

TRAIL GUIDE



HOUGHTON GARDEN in The Webster Conservation Area Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

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TRAIL GUIDE FOR THE HOUGHTON GARDEN

Welcome to the Houghton Garden. As you walk along the winding paths toward the central water feature, Houghton Pond, you are entering 10 acres of a woodland garden started in 1906 by Clement S. and Martha Gilbert (Colt) Houghton. Since 1968, the Newton Conservation Commission and the Chestnut Hill Garden Club have worked to preserve this lovely 'wild garden' with its winding paths overhung by Azalea and Rhododendron, its lagoon-like pond, and Mrs. Houghton's Rock Garden.

The HOUGHTON TRAIL starts at the main Suffolk Road entrance and is designated by yellow markers. It crosses the stone bridge and continues counterclockwise along Houghton Pond and Hammond Brook, then across Woodman Stream by a wooden plank bridge and into the Rock Garden.

We feel the future preservation of this garden is an important public amenity for the community, giving a glimpse into the Golden Age of American gardens.
We hope you agree. Enjoy your visit.

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club
May, 1997

RULES

1. The Garden is open to the public from dawn to dusk.
2. No bicycles or other vehicles, horses or ponies, are allowed.
3. No dumping or littering. Refuse barrels are located at each entrance.
4. No hunting or shooting, camping or fires.
5. No damage to trees or plants.
6. Dogs must be leashed and owner must remove dog feces.
7. Please do not pick the flowers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The preservation and maintenance of this garden reflects the inspired and dedicated efforts of many citizens over the last twenty-five years. Among the many who deserve special thanks are the following:

The Newton Conservation Commission, under the able direction of Mrs. Helen Heyn, coordinated the 1973-76 opening after twenty years of neglect. Since then Mrs. Heyn has given unstinting personal attention to preserving and maintaining the Garden. Her inspiration and commitment are greatly appreciated.

The Chestnut Hill Garden Club has contributed funds, expertise, and energy to the repair, restoration, and maintenance of the garden. Under the leadership of Mrs. Charles Hovey and Mrs. Mark Hopkins, the Club worked with the Arnold Arboretum to label plant material and develop the first Trail Guide. This work is on-going. Special thanks to Mrs. Hopkins for the 1996 plant labels, and to the Houghton Family and Mrs. John Houghton, for the generous support and the priceless background information she has given over the years.

HISTORY OF THE HOUGHTON GARDEN

In 1906 Mr. & Mrs. Clement S. Houghton simultaneously built their Spanish-Mission style house (#152 Suffolk Road) designed by Chapman & Frazer, and started developing their 26-acre garden with guidance from Warren M. Manning in designing the Houghton Pond/Hammond Brook/Woodman Stream water feature and surrounding naturalistic garden you can see preserved in this public garden.

Both Houghtons corresponded with Prof. Charles Sargent of the Arnold Arboretum, and experimented by planting new species (this was the heyday of Asian plant collecting) as well as requesting plant disbursements. At the turn of the century, even as the trolley lines advanced the area's development as a commuting suburb, Chestnut Hill was renowned for its estates and their gardens. The Houghtons took an active role in this world.

Martha Houghton became an ardent admirer of the English author Reginald Farrer and his book The English Rock Garden. In 1918 she began work on what she described as perhaps her favorite "workshop", the creation of an alpine rock garden on a ledge overlooking Houghton Pond. The challenge of growing temperamental alpine plants continued to interest her for the rest of her life, and in 1934 she was one of the founders of The American Rock Garden Society. She served as its President from 1936 to 1940.

