



Private Garden Open Houses (with distance from the Desmond hotel)
Open for visitation from 1:00-4:00 on Wednesday, May 7th only

John Lonsdale, Edgewood Gardens (9 miles)
407 Edgewood Drive, Exton, PA

Established by Convention speaker, John Lonsdale in 1995, the 1.6-acre Edgewood Gardens displays one of America's finest collections of rare alpine, woodland and xeric plants, and specialty bulbs. John's garden pushes the boundaries of what is possible in southeastern Pennsylvania and is chock full of rare and unusual discoveries, including a remarkable collection of Trilliums. Most of the garden is on a sloped bank with very narrow trails and a minefield of delicate woodland plants, so visitors will need to be extra careful where they're stepping.

Harold Sweetman, Octoraro Farm & Gardens (45 miles)
698 Lees Bridge Road, Nottingham, PA 19362

Octoraro Farm is the farm, garden, and nursery of Harold Sweetman, the long-time Executive Director of Jenkins Arboretum. A lifelong plantsman, Harold has developed a beautiful garden (both ornamental and food garden) around his home in southern Chester County. The Farm features a small herd of Scottish highland cattle and a wholesale plant nursery where Harold has grown many specialty and native plants for decades. Rhododendrons, azaleas, and blueberries have been mainstays at the nursery, but it has grown to include hundreds of other, mostly native trees, shrubs, ferns, and wildflowers.

Tony Baker (9 miles)
672 Joseph Dr Wayne PA 19087

Tony Baker is an avid plantsman and collector of rhododendrons and deciduous azaleas. He has recently become very involved in the local rhododendron scene, joining the Board at Jenkins Arboretum, joining both the ARS and ASA, and travelling throughout the Appalachians to assist with Jenkins' germplasm preservation efforts. Tony has added dozens of azaleas to his beautiful suburban garden over the past few years with dozens more on the horizon as he has begun his own propagation.

Michael Mills (24 miles)
632 Burnham Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19119

Michael Martin Mills is the North American Rhododendron Registrar for the Royal Horticultural Society. His garden encompasses two acres in northwest Philadelphia, started when he and his late husband, Randy Dalton, acquired their home in 1985. In 2005-07, adjacent open space was added. In both cases, they started with little more than lawn and mature trees. With plants and wisdom from Randy's cousin, Caroline Gable (daughter of Joe Gable), they eliminated the lawn and built their collection of over 300 azaleas and rhododendrons and numerous other distinctive woodies and perennials, plus garden sculptures.

Free Public Gardens (with distance from the Desmond hotel)

[Appleford Estate \(13 miles\)](#)

770 Mount Moro Road, Villanova, PA 19085

Appleford is a historic, 24-acre estate with a 1920s Thomas Sears landscape and R. Brognard Okie colonial revival farmhouse. It is well known for its stunning, picturesque grounds, well-maintained property, and romantic ambiance. These things make it a popular wedding venue, so be sure to call ahead if you want to visit.

[Barnes Arboretum at Saint Joseph's University \(22 miles\)](#)

50 Lapsley Ln, Merion Station, PA 19066

Named for the late Dr. Albert C. Barnes and his wife, Laura Leggett Barnes, the Barnes Arboretum got its start in the late 1880s and was further developed under Laura's direction in the early 1900s. Today, the 12-acre arboretum is astonishingly diverse for its size, with more than 2,500 taxa of woody and herbaceous plants, many rare. The peony, lilac, Hosta, and fern collections are especially impressive, as are the 30+ state champion trees.

