

Garden Tours Guide

featuring
River Valley/Connecticut
Rose & Garden Weekend Events
June 20 - June 21, 2009



River Valley / CONNECTICUT



RIVER VALLEY/CONNECTICUT ROSE & GARDEN WEEKEND EVENTS

BUTLER-McCOOK HOUSE & GARDEN

396 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103
860-522-1806, www.ctlandmarks.org

Saturday, June 20, 10am-4pm and

Sunday, June 21, 1-4pm

Connecticut Historic Gardens Day

Visit the Butler-McCook House & Garden and relax in the historic Victorian ornamental garden designed in 1865 by pioneer landscape architect, Jacob Weidenmann. Light refreshments will be served. Free.

ELIZABETH PARK ROSE GARDEN

1555 Asylum Avenue, West Hartford, CT 06117
860-231-9443, www.elizabethpark.org

Saturday, June 20 through Sunday, June 21

Rose Weekend in Elizabeth Park

Come celebrate more than 15,000 rose bushes in full bloom with over 600 varieties of roses in a 2½-acre rose garden with historic gazebo. On Saturday and Sunday from 11am to 4pm, the park will host several horticultural societies and community organizations and family activities. On Saturday at 1pm, a poetry reading at the Pond House will take place. At 2pm, there will be a Free Rose Garden Tour. On Sunday from 1:30-4:30pm, enjoy the Connecticut Rose Society's Annual Rose Show at the Pond House.



HARRIET BEECHER STOWE CENTER

77 Forest Street, Hartford, CT 06105

860-522-9258 ext. 317, www.HarrietBeecherStowe.org

Rose & Garden Weekend

Saturday, June 20, 9:30am-4:30pm and

Sunday, June 21, 12noon-4:30pm

Connecticut Historic Gardens Day

June is bursting out all over the Harriet Beecher Stowe Center!

Relish a walk through our historic gardens in full bloom. Find your favorite spot in the gardens – water colors, paper and brushes will be on hand so you can tap into your inner artist and paint *en plein air!* Garden activities are Free. Supplies available from 12noon-4pm.

Sunday, the Stowe Center marks Connecticut Historic Garden Day along with 10 other garden sites around the state! Treat yourself to a guided tour of Stowe's home and its surrounding gardens. House and Garden tours are offered every half hour: Saturday 9:30am-4pm; and Sunday 12noon-4pm. Admission applies.

Don't miss a visit to the Stowe Center Museum Store for books and garden treasures.

ALL SUMMER LONG: The Stowe Center gardens are open for strolling every day. House and garden tours are offered Tuesday through Saturday 9:30am-4pm and Sunday from 12noon-4pm.





HURST FARM & COUNTRY STORE

746 East Street, Andover, CT 06232
860-646-6536

Saturday, June 20 & Sunday, June 21, 9am-5pm

Special Rose & Garden Weekend Event

Come join the Hurst family at the beautiful old-fashioned Hurst farm. From 11am-3pm, enjoy farm-made goodies and strawberry short cake while sitting on the wrap around porch of the Country Store. View beautiful gardens and gaze at the lovely view of the surrounding hills. Shop in the Country Store from 9am-5pm daily for farm made jellies, honey, maple syrup and much more. Farm and Store are open year-round something for every season!

HILL-STEAD MUSEUM

35 Mountain Road, Farmington, CT 06032
860-677-4787, www.hillstead.org

Saturday, June 20 & Sunday, June 21, 10am-5pm

Rose & Garden Weekend

Hill-Stead's Beatrix Farrand-designed one-acre sunken garden, with 90 varieties of perennials, is an important part of this weekend of garden events sponsored by the Central Regional Tourism District. Tour the garden at your own pace, with master gardeners on hand to answer questions. Along with the spectacular garden, enjoy exploring Hill-Stead's estate - over three miles of stone walls, woodland trails, a meadow and pond, all set on 152 acres. All garden and outdoor activities are Free to the public. Admission for guided tours of the 1901 Colonial Revival-style house with its renowned Impressionist art collection.