After visiting several English woodland gardens, the Houghtons began to experiment with the naturalization of primulas, raising hundreds of these lovely spring beauties from seed sent from Bodnant in England, and interplanting them with luxuriant native ferns. This mass of delicate color, combined with naturalized plantings of spring bulbs along the paths and under the dappled shade of gray birches created a paradise that one garden writer described in 1937 as "the best example in this country of becoming

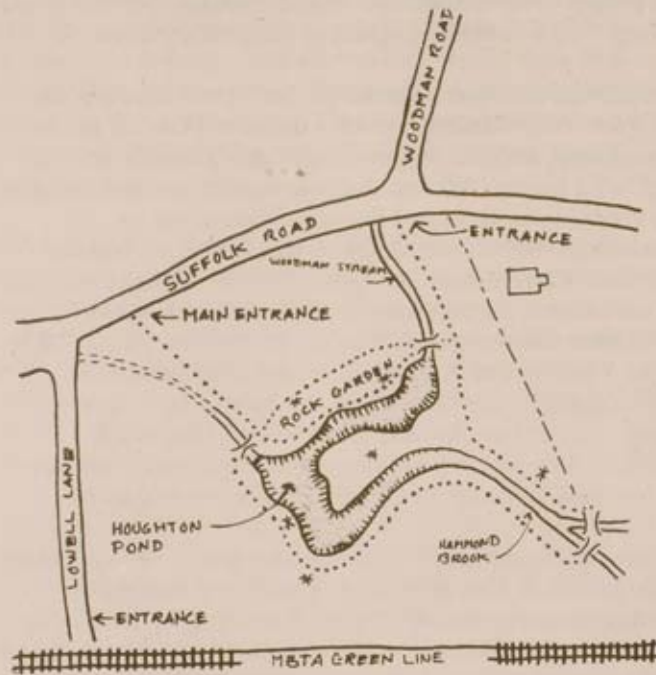
design, proper construction, and desirable arrangement of flower and foliage a wonderful pageant of Naturalistic beauty..."

Sadly much has changed since the garden's peak between the World Wars. After Mrs. Houghton's death in 1956, the garden was abandoned, and the property eventually subdivided. The beloved 'wild garden' fell into decay as volunteer trees crowded out the original plantings and the waterways silted up. Fortunately, in 1968 Mayor Monte G. Basbaf and the Newton Conservation Commission persuaded the City of Newton to take nearly ten acres of the original garden by eminent domain as part of the Webster Conservation Area. In 1979 the Houghton Garden Annex and gate east of Woodman Stream were also taken by eminent domain by the City of Newton. Since that time, the Chestnut Hill Garden Club and the Newton Conservation Commission have worked to preserve the Houghton Pond and woodland garden section of the Houghtons' original estate.

As the garden has matured, the more open feel of the woodland and rock garden as Mrs. Houghton conceived it has changed. Denser shade has eliminated all but a few of the birches; invasive plants have crowded out the delicate primulas; the dwarf conifers that were planted as miniature evergreen mounds now tower over the Rock Garden; and today we contend with run-off of road pollutants that the Houghtons could not have imagined in their beautiful pond. Still the creation of this 'wild garden' has proven a great legacy of the Houghtons' lifelong passion for gardening. While the formal gardens of their neighbors have all but disappeared, in the turn of a shady path and the opening of a vista, the public can still experience the Houghtons guiding hand and inspired composition.

HOUGHTON GARDEN YELLOW TRAIL

Designated by yellow markers on trees



Main entry is on Suffolk Road in Chestnut Hill. The trail is just under a half mile; it takes about 30 minutes at a leisurely pace.

* Indicates location of the six illustrated specimens at the back of the guide

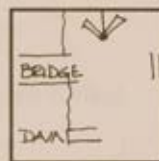
R&L	Sweet Pepperbush (Summersweet)	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
R&L	Alder Buckthorn	<i>Rhamnus frangula</i>
L	Red Pine (20' ft. off trail)	<i>Pinus resinosa</i>
L	White Pine	<i>Pinus strobus</i>
R	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
R&L	<i>Interupted Fern</i>	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>
L	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
R	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
R	<i>Native Pachysandra</i>	<i>Pachysandra procumbens</i>
R	<i>Trout lily</i>	<i>Erythronium americanum</i>

Crossroads

L	Canadian Hemlock (copse)	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
R	<i>Cinnamon Fern</i>	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
R	Red Maple (2 trunk), Pitch Pine (1 trunk)	<i>Acer rubrum</i> , <i>Pinus rigida</i>
R	<i>Hay-scented Fern</i>	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>
L	Red Maple (3 trunks)	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>
R	<i>Drooping Leucothoe</i>	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>
R	<i>Iris - yellow flag</i>	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>

