



PLANT RESOURCE GUIDE

Plants Highlighted on Docent-led Garden Tours

Updated December 2023

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Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens
Washington, DC

INTRODUCTION

Prepared as a resource for Hillwood's garden docents, this guide features plants that are important to Hillwood's gardens and lie along the tour routes. It includes both historic plants dating to Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure and those added during renovations since the museum opened to the public.

Marjorie Post purchased Hillwood in 1955 and made continuing improvements to the gardens until her death in 1973. The gardens continue to be maintained in prime condition by horticulture staff and volunteers. Occasionally plants need to be replaced because of age, disease, or other conditions, but the replacements are always made in the spirit of Post's original selections. A major restoration of the gardens took place in the late 1990s, when the mansion was closed for renovation. The gardens were updated through a 5-year plan (2013-2017) with the help of the landscape architecture firm of RAS: Robinson Anderson Summers.

Using the Guide

The guide is organized into eight garden rooms. Each of these sections has a map, a table of contents, and individual plant pages. The numbers on the map reference the location of the plants listed in the table of contents. The plant pages, themselves, include the following:

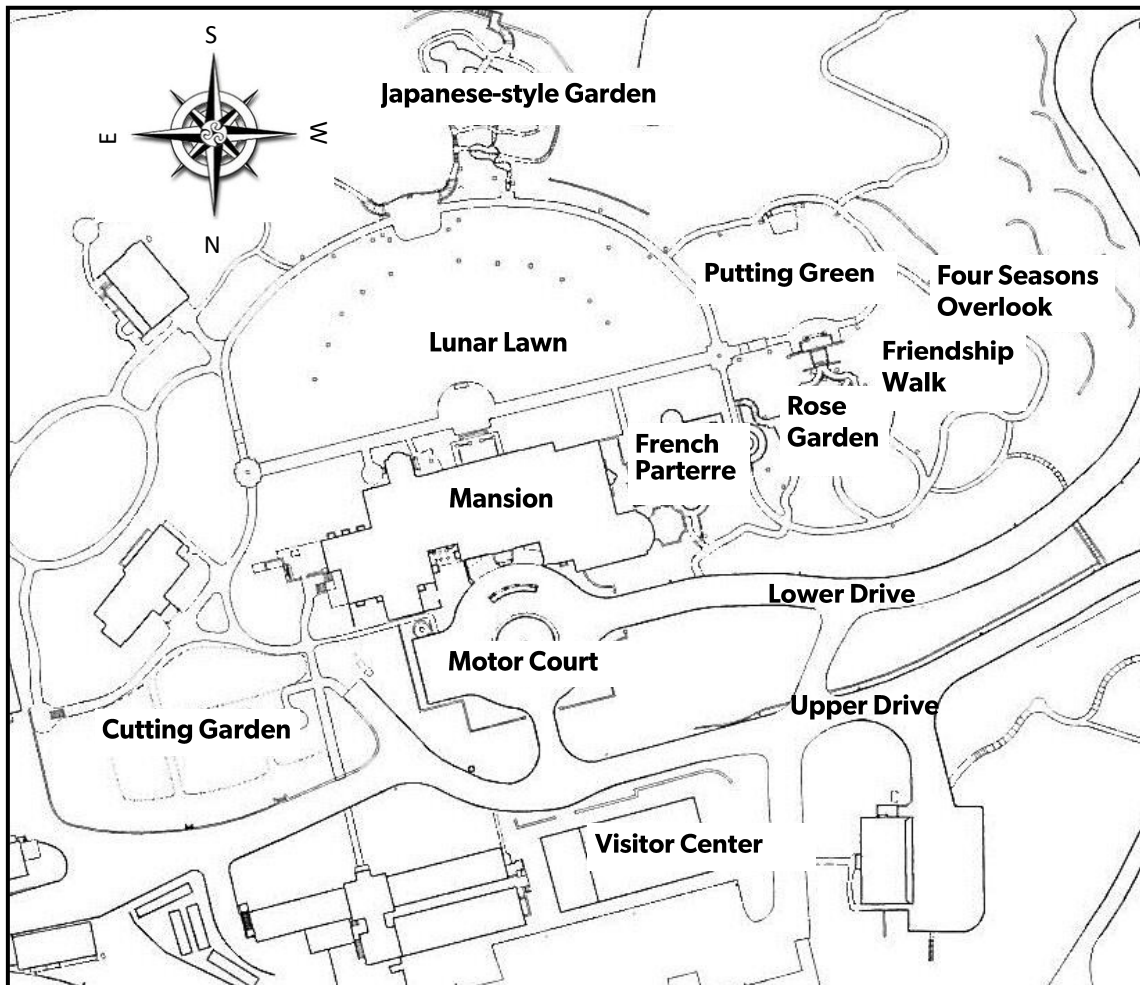
- The common name of the plant
- The botanical name, genus and species, in italics– may also include the name of the cultivar in single quotation marks
- The family to which the plant belongs (always ending in –aceae)
- Location: information about the specific location of a plant at Hillwood
- Characteristics: includes important botanical features that help identify the plant
- Relevance: the history of that particular plant, i.e. whether it is an original plant from Post's tenure, a replacement, or one planted at another time
- Interesting details: a wide array of information that may touch upon the plant's naming, discovery, or related plants
- Photos with captions showing the plant at Hillwood and its prominent features

Extras

There are three sections following the garden rooms. One is a glossary of common horticultural terms used in the guide. The second is a list of sources for further reading. Lastly is the index, listed by common name.

Sources and Credits

The historical information about Hillwood's plantings comes from horticulturist Bill Johnson, who was a staff member from 1983 to 2016 and gathered information from other gardeners and staff employed during Post's tenure. All photos are owned by Hillwood. The text is a combination of previous versions by special-projects volunteer Betty Cochran and additional text from Director of Horticulture Jessica Bonilla. Much of the information on general plant characteristics is drawn from Michael A. Durr's highly detailed *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants* (fifth edition, Stipes Publishing, 1998) or the Missouri Botanical Garden's *Plant Finder*. All information is adapted to Hillwood.



Garden Rooms & More

Click on a name to see a particular section!

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MOTOR COURT

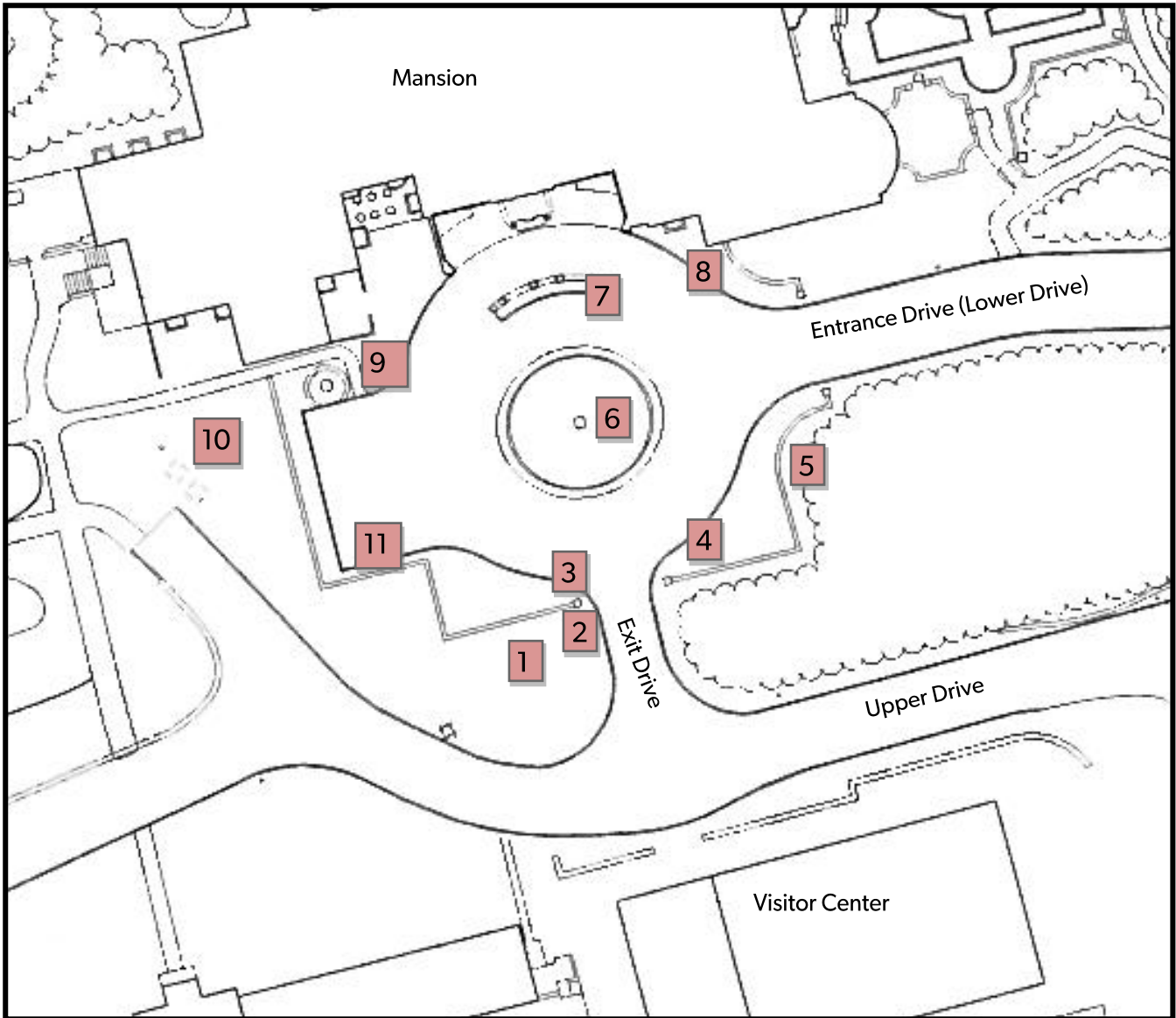
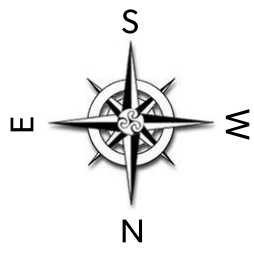


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1. Dawn redwood

Metasequoia glyptostroboides

Cupressaceae (Taxodiaceae)

Location: With your back to the mansion, it is the very tall, conical tree on the outside of the eastern motor court wall. There are two others in the bed between the mansion and the visitor center.

Characteristics: A very fast-growing conifer with a beautiful pyramidal form that can reach 100' in height. It has bright-green, needle-like leaves that turn brown in the fall and then drop. It is one of about twenty deciduous conifers in the world. Long, airy, hanging clusters of male flowers are especially noticeable after the needles have dropped. The trunk is fluted and the bark is fissured and exfoliates in long strips.

Relevance: Planted in 1960, five years after Marjorie Merriweather Post purchased Hillwood, when they were only 5' tall.

Interesting Details: The species is 100 million years old. It was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in China and introduced to other countries in the 1940s. It is related to the giant sequoias and coastal redwoods.



Summer

Dawn redwood continued



Detail of cone



Leaf detail



Autumn color



Winter with terminal male flowers



Bark and trunk detail

2. Variegated English holly

Ilex aquifolium 'Aureomarginata'

Aquifoliaceae

Location: Roughly 5' tall, this broad leaf evergreen shrub sits outside the eastern motor court wall, about five feet in from the exit drive. It has a match flanking the western side of the drive and there are several more in and around the Lunar Lawn.

Characteristics: The spiny-margined leaves of this cultivar have a striking yellow border. Occasionally, small white fragrant flowers in May develop into red berries (technically called drupes).

Relevance: Post's original hollies were replaced during the garden restoration of the late 1990s. These two hollies are pruned into a domed shape, reflecting the motor court's formal landscape design.

Interesting Details: In the cultivar name, Aureomarginata, "Aureo" means gold and "marginata" means margin.



Outside the motor court wall



Near the putting green



Winter leaf and fruit detail



Summer leaf and fruit detail

3. Formosa firethorn

Pyracantha koidzumii 'Formosa'

Rosaceae

Location: A semi-evergreen shrub trained on the pillar of the eastern motor court wall at the exit drive. There are others at both the entrance and exit drive pillars, on the pillars along Linnean Avenue and espaliered on the mansion at the porte-cochere and pavilion.

Characteristics: An upright-growing shrub with stiff-looking branches, lustrous, dark-green leaves and thorns. White flowers in May give way in October to brilliant masses of small red-orange fruits that persist into winter or until the birds eat them all.

Relevance: From Post's tenure. Pruned regularly to maintain the intent of the design.

Interesting Details: Some people have allergic reactions to the thorns, hence the common name firethorn.



Spring flowers



Red orange fruit in autumn



Leaf and thorn detail



Detail of fruit

4. Kurume azaleas

Rhododendron 'Hinodegiri'

Ericaceae

Location: The second semi-evergreen shrub in from the exit drive along the inside of the western wall. From this point, 'Hinodegiri' alternates with the white flowered "Snow" (also a Kurume hybrid). There are other 'Hinodegiri' scattered throughout Hillwood, including notable plants in the Lunar Lawn beds and French parterre.

Characteristics: This cultivar grows to roughly 4' and has small leaves that take on a reddish tinge especially in winter. Small, funnel-shaped flowers are single and a vivid red. One of the earliest azaleas to flower at Hillwood, profuse blooms cover the entire plant.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Kurume is a group of azaleas hybridized by Motozo Sakamoto in the early 1800s in the town of Kurume on Kyushu island in Japan. At this point, until more genetic testing occurs by the nursery industry, parentage remains uncertain, hence the lack of a species name. Kurume azaleas were very popular when Post began her Hillwood garden—and several are still sold today.



'Hinodegiri' (red) alternating with 'Snow' (white) along the western motor court wall



Detail of flowers



'Hinodegiri' in the western Lunar Lawn bed



'Hinodegiri' and 'Snow' in the French parterre

5. Purple-leafed plum

Prunus cerasifera 'Hollywood'

Rosaceae

Location: A large tree with purplish leaves located behind the western wall of the motor court. Others are located along the lower drive.

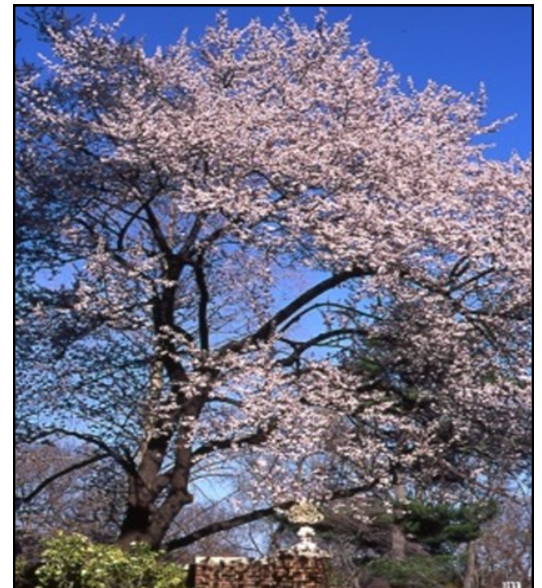
Characteristics: A deciduous tree with leaves that are dark-green above and reddish-purple below. Fragrant light-pink flowers, turning to white, appear before the leaves. Two-inch reddish fruits follow in the summer.

Relevance: From Post's tenure. One of the earliest trees to flower at Hillwood, usually in early March.

Interesting Details: The 'Hollywood' cultivar, which is no longer available in the nursery trade, is much longer-lived than the purple-leafed cultivars typically found today. This is due to the upper side of the leaf being green, which allows for more efficient photosynthesis to occur, whereas newer cultivars are purple-leafed on the top and bottom.



Summer foliage still shows purple



Flowers in March



Leaves in summer—upper side is green



Detail of fruit and leaf

6. Golden triumph boxwood

Buxus microphylla 'Golden Triumph'

Buxaceae

Location: Shrubs forming four low V-shaped hedges in the circular bed in the center of the motor court.

Characteristics: A dense shrub with a rounded form reaching 3' tall if left unpruned. Small evergreen leaves sport yellow on the leaf margins (edges) and green in the center. Leaf variegation is not apparent on new growth but develops as the leaf ages. Often confused with holly, boxwood leaves are opposite each other on the stem whereas holly leaves are in an alternate pattern.

Relevance: These are replacements installed in 2023 after the originals became too large and started to decline. The boxwood is pruned frequently to maintain the motor court's formal design.

Interesting Details: It is called boxwood because younger stems take on a square shape in cross section.



Location near Eros: V-shape echoes the shape of Eros' arrows
- 2023 photo right after installation and first pruning



Winter after first season



Leaf detail



The strips in the French parterre

7. Chinese juniper

Juniperus chinensis 'Blue Point'

Cupressaceae

Location: The sheared, dome-shaped evergreen shrub in front of the double columns on the west side of the porte-cochere. It has a match on the east side.

Characteristics: A dense, branching, evergreen conifer with a tear-shaped outline that can grow to roughly 12' tall. Its blue-green needles are quite prickly on juvenile foliage, but change and become softer with maturity. Fleshy bluish cones (berries) appear in early summer.

Relevance: The junipers originally here during Post's time were replaced in the late-1990s garden restoration. Sheared to maintain the size and formal shape desired for this location.

Interesting Details: Juniper berries are what give gin its distinct flavor.



Juniperus chinensis 'Blue Point' by west and east columns



Detail of juniper berries



Detail of soft, adult foliage and juvenile, prickly needles

8. Eastern red cedar

Juniperus virginiana

Cupressaceae

Location: Sheared dome-shaped conifer along the western side of the mansion. Other red cedars, usually much taller and not always sheared, are located throughout the gardens, notably at the French parterre, Four Seasons Overlook and along the lower drive.

Characteristics: A dense, pyramidal, evergreen conifer that can easily reach 50 feet tall. It has short blue-green, overlapping needles and beautiful reddish brown bark that exfoliates in long strips.

Relevance: From Post's tenure. Sheared to maintain its size and formal shape.

Interesting Details: It is a juniper, not a cedar, despite its common name, eastern red cedar. The wood is often used to make cedar chests. It is also a mid-Atlantic native.



After shearing for tight shape



Before summer pruning outside the French parterre



Detail of needles and male flowers



Detail of juvenile foliage at the ends of the branches and adult foliage deeper in the plant

9. Flowering dogwood

Cornus florida

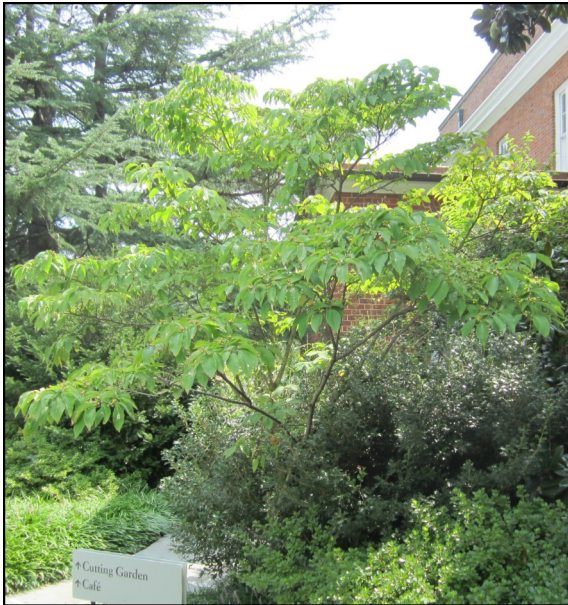
Cornaceae

Location: Several small trees on the inside of the motor court along the western wall. There are other dogwoods along the eastern wall and scattered throughout the property.

Characteristics: A small deciduous tree appreciated for many qualities, including its showy white or pink four-petaled flowers in April or May. (The flowers are actually bracts, a type of leaf). It displays small glossy red fruit and reddish-purple foliage in the fall. Also notable are its alligator-like bark and the horizontal, layered lines of its branches.

Relevance: Most are replacements of Post's original trees.

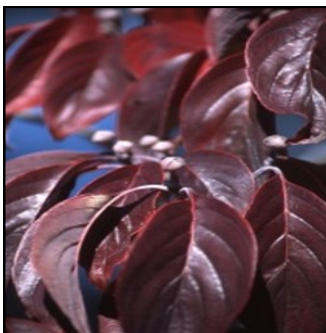
Interesting Details: A US native tree.