[Bartram's Garden \(29 miles\)](#)

5400 Lindbergh Blvd., Philadelphia 19143

John Bartram was America's first botanist, plant explorer, and collector. In 1728, Bartram began construction on a stone house along the banks of Philadelphia's Schuylkill River and naturally, began developing his garden that same year. His house, garden, and 1760 greenhouse still stand today. Considered to be the oldest botanical garden in North America, Bartram's is now a 50-acre public garden and National Historic Landmark displaying a wide variety of native and exotic plants – both herbaceous and woody. Most of these plants were listed in Bartram's Catalogue of American Trees, Shrubs and Herbaceous Plants and subsequent editions. Included in this collection are a very old Franklinia (which he is credited with saving from extinction), a 1796 Yellowwood, and the country's oldest Ginkgo tree, which is thought to be the last of the three original ginkgoes introduced to the US from China in 1785.

[Haverford College Arboretum \(17 miles\)](#)

370 Lancaster Ave, Ardmore, PA 19041

Designed in 1834 by English gardener William Carvill, Haverford College Arboretum is the oldest planned college landscape in the country. This historic landscape, spread across the college's pastoral 216-acre campus, includes several historic trees including some of Carvill's original oaks. The Haverford College Arboretum currently boasts nine State Champion trees, eight of which may be found in or near the Ryan Pinetum.

[Henry Schmieder Arboretum \(36 miles\)](#)

700 E Butler Ave Doylestown, PA 18901

A horticultural jewel in the heart of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Just west of Doylestown, the Arboretum encompasses 40 acres of Delaware Valley University's main campus. The Arboretum compliments the mission of the University providing a living collection of plants which reflects their faculty's teaching requirements and serves as a "green resource" for the surrounding community.

[Laurel Hill Cemetery \(Laurel Hill East\) \(22 miles\)](#)

3822 Ridge Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19132

Created by John Jay Smith in 1836, Laurel Hill East is the second oldest garden-designed cemetery in the country and the first National Historic Landmark Cemetery. This is one of two historic cemeteries along Philadelphia's Schuylkill River. Together with Laurel Hill West, they form a 265-acre arboretum with over 6,500 curated trees and shrubs representing 950 species and varieties including several historic and state champion trees. Open to the public every day at no cost, for the respectful appreciation and exploration.

[PHS Meadowbrook Farm \(30 miles\)](#)

1633 Washington Ln, Meadowbrook, PA 19046

The legacy of J. Liddon Pennock, Jr., The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society's Meadowbrook Farm is now a free public garden where visitors can enjoy acres of plant life against the backdrop of a lovely, well-maintained historic estate.

[Scott Arboretum of Swarthmore College \(27 miles\)](#)

500 College Ave, Swarthmore, PA 19081

The Scott Arboretum, named for 1895 alumnus Arthur Hoyt Scott (Scott Paper Co.) encompasses 357 acres of Swarthmore's campus. It exhibits more than 4,000 kinds of ornamental plants demonstrating some of the best trees, shrubs, vines, and perennials for use in the region. One of its more noteworthy destinations is the Outdoor Amphitheater. Constructed in 1942 by noted landscape architect Thomas W. Sears, it has become a memorable garden feature tucked under a canopy of mature tulip poplar trees.

[Stoneleigh: a natural garden \(14 miles\)](#)

1829 County Line Rd, Villanova, PA 19085

Stoneleigh, the only public garden of Natural Lands Trust, is one of the non-profit conservation organization's most accessible and popular properties. The garden provides joy and well-being for tens-of-thousands of guests every year through inspiring displays of native plants and regional ecology in a magnificent former Main Line estate.

[The Highlands Mansion and Gardens \(20 miles\)](#)

7001 Sheaff Ln, Fort Washington, PA 19034

The Highlands Mansion and Gardens is a 44-acre historic site with a late 18th century Georgian mansion and two-acre formal garden. Surrounded by massive stone walls, the gardens offer a beautiful example of early 20th century estate gardening with an unusual blend of horticulture and architecture. The site features nine outbuildings, including a bank barn, springhouse, greenhouse, smokehouse and Gothic Revival gardener's cottage.

