

Garden Tool Buyer's Guide | NEW Design Columns

# Horticulture

## Destination Gardens

- 10 new gardens to visit
- Plants with winter interest
- Award for Garden Excellence winner
- Great garden trees, large and small
- A garden designed for children

HORTMAG.COM

fy media

US \$5.99



Display until March 5, 2012

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2012



# VISITORS Welcome

Here are 10 inspiring gardens that have opened to the public in the past 10 years, brought to our attention by the Garden Conservancy. These up-and-coming destinations preserve the legacy of North American garden culture.

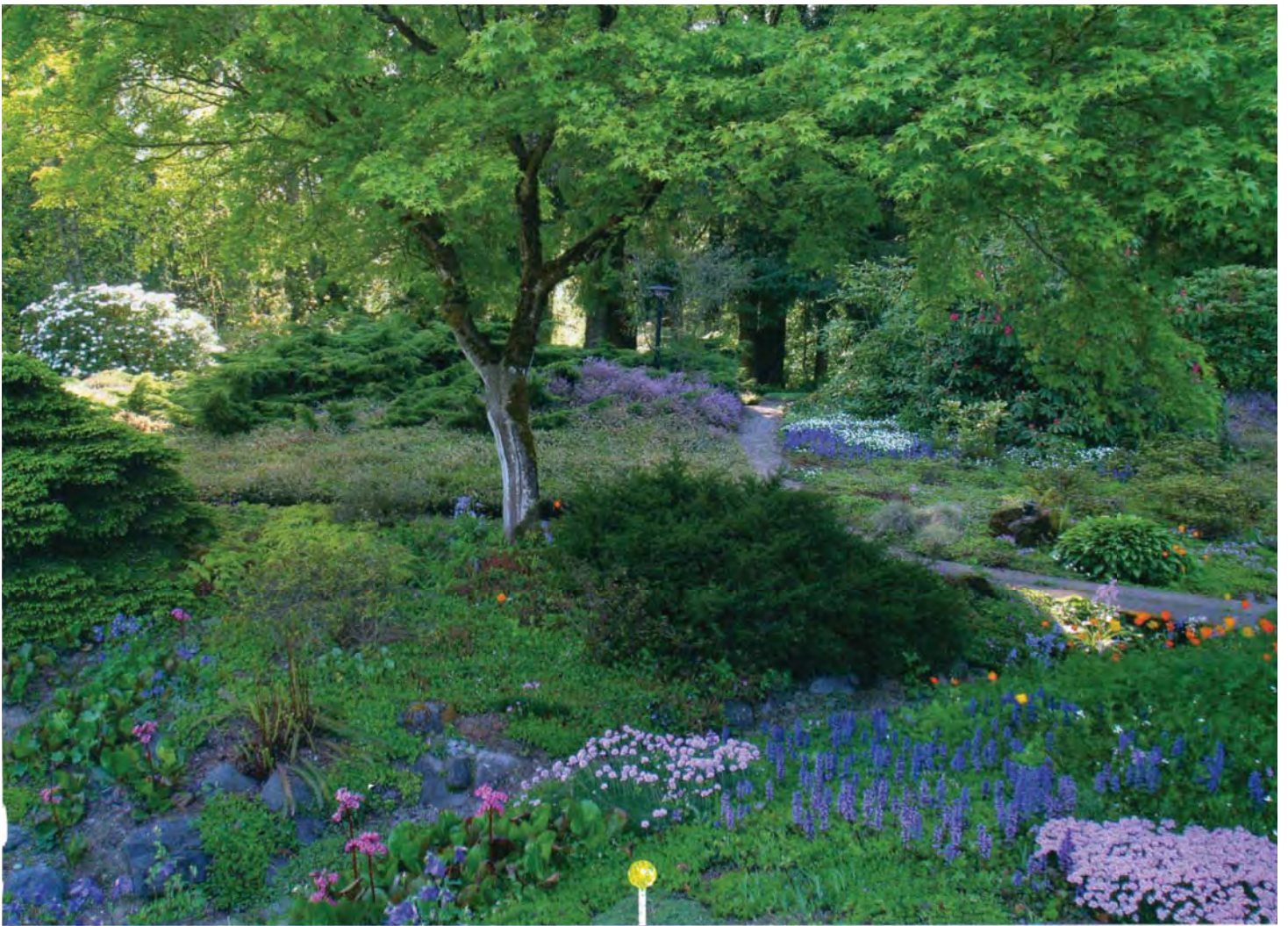
## 1 Abkhazi Garden

In 1946, Nicholas and Peggy Abkhazi began creating a garden on the one-acre property surrounding their Victoria, B. C., home. They worked with the natural landscape of rocky slopes and mature Garry oaks to create a series of spaces that gently unfold. The garden was threatened with development into townhouses until the Land Conservancy of British Columbia mounted a campaign to purchase the property in 2000. Under the guidance of garden manager Valerie Murray, the garden regained its former beauty. Visitors will find a collection of rhododendrons, woodland plants, conifers, a long, narrow lawn edged with heathers, small ponds and gorgeous framed views.

To learn more about Abkhazi Garden, find visitor's information and read the fascinating life stories of Nicholas and Peggy, see <http://blog.conservancy.bc.ca/properties/vancouver-island-region/abhazi-garden/>.







## 2 Anne Spencer House & Garden

Anne Spencer (1882–1975) turned to her Lynchburg, Va., garden as both a creative outlet and an inspiration for her poetry. Spencer became an important figure of the Harlem Renaissance, and she and her family welcomed Martin Luther King, Jr., W.E.B. DuBois, Thurgood Marshall and other notable thinkers into their home. The garden became a lively setting for visitors and family; it is framed by pergolas, a writer's study and formal hedges, all while displaying a vivid sense of color. The garden was recently restored by the Hillside Garden Club under the leadership of Jane White, backed by advice from the Garden Conservancy and grants from the Garden Club of Virginia. It is the only known restoration of an African American's garden. Learn more about Spencer's life and find visitor's information at [annespencermuseum.com](http://annespencermuseum.com), and look for Jane White's book, *Lessons Learned from a Poet's Garden* (Blackwell Press, 2011).