Tree on east side of motor court



Pink and white dogwoods in flower in motor court



Fall color



Pink dogwood flower



Detail of fruit in summer



Fruit when ripe

10. Deodar cedar

Cedrus deodara

Pinaceae

Location: The large evergreen tree outside the eastern wall of the motor court close to the mansion .

Characteristics: A large, evergreen conifer, about 60 feet tall with gracefully drooping lower branches. Deodar cedars have a softer look than many other conifers because their grayish-green needles grow mainly in spirals or whorls around the shoots, with 15 to 20 needles in each cluster. It also produces large celadon-colored cones that sit atop the branches like greenish ceramic eggs that then turn brown.

Relevance: Planted during Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: It is native to the western Himalayas from Afghanistan to western Nepal.



Detail of needles and cone



Cedrus deodara near the motor court



The cones do not fall off—the scales of the cone disperse



It takes 2 years for the cones to mature

11. Boston ivy

Parthenocissus tricuspidata

Vitaceae

Location: Vine on the inside on the eastern wall enclosing the motor court. There is more on the outside of the wall and on the western side close to the mansion.

Characteristics: A fast growing, deciduous vine with lustrous green, three-lobed leaves. Produces small bluish black berries and can have excellent red and purple fall color.

Relevance: The ivy on the outside of the wall is from Post's tenure. The ivy on the inside may have been added or was allowed to fill in later.

Interesting Details: It is the plant from which the term 'Ivy League' is derived due to its use at many prestigious universities. It is not really an "ivy" (the genus *Hedera*) but is closely related to our native Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*).



Fruit detail



Fall color

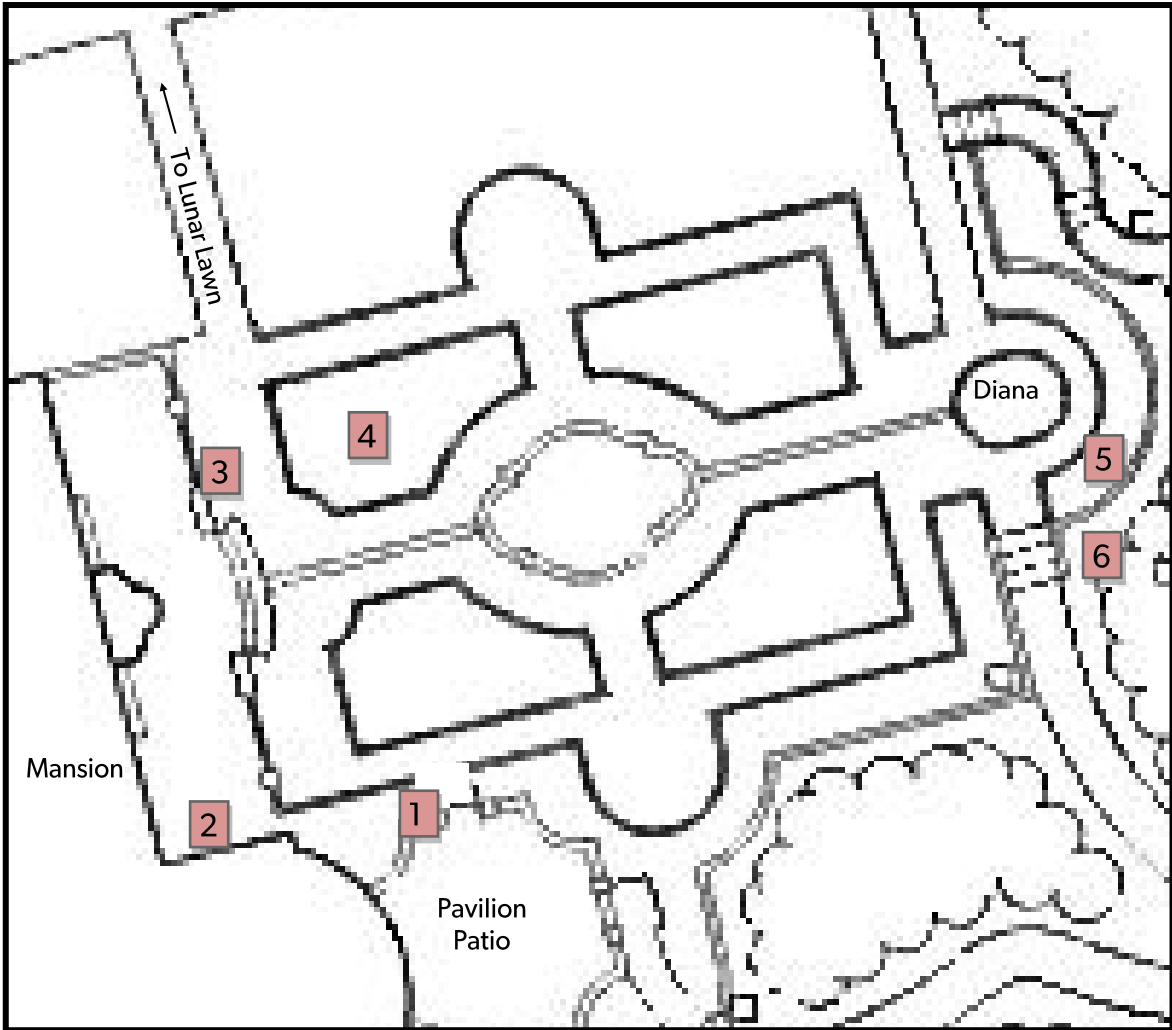
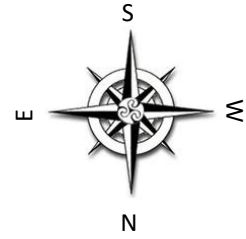


Leafless in winter



Summer foliage

FRENCH PARTERRE



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1. English ivy

Hedera helix

Araliaceae

Location: Evergreen vines trained on a tall metal framework that encloses the entire French parterre garden and forms the backdrop for the swan fountain. English ivy is also used as a groundcover elsewhere, for example in the motor court circular central bed and by the breakfast room fountain.

Characteristics: A fast growing, evergreen vine that develops dark green juvenile foliage with 3-5 lobes. Adult foliage typically lacks these lobes and is a lighter shade of green. English ivy attaches itself to structures by secreting a glue-like substance from aerial roots along its stem.

Relevance: From Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: English ivy will develop adult foliage and flower only after it has grown vertically on a structure. Mature leaves usually have less lobes and are visible surrounding the lamps above the swan fountain. Continual pruning of the ivy controls flower and seed production that would otherwise contribute to the invasiveness of this plant in our community.



Doorway to the parterre from the patio outside the pavilion



Mature foliage around swan fountain



Near the breakfast room



Dark green, juvenile leaves with light green new growth

2. Southern magnolia

Magnolia grandiflora

Magnoliaceae

Location: Large-leafed evergreen plant espaliered on the mansion wall on the left side of the raised terrace. Two other espaliers of southern magnolia are on the front of the mansion and on the pavilion wall. There are also full-sized southern magnolia trees growing elsewhere at Hillwood, including three near the dacha.

Characteristics: Typically a large evergreen tree reaching 80' tall. It has large, leathery, lustrous dark-green leaves with a rust-colored pubescent (softly hairy) underside. They are notable for their large, creamy-white, fragrant flowers in June and July.

Relevance: It is a replacement of a magnolia from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Espalier is an unusual treatment of this broad-leafed evergreen tree. Pruning is done by staff to maintain form and leaf density. A southern magnolia espalier is grown to showcase its foliage, not its flowers, since the aggressive pruning required does not allow for flower production. It is native to the southern United States.



Espaliered on the mansion wall in the French parterre



Full sized tree near the dacha



Flower detail near the Visitor Center



Detail of leaves and fruit

3. Nana Lutea hinoki cypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Lutea'

Cupressaceae

Location: Four upright, evergreen shrubs planted in front of the porch.

Characteristics: A slow-growing, dwarf hinoki cypress that will form a narrow pyramid as it matures. Fan-shaped, evergreen foliage forms overlapping layers with the outer foliage accented in golden yellow.

Relevance: The plants at the porch have been replaced multiple times due to growing out of scale with the garden and covering the statues. The decision in 2023 was to replace the rounded golden arborvitae planted in the 2000 restoration with the slower growing, more pyramidal Nana Lutea hinoki cypress.

Interesting Details: 'Nana Lutea' was found as a golden mutation on another popular hinoki cypress cultivar 'Nana Gracilis' by Jan Spek, a famous nurseryman of Boskoop, Netherlands in 1966. Cuttings are usually taken of these mutations and new plants are started from the cuttings.



The upright evergreen on the south side of the porch closest to the marble sphinx statue



Leaf Detail

4. Morris Dwarf boxwood

Buxus microphylla var. *japonica* 'Morris Dwarf'

Buxaceae

Location: Plants forming a low flowing design in all four quadrants of the French parterre. 'Golden Triumph' (see motor court) constitutes the taller rectangle in the design.

Characteristics: Dense, low-growing, evergreen shrubs that grow slowly but require pruning to retain their shape. The small leaves have a deep green color but takes on a bronze cast in winter. As temperatures warm, they change again to their lustrous green appearance.

Relevance: These plants have been replaced multiple times with the most recent planting in 2013. Through various change outs, the original form has been scrupulously retained.

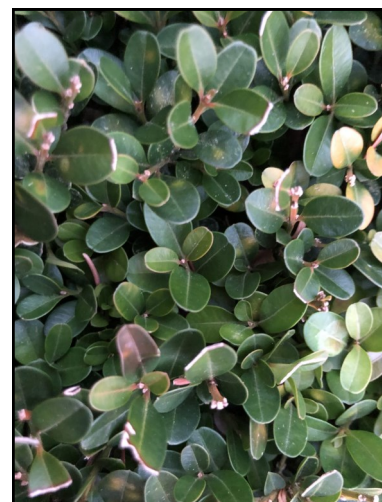
Interesting Details: The wood of boxwood is very dense and does not expand and contract much with moisture. For that reason, it has been used to make all types of measuring devices and musical instruments and as a medium for sculpture.



Looking out on the boxwood from the Southeast quadrant in summer



Southeast quadrant seen from porch



Leaf Detail

5. Variegated Japanese euonymus

Euonymus japonicus 'Silver Queen'

Celastraceae

Location: The low hedge behind the statue of Diana. There are also Japanese euonymus in the Japanese-style garden that have reverted to all green.

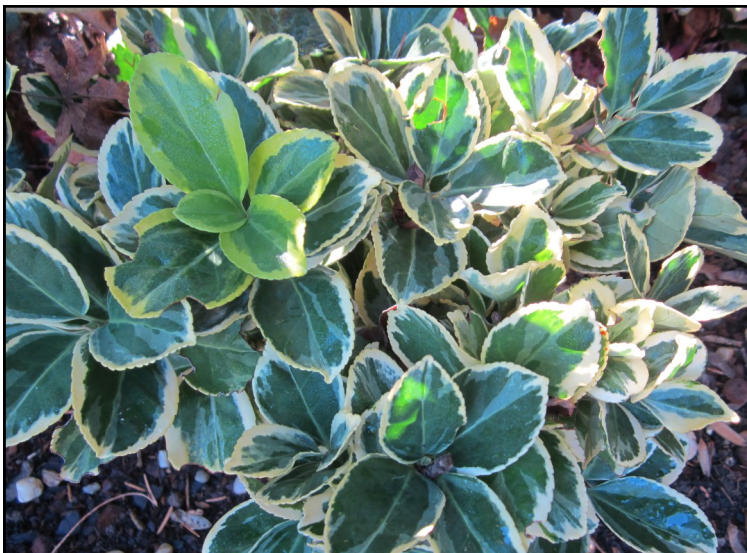
Characteristics: An upright, evergreen shrub with leathery leaves that have green centers with cream-white variegation on the margins (edges). Japanese euonymus can grow 6' tall when left unpruned and can adapt to both full sun and heavy shade habitats.

Relevance: A 2015 replacement of the original from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: It is widely used in Europe, especially in coastal areas, due to its tolerance of salt spray.



Hedge behind the statue of Diana



Leaf detail



Detail of fruit on an all green plant in Japanese-style garden

6. Japanese maple

Acer palmatum

Aceraceae

Location: A medium-sized tree viewed north of the statue of Diana planted outside the ivy wall. There is another located outside the wall just south of Diana. There are also other Japanese maples planted elsewhere, for example, in the Japanese-style garden.

Characteristics: A deciduous tree with deeply lobed leaves that start as reddish in the spring, turn green, and develop brilliant color in the fall. Small, reddish, spring flowers become double-winged samaras (seed pods). Handsome grey bark on older trees is also of note.

Relevance: The tree north of Diana has multiple trunks (atypical) and one of these trunks is actually a separate plant, hence the different orange fall color. This tree is from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: This species has a large number of cultivars typically divided into dissected varieties and non-dissected (dissected meaning deeply cut leaves). The trees in the French parterre are non-dissected; they typically grow larger and the leaves have fewer lobes. The Japanese maple in the Japanese-style garden, located on the north east shore of the bottom pool, is a dissected variety. It stays small and has deeply cut leaves with many lobes.



Summer view shows the maple north of Diana has green foliage. Another maple to the south has red.



Fall foliage color



Leaf detail: non-dissected at French parterre



Detail of multiple trunks

Japanese maple continued



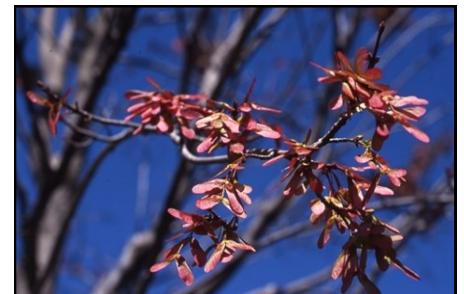
Full-sized maple in Japanese-style garden showing red summer foliage



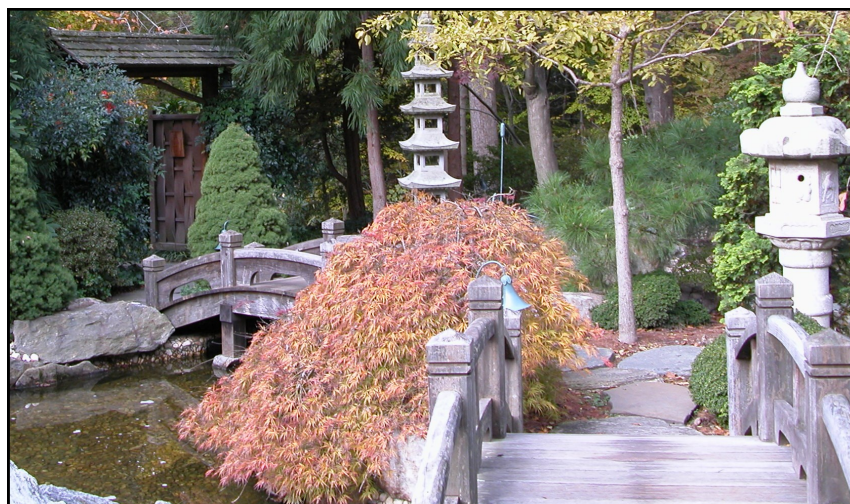
Mature double-winged samaras



The dissected variety in the Japanese-style garden in summer



Young double-winged samaras

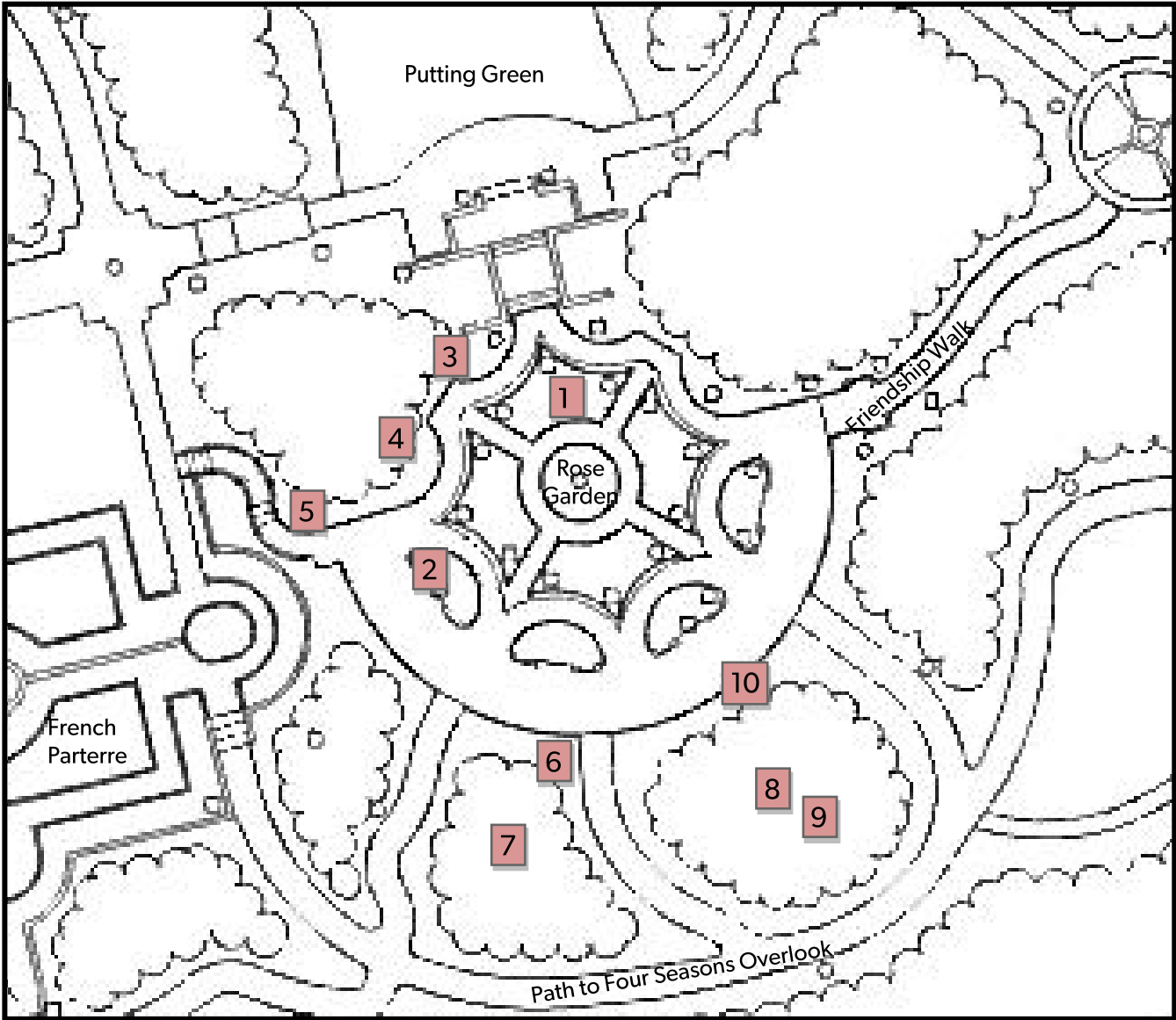
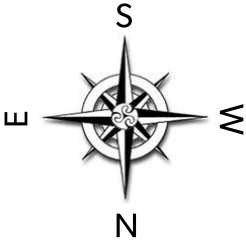


Fall color



Leaf detail; note dissected in Japanese-style garden

ROSE GARDEN



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1. Floribunda roses

Rosa cultivars include: 'Apricot Nectar', 'Europeana', 'Elizabeth of Glamis', SUNBELT TUPELO HONEY, 'City of Leeds', 'Gene Boerner', BOLERO, SUNBELT SOUTH AFRICA, 'Gruss an Aachen' and EASY SPIRIT.

Rosaceae

Location: Located throughout the 12 beds in the rose garden.

Characteristics: A deciduous shrub with lustrous green, compound leaves (several leaflets), multiple canes, and thorns. Flowers are large and come in a wide variety of colors with multiple flowers per stem. Blooms in the spring and then sporadically until frost.

Relevance: The original floribundas from Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure declined with age and were removed and replaced multiple times over the years. As part of our sustainability initiatives, roses are being evaluated for disease susceptibility under a no-spray regimen. Poor performing roses are being replaced with modern, disease resistant, floribunda cultivars.

Interesting Details: Floribunda roses are the result of crossing hybrid tea roses with polyantha roses. Hybrid teas provide the large flowers and variety of colors while the multiple flower heads come from the polyanthas.