[The Woodlands \(28 miles\)](#)

4000 Woodland Ave, Philadelphia, PA 19104

The Woodlands is a 54-acre undulating landscape that serves as a one-of-a-kind 18th-century English pleasure garden, 19th-century rural cemetery, and a modern green oasis for its neighbors in bustling University City (Univ. of Pennsylvania) and West Philadelphia. It includes a Federal-style mansion, a matching carriage house and stable, and an arboretum of over 1,000 trees.

[Welkinweir \(14 miles\)](#)

1368 Prizer Rd, Pottstown, PA 19465

Welkinweir is a bucolic, 224-acre oasis of natural beauty including a 55-acre arboretum, garden, and mansion. It features several large trees, an azalea garden, and a series of ponds and wetlands.

Other Botanical Gardens to Consider (with distance from the Desmond hotel)

There are many wonderful gardens to visit in [America's Garden Capital](#). Below are some we think would be of greatest interest to Convention participants.

[Tyler Arboretum \(12 miles\)](#)

515 Painter Rd, Media, PA 19063

Aside from the gardens being toured during the Convention, Tyler Arboretum is your best bet to see azaleas and rhododendrons in bloom. With 650 protected acres of beautiful woodland, seasonally charming meadows, and a lively program of seasonal events and activities, Tyler Arboretum is a delight for nature lovers, birders, botanists, and those who want to rediscover the natural world. Tyler Arboretum offers seasonally changing gardens, stands of towering trees (several of which are state champions), 17 miles of hiking trails, and a selection of historic buildings dating back to the 18th century.

[Longwood Gardens \(19 miles\)](#)

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348

With over 1,100 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows, Longwood Gardens is undoubtedly one of America's premier horticultural destinations. Longwood has a long history dating back to 1700 when George Pierce purchased the original 402 acres. In 1730, his son Joshua built a brick farmhouse (which still stands, enlarged), and in 1798 Joshua's sons, Samuel and Joshua, began collecting trees and planting about 15 acres of the farm as an arboretum. It was those trees, several of which can still be seen today, that led Pierre DuPont to purchase the property in 1906 and spend the rest of his life creating what he would call "Longwood".

Longwood is grand, with a remarkable collection of more than 13,500 plant taxa, nearly 2 acres of Conservatory gardens under glass, with 13 indoor gardens and 859 different types of permanent plants, a carillon tower, and a magnificent main fountain display. Though Longwood is not on the program for the Convention, we hope you will have a chance to visit while you are here. You will not be disappointed.

[Morris Arboretum & Gardens \(20 miles\)](#)

100 E Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118

Morris Arboretum & Gardens was first developed in 1887 by siblings John and Lydia Morris who were interested in collecting and displaying plants from all over the world. They travelled and traded extensively and built a remarkable collection of trees and shrubs, some of which are now the only specimens of their kind known to exist in the country. The estate was donated to the University of Pennsylvania upon Lydia's death in 1933 and has continued to grow. Today, the Arboretum displays more than 11,000 labelled plants of over 2,500 taxa set within a mature landscape primarily designed in the English Park style, but with Japanese influences as

well. There are many garden features, including winding paths, streams, rose garden, 1899 Victorian fernery, log cabin, garden sculptures, and a grove of large dawn redwoods planted in 1948, the year the species was introduced from China. Well-known to azalea lovers, Morris was also home base for Henry Skinner during the time he was exploring the southeast for native azaleas. The Skinner azalea collection can still be seen at the Arboretum.

[Shofuso Japanese House and Garden \(24 miles\)](#)

Lansdowne Dr & Horticultural Dr, Philadelphia, PA 19131

Shofuso was built in Japan in 1953 by architect Junzo Yoshimura who used traditional techniques and materials. It was shipped to New York and exhibited in the courtyard of the Museum of Modern Art in New York before moving to Philadelphia's West Fairmount Park in 1958. The historic site features a hill and pond garden with a tiered waterfall, island, and koi fish, a tea garden featuring a traditional tea house, and a courtyard garden comprise the 17th century-style Japanese walled and fenced garden.