



# The Garden Conservancy's OPEN DAYS PROGRAM

## 2015

### Litchfield County Open Day

### Saturday, June 20



Parts of garden are  
handicapped accessible

**NEW**

Gardens opening for first time

**2014**

Most recent year garden  
was open



Photographs permitted

#### LITCHFIELD COUNTY

**BRUSH HILL GARDENS—  
CHARLES RASKOB ROBINSON &  
BARBARA PAUL ROBINSON**  
Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington  
🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Take a virtual tour of Brush Hill Gardens on [www.brushhillgardens.com](http://www.brushhillgardens.com) for a preview of many different areas, including the Moon Garden planted in yellows and purples, the Rose Walk, the Peony and Wheelbarrow Borders, the Serpentine Garden with its garden folly, and up through the Arch into the Woodland Walk with its series of cascading pools and rills. Each area is adorned with structures designed and built by Charles. The garden has been featured in many articles and books, including Rosemary Verey's book, *The Secret Garden*, and HGTV's "A Gardener's Diary". Barbara's biography, *Rosemary Verey: The Life and Lessons of a Legendary Gardener*, will be available.

2014 | 🦽 | 📷

➡ From I-84, take Exit 15/Southbury. Take Route 6 to Route 47 and turn left. Go 4 miles, passing Woodbury Ski Area on left, and turn right onto Nettleton Hollow Road. Go 4 miles, past intersection of Wykeham and Carmel Hill Roads, and watch for sign to enter parking field on left side of Nettleton Hollow Road.

From north at intersection of Route 109 and Nettleton Hollow Road, go south on Nettleton Hollow Road for 0.3 mile, just

past Clark Road, look for signs to park in field on right.

Brush Hill Gardens is 2 miles north of Hollister House Gardens on Nettleton Hollow Road.

**GARDEN OF BUDDY & MONIKA NIXON**  
44 Kent Hollow Road, Kent  
🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Inspired by a strong interest in collecting specimen trees and shrubs, and by studies at the New York Botanical Gardens, the owners have developed this garden over the past thirty years into an expression of their personal development as landscape designer and horticulturist. The massive stone columns at the entrance to the property set the stage for the extensive stonework that gives structure to the landscape. The owner has taken a complete hands-on approach to development of the garden, as all stone work, planting, pruning and sourcing of plants have been done by him. After retiring from his corporate career in New York City, he has also selectively done design, consultation and plant sourcing on request for other projects.

The garden contains one of the largest private collections of rare, distinctive and hard to find trees in the Northeast. Crossing a terrace with stunning views of Lake Waramaug and beyond, visitors will come upon a large Koi pond, waterfalls and an entirely unexpected

cast bronze fountain. The core purpose of the garden is education, allowing visitors to identify new plants for their own gardens. Plants are identified by plant markers, and a plant list and map are made available. The garden reflects the owners' quest for unique trees that are not only hardy and disease resistant, but also have the form, texture and foliage that can amaze and please year round. Also highlighted will be collection of trees from the late Dennis Dodge, noted grafter and grower of rare trees.

This year, the first phase of expanding the garden by 27 acres has started. It involves design, a wood road to access the property, marking trails, exposing views, pruning specimen trees, and highlighting an old stone quarry with massive, 50'-60' high stone outcroppings. This will be a 3 to 4 year project with additional trails and plantings to follow. The wood road will be open for the tour, for visitors to witness the first phase of this new garden expansion.

**Broken Arrow Nursery will hold a rare plant sale, which will include many trees one can see in the garden.**

2014 | 🦽 | 📷

➡ From Kent, take Route 341 East toward Warren and go about 6 miles. Turn right onto Kent Hollow Road. Go 0.25 mile, house is on right after passing lake on left. Watch for stone walls and two stone columns with lights. Park on road near the pond.

From traffic light in Warren, take Route 341 West toward Kent. Go about 3 miles and turn left onto Kent Hollow Road. Go 0.25 mile, house is on right after passing lake on left. Watch for stone walls and two stone columns with lights. Park on road near the pond.

**GARDEN OF BUNNY WILLIAMS**  
1 Point of Rocks Road, Falls Village  
🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Interior designer and garden book author Bunny Williams' intensively planted fifteen-acre estate has a sunken garden with twin perennial borders surrounding a fishpond, a parterre garden, a year-round conservatory filled with tender plants, a large vegetable garden with flowers and herbs, a woodland garden with meandering paths, and a pond with a waterfall. There are also a working greenhouse and an aviary with unusual chickens and fantail doves, an apple orchard with mature trees, a rustic Greek Revival-style pool house folly, and a swimming pool with eighteenth-century French coping.