Peak bloom in May



Multiple flower head of 'Europeana'



BOLERO added to the garden in 2021 for its disease resistance



Sweet smelling 'Apricot Nectar'

2. Climbing and rambling roses

Rosa cultivars include: 'American Pillar', 'New Dawn', 'Blaze', 'Mme Alfred Carrier', 'Dortmund' and 'Mermaid'

Rosaceae

Location: Large shrubs growing over the south-facing side of the pergola, in the adjacent rose beds.

Characteristics: Semi-deciduous shrubs with lustrous green compound leaves (several leaflets) and long canes with thorns that don't really climb but are trained by being secured to supports. Flowers come in a wide variety of colors and bloom in the spring with sporadic flowering until frost.

Relevance: Part of the design from Post's tenure. The one 'American Pillar', at the eastern end of the pergola, is thought to be an original from Post's tenure. All others are replacements but all were available in the trade in the 1960s.

Interesting Details: 'American Pillar' is a rambling rose whereas the others are designated as climbers. Rambling roses typically bloom only once and grow much faster and larger than climbers.



View of the east side of the arbor



'New Dawn' in bloom

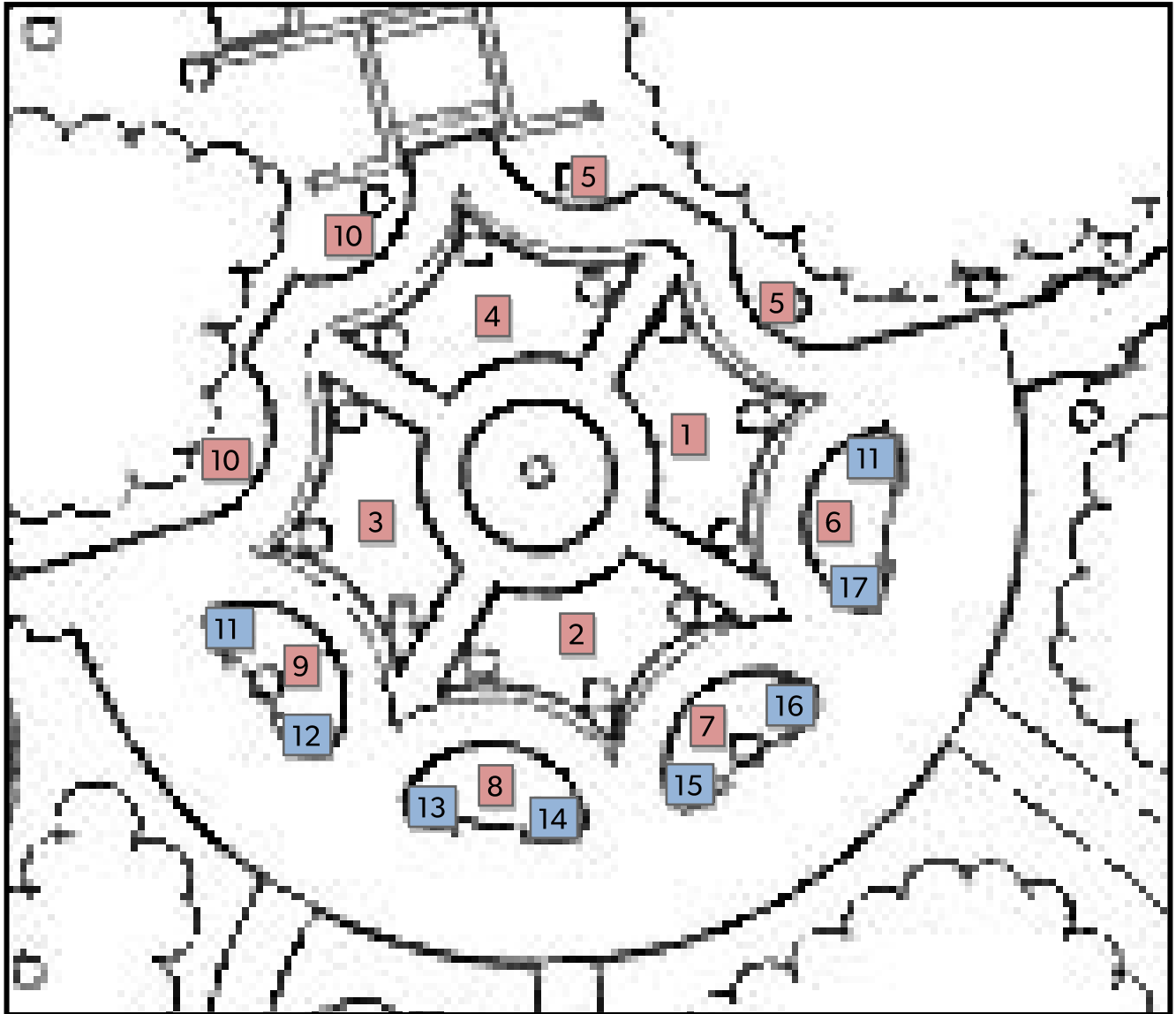
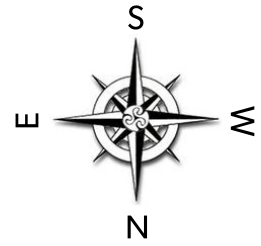


Detail of 'Mermaid' rose



Base or crown of the plant

Map of rose cultivar locations



Floribunda roses (in beds)

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Sunbelt Tupelo Honey | 6. City of Leeds |
| 2. Apricot Nectar | 7. Gene Boerner |
| 3. Europeana | 8. Bolero |
| 4. Elizabeth of Glamis | 9. South Africa |
| 5. Easy Spirit | 10. Gruss an Aachen |

Climbing and rambling roses (on pergola)

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 11. American Pillar | 15. Blaze |
| 12. Mermaid | 16. New Dawn |
| 13. Mme Alfred Carrier | 17. Dortmund |
| 14. Westerland | |

3. American or common boxwood

Buxus sempervirens

Buxaceae

Location: Evergreen hedge behind the roses on the east and west side of the top step that leads to the putting green.

Characteristics: Large evergreen shrub that can grow to 20' when not treated as a hedge. The leaves are lustrous dark green on top, light green below and tend to be elliptical in shape. Leaves can turn a purple or bronze hue in winter.

Relevance: The hedges are made up of plants transplanted from two rows originally located down the middle of the Lunar Lawn. The plants were moved from the Lunar Lawn to the rose garden under Post's direction.

Interesting Details: It is known as American boxwood only here in the US. It was brought with and planted by early European settlers to America. It is not native to the US. *Buxus sempervirens* is native to Eurasia and Africa.



View of the hedge showing both sections



Bottom center is last years seed capsule, above middle are the new flower buds



Detail of opposite leaves

4. Chinese snowball viburnum

Viburnum macrocephalum

Adoxaceae

Location: Large shrub behind the boxwood hedge on the east side.

Characteristics: Large semi-evergreen shrub that can grow to 15' in a rounded vase-shape form. Flowers appear April-May and start as a chartreuse color maturing to white, globose clusters. Some flowers may reach 8" across. Flowers are sterile, hence no fruit is produced. The leaves are pubescent and finely toothed.

Relevance: This plant was added to the garden in 2016 as a interesting comparison with the Japanese snowball viburnum at the putting green.

Interesting Details: *Viburnum macrocephalum* var. *keteleeri* is found in the wild in mainland China and has both sterile and fertile florets.



Large shrub in the forefront behind the boxwood hedge near the eastern end of the pergola; winter, semi-deciduous look



Chartreuse flower buds



Shrub in full bloom



Detail of flowers

5. Japanese pieris

Pieris japonica

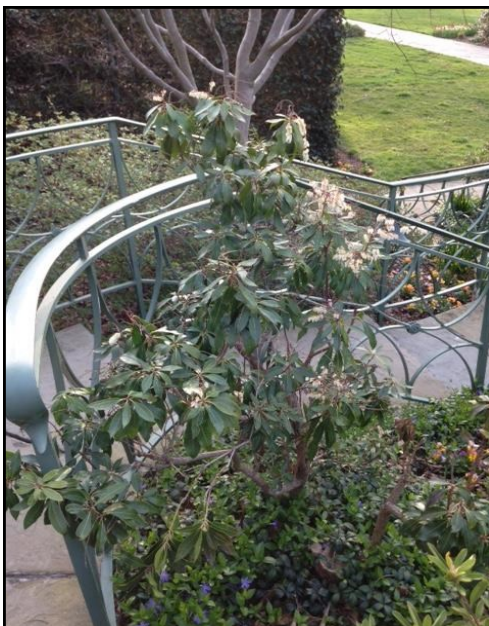
Ericaceae

Location: The evergreen shrub at the southern top of the iron-balustraded steps leading into the rose garden from the french parterre. Many other Japanese pieris are located at Hillwood, including in the Lunar Lawn beds and along the lower drive, often in partly shaded areas.

Characteristics: Growing up to 12', depending on the cultivar, this broadleaf, evergreen shrub has narrow leaves that emerge bronzy-green or reddish and change to a lustrous dark green. Long clusters of tiny, urn-shaped flowers appear in March. Clusters of tiny seed capsules persist into the winter.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Another common name for *Pieris japonica* is Lily of the Valley Bush due to similarities in flower shape and poisonous leaves. The two are not closely related.



Japanese pieris at rose garden stairs



Detail of bark and leaves



Seed capsules



Leaf and flower



Pink flowering cultivar

6. Common lilac

Syringa vulgaris

Oleaceae

Location: A tall, deciduous shrub on the eastern side of the path closest to the center of the pergola. There are others in the Lunar Lawn beds and along the upper and lower drives.

Characteristics: A tall, upright, leggy shrub with bluish-green leaves. Extremely fragrant clusters of blue-violet flowers open at the end of the shoots in April.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Washington, DC is at the southern end of this plants' heat tolerance and plants often suffer in this area. Lilacs are typically rejuvenated by pruning out older stems and letting new growth develop from the base of the plant.



Path leading from center of rose pergola



Bud and leaf detail



New growth coming from base of plant

7. Fuzzy deutzia

Deutzia scabra

Hydrangeaceae

Location: A tall, deciduous shrub in the middle of the bed on the eastern side of the path closest to the center of the pergola.

Characteristics: A deciduous shrub growing to roughly 10' with arching branches and brown peeling bark. The leaves are a dull green with hairs on both sides, giving it a sandpaper-like feel. Pure white or pink-tinged flowers emerge in 6" panicles in June.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Considered an old fashioned shrub and difficult to find in the trade, *Deutzia scabra* has fallen out of favor due to its size and often coarse appearance. Even so, it is a reliable bloomer year after year and brightens up any shrub border when in flower.



Early spring view with emerging leaves



Leaf and flower detail



Seed capsule



Bark and trunk

8. Swamp white oak

Quercus bicolor

Fagaceae

Location: Starting at the first path east of the Friendship Walk entrance, it is the large deciduous tree towards the center of the bed on the east side of the walk.

Characteristics: A large shade tree growing to over 60' with leaves reaching 7" long that are dark-green above and grayish-green beneath. Inconspicuous, pendulous flower clusters develop acorns with caps that cover three-quarters of the nut.

Relevance: Added to the garden in the 2014 renovation of the bed.

Interesting Details: Native to Northeastern North America.



Spring view from under the rose garden pergola



Detail of bark



View of location near rose pergola

9. Daphniphyllum

Daphniphyllum macropodum

Daphniphyllaceae

Location: Starting at the first path east of the Friendship Walk entrance, it is the evergreen shrub toward the northwest side of the bed on the east side of the walk.

Characteristics: A broadleaf, evergreen shrub that can reach 15-25' and can take on a haystack shape. The closely developed, lustrous dark-green leaves at the ends of the shoots create a pseudo-whorl effect. The flowers are inconspicuous but develop into small, bluish black drupes.

Relevance: Added to the garden in the 2014 renovation of the bed.

Interesting Details: *Daphniphyllum macropodum* is often used to replace the textural effect of rhododendron in the South where rhododendrons suffer due to heat stress.



Viewed from the second path to the rose garden from the motor court towards Linnean Avenue



Whorled effect of leaves

10. Foam flower

Tiarella cordifolia 'Brandywine'

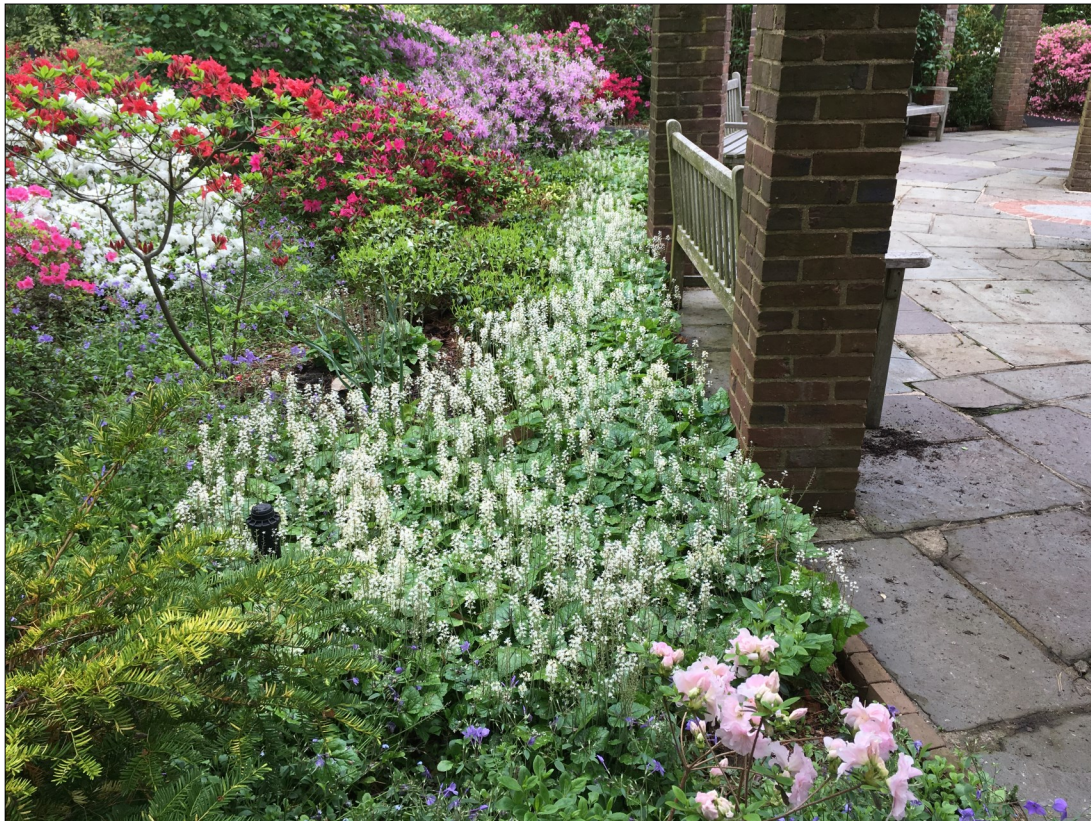
Saxifragaceae

Location: Starting at the path just east of the Friendship Walk entrance, it is the patch of perennials along the edge of the bed adjacent to the back of the rose pergola

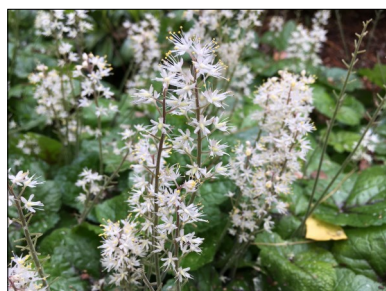
Characteristics: Small, shade tolerant perennial that spreads by stolons (runners) to form masses of foliage. Small white flowers develop on leafless stems to about 10" tall late April to May. Foliage has 3 to 5 lobes, is semi-glossy and often evergreen depending on the severity of the winter.

Relevance: Added to the garden in the 2014 renovation of the bed.

Interesting Details: The common name, Foamflower, comes from the foamy appearance of its flowers caused by extremely long stamens (male reproductive organs) protruding from each flower



Spring view from garden path

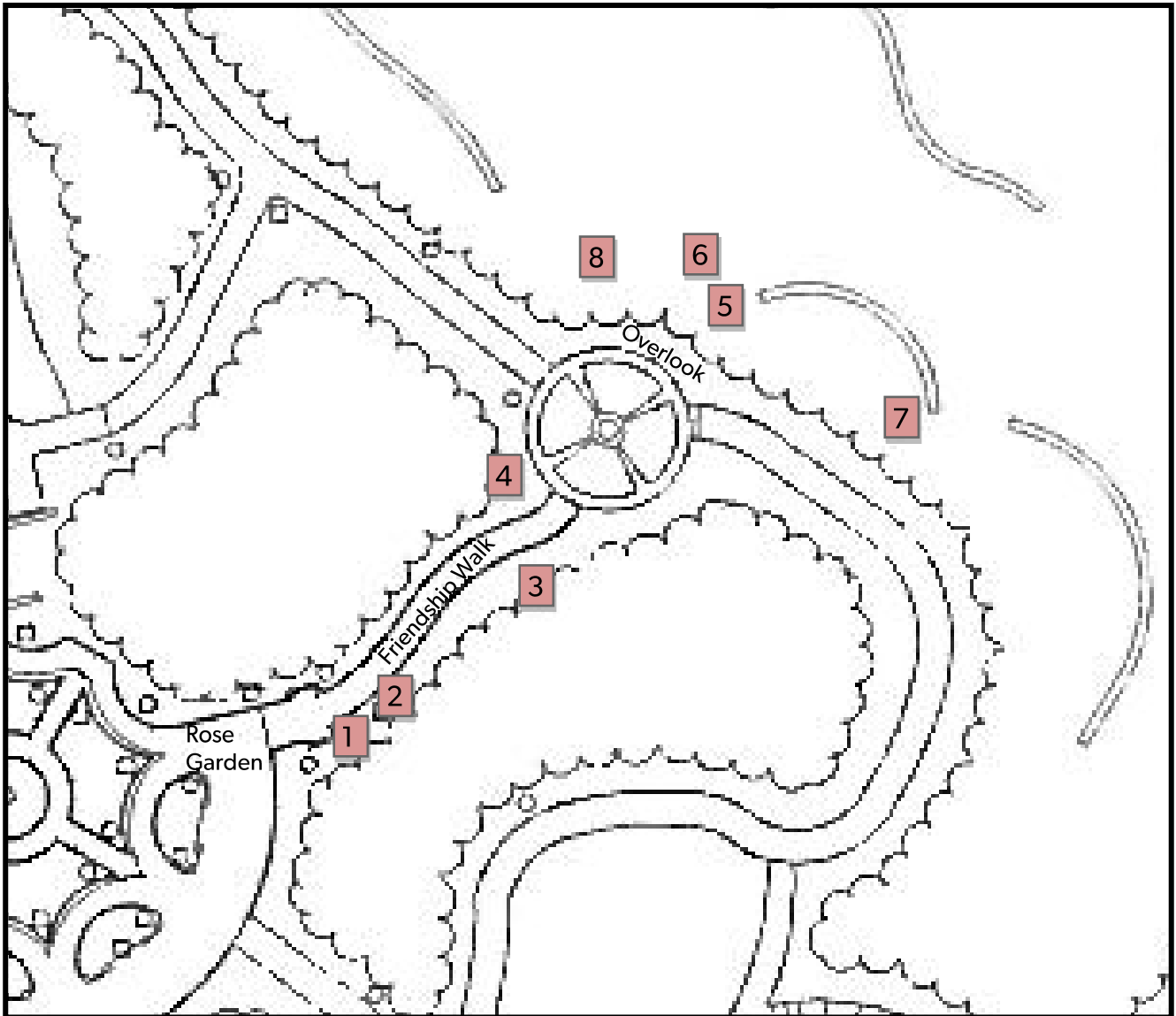
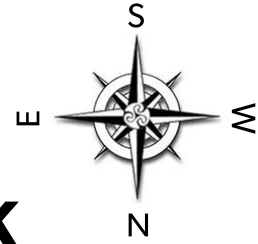


Flower detail



Leaf detail

FRIENDSHIP WALK & FOUR SEASONS OVERLOOK



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1. Koreanspice viburnum

Viburnum carlesii

Adoxaceae

Location: The deciduous shrub just inside the gate on the north side of the path. Another is found farther down the path making a pair flanking the Boy Scout plaque.