Sunday, June 21, 12noon-4pm

Connecticut Historic Gardens Day at the Hill-Stead Museum

Visit one or several of a group of historic gardens across Connecticut, including Hill-Stead's own c.1920 Beatrix Farrand-designed Sunken Garden. Stroll the garden paths, admire heirloom plants and consult with interpreters and master gardeners.



Enjoy views of the Farmington Valley while sipping a glass of cool lemonade on the Mount Vernon-style verandah. At 2pm, relax and enjoy a talk and slide show on historic gardens across Connecticut. This year, Connecticut Historic Gardens Day coincides with Rose and Garden Weekend, so there will be plenty of activity and plenty to see in each area of the state. For information on activities at other historic gardens, visit www.cthistoricgardens.org.

Other Hill-Stead Museum Garden Events:

Friday, May 8 & Saturday, May 9, 10am-4pm

May Market

A premier gardening event offering rare perennials, trees and shrubs, daily gardening demonstrations, live music, and 50 high-quality vendors in an historic setting. 2009 featured guest is award-winning author, lifestyle, gardening and entertaining expert and TV personality Mar Jennings. Admission. Visit www.hillstead.org for information.

SUNDIAL GARDENS & TEA SHOP

Brault Hill Road (off Rt. 81), Higganum, CT 06441
860-345-4290, www.sundialgardens.com

Gardens and Tea Shop open Saturdays and Sundays, 10am to 5pm throughout the summer. For Rose & Garden Weekend, an assortment of rose-themed items will be featured including rose-scented teas, French petal jellies (rose, jasmine, and violet), herbal tisanes, etc., plus an extensive selection of Yixing teapots from China – all available for sale in the Tea Shop. Check our website for Tea Tastings and special events offered throughout the year. Free admission.





WICKHAM PARK

1329 West Middle Turnpike, Manchester, CT 06040

860-528-0856, www.wickhampark.org

Open Apr.-Oct. daily 9:30am-dusk

Sunday, June 21, 11am-12:30pm

Historical Garden Tour

Learn about the history and development of Wickham Park's 20 acres of ornamental gardens. This 250-acre private park includes the former estate of one of Connecticut's greatest industrial inventors. Themed gardens include the "Oriental Garden", the "Italian Shrine", the "Lotus Garden", the 'Cabin Garden", the "English Garden", the "Wetlands Garden" and the "Rhododendron Garden". You will encounter a wide variety of plant materials and design styles, unique structures and statuary and panoramic view. Bring the family and visit our Aviary, Nature Center, playgrounds and picnic areas. A concession stand is also available. The gardens are accessible all weekend, unless they are reserved for a wedding function. Admission: \$5 per vehicle.





JAPANESE GARDEN AT WHEELER FARM GARDENS

171 Bartlett Street (off Rt. 17), Portland, CT 06480
860-342-2374, www.wheelerfarmgardens.com

Tour the Old World style Japanese Garden. Stroll, hill and pond, tea, and Zen gardens. Three-quarters of an acre of peace and quiet. Enjoy chocolate, tea, and guided tours. On Sunday, June 21 at 2pm, meet Guest Speakers Bernie and Pat "Kunie" Hesler, expert garden designers/builders from Japan.

Open spring through fall every day, 9am-6pm.
Groups welcome. Free.

IVORYTON GARDEN TOUR

860-767-1252, www.ivoryton.com

Saturday, June 20, 10am-4pm
"Through the Garden Gate"

A tour of eight unique homes and gardens in Ivoryton and Centerbrook to benefit the Ivoryton Library. Box lunches for a picnic in the park and a raffle are planned. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 on the day of the tour.

For more information and tickets, contact the library at 860-767-1252.





**More gardens, parks, and
garden-themed sites to visit
throughout the year:**

**WADSWORTH ATHENEUM MUSEUM
OF ART**

600 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06103

860-838-4141, www.wadsworthatheneum.org

Thursday, April 23 – Sunday, April 26

28th Annual Fine Art & Flowers

“Painting with Plants”- Pairing paintings and sculptures with dramatic floral interpretations and beautiful table settings, Fine Art & Flowers showcases the Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art’s splendid collection of art. Inventive garden displays complement the museum’s historic and elegant interiors.