2014 | 📷

➡ From Route 7 North, go to Falls Village. Turn left at blinking traffic light onto Main Street/Route 126. Bear right (still on Route 126). Go to stop sign at Point of Rocks Road. Driveway is directly ahead. Please park in field adjacent to house.

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### GARDEN OF LEE LINK

99 White Hollow Road, Sharon

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Three stone walls cascade down a hillside at the top of which is a greenhouse containing a wide spectrum of succulents and tropical plants. Within the last two years, the former perennial border was replaced with a new hardscape and three kousa dogwoods highlighted by groundcover and spring bulbs. This is an effort to minimize upkeep. One level has a fish pond which reflects a winter conservatory attached to the house.

2014 | 📷

➡ From Routes 7 & 112, turn onto Route 112. Go about 2 miles to "Entrance to Lime Rock Race Track" sign. Turn left onto White Hollow Road and go 2.5 miles. Garden, #99, is on right, opposite a white fence.

From Route 41 in Sharon, turn right onto Calkinstown Road. Take second left onto White Hollow Road. Driveway is on left opposite a white fence.

### GARDEN OF NANCY MCCABE

163 Dublin Road, Falls Village

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This garden was begun in 1980. A small kitchen garden features paths and antique tile edging enclosed by espaliered apple trees. You will see a collection of old pots, rhubarb forcers, and French cloches. A rustic trellis leads past the potting shed to the main garden. A sunken garden is enclosed with a fence and buttressed with boxwood. Divided sections contain shrubs and perenni-

als, a quince tree, and a medlar tree. A chicken house and woodland walk with naturalized bulbs, ferns, and hellebores completes the garden.

2014 | 📷 | ♿

➡ Take Route 7 into Falls Village. Go west at blinking traffic light onto Main Street/Route 126. Bear right staying on Route 126. Turn right onto Point of Rocks Road. Make first left onto Dublin Road. The house, #163, is stucco with dark green trim; near end and close to canal. Please park along road.

### HIGHMEADOWS—LINDA ALLARD

Washington

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

High on a hillside, with a beautiful panoramic view of the Litchfield Hills, this garden has Old-World charm. Surrounded by stone walls covered with espaliered fruit trees, climbing roses, and hydrangeas the garden is partly formal and partly potager. A lush rose arbor filled with pale pink and white roses inter-woven with clematis separates the two. Boxwood hedges define the white formal garden enhanced by a variety of green textures. Geometric beds overflowing with fruits, vegetables, herbs, and flowers are a true depiction of potager. This part of the garden changes yearly; plantings are worked by color and color combination. In this, its first year for bloom, is a newly completed woodland garden. The woodland garden, initially conceived as a woodland trail winding throughout the property, has evolved using a naturalistic approach with native spe-

cies. The original trees and shrubs have been enriched with additional plantings of azalea, dogwood trees, hellebores, ferns, and spring flowering bulbs. It is inspired by William Robinson's *The Wild Garden* originally published in 1870 and a more recent expanded edition by Rick Darke. His beautiful photographs and commentary illustrate how well this concept translates to contemporary, sustainable gardening.

2014 | 📷

➡ From Washington Green at Gunn Memorial Library, turn onto Wykeham Road. Follow for about 1.5 miles until Old Litchfield Road forks left. Stay right on Wykeham for about 0.25 mile. Go up a small hill to a red barn on right. The entrance to garden is opposite barn.

### HOLLISTER HOUSE GARDEN

300 Nettleton Hollow Road, Washington

🕒 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Set against an historic Connecticut farmhouse, this romantic country garden juxtaposes exuberant plantings with the formal lines of the twentieth-century English gardens that inspired its creator George Schoellkopf and is noted for its subtle and sometimes surprising color combinations. High walls and hedges divide the garden into a series of rooms that open onto interesting vistas of the rural landscape as well as into the garden beyond. The garden continues to adapt and expand, the Kitchen Garden and a new terrace with a rill made of massive stones being the latest developments. As a Garden Conservancy Preservation Project, the

garden will continue its mission into the future for generations to come.

2014 | ♿ | 📷

➡ From I-84, take Exit 15/Southbury. Take Route 6 north through Southbury and Woodbury. Turn left onto Route 47 North. Go 4 miles, past Woodbury Ski Area on left, and turn right onto Nettleton Hollow Road. Go 1.7 miles. Garden is on right. Please park along the road or follow parking signs through the gate.