Cross Bridge Over Hammond Brook, Bellow Spillway

R	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
R	Broadleaf Spiraea	<i>Spiraea latifolia</i>
L	Rosebay Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>
R	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Pink Shell Azalea	<i>Rhododendron vaseyi</i>
R	<i>Yellowroot</i>	<i>Xanthoriza simplicissima</i>



R	Sweet pepperbush	<i>Clethra alnifolia</i>
R	Northern Red Oak	<i>Quercus rubra</i> var. <i>maxima</i>
R	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
L	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	American Chestnut (shoots)	<i>Castanea dentata</i>
R	Black Oak (on corner of path)	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
R	White Oak	<i>Quercus alba</i>
L	Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
L	Common Witch-hazel (multi-stemmed)	<i>Hamamelis virginiana</i>
L	<i>Galax</i>	<i>Galax aphylla</i>
R&L	Catawba Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron</i> <i>catawbiense</i>
R	Black Oak	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
L	Drooping Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>
R&L	Hay-scented Fern	<i>Dennstaedtia punctilobula</i>
R	Climbing Hydrangea	<i>Hydrangea anomala</i> (<i>petiolaris</i>)
L	Deadly Nightshade	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
R	Common Polypody (rock ledge)	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>



Turn Left From Rock Ledge

R	Grove of Hemlocks	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
R	Amur Cork Tree (small 4" cal.)	<i>Phellodendron</i> <i>amurense</i>
L	Red maple (edge of pond)	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R&L	Bracken Ferns with Whorled looserife	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> with <i>Lysimachia quadrifolia</i>
R	American Elm (poor)	<i>Ulmus americana</i>
R	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Spice bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
L	River Birch	<i>Betula nigra</i>
L	American Beech	<i>Fagus Grandiflora</i>
L	Mountain Pieris	<i>Pieris floribunda</i>

R&L	<i>Solomon's Seal (May)</i>	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>
R	<i>Mayapple(May)</i>	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
R	Double trunk Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
R	<i>Wood hyacinth</i>	<i>Scilla companulata(May)</i>
L	<i>Iris cristata</i>	<i>Iris cristata(May)</i>
L	<i>Cinnamon Fern</i>	<i>Osmunda cinnamomea</i>
L	<i>Interrupted Fern</i>	<i>Osmunda claytoniana</i>
L	<i>Royal Fern</i>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
L	<i>Lady Fern(beside brook)</i>	<i>Athyrium filixfemina</i>
L	<i>Winged Euonymus</i>	<i>Euonymus alatus</i>
L	<i>Japanese Barberry</i>	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>
L	<i>Carolina Rhododendron</i>	<i>Rhododendron carolinianum</i>
R	American Beech, small	<i>Fagus americana</i>
L	River Birch (young, on edge of stream)	<i>Betula nigra</i>
L	<i>Button Bush</i>	<i>Cephalanthus occidentalis</i>
R	<i>Spice-Bush</i>	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
L	<i>Red Osier Dogwood</i>	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
L	<i>Skunk Cabbage</i>	<i>Symplocarpus foetidus</i>
L	Sawara False Cypress, small	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>
L	<i>Drooping Leucothoe</i>	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>
L	<i>Yellowroot</i>	<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>
L	American Chestnut(sapling)	<i>Castanea dentata</i>
L	Black Oak (on bank)	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
R	Black Tupelo	<i>Nyssa sylvatica</i>
R	<i>Royal Ferns</i>	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
L	<i>Elderberry</i>	<i>Sambucus canadensis</i>
R	<i>Star Flowers</i>	<i>Trientalis borealis</i>
L	White Birch	<i>Betula papyrifera</i>
R	White Oak -near T-track, lg	<i>Quercus alba</i>
L	White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>

**Cross Over Two Bridges and
Head back Down Other Side of Canal**



R	Douglas Fir (over rail fence)	<i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
R	<i>Rhododendron</i>	<i>Rhododendron maximum</i>