Characteristics: An upright, rounded, deciduous shrub that typically grows 4-5' but can reach 8' in perfect conditions. Flower buds in April or May begin a dark pink color and open into a very fragrant ball of white flowers with a pink blush. Fertilized flowers develop into bluish-black berry-like drupes in the fall but are not as impressive as other viburnum. The foliage is a soft green color and covered in pubescence.

Relevance: These plants were added as part of a planting restoration around the Boy Scout plaque in the early 2010's. Declining plants were replaced with those from a design produced by Perry Wheeler.

Interesting Details: Many viburnum species are used in the landscape. A native species often seen now for sale is the possumhaw viburnum (*Viburnum nudum*). The cultivar 'Brandywine' is planted in front of the greenhouse. Several introduced species are now considered invasive. *Viburnum carlesii* was introduced from Korea and Japan but is not considered invasive at this time.



Flowering shrubs flanking the Boy Scout plaque



Winter appearance after leaf drop



Flower detail



Leaf detail

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2. False holly

Osmanthus heterophyllus 'Gulftide'

Oleaceae

Location: Evergreen shrubs surrounding the Boy Scout plaque. Osmanthus is also found in front of the greenhouse and in the motor court at the path entrance from the cutting garden.

Characteristics: A dense, upright, bushy evergreen shrub that can grow to 10-15' without pruning. The leaves are glossy with spiny, toothed margins that can often be confused with holly. Small white four-petaled flowers appear in fall and the fragrance wafts through the garden (Another plant not visible from this garden, Eleagnus, can also provide fragrance in this area).

Relevance: These plants were added as part of a planting restoration around the Boy Scout plaque in the early 2010's. Declining plants were replaced with those from a design produced by Perry Wheeler.

Interesting Details: Osmanthus leaves are arranged opposite of each other on the stem while holly leaves are arranged alternately. False hollies are also dioecious, having male and female flowers on separate plants.



Evergreens surrounding the Boy Scout



Bushy, upright form



Leaf detail



Flower detail

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3. NewGen INDEPENDENCE boxwood

Buxus NewGen INDEPENDENCE

Buxaceae

Location: The hedge of evergreen shrubs around the hush boy statue on the northwest side of Friendship Walk. There are more located on the other side of the path.

Characteristics: A dense, compact cultivar that is deemed a good disease resistant substitution for English boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens* 'Suffruticosa'). This evergreen shrub has a rounded habit and when left unpruned can mature to 4-5' tall and wide. The leaves are deep green, slightly elongated, and born opposite each other on the stem.

Relevance: These are replacements for the original English boxwood removed in 2022 due to boxwood blight. The sign stating that the boxwood come from Mount Vernon has been kept for posterity.

Interesting Details: NewGen INDEPENDENCE is a recent boxwood introduction bred to be resistant to boxwood blight, a fungal disease introduced to the US in 2011 decimating boxwood plantings in more than twenty-five states. The name INDEPENDENCE is capitalized to indicate that the name is trade-marked.



New boxwood surrounding the "Hush Boy" statue



Boxwood along both sides of the walk



The rounded form of a single plant



Leaf detail

4. Split-petal azalea

Rhododendron x 'Koromo Shikibu'

Ericaceae

Location: The semi-evergreen shrub, set behind the hedge of boxwood, on the southeast corner of the path where the Friendship Walk meets the Four Seasons Overlook. There are more scattered throughout Hillwood, especially along the paths to the vista and rose garden.

Characteristics: A large azalea growing 4-5' tall. Long-lasting flowers have narrow, strap-like petals (hence the common name split-petal) in a pinkish-purple with darker tips. The leaves are also narrow, with a reddish cast in winter. Blooms in April.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: This azalea is particularly striking when in flower and is often inquired about by visitors. The flower is sometimes described as "spider-like." Typically not available in local garden centers, it can be purchased online.



The light pink azalea on the left, looking toward the overlook



A plant in full bloom



Detail of flower in bud and foliage

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5. Common crapemyrtle

Lagerstroemia indica

Lythraceae

Location: Medium-sized, multiple-trunked deciduous tree on the northwest side of the overlook.

Characteristics: A vase-shaped tree with multiple trunks. Watermelon-colored clusters of flowers appear in summer and may last several weeks. Fall foliage can be nice in yellows, oranges, and reds. Clusters of half-inch seed capsules persist through winter. The smooth, light-colored bark exfoliates to show underlayers of olive-green, gray, and brown. Attractive in all seasons.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The U.S. National Arboretum in Washington, DC is known for their work with crapemyrtles and has released nearly thirty named cultivars to the landscaping trade.



Winter view showing location



Plant in full bloom



Showing the fall leaf color



Detail of flower and leaf



There are other cultivars at Hillwood

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6. Star magnolia

Magnolia stellata

Magnoliaceae

Location: A spreading, multiple-trunked deciduous tree on the northwest side of the overlook behind the crapemyrtle and close to a stone retaining wall. There are more throughout this area.

Characteristics: Small multi-trunked tree with smooth gray bark. Large white flowers with 12 to 18 narrow petals bloom in April, before the leaves emerge. (Late frosts can damage the flowers.) In the fall, leaves turn yellow or bronzy-yellow, and twisted brown seed pods can be seen.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Magnolia stellata* can be considered either a large shrub or small tree. It is best used as a single specimen or in a large grouping like at the Four Seasons Overlook.



Small tree in the center of the photo with emerging, light green leaves behind the ivy and shrubs of the overlook



Emerging flower buds



In bloom as viewed from the woodland trail



Detail of bark

7. Red buckeye

Aesculus pavia

Hippocastanaceae

Location: A small, deciduous tree along the northwestern path leading away from the Four Seasons Overlook in the western bed by the stone retaining wall.

Characteristics: A 10-30' tall tree with shiny dark-green leaves in palm-like clusters of five to seven leaflets each. Clusters of dark-red flowers bloom in April, lasting into May. Round, brownish capsules hold seeds, called buckeyes, that ripen in the fall.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Aesculus pavia* is a nice tree for partial sun. It can flower even in dense shade but the form will become a little more open.



Tree in the center of the photo as viewed from the path to the overlook



Flowers fully open



Detail of bark

8. Common witch hazel

Hamamelis virginiana

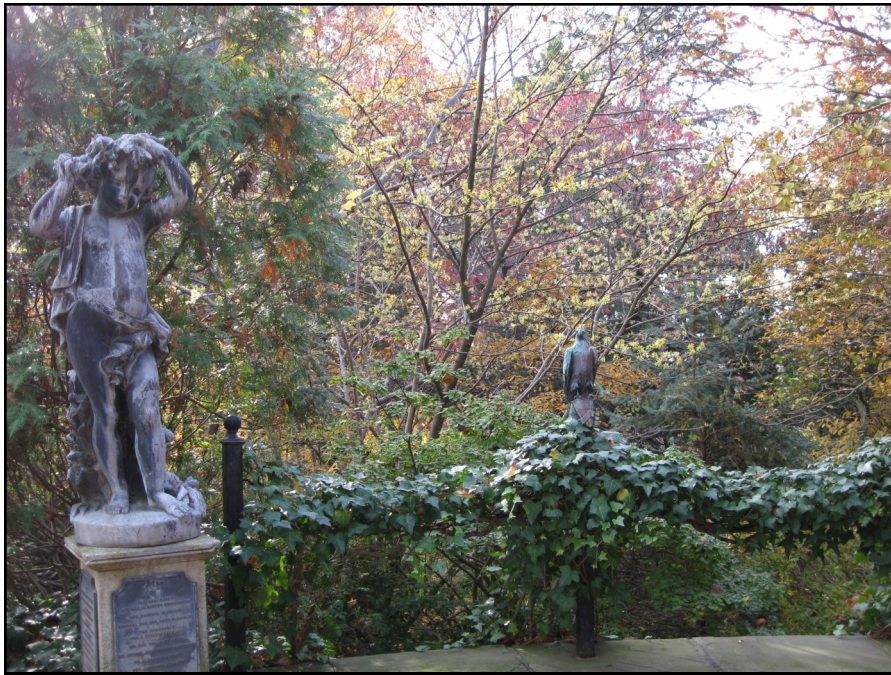
Hamamelidaceae

Location: A small, multi-trunked, deciduous tree on the southeast side of the overlook.

Characteristics: A multiple-trunked tree with somewhat crooked, spreading branches. In the fall, as the medium-green leaves turn a beautiful yellow, fragrant yellow flowers appear. The flowers, with strap-like, crumpled petals, are partly hidden by the leaves, but their fragrance gives them away.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Native to eastern North America, this species is the source of witch hazel extract which is made by boiling the bark.



Yellow flowering trees in the background at the overlook



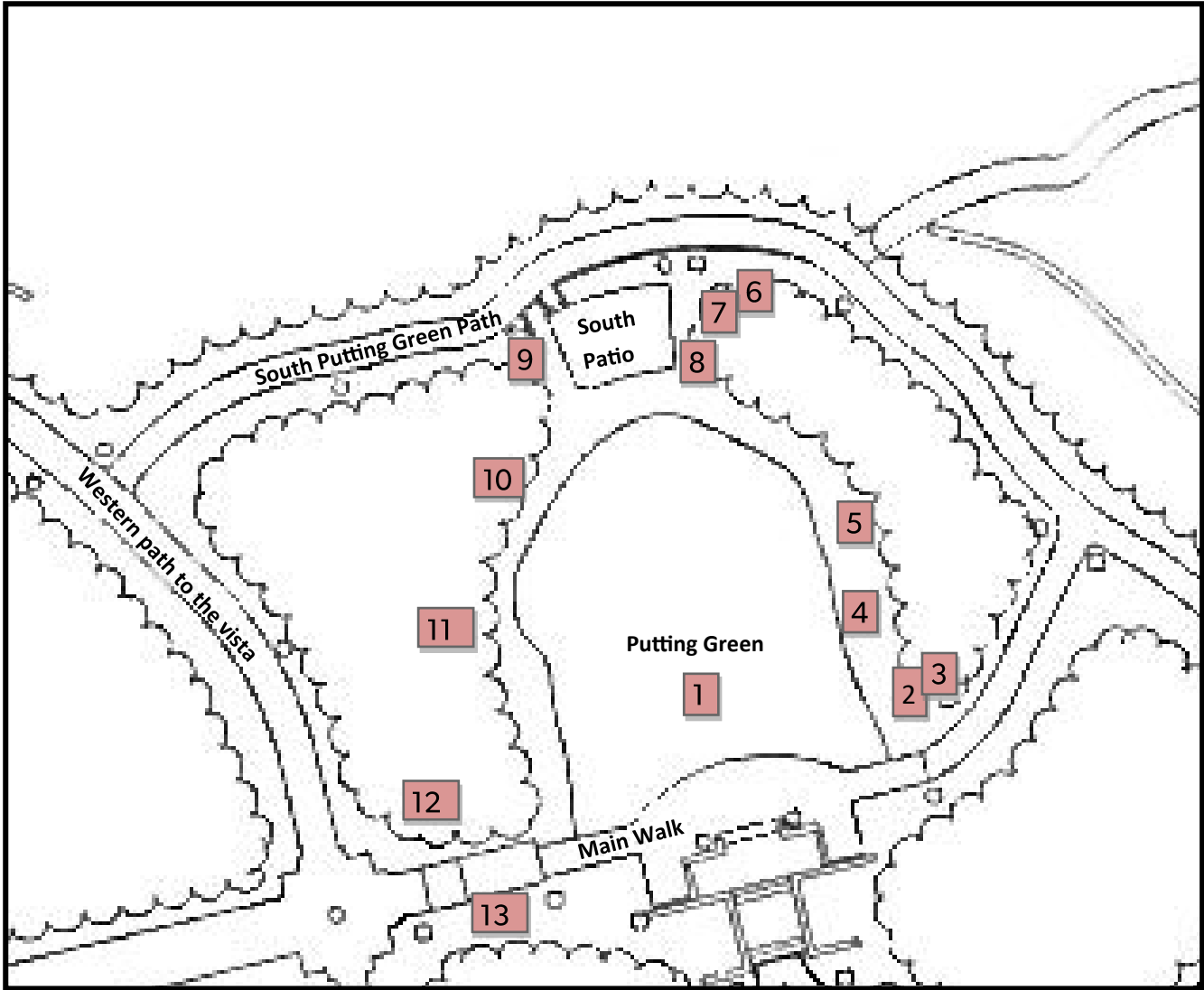
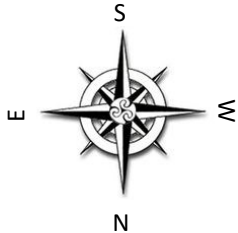
Leaves and fruit



Detail of fall-blooming flowers

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PUTTING GREEN



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1. Creeping bentgrass

Agrostis stolonifera

Poaceae

Location: Bentgrass is the grass that composes the actual surface of the putting green. The taller grass around the edge of the putting green, called the rough, is comprised of tall fescue.

Characteristics: A cool-season grass that is used primarily for golf greens. It is low-growing with a shallow root system and spreads by stolons (creeping, above ground, horizontal stems) to form a mat. It is bright green and fine textured due to its narrow leaves.

Relevance: Reintroduced during the 2000 restoration of the putting green.

Interesting Details: *Agrostis* is a large genus with over 100 species, but only about four are used for turfgrass in the United States. Of these four species, creeping bentgrass is the most commonly used on southern golf greens. Creeping bentgrass was introduced into the United States from Europe during the colonial period. Poor air movement allows diseases to flourish in turf grass. To remedy this situation and keep the grass healthy, a fan was installed to improve air flow.



Detail showing the narrow leaf



Detail of the tall fescue border



View of the rough of tall fescue and the green of bentgrass; note the fan in the background

2. Glossy abelia

Abelia x grandiflora

Caprifoliaceae

Location: Large, semi-evergreen shrub behind the low hedge on the northwest side of the putting green. There are also various abelias planted along the walks to the Four Seasons Overlook.

Characteristics: Semi-evergreen shrub with small leaves and multiple arching branches. Small funnel-shaped, fragrant flowers at the end of the branches open pinkish in early summer; their outer layers (the sepals) turn a rosy-purple in late summer and persist as a colorful feature for many months. Leaves that don't drop are a bronzy color in winter.

Relevance: From Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: A very versatile plant for sun or shade. The genus, *Abelia*, was named to honor Dr. Clarke Abel, an English physician and author on China who had collected specimens in the 1800s. These specimens became a parent to the *Abelia x grandiflora* hybrid.



View from the main walk toward the south patio



Flower detail showing the rosy sepals



Detail of leaf and sepals



Another location near the rose garden

3. Sawara falsecypress

Chamaecyparis pisifera

Cupressaceae

Location: Tall evergreen tree at the northwestern corner of the putting green

Characteristics: A tall evergreen tree growing to over 70' tall. Leaves are scale-like needles bunched tightly together on a horizontal plane. Small cones are produced amongst its needles often 1/4" diameter or smaller. Handsome reddish brown bark is rather smooth but exfoliates in long thin strips.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: It is hard to identify *Chamaecyparis pisifera* from foliage alone. This species contains four distinct foliage classes: Normal (putting green specimen); Filifera– cord-like; Plumosa– similar to Normal but more fern-like with foliage angled 45 degrees from stem; and Squarrosa– compact needles that are very soft and billowy, typically blue in color.



Viewed from the rose garden



Trunk viewed along path from friendship walk to putting green



Leaf detail



View of trunk from main walk



Bark detail

4. Japanese holly

Ilex crenata 'Howard'

Aquifoliaceae

Location: The low, evergreen hedge that encloses the putting green on the east and west side.

Characteristics: A spreading, evergreen shrub that can reach 6' high if left unpruned. Small, dense leaves are a lustrous dark green and slightly convex. 'Howard' is a male holly cultivar that does not bear fruit. Can be mistaken for boxwood.

Relevance: Replanted in the late 1990s.

Interesting Details: One way to differentiate Japanese holly from the very similar-looking boxwood is that boxwood leaves are opposite and holly leaves are alternate—that is, boxwood leaves are arranged opposite each other on the stem, but holly leaves are arranged alternately, or singly, at different heights on the stem.



Japanese holly hedge surrounding the putting green



Alternate leaves of holly Opposite leaves of boxwood



Leaf detail

5. Vanhoutte spirea

Spiraea x vanhouttei

Rosaceae

Location: A tall, deciduous shrub behind the Japanese holly hedge in the western bed about 1/3 of the way in from the main putting green path. There is another in the eastern putting green bed and several in the Lunar Lawn beds.

Characteristics: A twiggy shrub growing 6-8' with small, bluish-green, lobed leaves on arching branches. Showy clusters of small white flowers develop in April and May.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

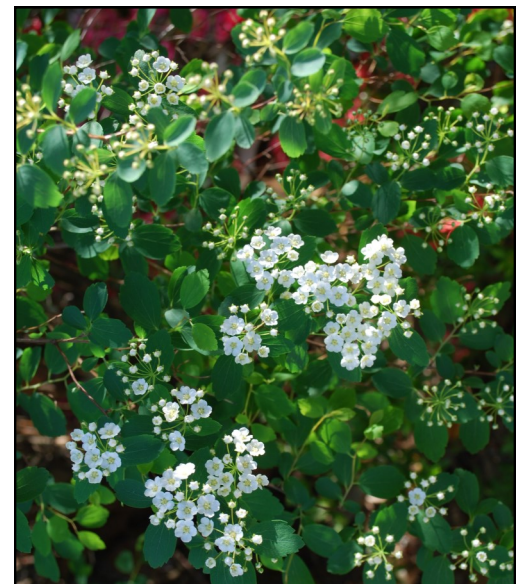
Interesting Details: Michael Dirr, a renowned horticulture professor at the University of Georgia, recounts a time he sprayed his vanhoutte spirea with herbicide that should have killed them. They weren't harmed in the least, which demonstrates the plant's toughness.



Early spring viewed from the south patio



Leaf and flower detail



Early leaf and flower buds

6. Chinese fringe flower

Loropetalum chinense

Hamamelidaceae

Location: The large evergreen shrub west of the south putting green patio along the south putting green path.

Characteristics: Typically, a large rounded shrub with small, oval shaped, evergreen leaves. Fragrant, white, strap-shaped flowers appear in April. Brown bark exfoliates in long strips and is quite attractive.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Loropetalum chinense* is related to witch hazel and both have similarly shaped flowers. Please see the Four Seasons Overlook for more information on witch hazel.



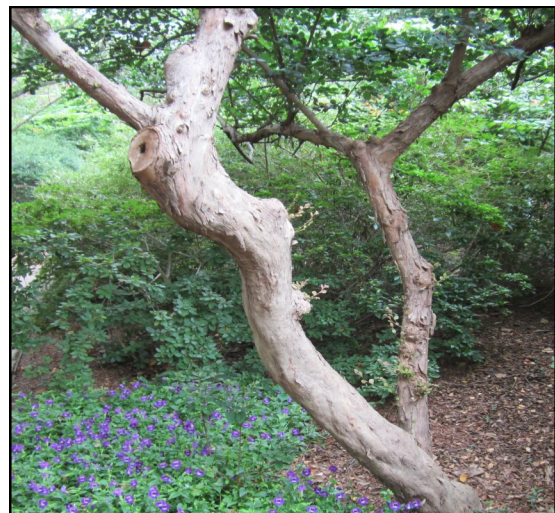
Viewed from the south putting green path towards the south patio



Leaf and seed capsule detail



Leaf and flower



Detail of the trunk

7. Burkwood viburnum

Viburnum x burkwoodii

Caprifoliaceae

Location: A tall, semi-evergreen shrub west of the south patio. There are several others located along the path from the motor court to the rose garden.

Characteristics: A shrub with multiple trunks and dense, finely-branched stems. The leaves are a lustrous dark green with a lighter gray-green underside, which turn burgundy in the fall. In early April, pink buds open to white flower clusters with a spicy fragrance.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Thought of as one of the best viburnum for the Midwest and South, *Viburnum x burkwoodii* tolerates heat, cold, and polluted environments. It was developed by Albert Burkwood and Geoffrey Skipwith in 1924, both renowned English nurserymen.



