gardens with the appeal of a Venetian Villa. It has a blend of architectural structure and formality to be revered; especially since it is reliant on using tropical plant material.
- The tour of the tropical gardens ended with Naples Botanic Garden which has been rapidly increasing in size, scope, and influence on the gardening scene of South Florida. The opening slide was of a design by Raymond Jungle that emulated the work of Roberto Burle Marx. The national Plumeria collection was mentioned, as was the newest feature garden



focused on Floridian plants and design aesthetics, and they currently have the Origami in the Garden installation currently on display.

### **Closing Slides:**

- The last few slides included a suggestion that you do not need to travel 1800 miles or more to see great gardens and that Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park, one of the most amazing landmark botanical collections at MSU the W.J. Beal Botanical Garden, the oldest continuously running public conservatory at the Anna Scrips Whitcomb Conservatory and Formal Gardens on Belle Isle, and Dow Gardens are all within a close drive.
- There was a thank you to all of my garden trip companions and a big thank you to the forward-thinking minds like Samuel Untermyer, Charles Sprague Sargent, and Pierre du Pont that left a lasting legacy of excellent gardens for us to enjoy today.

## A Listing of Gardens along the East Coast

### Coastal Maine Botanic Garden

**Hours:** Open Daily April 15<sup>th</sup> through October 31<sup>st</sup> 9:00am – 5:00 pm

**Website:** <http://www.mainegardens.org/>

### Arnold Arboretum

**Hours:** Sunrise to sunset every day of the year

**Website:** <http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/>

### Storm King

**Hours:** Reopens April 5<sup>th</sup> and open Wednesday through Sunday 10:00am to 5:30pm. May 26 through September 2 on Fridays and Saturdays we will be open from 10am to 8pm.

**Website:** <http://stormking.org/>

### Opus 40



**Hours:** Memorial Day through Columbus Day weekend. Thursday through Sunday and Holiday Mondays. After Columbus Day we stay open Saturday and Sunday as long as the weather remains good. Normally that means through the end of October.

**Website:** <https://www.opus40.org/>

### **Kykuit**

**Hours:** Admission by Timed Tours Only

**Website:** <https://www.hudsonvalley.org/historic-sites/kykuit/tours>

### **Wave Hill**

**Hours:** Tuesday-Sunday 9:00am – 4:30 pm. Closed Mondays except Memorial Day, Labor Day and Columbus Day. Closed New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas March 15- October 31 9:00am – 5:30pm.

**Website:** [www.wavehill.org](http://www.wavehill.org)

### **Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy**

**Hours:** The Park and Gardens, open from 7:00am until sunset daily, 365. The Walled Garden has limited hours, closed on major holidays: Veteran’s Day, Election Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year’s Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Washington’s Birthday and Lincoln’s Birthday.

**Website:** <http://www.untermyergardens.org/>

### **The High Line**

**Hours:** December 1 to March 31: 7:00am – 7:00pm. April 1 to May 31: 7:00 am – 10:00pm. June 1 to September 30: 7:00am – 11:00pm. October 1 to November 30: 7:00am – 10:00pm

**Website:** <http://www.thehighline.org/>

### **Central Park**

**Hours:** Open daily from 6:00am – 1:00 am, and free since 1858

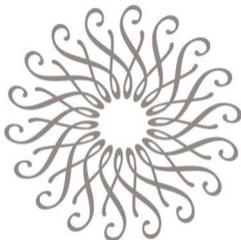
**Website:** <http://www.centralparknyc.org/>

### **New York Botanical Garden**

**Hours:** Open daily, Tuesday through Sunday, and select holiday Mondays. Hours typically 10:00am – 6:00pm. Check the calendar on their website for Openings and Closures (Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)

**Website:** <http://www.nybg.org>

### **Brooklyn Bridge Park**



**Hours:** Open daily from 6:00am – 1:00 am

**Website:** <http://www.brooklynbridgepark.org/>

**Grounds for Sculpture** (Included in America’s Garden Capital)

**Hours:** Open year-round, Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00am- 6:00pm, between Memorial Day and Labor Day, we’re open until 9:00pm.