R	Upright Japanese Yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i> 'capitata'
R	White Fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
R	Spice-Bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>
R	Royal Ferns	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>
R	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Tulip tree, small	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
R	Canadian Hemlocks,	<i>Tsuga canadensis</i>
L&R	Yellowroot	<i>Xanthorhiza simplicissima</i>
R	Tulip Tree (behind Crabapple)	<i>Liriodendron tulipifera</i>
R	American Beech (40' fr path)	<i>Fagus americana</i>
R	Native holly	<i>Ilex opaca</i>
R	Flowering Crabapple,	<i>Malus sp.</i>
L	Smooth Alder Clump	<i>Alnus serrulata</i>
R&L	Spice-Bush	<i>Lindera benzoin</i>

Path Up to East Gate



L	Japanese Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
L	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia carolina</i>
L	Planetree, Sycamore Maple	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>
R	Sargeant Cherry, large	<i>Prunus sargentii</i>
L	White Ash	<i>Fraxinus americana</i>
R	Sawara False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>
R	White fir	<i>Abies concolor</i>
R	American Beech	<i>Fagus Americana, large</i>
L	Sweet Gum	<i>Liquidamber styraciflua</i>
L	Cork Tree	<i>Phellodendron</i> <i>amurense</i>
L	Plane tree, old	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>