Early April blooms viewed from the south patio toward the west side



Flower detail



New spring foliage



Rosy pink flower buds

8. Japanese snowball

Viburnum plicatum f. plicatum

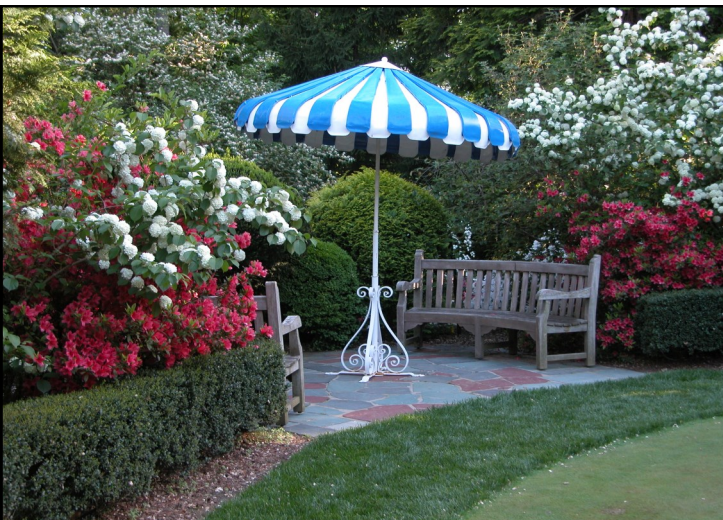
Caprifoliaceae

Location: A tall, deciduous shrub west and east of the south patio, outside of the Japanese holly hedges.

Characteristics: Spreading, bushy shrub that develops pairs of elegant large, white, ball-shaped flower clusters in May. Rough, dark-green leaves look slightly pleated, especially when new. Fall foliage is red-dish-purple. Sometimes mistaken for hydrangea.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The f. in *Viburnum plicatum f. plicatum* stands for "form." This is to differentiate it from *Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum*, the Doublefile Viburnum. *Viburnum plicatum f. plicatum* grows upright with snowball-shaped flowers, whereas *Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum* grows more horizontally with flat topped, lacecap-like flowers. There are *Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum* growing at the west end of the visitor center. On another note, some have commented how appropriate it is to have ball-shaped flowers– that echo golf balls– at the putting green, regardless of Post's intent.



White flowering shrubs on both sides of the south patio



Full bloom early May



Flower in bud with pleated leaf



Flower detail



Viburnum plicatum f. tomentosum

9. Sargent crabapple

Malus sargentii

Rosaceae

Location: Small deciduous tree to the east of the south patio.

Characteristics: A densely branched tree with dark-green foliage. Red buds open to clusters of white, five-petaled flowers in late spring. Develops small bright-red fruit in the fall that is appealing to birds.

Relevance: From Post's tenure. Somewhat contorted by age.

Interesting Details: Crabapple and apple trees only differ by the size of their fruit. A crabapple tree has fruit that is 2" in diameter or less (most modern cultivars are 0.25 - 0.75" in diameter). If the fruit is more than 2" in diameter, it is defined as an apple tree.



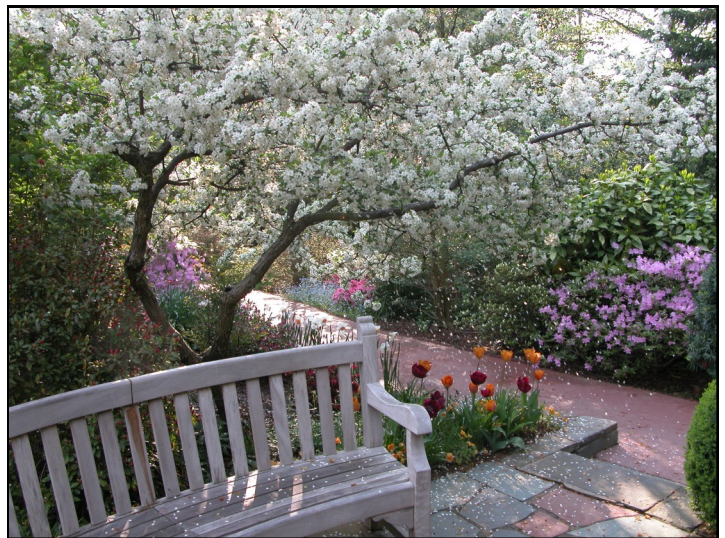
Autumn view from the southern putting green path



Fruit detail



Trunk and bark detail



Spring flowering

10. Hinoki falsecypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Nana Gracilis'

Cupressaceae

Location: A tall, pyramidal conifer east of the south patio behind the low Japanese holly hedges. There is also one closer to the main walk and one in the bed on the west side.

Characteristics: Slow-growing conifer with almost fern-like foliage. The needles are dark-green above, with silvery markings underneath. Reddish-brownish bark exfoliates in long vertical strips. Tiny 1/2" round cones appear in late summer.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Chamaecyparis obtusa* is a native to Japan. Part of its common name, Hinoki, means "fire tree" in Japanese because it was used to start fire with only friction. Historically, it has been one of the most important species used in Japanese architecture, recovered from archeological sites dating from the 700s.



Detail of exfoliating bark



Located behind Japanese holly hedge on the east side of the putting green



Detail of compressed (flat) needles

11. Thunberg spirea

Spiraea thunbergii

Rosaceae

Location: Arching deciduous shrub behind the Japanese holly hedge bordering the east side of the putting green, about halfway down.

Characteristics: Broad, arching, and very twiggy shrub with small, willow-like leaves of pale green. The first species of spirea (and one of the first shrubs in general) to bloom in the spring. Its clusters of tiny, white flowers cover the branches in March, before the leaves come out. Fall color is yellow-orange.

Relevance: Propagated from a plant from Post's tenure.

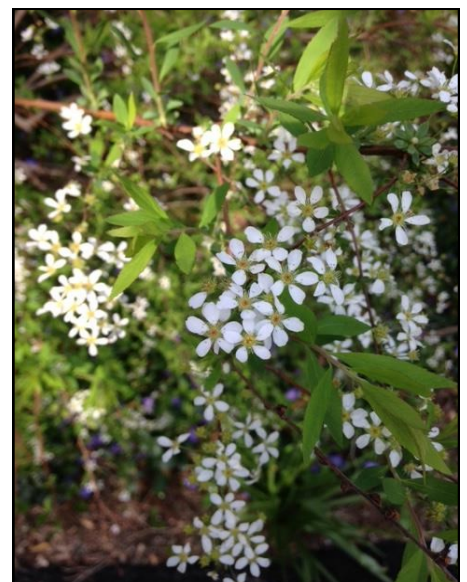
Interesting Details: Native to Japan and China. It is named after Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828), a surgeon and Swedish plant explorer, who was the only European who visited and published his observations of the flora and fauna of Tokugawa, Japan in the 1700s.



Thunberg spirea with its white spring flowers, viewed from the western path to the vista looking toward the putting green



Detail of leaf



Flower detail

12. Littleleaf linden

Tilia cordata

Tiliaceae

Location: Medium-sized deciduous tree in the east bed, close to the main walk of the putting green.

Characteristics: Pyramidal-shaped tree which can grow to 70'. Dark-green leaves that are roughly heart-shaped turn yellow in the fall. Dangling clusters of small, yellow, fragrant flowers appear in June. Above each flower cluster is a narrow, curved leaf (called a bract), which is a slightly lighter green than the leaves. It is a good ID characteristic for the tree long after the flowers fade.

Relevance: Replaces a linden from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The littleleaf linden can be kept effectively as a shrub or topiary and such treatment is popular in Europe.



View from the main walk



View in winter looking toward the French parterre



Leaf and seed detail with light green bract



Fall color showing the brown flower bract

13. Heavenly bamboo

Nandina domestica

Berberidaceae

Location: Evergreen shrub on the northeast side of the main putting green. There is another on the other side of the path and several throughout Hillwood, notably in the Lunar Lawn beds and along the path to the Four Seasons Overlook.

Characteristics: An upright multiple-stemmed shrub with compound leaves, each made up of several small leaflets. Noted for striking berry clusters that turn bright-red in the fall and remain through the winter. New leaves are purplish-red, becoming bluish-green in summer, then often taking a red tinge in winter.

Relevance: From Post's tenure

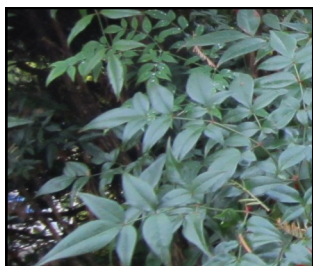
Interesting Details: Even though the common name is Heavenly Bamboo, it is not related to bamboo at all but belongs to the barberry family (barberry is located at Hillwood by the stairs connecting the administration building to the butler's house). *Nandina domestica* and bamboo only share similar characteristics such as erect, cane-like stems and compound leaves.



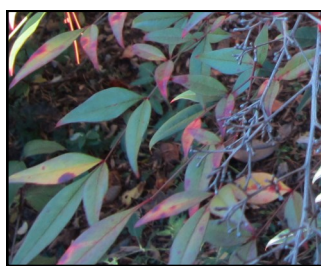
Spring with last year's fruit still visible, seen from the western armillary sphere looking toward the putting green



Spring flowers



Leaf detail

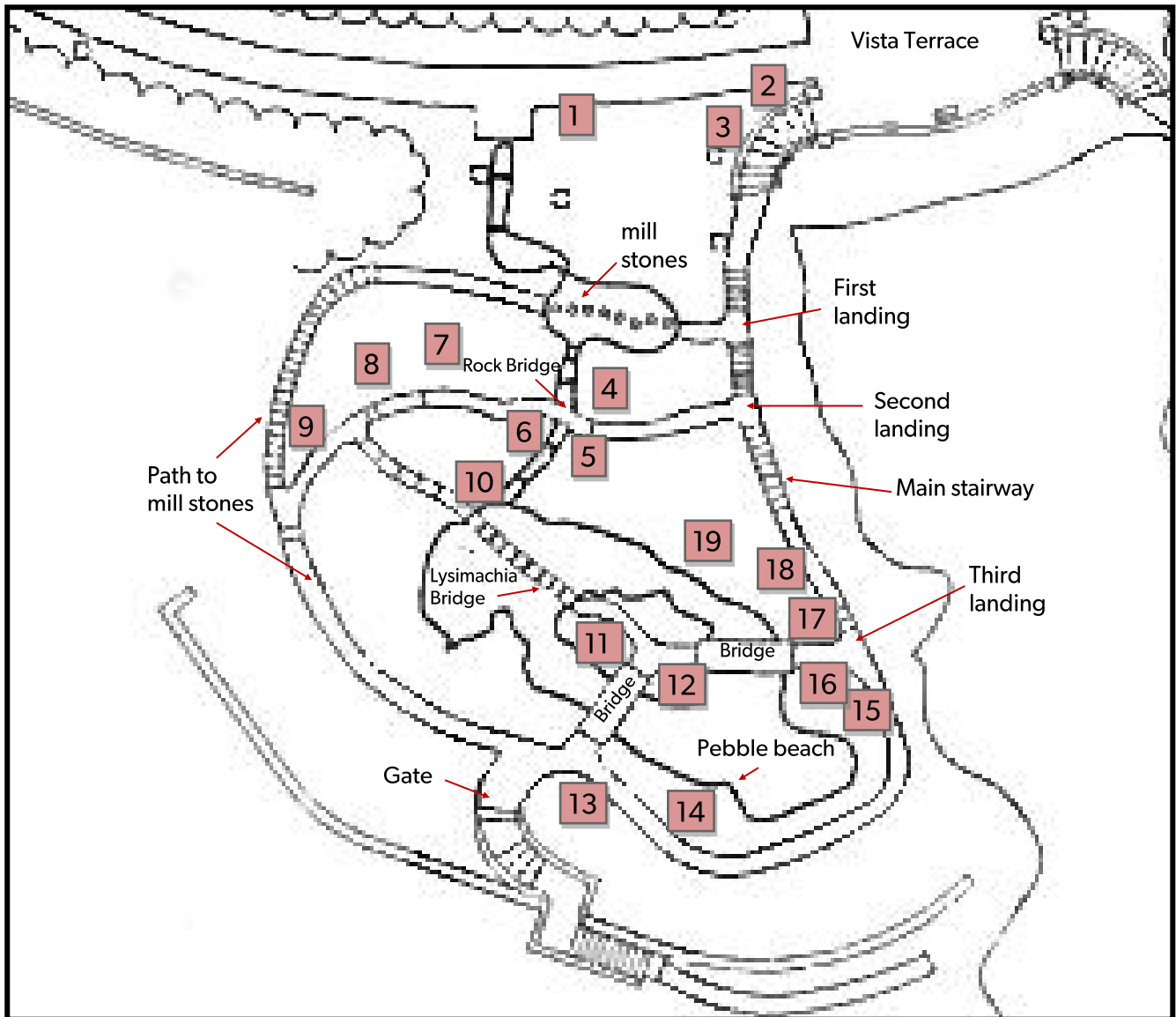
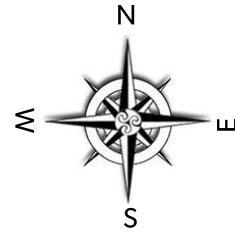


Winter leaf color



Fruit detail

JAPANESE-STYLE GARDEN



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1. Colorado blue spruce

Picea pungens- unknown cultivar

Pinaceae

Location: A wide, blue evergreen shrub at the top of the Japanese-style garden. There is another blue spruce cultivar at the second landing.

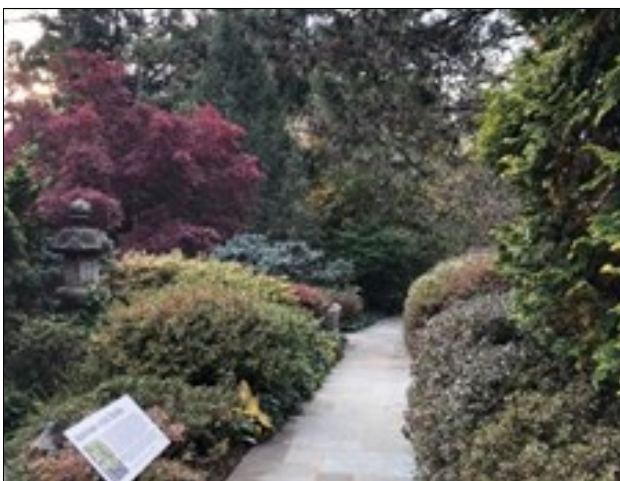
Characteristics: A conifer valued for the bluish cast of its needles and its formal pyramidal shape. There are now many different dwarf and globose cultivars. Dense, prickly, stiff needles are arranged all the way around the stiff branches which extend to the ground.

Relevance: From Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Blue spruce are struggling to survive in the Washington DC area due to warming temperatures. Many have been removed on the property and throughout the area. Staff at the National Arboretum are recommending Arizona cypress as a substitute. Hillwood gardeners have planted one near the end of the red path near the motor court.



Top of the Japanese-style garden near the overlook



The blue spruce adds one more hue to the fall colors



Detail of the needles

2. Variegated dahurian juniper

Juniperus chinensis 'Expansa variegata'

(Formerly *Juniperus davurica* 'Expansa variegata')

Cupressaceae

Location: The small needled evergreen with cream-colored tufts to the northwest of the main stairway entrance.

Characteristics: A low, slow-growing conifer with sage-green needles randomly splashed with creamy-white variegation. Branches are arranged in horizontal sprays.

Relevance: From Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Sometimes people will look at this juniper and think the plant is unhealthy. The white tufts are normal and a desired trait of the plant.



View showing location near entrance to the garden



Closer view of variegation over the plant



Detail of variegation

3. Dwarf Alberta spruce

Picea glauca 'Conica'

Pinaceae

Location: A tall needled evergreen just west of the main stairway entrance. Other smaller dwarf Alberta spruces are found flanking the bridge closest to the gate in this garden and also in the motor court.

Characteristics: A conifer with a conical, symmetrical shape and short, light-green needles densely arranged around the stem. It is known as a dwarf cultivar because it is smaller than the species and very slow-growing (2 to 4 inches a year).

Relevance: One of the plants that remained undisturbed during the extensive renovation of this garden in 2001. This plant is from Post's tenure.

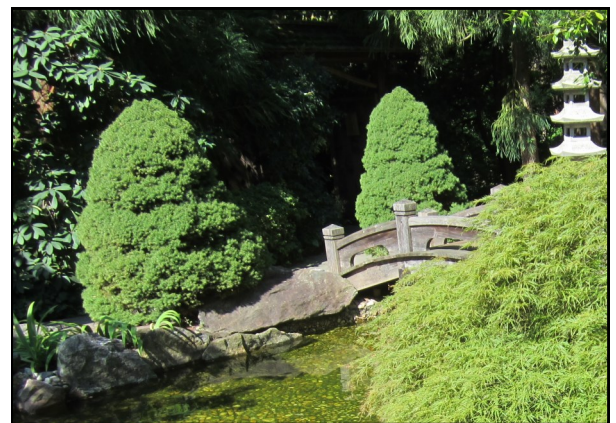
Interesting Details: It has taken over fifty years for this particular plant to reach its current 12' height. Dwarf Alberta spruce were discovered in Alberta, Canada by J.G. Jack and Alfred Rehder, important plantmen from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University.



The evergreen center left in the photo viewed from the second landing toward the top of the garden



Detail of the whorled needles on the stem



Two more plants near the bridge closest to the gate

4. Dwarf Japanese cedar

Cryptomeria japonica 'Osaka Tama'

Taxodiaceae

Location: A tear-drop shaped evergreen on the northside of the path to the rock bridge.

Characteristics: A conifer with very short, densely packed, overlapping needles that totally cover the slender branches. With a rounded shape, it is almost as broad as tall. 'Osaka Tama' is especially prominent in winter when its outside needles turn bronzy-purple; they green up again in the spring.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The cultivar is a slow-growing form, ours is nearing 6' tall after more than fifty years.



The cedar in the middle foreground viewed from the millstone path looking towards the lawn



In the winter the needles turn purple



The needles are green in the growing season

5. Japanese red pine

Pinus densiflora

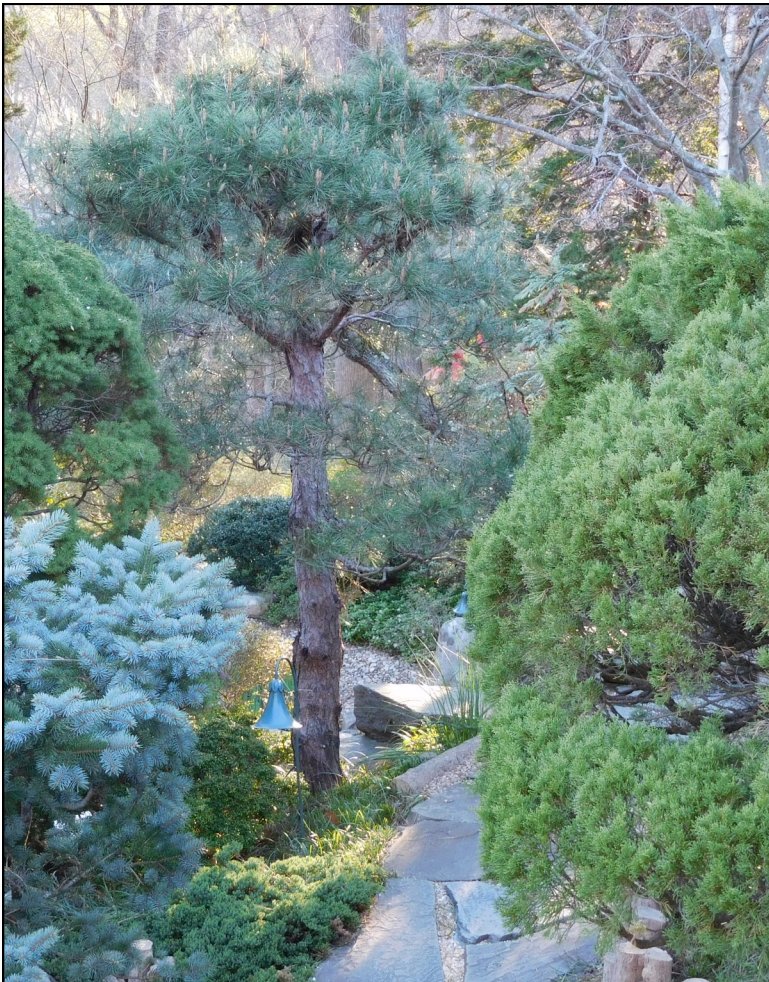
Pinaceae

Location: A stout evergreen tree with needles south of the path to the rock bridge.