Hours: Thursday & Friday 11am-5pm; and Saturday & Sunday 10am-5pm.

Admission: \$13 for adults; \$11 for seniors (62+); \$8 for students (ages 13-college with I.D.); \$3 for children (ages 2-12) and for museum and corporate members.

On April 23, Robin Murphy will lead a select group through a Floral Arranging Workshop. Both an accredited Flower Show Judge and Garden Consultant, she has won numerous national and regional awards. Her entertaining and informative workshop will provide many tips, techniques and approaches for those new to floral design and those wishing to learn something new.



On April 24, join us for the Fine Art & Flowers Lecture & Luncheon. Lynden Miller will speak on using flowers as her palette to beautify the urban landscape. Director of the Conservatory Garden in Central Park, Mrs. Miller has designed many public gardens and parks in New York City, including the New York Botanical garden and Bryant Park. As a painter and garden designer, she brings an artistic perspective to garden design. Her thoughts on beautifying a city with flowers and plants for all seasons will be most welcome in Greater Hartford. The event will also include an elegant luncheon in the museum.

BUSHNELL PARK & BUSHNELL PARK CAROUSEL

Downtown Hartford, CT

Bushnell Park Foundation

860-232-6710, www.bushnellpark.org

Bushnell Park Carousel

860-585-5411, www.thecarouselmuseum.org

Bushnell Park is America's oldest public park. Historic indoor carousel for only \$1 a ride, April 25 through October.





HUBBARD PARK, MERIDEN

West Main Street, Meriden, CT

203-630-4259, www.daffodilfest.com

A National Historic Landmark, this Olmsted-inspired park is home to many special events, notably the 31st Annual Daffodil Festival on Saturday, April 25, 10am-9pm, and on Sunday, April 26, 10am-5pm. With food, crafts, music, fireworks, amusements and a parade that has to be seen to be believed, the Daffodil Festival is a springtime funfest for old and young, couples and singles, families and friends. Children accompanied by an adult may fish in Mirror Lake. Drive or hike up to Castle Craig for a panoramic view of the Metacomet Ridge, all the way to the Long Island Sound. Park is open daily, sunrise until sunset. Castle is open May 1 – Oct. 31, 10am-4:45pm.

GAY CITY STATE PARK

Route 85, Hebron, CT

860-295-9523, www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks

Enjoy swimming, hiking, picnicking, and exploration of extinct mill town ruins and stone foundations. Open 8am until sunset. Pets on leashes permitted.





GILLETTE CASTLE STATE PARK

67 River Road, East Haddam

860-526-2336, www.dep.state.ct.us/stateparks

184-acre park and former home of William Gillette, the actor who portrayed Sherlock Holmes on the stage. Visitors reception center, observation deck and snack bar. Castle open Memorial Day weekend through Columbus Day weekend, 10am-4:30pm. Fee for tour.

Park open year-round, sunrise until sunset.

POTTED GARDEN TOUR

Main Street in Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton

860-767-0449 (Left Bank Gallery), www.essexct.com

Friday, June 5 - Sunday, June 7

Enjoy a Potted Garden Tour along the quaint village main streets of Essex, Centerbrook and Ivoryton. Professionally designed and planted containers of all types will grace patios, gazebos, courtyards and storefronts, creating a charming and inspirational stroll to enjoy at your own pace. Various special events will take place throughout the weekend, including garden lectures and demonstrations, streetscape painters and art exhibits, retail promotions... Free admission. Visit www.essexct.com for tour map and event listing. Many locations will remain throughout the summer season.



Central Regional Tourism District, Inc.

“Home of Connecticut’s River Valley”

31 Pratt Street, 4th Floor
Hartford, CT 06103

P 860-244-8181 • 800-793-4480

F 860-244-8180

www.visitctriver.com

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