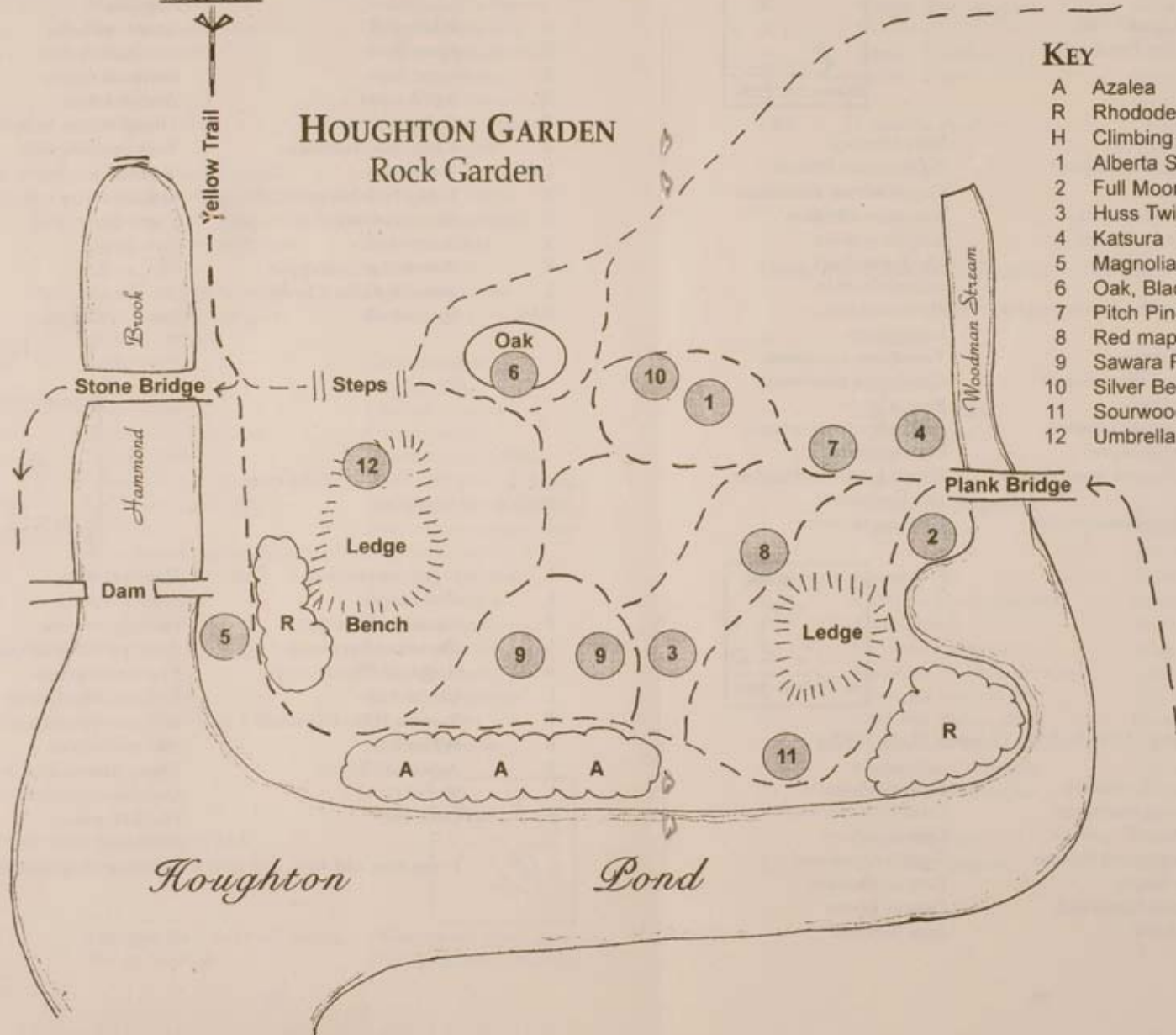
Suffolk Road

West Gate

HOUGHTON GARDEN Rock Garden

KEY

- A Azalea
- R Rhododendron
- H Climbing Hydrangea
- 1 Alberta Spruce
- 2 Full Moon Maple
- 3 Huss Twiggy Hemlock
- 4 Katsura
- 5 Magnolia Virginiana
- 6 Oak, Black
- 7 Pitch Pine
- 8 Red maple
- 9 Sawara False Cypress
- 10 Silver Bell
- 11 Sourwood
- 12 Umbrella Pine



**Turn Left Down Small Path
By Brook Onto the Peninsula**



L	Fox Grapevine	<i>Vitis labrusca</i>
L	<i>Solomon's Seal (May)</i>	<i>Polygonatum biflorum</i>
R	Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
R	Common sassafras	<i>Sassafras albidum</i>
L&R	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
L	Flame Azalea	<i>Rhododendron calendulaceum</i>
L	Wilson Rhododendron (sm leaf)	<i>Rhododendron Laetevirens</i>
L	Bald Cypress	<i>Taxodium distichum</i>
R	Fragrant Winterhazel	<i>Corylopsis glabrescens</i>
L	Black Birch	<i>Betula lenta</i>
L	Drooping Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>
R	Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
L	Torch Azalea (near water)	<i>Rhododendron obtusum</i> var. <i>Kaempferi</i>
L	Tartarian Honeysuckle	<i>Lonicera tartarica</i>



Back To Main Trail - Turn Left Up Towards Plank Bridge

L	European Barberry	<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>
L	Drooping leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe fontanesiana</i>
L	Red Osier Dogwood	<i>Cornus sericea</i>
L	Meadowsweet Spiraea	<i>Spiraea tomentosa</i>
L	Sugar Maple	<i>Acer saccharum</i>
L	Japanese Dogwood	<i>Cornus kousa</i>
L	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>

L	Tiarella	Tiarella
R	Winged Euonymous	Euonymous alatus
R	Snowberry	Symphoricarpus albus
R	Amur Honeysuckle	Lonicera maackii
R	Flame Azalea	Rhododendron calendulaceum
L&R	<i>Celandine Poppy</i>	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>



Cross Over Plank Bridge Into Rock Garden

R	Katsura	Cercidiphyllum japonicum
R	<i>May apple</i>	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>
	<i>Lily of the Valley</i>	<i>Convallaria majalis</i>
	<i>Solomon's Seal</i>	<i>Polygonatum</i>
	<i>Scilla</i>	<i>Scilla companulata</i>
R	<i>Japanese Spurge</i>	<i>Pachysandra terminalis</i>
L	Flowering Dogwood	Cornus florida
L	Flame Azalea	Rhododendron calendulaceum
L	Sweet Gum	Liquidamber styraciflua
L	Catawba Rhododendron	Rhododendron catawbiense
R	<i>Erythronium</i>	<i>Erythronium</i>
R	Sweetbay Magnolia	Magnolia virginiana
L	Japanese 'Fullmoon' Maple	Acer japonicum
R	<i>American Barrenwort</i>	<i>Vancouveria</i>
L	Catawba Rhododendron	Rhododendron catawbiense
R	Flowering Crabapple	Malus
L	Climbing Hydrangea	Hydrangea anomala petiolaris
R	Mountain Pieris	Pieris floribunda
R	Sycamore Maple	Acer pseudoplatanus