## 3 Chase Garden

The Garden Conservancy notes the Chase Garden as “an outstanding example of Pacific Northwest Modernist garden style.” The garden sits high on a plateau in Orting, Wash., with Mount Rainier providing a distant backdrop. Emmott and Ione Chase created their garden to be a serene celebration of the larger natural landscape. They worked with landscape architect Rex Zumwalt on the initial design in 1962, building the house and garden themselves on weekends and vacations and continuing to refine it over the next 40 years. In the mid-1990s, they began working with the Garden Conservancy to ensure the future preservation of the garden, and it became a public garden in 2010, after Emmott Chase's death at age 99. (Ione had died a few years earlier.) Visitors will find a beautiful collection of native shrubs, wildflowers, conifers and rock-garden plants. For visitor's information and to view a plant list, see [chasegarden.org](http://chasegarden.org).





## 4 Hollister House Garden

Hollister House, in Washington, Conn., is the lifework of George Schoellkopf, who has worked to restore the 1760 house and create a series of gardens that, while not 18th-century in aesthetic, complement the home. Schoellkopf's design combines formal and informal elements, drawing inspiration from both classic English style and the natural New England landscape. The Garden Conservancy is working with Schoellkopf to facilitate the property's transition to nonprofit ownership and a public place in which to gather and to learn. The garden has been increasing access to the public; in 2011, it was open every weekend from early May through September, in addition to offering specially scheduled tours and events. To learn more, visit [hollisterhousegarden.org](http://hollisterhousegarden.org).



## 5 Garland Farm

Landscape architect Beatrix Farrand (1872–1959) created her last garden at Garland Farm, on Mount Desert Island, Maine. Farrand's signature style drew from formal European gardens, but she softened the structure of her plans with soft colors, textures and native plants. Many of Farrand's original plants survive at Garland Farm today. The recently restored terrace garden is filled with warm- and cool-toned perennials and swaths of heaths, heathers and lavenders. Her Asian-inspired entrance garden includes trees and shrubs that were unusual to the area. The Beatrix Farrand Society, whose headquarters are at Garland Farm, is restoring the property according to a 2006 plan developed by Pressley Associates, Landscape Architects, of Cambridge, Mass. For visitor information, visit [beatrixfarrandsociety.org](http://beatrixfarrandsociety.org).