Characteristics: A tree that can typically grow to over 60'. Twisted needles are in groups of two reaching 3-5" long. An identifying feature is the reddish brown buds. The bark appears orangish when young, taking on a more grayish cast with age.

Relevance: A replacement of an original plant from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: It is native to Japan, Korea, and parts of China.



Pine just left of center as viewed from the second landing



Detail of bark



Reddish bud and needles

6. Japanese white pine

Pinus parviflora 'Glauca'

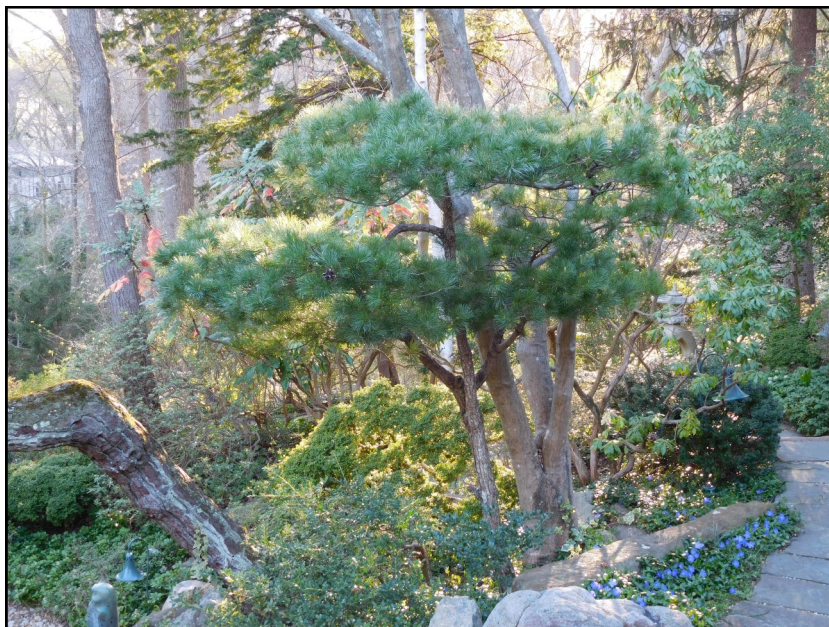
Pinaceae

Location: The small evergreen tree with soft-looking needles that is close to the path on the south side after crossing the rock bridge.

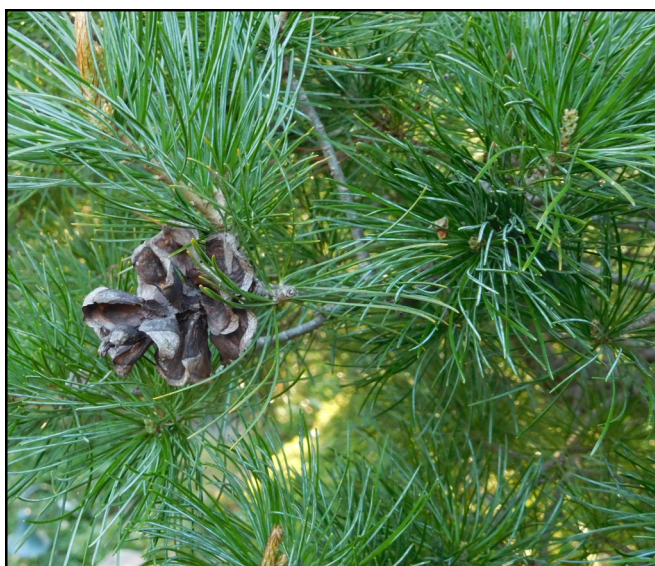
Characteristics: A broad, open, flat-topped conifer with medium-length needles that are slightly curved. The needles are attached to the stems in groups of five, which form brush-like tufts.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: This Japanese native is often used as an accent or specimen tree due to its artistic growth habit. It is a good conifer for small areas, especially along the coast due to its salt tolerance.



Tree viewed from the eastern edge of the rock bridge



Detail of pine cone and needles



Needles

7. Japanese black pine

Pinus thunbergii

Pinaceae

Location: The small evergreen tree with long needles, north of the path after crossing the rock bridge. There is another in the garden on the island.

Characteristics: An irregularly shaped conifer with long, dark-green needles attached to the stems in groups of two. In fall and winter, it displays prominent candle-like, silvery buds, one to two inches tall.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The Japanese black pine is often used for bonsai. It is also very salt tolerant and recommended for stabilizing sand dunes on the east coast of the U.S.



Viewed from the top of the path to the mill stones



Long silvery buds in winter



Detail showing the needles in groups of two

8. Fragrant winterhazel

Corylopsis glabrescens

Hamamelidaceae

Location: The upright, multiple-stemmed, small tree northwest of the second step after the rock bridge.

Characteristics: A small deciduous tree or shrub with multiple trunks that can grow to roughly 15'. Pale yellow, fragrant, chain-like clusters of flowers appear in early spring, before the leaves develop. Fall foliage is gold.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Winterhazel (*Corylopsis*) is closely related to witch hazel (*Hamamelis*), hence the same family, Hamamelidaceae.



Photo from the top of the path to the mill stones



Plant in full bloom



Flower detail



Golden fall foliage



Bark and seed capsule detail

9. Sichuan holly

Ilex ciliospinosa

Aquifoliaceae

Location: A tall evergreen shrub located northwest of the landing that leads to the bridge planted with lysimachia (creeping jenny).

Characteristics: A large evergreen shrub or small tree with deep green, leathery leaves and modest spines. Shape is often open with gracefully arching branches. Red fruit appear in the fall.

Relevance: Propagated from a plant from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: A native to China, this is a seldom-seen holly in our area.



Holly viewed from the path west of the rock bridge



Leaf detail



Fruit beginning to form

10. Willowleaf cotoneaster

Cotoneaster salicifolius 'Repens'

Rosaceae

Location: A low, evergreen, trailing shrub on the northern shore of the bottom pond west of the waterfall. There are more east of the waterfall.

Characteristics: An evergreen shrub with a spreading, arching habit. Narrow, wrinkled-looking leaves take on a bronzy-purple cast in winter. Clusters of small white flowers appear in spring, followed by red berries in winter.

Relevance: A replacement of an original plant from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Cotoneaster salicifolius* 'Repens' is a plant recommended by the University of Maryland Extension for slopes and hard to mow areas.



Trailing over the rocks west of the lowest waterfall



Leaf & berry detail



Less foliage after a cold winter; note the burgundy leaf color



Winter color and twig detail

11. Chinese fringetree

Chionanthus retusus

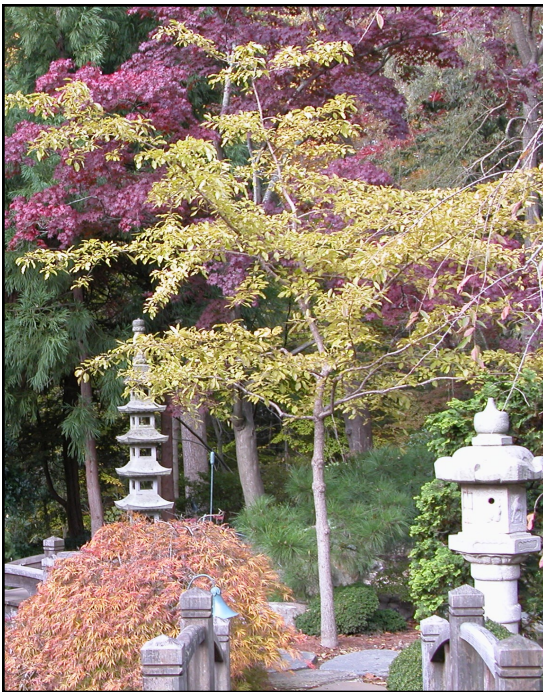
Oleaceae

Location: On the island, the deciduous tree close to the northwestern post of the western wooden bridge.

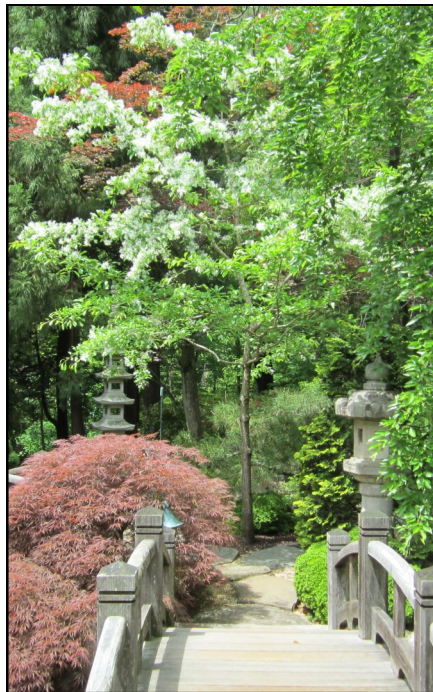
Characteristics: A deciduous small tree with leathery, somewhat elongated leaves, late to leaf out. White, fringe-like clusters of flowers bloom on the ends of branches. Heavier flowering in alternate years. On this female plant, dark-blue drupes (fruits) form in the fall. The fall foliage is soft yellow.

Relevance: Replaces a tree from Post's tenure.

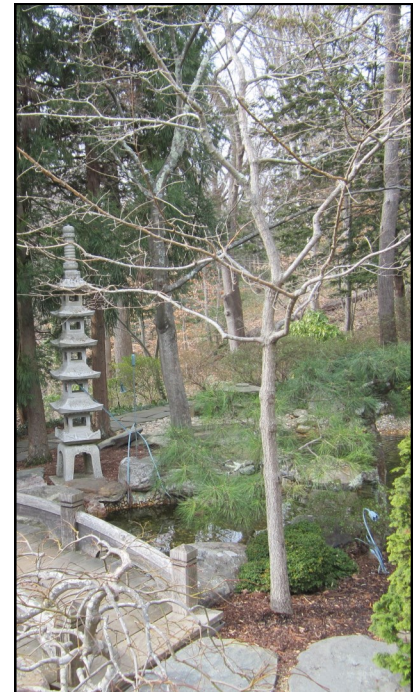
Interesting Details: The genus name, *Chionanthus*, comes from the Greek words *chion* meaning snow and *anthos* meaning flower.



Bright yellow fall color



With spring flowers



View of location on the island



Flower detail



Detail of fruit before ripening



Bark detail

12. Cutleaf Japanese maple

Acer palmatum var. dissectum atropurpureum

Aceraceae

Location: The small tree weeping over the water on the southeast side of the island between the two wooden bridges.

Characteristics: Compact deciduous shrub or small tree with finely divided (dissected) leaves that give a fernlike effect. Leaves are purple-red in the spring, change to green in the summer, and develop orange tones in the fall. It has a mounded, pendulous outline and the branches form a twisted pattern that gives the tree great appeal in the winter.

Relevance: Replaces a tree from Post's tenure.

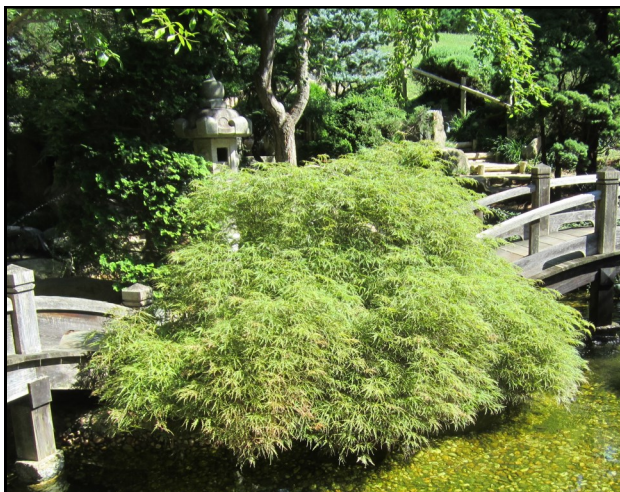
Interesting Details: This species has a huge amount of cultivars typically divided into dissected and non-dissected varieties. The tree referenced here in the Japanese-style garden is dissected. It stays small and has deeply cut leaves with many lobes (7-11). The Japanese maples outside the French parterre on the western end are non-dissected varieties. They typically grow larger and their leaves have fewer lobes.



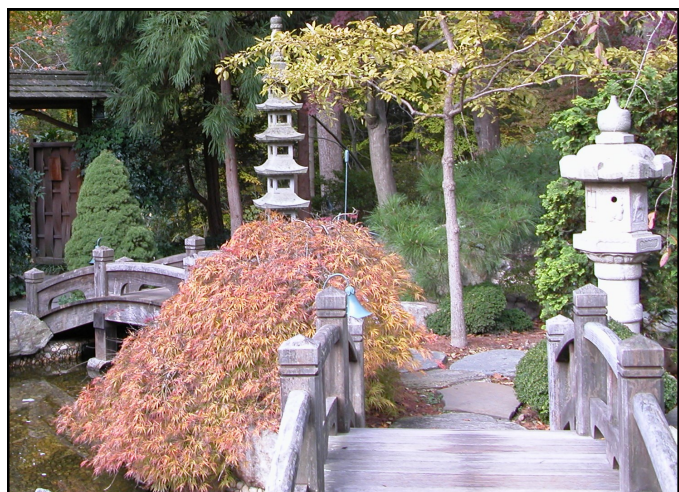
Winter



Leaf detail



Summer



Fall

13. Japanese cedar

Cryptomeria japonica 'Yoshino'

Taxodiaceae

Location: The large evergreen tree on the eastern side of the gate. There are two more on the western side of the gate but on the opposite side of the path.

Characteristics: A tall evergreen tree known for its pyramidal form, growing 40' or taller. Small needles are numerous, bright green and spirally arranged on the stem. New growth often appears pendulous and the tree can have an overall fern-like appearance. Produces small round cones.

Relevance: Replaces a tree from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The Japanese cedar is the major lumber tree in Japan due to the wood's fast growth and rot resistance. Several specimen trees in Japan are thought to be over 700 years old.



Next to the gate



Viewed at a distance



Detail of cones



Bark and trunk detail



Detail of needles

14. Curlyleaf privet

Ligustrum japonicum 'Rotundifolium'

Oleaceae

Location: A small evergreen shrub next to the path on the southern shore of the bottom pond by the pebble beach. There is another in the garden by the eastern shore.

Characteristics: A small evergreen shrub, distinctly upright and stiff in habit. Lustrous deep green leaves are thick, leathery, and reflexed, making them appear almost "curly." The leaves, crowded on the stem, are also in opposite pairs with alternate placement up the stem giving a unique look to the plant.

Relevance: A replacement of an original shrub from Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Curlyleaf privet is sometimes described as a piece of living sculpture due to its artistic form and leaves. It was introduced to English gardens in 1860 as a result of Robert Fortune's plant explorations in Japan.



Detail of leaves



Located near the pebble beach



Ligustrum japonicum 'Rotundifolium'

15. Roof iris

Iris tectorum

Iridaceae

Location: A patch of perennials located in the bed across from the bottom of the stairs of the main staircase.

Characteristics: An herbaceous perennial which grows and spreads from a fleshy rhizome and reaches 18" tall when in flower. Foliage is arranged in fans of narrow, lance-shaped, ribbed, upright leaves that become floppy. Flowers are beardless, typically 6" across, bright lilac-purple in color and bloom in April.

Relevance: Added in 2014 by gardener Frances Vandenbroucke to remediate the problem of guests walking in the bed and to reestablish an iris species in the bed as indicated by one of Shogo Myaida's original plans.

Interesting Details: *Iris tectorum* was often grown on thatched roofs in Japan and China hence the common name "roof iris."



Roof iris wrapping around walkway at the bottom of the stairs



In bloom



Fan pattern of leaves



Rhizomes

16. Dwarf flowering almond

Prunus glandulosa 'Rosea Plena'

Rosaceae

Location: A small deciduous shrub planted on the eastern shore of the bottom pond.

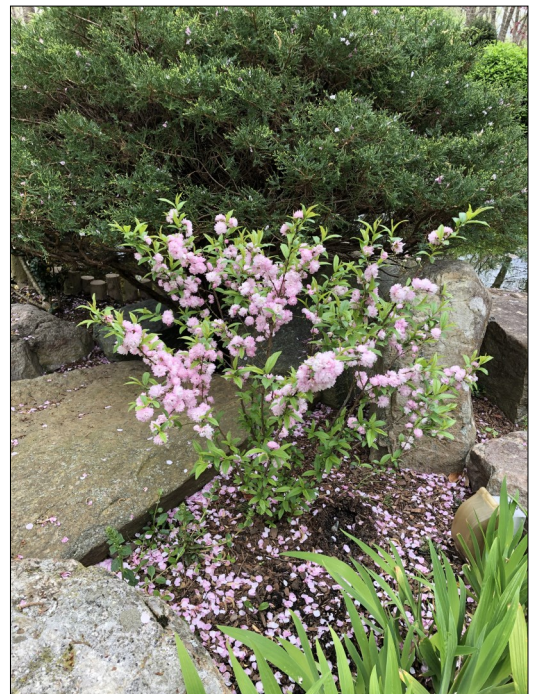
Characteristics: A small deciduous shrub growing 4-5' tall with slender erect stems. Small, double pink blossoms cover the branches in April and develop along with the leaves. Small red fruits mature from the flowers. Foliage is oblong and light green in color.

Relevance: Added to the garden in 2019 to replace other deciduous shrubs that failed to thrive in this location.

Interesting Details: Although the common name includes the word almond, this shrub does not produce edible almonds but very small red fruits. Another member of the cherry family, *Prunus dulcis*, bears the almonds that we are most familiar with.



View of shrub in bloom from the third landing



Slender, erect stems covered in flowers



Double, pink flowers

17. Kingsville dwarf boxwood

Buxus microphylla 'Compacta'

Buxaceae

Location: A small evergreen shrub west of the top stair of the third landing. There are several more along the main stairway and on the island.

Characteristics: A very dense, slow-growing, evergreen shrub with a mounding habit that becomes more broad than tall. Known for its small, evergreen, convex leaves.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The common name, Kingsville dwarf boxwood, is named after Kingsville, Maryland where it was selected and grown at a local nursery. It is often used in bonsai.



Kingsville dwarf boxwood behind the lantern



Leaf detail



Another Kingsville dwarf boxwood at third landing

18. Hollywood juniper

Juniperus chinensis 'Kaizuka'

Cupressaceae

Location: A specimen evergreen tree located southwest of the third landing.

Characteristics: A tall, open conifer with slightly twisted branches and bright-green needles. Pruning exposes handsome furrowed bark, which exfoliates in thin strips.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

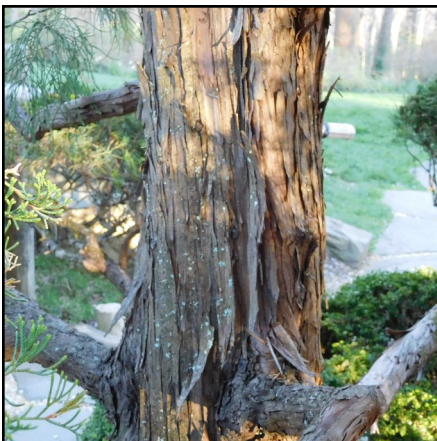
Interesting Details: The foliage of this specimen is pruned into cloud-like shapes, a style used in Japanese gardens.



