

Historic Gardens of Connecticut Tour Monday-Wednesday July 15-17, 2019

Historic gardens, three top garden centers and nurseries, a campus botanical garden, the home of American impressionism art, and special group meals each day, are some of the reasons you'll want to consider this unique tour. It is sponsored by Dr. Leonard Perry's *Green Mountain Horticulture: Tours*, in collaboration with *the King's Garden of Fort Ticonderoga*.



Hosting the tour, and providing expert commentary and answers to your questions, will be Dr. **Leonard Perry**, Horticulture Professor Emeritus at the University of Vermont who is familiar to many through his writings and appearances on *Across the Fence*, as well as Perry's Perennials website (perrysperennials.info). Joining him will be **Charlie Nardozi**, a nationally known horticulturist, author, gardening consultant, and garden coach (gardeningwithcharlie.com) known to many locally from his weekly radio program and appearances on WCAX. Rounding out your experts will be Extension educator and horticulture technician **Sarah Kingsley-Richards** from the University of Vermont, who will be familiar to those who have gone on our tours before. **Stuart Lilie**, Vice-President of Public History and Operations at Fort Ticonderoga will be along to share his wealth of knowledge.

Day one (Monday) will begin at the Horticulture Research Center in So. Burlington, with pickups in Montpelier and Sharon, on the way to our lunch at the campus center of Smith College, in Northampton, Massachusetts. After lunch we'll tour on our own the many gardens and Lyman conservatory of the **Botanic Garden at Smith College**—a garden destination unknown by many. Since its founding in 1895, the Botanic Garden of Smith College has been devoted to teaching, public education, scientific research, and beauty. Smith's first president, L. Clarke Seelye, believed in science education for women. From the start he envisioned the Smith campus as a botanic garden.



We'll then continue to our hotel for the next couple nights—The **Hampton Inn at Groton, Connecticut**. The first night we'll have a **group dinner at Filomena's** (included) in nearby Waterford—a locally-owned and highly rated restaurant specializing in Italian cuisine.

Day Two (Tuesday) begins with a hot breakfast at the Hampton Inn (included), before heading a few minutes away to visit the historic gardens at **Harkness Park** surrounding Eolia—the elegant former summer mansion of the Harkness family, set on over 230 seaside acres of sweeping lawns, with stately trees and spectacular gardens. The mansion was purchased in 1907 by Edward and Mary Harkness—heir to a fortune initiated by his father's substantial investments in John D. Rockefeller's Standard Oil. Wayne E. Stiles was hired in 1909 to design a large, formal walled garden, now known as the West Garden, consisting of brightly colored annuals and Italianate statuary. In 1919, Beatrix Farrand remodeled the grounds, converting an old tennis court into a companion garden, the East Garden, using soft-toned perennial plantings and Asian sculpture. She later revised the West Garden



with a more naturalistic planting scheme and designed a boxwood parterre and an alpine rock garden. In 1949, Marian Cruger Coffin revised the plantings in the East Garden.



home on the scenic Lieutenant River in 1899, and continued this during the early 1900's. We'll have a group lunch in the Marshfield House (included), and after lunch there is time to shop, tour the Kriebler Gallery with its exhibition *Fragile Earth: The Naturalist Impulse in Contemporary Art*, or just wander the 13 acres of grounds the artists used for their subjects. You can stand at the site of Childe Hassam's favorite spot, and rest where Chadwick posed his model for the now famous, *On the Piazza*.

Our mid-day will be spent at the home of American Impressionism—the **Florence Griswold Museum**, in Old Lyme (florencegriswoldmuseum.org). We'll have plenty of time on this campus of several buildings and beautiful grounds depicted in paintings of many famous artists. We'll have a guided tour of the recreated “old-fashioned” historic gardens of Florence Griswold, as well as the Griswold House. She began hosting artists at her



Our last stop this second day will be at **Van Wilgen's Garden Center** in North Branford—their original and main store of their four locations (www.vanwilgens.com). Starting in 1920, when William C. Van Wilgen came to the United States from Boskoop, Holland as a nursery salesman, Van Wilgen's now occupies 56 acres of land that was originally purchased back in 1936. Succeeding generations grew the landscaping services in 1976 and established the garden center which, in 1988, became a main focus. They created their Van Wilgen grown brand in 1992, and have become one of the premier such gardening destinations in southern New England.

That evening you'll have the choice to return to the hotel, and dine locally, or have the chance to shop and dine on your own at one of the several restaurants in **Old Mistick Village** (www.oldemistickvillage.com).

Day Three (Wednesday) we once again have a hot breakfast at the Hampton Inn, before checking out and beginning our trip back west and north—a full last day but memorable one. At **Broken Arrow Nursery** in Hamden (www.brokenarrownursery.com), we'll have a tour, and chance to



browse and shop on our own. The nursery part of the business started in 1984, establishing Broken Arrow Nursery as a full time business venture for Dick and Sally Jaynes. Building on Dick's 25 years of research with the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, Broken Arrow first specialized in *Kalmia latifolia*, Mountain Laurel, the state flower of Connecticut. The selection has broadened much since then, with over 1,500 different

plants being offered, including both common and unusual woody plants and perennials. The nursery is one of the few retail nurseries in Connecticut that propagate and grow most of the plants sold.