LEFT TO RIGHT: GEORGE SCHOELLKOPF; CAROLYN HOLLENBECK; BELOW: JEFF CRAVOTTA





# 6 Yew Dell Botanical Gardens

Volunteers saved this impressive collection of plants and gardens from commercial development after the 1998 death of its creator, accomplished nurseryman and craftsman Theodore Klein. Beginning in 1941, Klein had transformed his 33-acre Crestwood, Ky., property into a patchwork of diverse gardens, handcrafted buildings and exciting specimen trees and shrubs. Restoration of the gardens and buildings began in 2002, under the leadership of Paul Cappiello. Today visitors can see Klein's original designs and plant collections, including his arboretum, the Serpentine Garden and a traditional walled garden, as well as new gardens. In keeping with Klein's nurseryman spirit, the staff continues to evaluate new plants, develop new varieties and encourage and educate area gardeners. For more information, visit [yewdellgardens.org](http://yewdellgardens.org).



# 7 Elizabeth Lawrence Garden

In 1949, garden designer and writer Elizabeth Lawrence moved to a modest lot in Charlotte, N. C., and began a garden that would come to both represent and further inspire her love and knowledge of Southern gardening. She used the beds to test plants that she recommended in her books and newspaper column. After Lawrence moved, the property's new owner, Mary Lindeman Wilson, maintained the garden and eventually sought the help of the Garden Conservancy to ensure its survival. Today the house and garden are owned by the Wing Haven Foundation, which also owns and operates the nearby Wing Haven Gardens. Many of the original plants have been restored to the beds and further refurbishing of the property continues. For visitor's information and more, visit [winghavengardens.com](http://winghavengardens.com).





## 8 Eudora Welty Garden

Eudora Welty moved to Pinehurst Street in Jackson, Miss., with her family in 1925, when she was 16. She lived there until her death in 2001, crafting the fiction and essays that made her a noted figure of American literature. The garden was designed by Chestina Welty, Eudora's mother. The two spent much time maintaining it together, and there Eudora developed an appreciation for nature that is evident throughout her writings. Today the garden has been carefully restored by consultant Susan Haltom and a team of volunteers. Chestina designed the garden for four seasons of bloom. Visitors will find heirloom plants, roses and garden rooms separated by trellises and arbors. For information, see [eudorawelty.org](http://eudorawelty.org).

## 9 Greenwood

Located in Short Hills, N.J.—just 20 miles west of New York City—Greenwood Gardens offers a quiet respite from the modern world. The property was designed by William Whetten Renwick in the early 20th century as a private estate. The gardens reflect formal Italianate design, but wildflower meadows and shady woodlands share the 28-acre site, too. A later owner, Peter Blanchard, expanded upon the original gardens, purchased adjacent land and donated other acres as conservation land. Today Greenwood Gardens is a non-profit organization with the long-term goal of fully restoring the property and making it a cultural center for the local area. In 2004, the gardens opened to the public for guided tours and special workshops and events. In 2012, a major phase of renovation will be completed, allowing greater public access in 2013. For more details, see [greenwoodgardens.org](http://greenwoodgardens.org).


LEFT TO RIGHT: LANGDON CLAY; SCOTT VARRICCHIO; BELOW: JERRY WILLIAMS







## 10 McKee Botanical Garden

McKee Botanical Garden, in Vero Beach, Fla., dates to 1929. William Lyman Phillips, who became known as the pioneer of tropical landscape architecture, helped design the basic layout of the garden, while owners Arthur McKee and Waldo Sexton collected plants from the native surroundings and the world over. Water lilies and orchids were a special interest. The garden was a popular attraction until the early '70s; unable to compete with larger destinations in Florida, it closed in 1976 and most of the acreage was sold. A not-for-profit group bought the remaining 18 acres in 1995. After careful restoration, McKee Botanical Garden re-opened in 2001. Visitors today will find a diverse collection of plants suitable for USDA Zone 9b, within a delightful subtropical jungle setting with several interesting and historic structures. For full visitor's information and more history, see [mckee.garden.org](http://mckee.garden.org). 

## The Garden Conservancy

Exceptional gardens often begin as the life-work of dedicated and remarkably talented gardeners. The Garden Conservancy, a non-profit organization established in 1989 by Frank Cabot, works to help some of America's finest gardens make the transition from private to public. The staff collaborates with community groups, volunteers and professionals to ensure horticultural excellence and to provide organizational, educational, legal and marketing support. The Garden Conservancy has helped more than 90 exceptional gardens across America survive and prosper. The Garden Conservancy also provides short-term assistance, a conservation easement program, educational programs and garden-visiting opportunities. To learn more, see [gardenconservancy.org](http://gardenconservancy.org).