Detail of berries and adult soft foliage



Prickly, juvenile needles



Exfoliating bark



View from the path to the rock bridge

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19. Weeping Higan cherry

Prunus subhirtella var. *pendula*

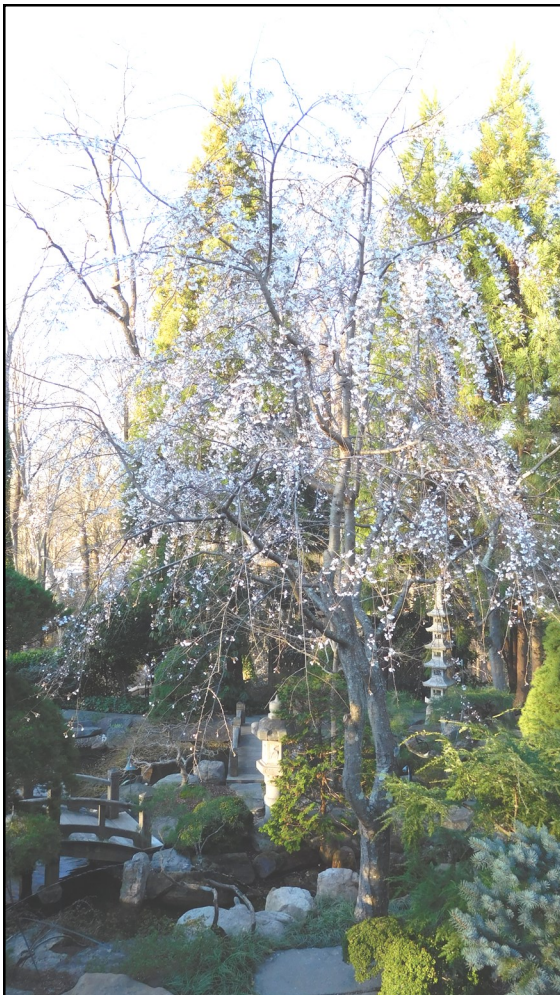
Rosaceae

Location: The deciduous tree located at the southwest end of the third landing.

Characteristics: A fast growing, medium sized tree with weeping branches. Clusters of white pendulous flowers tinged with pink appear before the leaves in spring. The leaves are dark green and serrated. Fall color is not typically noteworthy.

Relevance: This tree is a replacement that was planted during the 2001 renovation of the garden.

Interesting Details: While cherry trees are typically thought of as short-lived, many mature specimens of *Prunus subhirtella* exist in the eastern half of the U.S. They are among the most cold, heat, and stress tolerant of the *Prunus* species.



In bloom; viewed from the grass near the second landing



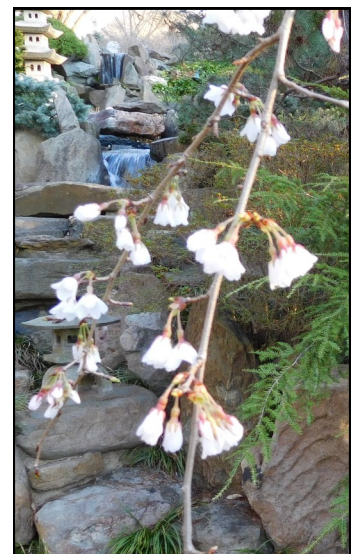
Detail of trunk



Bark detail

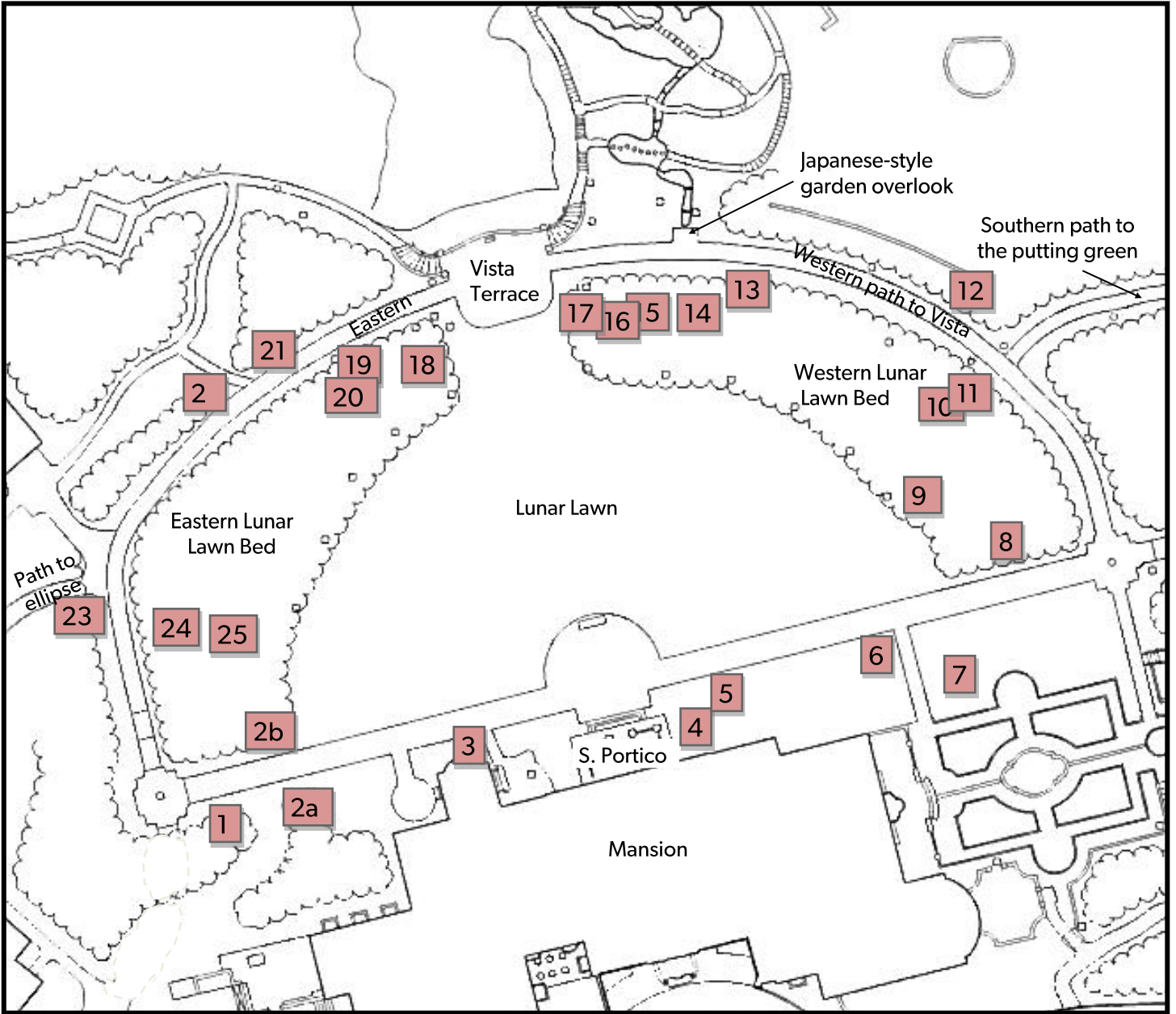
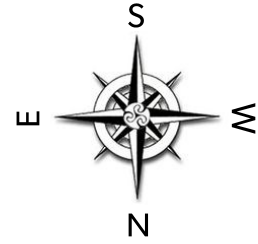


Detail of flower



Flower buds

LUNAR LAWN



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1. Japanese aucuba

Aucuba japonica

Cornaceae

Location: The large evergreen shrub directly at the northeast corner of the path from the cutting garden to the Lunar Lawn and the path towards the eastern armillary sphere. There are several yellow variegated cultivars planted throughout Hillwood. 'Variegata' is one that has its leaves liberally flecked with yellow.

Characteristics: A 5-8' shrub with multiple erect or arching branches that form a rounded shape. Enjoyed for its large, leathery, dark-green leaves. Female plants have showy red fruit in early spring. It is a shade-loving plant.

Relevance: From Marjorie Merriweather Post's tenure. Aucuba was widely planted at Hillwood under Post's direction.

Interesting Details: In the mid-Atlantic region, this plant occasionally suffers from root rot which causes a blackening of the leaves and stems. Sanitation and mulching are key when it comes to preserving specimens.



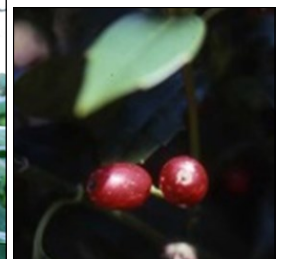
Aucuba along the path to the eastern armillary sphere



Leaf detail of 'Variegata'; found around the
Dacha



Aucuba in flower



Fruit of Aucuba

2. American holly (a) and English holly (b)

Ilex opaca and *Ilex aquifolium*

Aquifoliaceae

Location: Tall, dense evergreen trees on either side of the walk leading from the south portico to the east armillary sphere. The American is north of the walk and the English is south.

Characteristics: Dense pyramidal trees with leathery evergreen leaves, most with sharp spines. The leaves of the American holly are slightly duller than the glossy leaves of the English holly. Both species are dioecious, meaning that there are male plants and female plants. Both sexes are needed to set fruit, which is typically a red, round drupe. Both species also have nice, relatively, smooth gray bark.

Relevance: Both were planted in Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: The English holly, which is a male plant, produces male flowers that pollinate the female hollies at Hillwood including the American holly across the walk.



Female American holly on the left and male English holly on the right



American holly leaf detail with fruit in summer; note the leaf is not shiny



English holly male flower and shiny leaf detail



Bark of the American holly

3. Japanese wisteria

Wisteria floribunda

Fabaceae

Location: A large deciduous vine over the awning of the breakfast room. There is another significant purple flowering wisteria kept as a shrub along the lower gate drive. At the rose garden pergola, a small white wisteria has been started by a column close to the stairs as a replacement for an original Post plant.

Characteristics: A deciduous vine with bright-green, compound leaves, generally with 13 to 19 leaflets each. In early spring, long purple pendulous flower clusters open from the bottom of the cluster to the top. The flowers are fragrant. Twisted trunks can become several inches thick. Long, pea-like pods develop in the fall, staying into the winter.

Relevance: From Post’s tenure.

Interesting Details: Wisteria is considered an invasive plant but is pruned frequently at Hillwood to reduce seedlings and to keep it in check.



Vine after leaf drop over the breakfast room



Flower detail



Flower buds



Seed pod



Purple wisteria on upper drive

4. Japanese yew

Taxus cuspidata 'Emerald Spreader'

Taxaceae

Location: Low mounded conifers on the west side of the mansion's south portico. There is another grouping on the east side. Many full-sized weeping and non-weeping yews are elsewhere on the estate.

Characteristics: 'Emerald Spreader' is a compact, dense, spreading cultivar that typically matures very slowly. It is distinguished from other *T. cuspidata* cultivars by having small dense needles (5/8" long), symmetrically low growth, short rigid branching and an overall dense appearance.

Relevance: In 2013, 'Emerald Spreaxxder' yews were planted on either side of the south portico to replace older weeping yews. These are meant to stay low and not block the mansion windows.

Interesting Details: The species name, *cuspidata*, refers to the cuspidate foliage meaning "sharp pointed tip."



Planting at the west side of the south portico



Mature yew at the putting green, *Taxus x media*
'Densiformis'



Needle detail of 'Emerald Spreader'

5. American elm

Ulmus americana

Ulmaceae

Location: The large deciduous tree to the west of the mansion's south portico; more are located be-

Characteristics: Tall, stately shade tree reaching 60-80' and taking on a vase shape with maturity. Ser-
rated, pointed leaves are lopsided at the base. The bark is a dark-gray and deeply ridged about the

Relevance: Thought to have been planted before Post purchased Hillwood in 1955. Replacement trees
were planted east of the south portico in 2009 and one in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed by the vista ter-
race in 2013. All three are the cultivar 'Princeton.' The cultivar 'Valley Forge' was planted in the eastern
Lunar Lawn bed closer to the Dacha in 2017.

Interesting Details: Large numbers of American elms in the U.S. have succumbed to a fungus which
causes Dutch elm disease as well as other pests. Hillwood's elms have received decades of care aimed
at preserving them and most have survived. New cultivars like 'Princeton' and 'Valley Forge' have been
bred for disease resistance.



Mature elm by the south portico



Iconic vase-shaped form



IV fungicide for
Dutch Elm Disease



Detail of leaves; note the lopsided
base



'Princeton' elm on right was planted in 2009

6. Autumn crocus

Colchicum autumnale

Colchicaceae

Location: Ephemeral bulbs around the sphinx sculptures at the southeast entrance to the French parterre. Leaves are only visible in spring. The purple flowers emerge without leaves in fall.

Characteristics: In late spring, plants send up large, deep green, coarse leaves which gradually yellow and die by summer as the plants go dormant. In late summer to early fall, naked flower stems rise from the ground, 4-6" tall, bearing pinkish-purple, cup-shaped flowers.

Relevance: These bulbs have been here since Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Colchicum autumnale's* common name Autumn crocus should not be confused with true fall-blooming crocus species. True Autumn crocus have narrow grass-like leaves that can be present at flowering or soon thereafter.



Colchicum autumnale



Colchicum around the sphinx statues outside of the French parterre



Detail of spring foliage



Colchicum x 'The Giant'

7. Double-flowering cherry

Prunus serrulata 'Kwanzan'

Rosaceae

Location: Medium-sized deciduous tree on the west side of the walk to the French parterre from the Lunar Lawn. Another Kwanzan cherry from Post's tenure is planted toward the top of the lower drive.

Characteristics: This vase or round-shaped tree has profuse double flowers of deep pink that appear in April. New leaves are bronzy before turning a lustrous deep green. The gray bark has horizontal lenticels, or pores, typical of many cherry trees.

Relevance: Replaces one that was a gift to Post.

Interesting Details: The 'Kwanzan' cultivar was included in the list of cultivars sent from Japan to Washington, DC in 1912. These cherries now make up 12% of the trees in the National Cherry Blossom Festival.



Cherry near the sphinx statues at the entrance to the French parterre



Flower detail with new bronze foliage



Double flower fully open



Flower detail with more mature green foliage

8. Horse chestnut

Aesculus hippocastanum 'Baumannii'

Sapindaceae

Location: The tree at the north end of the western Lunar Lawn bed.

Characteristics: A deciduous tree that can grow 80' tall with an upright habit and oval crown. Large, palmately compound leaves emerge in spring, typically with 7 leaflets, 4-10" long. This tree is known for its showy white flowers on upright panicles that develop an overall peach color as they age in mid-spring. Fall color is often poor but the large, shiny flower buds of late winter are spectacular.

Relevance: This tree was planted in 2011 as a replacement. The original tree dated from before Post's tenure and blew over in a storm.

Interesting Details: This cultivar is sterile and does not produce fruit.



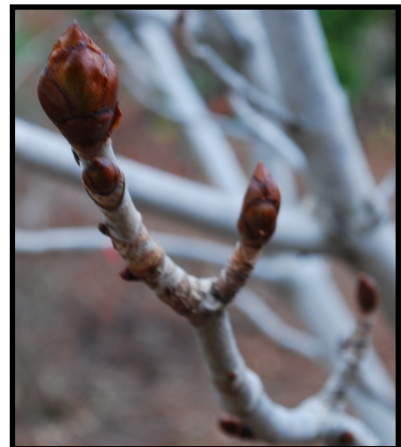
View from sphinx statues toward the putting green



Horse chestnut in winter



Leaf and Flower detail



Detail of buds

9. Yoshino cherry

Prunus × yedoensis 'Akebono'

Rosaceae

Location: A small deciduous tree on the French parterre side of the western Lunar Lawn bed. There are two more of this cultivar in the Lunar Lawn beds. Several straight *Prunus x yedoensis* are at Hillwood; one at the bottom pond of the Japanese-style garden.

Characteristics: A spring flowering tree with single, soft pink flowers fading to white that often seem to create a cloud effect. It has beautiful bark marked with prominent lenticels or pores and maintains rich-green leaves that turn a golden yellow in fall.

Relevance: Added in the 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: Yoshino cherry trees make up 73% of the trees in the National Cherry Blossom Festival, 3% of which are this exact cultivar.



View of tree from the Lunar Lawn



Lenticelled bark of the cherry in the Japanese-style garden



Detail of flowers

10. Paperbush

Edgeworthia chrysantha

Thymelaeaceae

Location: A deciduous shrub in the western Lunar Lawn bed just a few feet south of where the western path to the vista terrace meets the southern path to putting green. There is another farther down the path towards the Japanese-style garden. Two others are prominent specimens flanking the entrance to the greenhouse.

Characteristics: A deciduous suckering shrub that can grow 4-6' tall. Unique silver flower buds are visible throughout the winter which open into pendular clusters comprised of tube-shaped, yellow flowers. Flowers open between February and April. The brown branches are also an attractive winter feature. Pointed leaves are 3-5" long with dark green above and gray-green beneath.

Relevance: Added in the 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds. The greenhouse specimens were added in 2021.

Interesting Details: As the common name suggests, this plant is cultivated for its inner bark to make paper. In particular, it is cultivated widely in Japan to be used in the production of Japanese bank notes.



View standing on the western path to the vista terrace looking towards the house near the south putting green path



Swollen flower buds



Fully open flowers



Large pointed leaves at the greenhouse

11. Hellebore

Helleborus × hybridus 'Pine Knot Best Strain'

Ranunculaceae

Location: A group of perennials set 5' feet back from the edge of the western Lunar Lawn bed where the western path to the vista terrace meets the southern path to putting green. There are other cultivars of hellebore planted at the Dacha, near the putting green and other areas throughout the grounds.

Characteristics: An evergreen perennial with a clump-forming habit growing 1.5' tall. Large leathery leaves are dark green and glossy with deep lobes creating long elliptic segments with a serrated (toothed) edge. Cup-shaped flowers with five petals (actually sepals) come in a variety of colors and shades of white, pink, purple, red and yellow. Flowers bloom from late winter to early spring.

Relevance: Added in 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: 'Pine Knot Best Strain' is a mix of the best single and semi-double hybrid hellebores developed by Judith and Dick Tyler of Pine Knot Farms in Clarksville, Virginia.



Hellebore around and in front of saucer magnolia



Leaf detail



Full bloom

12. Glenn Dale azalea

Rhododendron 'Martha Hitchcock'

Ericaceae

Location: The second semi-evergreen shrub southeast from the corner of the western path to the vista terrace and the southern path to the putting green. This cultivar and other Glenn Dale hybrids can be found scattered throughout Hillwood, especially along the paths to the vista and the rose garden.

Characteristics: A semi-evergreen shrub that grows to roughly 5' with leaves and flowers that are larger than the Kurume azalea (see motor court). Blooms profusely with funnel-shaped flowers that are purplish-pink on the edges and white in the center. There are many other Glenn Dale hybrids with different colored flowers throughout Hillwood's gardens.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Glenn Dale is a group of azaleas hybridized by B.Y. Morrison starting in the late 1920s at the USDA Plant Introduction Station in Glenn Dale, Maryland. Morrison's goal was to develop large-flowered azaleas that were cold hardy in the DC area and had overlapping bloom times. He eventually created 454 new azalea cultivars. At this point, until more genetic testing occurs in the nursery industry, parentage of 'Martha Hitchcock' remains uncertain, hence the lack of a species name. Glenn Dale azaleas were very popular when Post began her Hillwood garden, and several are still sold today.



'Martha Hitchcock' located southeast of the southern putting green path



Flower detail

13. Green hawthorn

Crataegus viridis 'Winter King'

Rosaceae

Location: A small deciduous tree in the western Lunar Lawn bed just west of the vista terrace. There are two in this area as well as two flanking the stairs going from the butler's house to the administration building.

Characteristics: A rounded, sharply thorned tree with clusters of five-petaled, white flowers appearing in May. Lustrous dark-green leaves appear on gray-green bloomy stems. Notable especially for its small fruit that become bright-red in the fall and persist into winter.

Relevance: Added in 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: Green hawthorn is native to the mid-Atlantic region and 'Winter King' was introduced to the trade out of Indiana in 1955, the same year Post bought Hillwood.



As seen from the Japanese-style garden overlook after leaf drop



Exfoliating bark



Detail of fruit



Dark, lustrous leaves

14. Panicle hydrangea

Hydrangea paniculata 'Limelight'

Hydrangeaceae

Location: A deciduous shrub in the middle of the western Lunar Lawn bed near the vista terrace. There are several others scattered throughout both Lunar Lawn beds.

Characteristics: A vigorous, upright, rapid-growing, deciduous shrub with conical flower panicles that bloom from mid-summer into fall. Flowers change color as they mature, beginning as chartreuse-lime, changing to a creamy white, acquiring some pinkish tones, and then finally fading to beige.

Relevance: Planted in 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: This hydrangea blooms on the current season's new growth, also called "new wood." It may be safely pruned in late winter or early spring without reducing flowering.



Blooming as viewed from the western edge of the vista terrace



Flowers become creamy white



Dried, beige flower heads in winter

15. Giant leopard plant

Farfugium japonicum var. *giganteum*

Asteraceae

Location: Semi-evergreen perennial to the left of the Austrian pine trunk, west of the vista terrace.