At Crossroad, continue Straight (small paths to left & right)

R	Sourwood	<i>Oxydendrum arboreum</i>
R	Red Maple	<i>Acer rubrum</i>
R	Drooping Leucothoe	<i>Leucothoe fantanesiana</i>
R	Christmas Fern	<i>Polystichum acrostichoides</i>
L	Spreading Japanese Yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata expansa</i>
L	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
R	Carolina Silverbell	<i>Halesia Carolina</i>
R	Dwarf Alberta Spruce (In Yew)	<i>Picea glauca 'Conica'</i>
L	Wood anemone (May)	<i>Anemone sylvestris</i>
L	Upright Japanese Yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata var.</i>
R	Spreading English Yew	<i>Taxus baccata sp.</i>

Keep Straight (path to left)

R	Pitch Pine	<i>Pinus rigida</i>
R	Ghent Azalea	<i>Rhododendron x Gandavense</i>
L	Sourwood (behind Yew)	<i>Oxydendron arboreum</i>
L	Spreading English Yew	<i>Taxus baccata sp.</i>
R	Mountain Laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
R	Norway Spruce var.	<i>Picea abies var.</i>
L	Carolina Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron Carolinian</i>
R	Norway Spruce	<i>Picea abies</i>

Join Main Trail Along Bank, Turn Right

L	Highbush Blueberry	<i>Vaccinium corymbosum</i>
R	Slender Hinoki False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Gracilis'</i>
L	Mountain laurel	<i>Kalmia latifolia</i>
R	Huss Twiggy Hemlock	<i>Tsuga canadensis 'Hussii'</i>
R	Globe American Arborvitae	<i>Thuja occidentalis 'Globosa'</i>

Keep Straight, (small path to right)

R	Moss Sawara False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> 'Squarrosa Nana'
R	Rock Garden plants	

Turn Right On Small Path Before Stone Bench & Ledge

R	Sawara False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i> 'Squarrosa Intermedia'
R&L	<i>Epimedium</i>	<i>Epimedium</i>
R	Slender Hinoki False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis obtusa</i> 'Gracilis'
L&R	Japanese Yew	<i>Taxus cuspidata</i>

Return To Main Path At Stone Bench

R	Umbrella Pine (top of ledge)	<i>Sciadopitys verticillata</i>
L	Mountain Pieris	<i>Pieris floribunda</i>
R	Catawba Rhododendron	<i>Rhododendron</i> <i>Catawbiense</i> 'Alban elegans'
R	Flowering Dogwood	<i>Cornus Florida</i>
L	Torch Azalea	<i>Rhododendron obtusum</i> var. <i>Kaempferi</i>
L	Sawara False Cypress	<i>Chamaecyparis pisifera</i>
R	Chinese Neillia	<i>Neillia sinensis</i>

Move To Center Of Rock Garden With Back Toward Pond And Facing Toward Large Black Oak Encircled By Stone Bench

	Black Oak (center)	<i>Quercus velutina</i>
	Boston Ivy (climbing Oak)	<i>Parthenocissus</i> <i>tricuspidata</i>
L	Judas -Tree- Upright Japanese Yew Hybrid	<i>Cercis Chinensis</i> <i>Taxus cuspidata</i> (behind & right of Oak)
L	Enkianthus	<i>Enkianthus</i> <i>Campanulatus</i>