### WESTWINDS

12 Popple Swamp Road, Cornwall Bridge

🕒 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Jones' garden is a haven for people, birds, and pollinators. The garden is located behind a classic Greek Revival-style house which dates back to the early 1800s when Colonel Pierce built it to mimic the White House in Washington D.C. The current garden replaces a very small garden that was completely shaded by tall Norway spruces that were destroyed in the devastating tornado of 1989. When the Joneses bought the house in 2000, the garden space was a tangle of overgrown multiflora rose, tree stumps, and scrub trees. Each new cleared space brought inspiration and new ideas to the current garden: meandering paths paved with stones collected from the adjoining fields, peony beds, old rose arches intertwined with clematis and old fashioned perennials. A crabapple *allee* was planted as well as two long nepeta beds loaded with narcissi in the spring. Look care-

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fully and find a whimsical barberry topiary—a "barberian" alligator. There is a small kitchen garden near the back door that is planted with spring tulips each year followed by a riot of summer annuals. Across the street, attached to a carriage barn, is a little vegetable garden enclosed by a picket fence. The owners once overheard someone in their garden say he would describe it in only three words: "work, work, work." True, but as with all gardens, this garden brings birds, bees, peace and hope for the future.

NEW | ♿ | 📷

➡ From the Cornwall Bridge General Store at the junction of Route 4 and Route 7, go 2.2 miles on Route 4 East to a red barn on the left in the distance. Immediately put on your blinker to turn left as it is a quick and tricky turn against oncoming traffic. Turn left onto West Street (not labeled; you will just see the backside of a stop sign). Proceed to the end and turn right onto Popple Swamp Road. Drive until you see three gray barns across from a white house with pillars.

From the Goshen Traffic Circle, take Route 4 west 5.3 miles to the four-way stop in Cornwall with the blinking red light. Turn left onto Route 4 West. Go 1.6 miles past Pierce Lane on right and keep right on to Popple Swamp Road. It is the second house on the right (white with pillars).

### WASHINGTON HILL 300 East Hartland Road, Barkhamsted 🕒 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This seven-year-old garden shows what two gardeners can do with the challenging one-and-one-half-acre cleared portion of a severely sloped seven-acre wooded lot. Parterres connected by banks and a stairway now provide key features: mitigation of upland runoff, planting spaces along the banks, a thirty-by-fifty-foot, four-square perennial garden punctuated at the inner corners with flowering crabapple trees, a twenty-by-forty-foot potager/cutting garden, lawns, and a 150-foot border created to showcase irises, peonies, Oriental lilies, and annuals. The banks feature nearly 200 deciduous and evergreen shrubs and trees, flowering bulbs, ornamental grasses, alpine outcroppings, perennials, roses, and fruit trees. Large potted tree roses add interest to the ends of the four-square walkways. The entire garden is designed for three full seasons of bloom, from spring bulbs and early perennials, to late-flowering aster, salvia, sanguisorba, *Lobelia cardinalis*, sedum, and chrysanthemum. The signature feature of the garden in June is the native mountain laurel that saturates the entire perimeter of the property and the adjacent woodland. The garden is a lovely testament to the ability of plantings to mature quickly, accomplish design objectives, and create a wonderful year-round outdoor environment.

2014 | ♿ | 📷

➡ From north and east, take I-91 to Exit 40/Bradley Airport. Follow connector

road to Route 20 West. Go through East Granby and Granby to Route 219 on left. Take Route 219 to Route 179. Turn right onto Route 179. Go about 800 feet to 300 East Hartland Road on right.

From south and west, take Route 8 to end of divided highway in Winsted. Turn left onto Route 44. Go to Route 318 and turn left. Go through Pleasant Valley, over reservoir dam to Route 219. Turn left and go up hill to Route 179. Go to 300 East Hartland Road. Please park on opposite side of road on shoulder, as far off pavement as possible and use caution when crossing



### The Garden Conservancy

is a national nonprofit organization founded in 1989 to save and share America's outstanding gardens for the education and inspiration of the public.



### The Open Days Program

began in 1995 as a means of introducing the public to gardening, providing easy access to outstanding examples of design and horticultural practice, and proving that exceptional American gardens are still being created.

[www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org) | toll-free 1-888-842-2442

## The Garden Conservancy's Open Days Program

[www.opendaysprogram.org](http://www.opendaysprogram.org) | P.O. Box 219, Cold Spring, New York, 10516 | T: (845) 424-6502 / F: (845) 424-6501 / Toll-free: 1 (888) 842-2442 | E: [opendays@gardenconservancy.org](mailto:opendays@gardenconservancy.org)