

Polly Hill Arboretum Berkshire Garden Tour

September 12-15, 2016



Twin Maples, Salisbury, Ct

Join us for a visit to the Berkshires and surrounding region. From our base in Stockbridge, MA, we will explore the area and venture across the Massachusetts border to visit gardens in New York and Connecticut. We begin our tour Monday afternoon with a visit to Naumkeag for a house & garden tour and welcome reception. Tuesday we head to the Berkshire Botanic Garden, then after lunch travel to the Hooper garden in Caanan, NY. Wednesday we visit two amazing private gardens near Salisbury, CT, and a secret garden tucked behind an antique shop. An optional excursion to The Mount in Lenox, MA on Thursday morning rounds out our trip.



Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA

Nights of September 12-14

The Red Lion Inn is a historic hotel that has been welcoming travelers to the Berkshires for more than two centuries, and is convenient to the numerous cultural and outdoor attractions in the area.

Continental Breakfast included

30 Main Street, Stockbridge, MA 01262 • Tel (413) 298-5545 • <http://www.redlioninn.com/>

Monday, September 12

2:00pm

Our group gathers in the hotel lobby for our short drive (or walk) to Naumkeag for a 2:30 house and garden tour, followed by a wine and cheese reception. The Trustees of Reservations recently completed restoration of this iconic Berkshires garden designed by Mabel Choate and Fletcher Steele. Steele thought of the garden as fine art, as is evident around every corner in this magnificent garden.



Tonight dinner on your own.

Tuesday, September 13

Depart hotel 9:00am

Berkshire Botanical Garden

Stockbridge, MA



The Berkshire Botanical Garden is a 15 acre botanical garden in Stockbridge, MA. Its collection contains over 3,000 species and varieties, with an emphasis on plants that thrive in the Berkshires. The Garden was founded in 1934 as the Berkshire Garden Center, and its public display gardens are among the oldest in the United States. Over the years the garden has expanded to include 23 display gardens.

After our morning tour we will enjoy boxed lunches on the grounds.

Hooper Garden

Caanan, NY

This afternoon we travel to Caanan, New York to Rockland Farm, the garden of Madeline and Ian Hooper. The garden consists of a variety of areas that flow from one to another over about ten acres of a much larger property. A 450-foot-long rock ledge runs parallel to the front drive and is topped by a dry



garden. A raised terrace on the west side of the house features exotic and tropical plants, many in containers. Behind the house is a sequence of garden rooms: a lavender garden contained within a raised hornbeam hedge, a serene water garden, a vast vegetable garden, a sundial garden, and a rock garden. A hydrangea allée leads from here to either a lawn with a seating area nestling within sweeps of perennials, or to steps up to a small, wooded knoll, with paths offering intermittent views of the garden and the hills beyond, and connecting a folly, a water feature and a stumpery.

Tonight dinner on your own.

Wednesday, September 14

Depart hotel 9am

Twin Maples, Salisbury, CT



Created by Douglas Thomas and her late husband Wilmer, Twin Maples seamlessly marries the classical and the natural: Formal gardens, cutting and vegetable gardens, and a greenhouse ring the exquisite Georgian-style house overlooking 40 acres of wildflower meadow. The meadow, woodland garden, and woodland edges, resplendent with native plants, blur the borders between the formal areas and the surrounding landscape. Horticulturist Deb Munson will guide us through formal gardens and container plantings surrounding the Georgian home and lead us to the adjoining naturalistic woodland garden and meadow. In addition walk the primitive labyrinth, enjoy the orchard, or wander into the shad allée. Or visit an expansive greenhouse with a noteworthy collection of begonias and tropical plants, all staged to perfection. This is a rare opportunity to visit a noteworthy private garden that rivals some of this country's grandest public arboreta.

We will enjoy a boxed lunch at Twin Maples!



Bunny Williams Garden Falls Village, CT

Interior designer and garden book author Bunny Williams has written;

The most magical gardens, those that evoke the strongest emotion, are a combination of solid structure, wonderful plants, and delightful garden ornaments.”

Her style is clearly evident in her intensively planted fifteen-acre estate,

which includes a sunken garden with perennial borders surrounding a fishpond, a parterre garden, a year-round conservatory filled with tender plants, a large vegetable garden with flowers and herbs, a woodland garden with meandering paths, and a pond with a waterfall. There is also a working greenhouse and an aviary with unusual chickens and fantail doves, an apple orchard with mature trees, a rustic Greek Revival-style pool house folly, and a swimming pool with eighteenth-century French coping. Head gardener Bridget Lynch will guide us through this amazing garden.



Michael Trapp Shop & Garden West Cornwall, CT



We end our day with a visit to Michael Trapp’s unique antique shop and secret garden. Venture through the shuttered gate that sequesters the garden and step into the fractured fairytale that this renowned designer/antique dealer has forged. Slender paths lead through a cobbled labyrinth of idiosyncratic spaces staged with wonderful Corinthian capitals, huge slabs of stone set as dining tables, Roman fountains, and towering

topiary spires. Behind a pool in the upper garden a balustrade terrace overlooks West Cornwall’s famous Covered Bridge and the Housatonic River below. Descend to a lower garden and you will find a lap pool along one edge of the valley that is overlooked by the Grotto. At the far end of the lower garden you can find a little library filled as a “cabinet of curiosity” with things of natural wonderment. Exit this area using the far stair which will lead you to a little “French Terrace” overlooking the brook. At the top of the stair is the side lawn and the gate which will take you back to the front.

Tonight dinner on your own

Thursday, September 14 The Mount, Lenox MA (optional tour)

Today we end our tour with an optional visit to The Mount. After breakfast and hotel check out those joining us will travel on their own, or carpool, to Lennox, MA, to arrive by 10am. After our one hour house tour we enjoy an early lunch on the terrace followed by a garden talk. We are then free to explore the grounds on our own.



Tour includes:

Three nights at the Red Lion Inn; continental breakfast included
Transportation on Tuesday and Wednesday to gardens
Naumkeag tour and welcome reception (transportation not included)
Lunches on Tuesday and Wednesday
Garden admissions
\$150 tax deductible donation to the Polly Hill Arboretum

Tour Price:

\$848 Per person, based on double occupancy
\$1094 Single

Optional house tour & lunch at The Mount add \$32 per person (transportation not included)

Tour size limited, sign up early!

50% per person deposit due by June 1

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