L	Convexleaf Japanese Holly	Ilex crenata 'convexa'
R	Royal Azalea	Rhododendron schlippenbachii
R	Golden Sawara False Cypress	Chamaecyparis 'pisifera' 'Aurea'
	Spreading English Yew	Taxus baccata 'repandens'
	Dwarf Japanese Yew	Taxus cuspidata 'nana'
R	Dwarf Alberta Spruce (in yew)	Picea glaucia 'conica'
L	<i>Creeping Cotoneaster</i>	<i>Cotoneaster adpressus</i>
L	<i>Rockspray</i>	<i>Cotoneaster Horizontalis</i>
L	Carolina Rhododendrons	Rhododendron carolinianum
	Alberta Spruce (left of Rho.s)	Picea glaucia 'conica'
L	Andorra Juniper	Juniperus horizontalis 'plumosa'
L&R	<i>Alpine Lady's Mantle</i>	<i>Alchemilla sp.</i>
L	Moss Sawara False Cypress	Chamaecyparis pisifera 'squarrosa nana'
	<i>Common Wintercreeper</i>	<i>Euonymus Fortunei</i> , <i>var.adicans</i>
R	Red Osier Dogwood	Cornus sericea

CLIMBING HYDRANGEA

Hydrangea anomala (petiolaris)

"a rare jewel in crown of vines"



- Unlimited ability to climb by rootlike holdfasts.
- Stems brown with peeling, exfoliating shaggy bark.
- Flowers white, late June, fragrant.
- Specimen here on Puddingstone (Roxbury Conglomerate).
- Native of China and Japan, introduced 1865.

COMMON WITCHHAZEL
Hamamelis virginiana



Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator

- large shrub or small tree with crooked, spreading branches.
- Yellow fragrant straplike flowers in late fall.
- Extract witchhazel distilled from bark of young stems & roots.
- American Indians used extract for sore eyes, tumors & Inflammations.

MOUNTAIN LAUREL

Kalmia latifolia



Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator

- Evergreen shrub, 7 – 15 feet.
- Leaves are glossy, deep green, oblong and pointed.
- Flowers in May - June.
- Berries are poisonous!
- Native to Eastern North America.

TULIP TREE
Liriodendron tulipifera



- An imposing tree, sometimes reaching 200 feet.
- Also called Tulip Magnolia, Yellow or Tulip Poplar.
- Wood is easily worked and used for furniture.
- Blossom is yellow, resembling tulip.
- George Washington planted it at Mount Vernon.
- Native to Eastern United States.

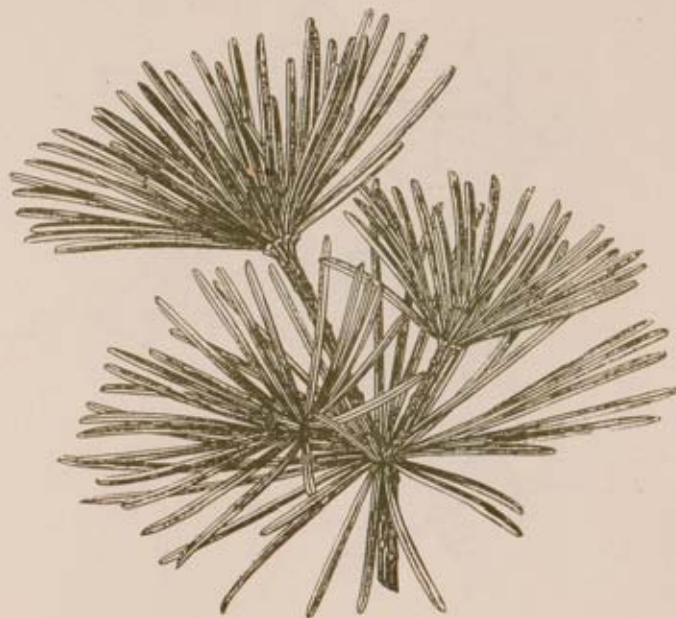
SOURWOOD
Oxydendrum arboreum



Print courtesy of the Arnold Arboretum, C.E. Faxon, illustrator

- Also called Sorrel Tree or Lily of the Valley Tree.
- Leaves and twigs have sour taste, source of black dye
- Bears small, bell-shaped white flowers in summer.
- Autumn foliage turns brilliant scarlet.
- Native to Eastern North America.

UMBRELLA PINE
Sciadopitys verticillata



- Conifer, can reach 60 to 90 feet tall.
- Rate of growth extremely slow, up to 6 in. a year.
- Needles radiate around stem, creating 'umbrella'.
- Native to Japan, introduced 1861.