We'll then travel into the beautiful Litchfield Hills of Connecticut to the scenic town of Woodbury, where we'll have a tour of the **Glebe House Museum and Gertrude Jekyll Gardens** (www.glebehousemuseum.org). The home is one of the earliest historic house museums in the country, built



about 1740 and now in its 94th year as a museum. Not only does it offer a glimpse of Revolutionary War-era Connecticut, but it is considered the birthplace of the Episcopal Church in America. Although Gertrude Jekyll—the famous British garden designer—never set foot on the property, she was enlisted to design the gardens here in 1926—a year after the property became a museum. Her plans weren't implemented for unknown reasons, but fortunately they were discovered and the gardens were finally begun in the 1980's and finished about 10 years later. What a treat to see and tour the only Gertrude Jekyll garden in the United States!

Today's group meal (included) will be at the historic **Curtis House Inn** (www.curtishouseinn.com) in Woodbury—Connecticut's oldest inn. Built in 1735, it was first opened as an inn in 1754.



After lunch we'll continue up through the beautiful Berkshires of western Connecticut to one of the most famous mail-order plant firms in the country—**White Flower Farm** (www.whiteflowerfarm.com). There we'll have a guided tour that covers the history of the farm, discussions of plants in the display gardens, and design tips and cultural information. Or, you can use a map with descriptions of the display gardens to tour on your own. This will be a lovely time to visit as the summer garden palette is just coming into bloom, the annuals will bedded out and their Blackmore & Langdon

Begonia display will also be open for viewing. Of course you'll have time to shop (as remaining space on the bus permits, or you can always place an order for shipping, too, as that is their main business).

On our trip home we'll have a couple brief rest stops, one at a Whole Foods market in Hadley (MA) where you can get food to eat there or to go. There will be ample opportunity to nap on our comfortable bus prior to our late evening return to So. Burlington.



Included in the price are all admissions and guided tours, snacks and refreshments throughout the tour, lodging, breakfasts and group meals (as noted) each day, and driver gratuity. We'll travel in a Premier luxury coach, with videos periodically on various gardens locally and abroad, lesser known and some more famous. Of course you'll have the chance to network with and get to know other gardeners, and to learn much and have your questions answered by your expert tour hosts. **Sign up soon** to make sure you get one of the limited spaces. If you have any special needs (food, seating and accessibility, or other), please let me know at least one week prior to the tour. Do let me know, too, if you have any questions: 802-318-8453, leonard.perry@uvm.edu

Photos courtesy of specific sites listed, and by Sharon Flaherty.

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Due by May 30, 2019-- Register sooner and save \$\$! See below; space is limited.
Please complete a separate form for each person

Name _____ Name for nametag, if different _____

Mail Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Daytime Phone _____ email _____

Room Bed Preference (if available): King 2 Queens
(This is a non-smoking hotel. Also there is no smoking on the motorcoach.)

Roommate's Name _____

Emergency Contact _____ Phone number _____

Departing from: ___ UVM Hort Farm ___ Montpelier ___ Sharon

Lunch (day 3): ___ roast turkey ___ grilled salmon ___ pasta primavera (vegetarian)

Payment (prices per person, please make checks payable to "Green Mountain Horticulture")

Spring special, until April 30	\$659	_____ (per person, double occupancy)
Registration rate May 1- May 30	\$689	_____ (per person, double occupancy)
Single room supplement	\$160	_____ (Covers additional hotel costs)
Total	\$	_____

Refund Policy: Cancellation before May 30, 2019-- complete refund less a \$30 processing fee
Cancellation on or after May 30 but before July 1-- 50% refund; Cancellation on or after July 1-- no refund
Requests for cancellation must be received in writing.

In the event that we must cancel the tour due to insufficient numbers or other reason, you will get a full refund. Otherwise, note the refund policy. If you desire or need a roommate for double occupancy, ask us and if we know of someone looking for the same we can let you know. Ultimately, though, this will be your responsibility. While travel insurance is mainly used for trips abroad or involving flights and cruise ships, you may want to look into this if you want to be covered in case you need to cancel, due to medical or similar reasons. There are many firms you can use and find online (www.insuremytrip.com/products/providers), with the cost often about 10% the tour cost for multiday trips.

Mail Registration Forms by May 30 (early registration date of April 30) to:
Green Mountain Horticulture Tours, PO Box 735, Milton VT 05468

Confirmation receipt, itinerary, and directions to departure sites will be mailed prior to the tour. For questions on registration and payment or other, contact tour host Dr. Leonard Perry (leonard.perry@uvm.edu, 802-318-8453).

Green Mountain Horticulture: Tours

*Dr. Leonard P. Perry
Horticulture Professor Emeritus
University of Vermont*

Organizing and leading garden tours in the U.S. and abroad since 1985