**Website:** <http://www.groundsforsculpture.org/>

**America’s Garden Capital**

For information about the more than 30 public gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes, all located within 30 miles of Philadelphia go to: <http://americasgardencapital.org/>

**Longwood Gardens** (Included in America’s Garden Capital)

**Hours:** Open daily with variable hours based on season

**Website:** <http://www.longwoodgardens.org>

**United States Botanic Garden**

**Hours:** Daily 10:00am – 5:00pm

**Website:** <https://www.usbg.gov>

**United States National Arboretum**

**Hours:** Daily 8:00am – 5:00pm, except for December 25

**Website:** <https://www.usbg.gov>

**Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden**

**Hours:** Open daily, 9:00am – 5:00pm, closed Thanksgiving Day and December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. Special hours for Special Events.

**Website:** <https://www.lewisginter.org>

**Monticello**

**Hours:** Open 364 days a year. Check the website for hours as they are variable throughout the year.

**Website:** <https://www.monticello.org>

**North Carolina Botanical Garden**



**Hours:** Tuesday – Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. all year. We are closed on Mondays and University (UNC-Chapel Hill) holidays. This year, that is April 14, July 4, November 23-24, and December 23-31.

**Website:** <https://www.ncbg.unc.edu>

#### **Sarah P. Duke Gardens**

**Hours:** Daily, from 8:00 am to dusk, 365 days a year.

**Website:** <http://gardens.duke.edu/>

#### **JC Raulston Arboretum**

**Hours:** April through October 8:00am – 8:00pm and November through March 8:00am – 5:00pm. Additional Hours and Building Closures can be found online.

**Website:** <http://jcra.ncsu.edu>

#### **Brookgreen Gardens**

**Hours:** Open daily from 9:30am – 5:00pm. Hours vary during special events, and closed on Christmas Day.

**Website:** <http://www.brookgreen.org>

#### **Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden**

**Hours:** Open daily except Christmas

**Website:** <http://www.fairchildgarden.org>

#### **Vizcaya Museum and Gardens**

**Hours:** Open daily, 9:30am – 4:30pm except Tuesdays, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

**Website:** <http://www.vizcaya.org>

#### **Naples Botanical Garden**

**Hours:** Check the website for hours

**Website:** <http://www.naplesgarden.org>

**Biography:** Matthew received a B.S. and M.S. in Horticulture from Michigan State University where he studied landscape design and urban forestry. After working as a landscape designer for Season's by Ruggirello and as a salesman for Ray Wiegand's Nursery, he moved to Toledo, Ohio. At Owens State Community College he instructed close to 20 courses ranging from soil science to post-harvest



technology and landscape design. While teaching he also was a horticulturist at Toledo Botanical Garden where he oversaw nearly 30 acres of gardens and developed a 5-acre farm in the heart of the city.

He currently is the Coordinator of Continuing Education at Longwood Gardens where he oversees the development and delivery of more than 170 courses and lectures annually. His passion for plants and photography will be on full display as he shares images from travels and experiences in the natural and cultivated world.

**Longwood Gardens:** In 1906, industrialist Pierre du Pont (1870-1954) purchased a small farm near Kennett Square, PA, to save a collection of historic trees from being sold for lumber. Today, Longwood Gardens is one of the world's great horticultural displays, encompassing 1,077 acres of dazzling gardens, woodlands, meadows, fountains, 10,010-pipe Aeolian organ and 4.5 acre conservatory. Longwood continues the mission set forth by Mr. du Pont to inspire people through excellence in garden design, horticulture, education and the performing arts, through programming that includes exhibitions, musical performances by leading artists, renowned horticulture education programs, horticulture research, environmental stewardship and community engagement. Longwood Gardens is on US Route 1 near Kennett Square, PA. For more information, visit [www.longwoodgardens.org](http://www.longwoodgardens.org) or call 610-388-1000.

**Additional Questions:** If you have additional questions please email Matthew Ross at: [mross@longwoodgardens.org](mailto:mross@longwoodgardens.org)