Characteristics: A clumping semi-evergreen perennial growing to roughly 2' tall. Appreciated for its large, glossy, leathery leaves that are round or kidney-shaped. Yellow, daisy-like flowers appear on a tall, strong, leafless stems in November or December.

Relevance: Added in 2018 as a continuation to add interest to the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: Native to Japan and eastern Asia, giant leopard plant does well in moist woodland gardens or around stream banks.



Semi-evergreen perennial as seen from the edge of the vista terrace towards the putting green



Daisy-like florets



Leaf detail

16. Austrian pine

Pinus nigra

Pinaceae

Location: Tall evergreen tree in the western Lunar Lawn bed just west of the vista terrace.

Characteristics: A medium to large conifer that can reach over 60' and develop a rounded crown at maturity. Dark green needles can range from 3-6" long and are grouped in bundles of two. The dark brown/black bark is a notable feature with deep furrows and plates. Cones are typically 3" long and are stalkless, attached directly to the stem.

Relevance: Added in the 2001 Japanese-style garden renovation

Interesting Details: Austrian pines are very susceptible to a fungal disease, Diplodia tip blight. It attacks the new emerging needles, typically starting closer to the ground, moving in to the twigs and then the whole branch. Hillwood's specimen has this disease but the horticulture staff is taking mechanical measures (sanitation, watering, pruning) to stave off the tip blight for as long as possible.



View of Austrian pine from Lunar Lawn



Needles in groups of two



Cone



Bark detail

17. Hardy Begonia

Begonia grandis

Begoniaceae

Location: Perennial visible summer and fall behind the Austrian pine tree across the path from the top of the Japanese-style garden.

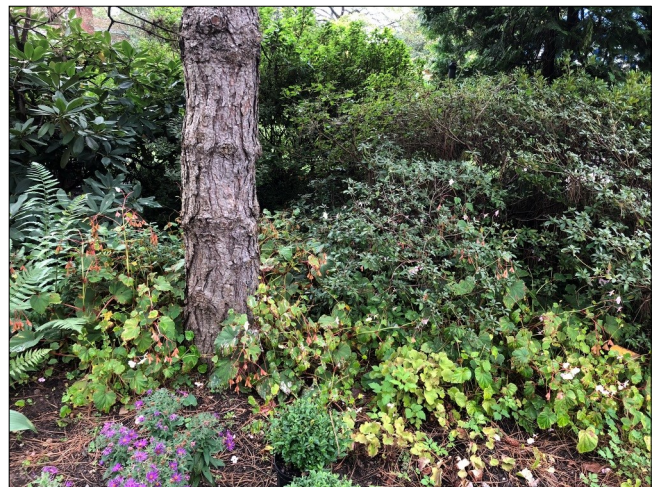
Characteristics: A shade-loving herbaceous perennial that grows to 2' tall with a mounded habit. Leaves are shaped like lopsided hearts (obliquely ovate), are medium to olive green in color, and have a red spot on top and red veining underneath. Light pink flowers dangle in clusters from July to September. The flower ovaries are attractive even after the pink tepals fall off.

Relevance: Added in the 1980's by Stewart Bankert as part of Adelaide Close Riggs's request to put more perennials in the garden.

Interesting Details: Begonia grandis produces bulbils, a small bulblike structure in the axil of a leaf. When mature, the bulbils fall to the ground to produce new plants. Tiger lilies, garlic, and agave produce bulbils. Begonias also have separate male and female flowers on the same plant.



Begonia grandis in bloom



Location behind the pine tree



Flower detail



Flower ovaries



Bulbils in the leaf axils



Leaf detail

18. Tea viburnum

Viburnum setigerum

Adoxaceae

Location: Large deciduous shrubs in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed just east of the vista terrace between the elm and Yoshino cherry trees. There are others in both of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Characteristics: An upright, vase-shaped shrub that can reach 8-12' tall. White, slightly fragrant 2" flowers develop in May. Known for its impressive fruit display, young fruit start to ripen as orange-yellow, changing to red beginning in late August.

Relevance: Added in 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

Interesting Details: Known as the tea viburnum because monks on Mount Omei in China brewed its leaves to make a sweet tea with medicinal properties.



Early fall



Fruit detail



Emerging flower buds

19. Cranesbill geranium

Geranium 'Gerwat' ROZANNE

Geraniaceae

Location: A perennial located 20' east of the vista terrace on the north side of the path.

Characteristics: A herbaceous perennial with a mounding form that can spread nearly 2' wide and 1.5' tall. Lacey, lobed leaves are attractive with a marbled green color. Large, five-petaled, purplish-blue flowers with white eyes form in May and bloom periodically until frost.

Relevance: Added in 2013 updating of the Lunar Lawn beds.

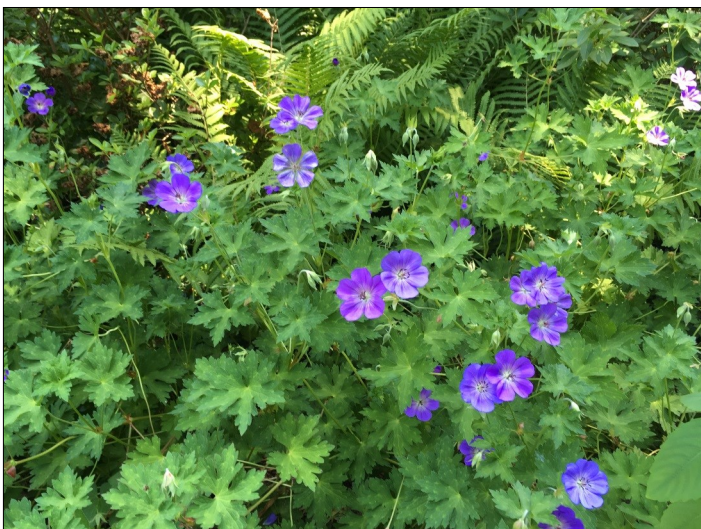
Interesting Details: ROZANNE is the patented plant name of the cultivar 'Gerwat.' Patented names are written in all capital letters.



ROZANNE mixed in with ferns along the path



Five-petaled flower with white center



Plant in bloom



Lacey, lobed leaves

20. Catawba rhododendron

Rhododendron catawbiense

Ericaceae

Location: The tall broadleaf evergreen shrub in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed east of the vista terrace, best viewed from the path. There are more Catawba rhododendron cultivars dotted throughout the Lunar Lawn beds, along the lower drive, and elsewhere at Hillwood.

Characteristics: A multi-stem broadleaf evergreen reaching 6-10' tall. Dark green leaves are large (3-6" long by 2" wide) and look leathery. Large, pinkish-purple flower heads develop in May, sometimes reaching over 6" across.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

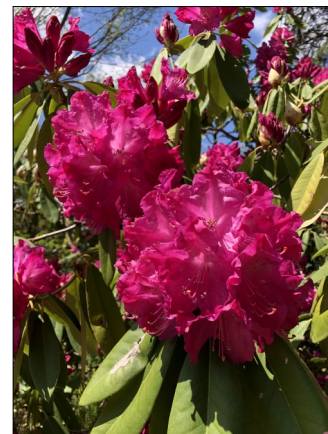
Interesting Details: There are thought to be more than 1,000 species of *Rhododendron* which are then classified into 8 subgenus groups. *Rhododendron catawbiense* is in the subgenus *Hymenanthes*. All azaleas are in the genus *Rhododendron* and therefore are technically rhododendrons.



Rhododendron in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed viewed from the path to the vista terrace



Detail of flower buds and



Flo detail wer

21. Diana Clare Lungwort

Pulmonaria 'Diana Clare'

Boraginaceae

Location: A silver-leaved perennial between the path to the dog cemetery and the vista terrace along the eastern walk. There are more edging the Dacha beds and a few at the top of the Japanese-style garden

Characteristics: A vigorous, semi-evergreen perennial that makes a mound 10" tall by 18" wide. In March or April, plants begin to regrow and develop small narrow silvery leaves speckled with dark green which then are quickly topped with magenta flower buds that open to purple and magenta flowers. As the flowers fade, the leaves mature and become much longer and take on an even stronger silver hue.

Relevance: Pulmonaria has been in the gardens historically but suffers now due to the warming climate. Diana Clare was added as a very heat tolerant and strong hybrid that continues that history.

Interesting Details: Lungwort was once believed by Medieval herbalists to effectively treat lung diseases and that the spotted leaves found on different species resembled diseased lungs.



Silver foliated plants along the eastern path to the vista terrace



Plant in full bloom with young foliage



Long mature foliage

22. Japanese camellia

Camellia japonica

Theaceae

Location: A large evergreen shrub at the intersection of the eastern path to the vista terrace and the small path to the pet cemetery. There are many others throughout Hillwood.

Characteristics: An upright, broadleaf shrub with lustrous green foliage. Produces large flowers in spring that can be 5" across. This particular camellia is red and white but can come in solid pinks, whites, and reds as well.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: We also have *Camellia sasanqua* on the property which have smaller leaves, fragrant flowers and bloom in the fall. They can be told apart easily by their stems. Japanese camellias have smooth stems where sasanqua camellias have stems that are pubescent (softly hairy). Hardy camellias were just being developed during Post's tenure at Hillwood. Her gardeners were known to dig camellias from the garden and overwinter them in the camellia house (now the Dina Merrill Pavilion just north of the café) to protect them from freezing temperatures.



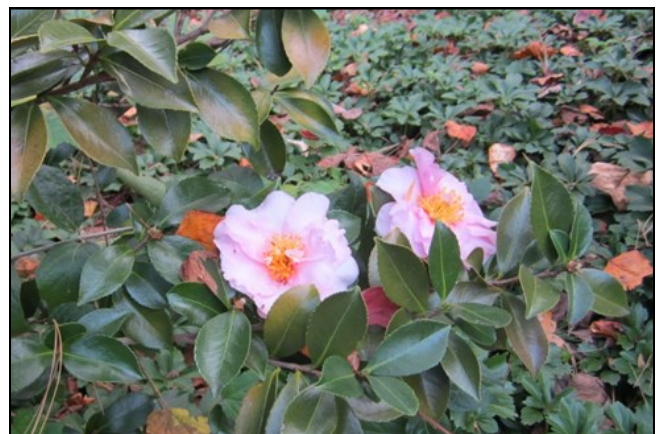
Camellia viewed from the pet cemetery path entrance toward the dacha



Detail of flower



A pink flowered camellia in the Lunar Lawn beds



A sasanqua camellia in bloom

23. Hosta

Hosta plantaginea var. *japonica*

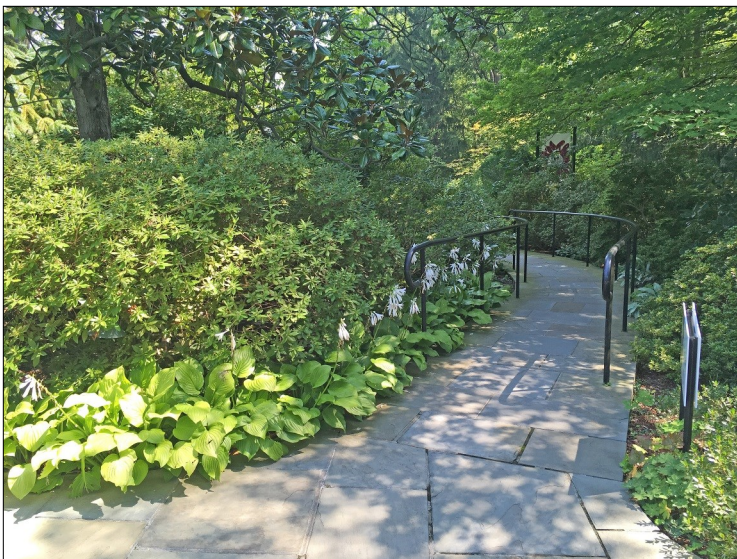
Asparagaceae

Location: Perennial at the intersection of the eastern path to the vista and the path to the ellipse.

Characteristics: A herbaceous perennial growing to 1.5' tall. Heart shaped leaves of medium green with prominent veining arch over to the ground. Large, white, trumpet-shaped flowers are born on 2.5' flower stems. *Hosta plantaginea* is considered one of the best flowering hostas. Hillwood has many different hosta throughout the gardens.

Relevance: Original plant to Post's tenure but not original location (transplanted many times).

Interesting Details: Of the roughly forty species of Hosta, *Hosta plantaginea* is considered one of the oldest. It is native to China and was cultivated as early as 206BC-220AD by the Han Dynasty.



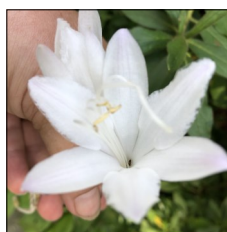
Hosta plantaginea along the path to the ellipse



Hosta 'Krossa Regal' -bottom of rose garden stairs



Flowers starting to open



Flower detail



Leaf detail



Hosta 'Curly Fries' - western path to vista

24. Bush clover

Lespedeza thunbergii 'Gibraltar'

Fabaceae

Location: Deciduous shrub in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed halfway between the eastern armillary sphere and the Dacha.

Characteristics: A semi-woody, deciduous shrub with an arching habit growing to 5' tall. Fine textured foliage is bluish-green and trifoliate (a compound leaf with three leaflets). Purplish-pink, pea like flowers in long pendulous flower panicles appear in August and September.

Relevance: Added in the fall of 2017 in the first wave of renovation due to tree loss.

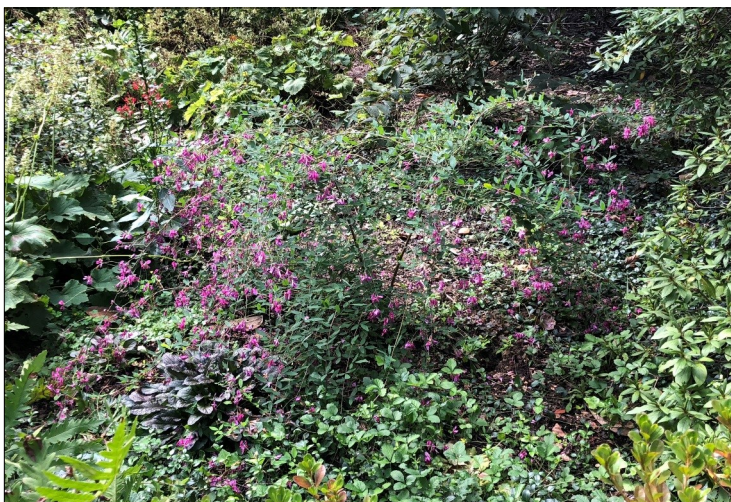
Interesting Details: Bush clover can be maintained by coppicing. Coppicing is a pruning technique where all the stems are cut back to 2-2.5" above the ground. Other plants that can be coppiced are red twig dogwoods and coral bark willow.



Located south of the eastern armillary sphere



Flower detail



In bloom– note the arching branches



Trifoliate leaves

25. Saucer magnolia

Magnolia × soulangeana

Magnoliaceae

Location: Mature deciduous tree in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed halfway between the dacha and the eastern armillary sphere. There are more saucer magnolias in the western Lunar Lawn bed and at the visitor center.

Characteristics: Typically multi-stemmed, these deciduous trees can grow 20-30' tall with a rounded form. The main attraction is their large, fragrant flowers in early spring before the foliage emerges. Flowers are pink with white interiors.

Relevance: From Post's tenure. A young tree was added just to the north of this specimen in 2013.

Interesting Details: The "x" in its Latin name denotes it as a hybrid, or offspring, of two different magnolia species. In this case, the parents are *Magnolia denudata* and *Magnolia liliflora*, both natives to China.



View from eastern armillary sphere towards dacha

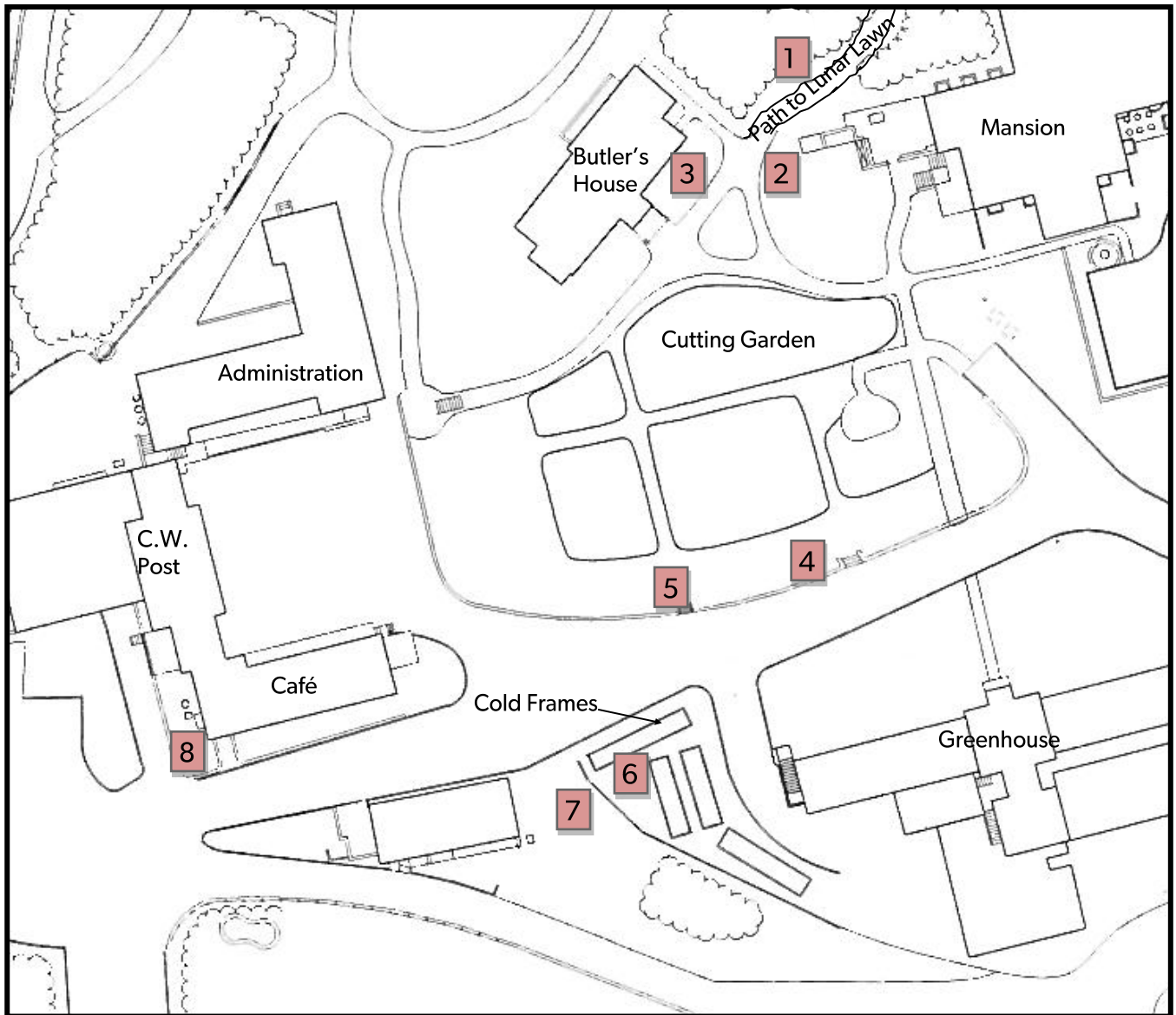
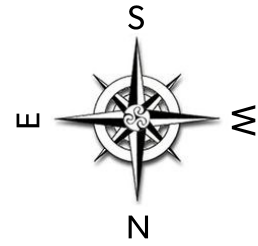


View toward mansion



Flower detail

CUTTING GARDEN



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1. Dove tree

Davidia involucrata

Nyssaceae

Location: A medium-sized deciduous tree on the southeast side of the path when walking toward the butler's house from Lunar Lawn.

Characteristics: A deciduous tree, typically with a pyramidal outline, ranging from 20' to 40' tall. Flowering occurs after the leaves have emerged, but the flowers are pendulous with two large white bracts (leaves) of unequal size that hang below the leaves. Fruit is a 1½" green drupe that develops speckles and turns brown as it ages.

Relevance: Added to the garden in the mid-1990s as a seedling from the National Arboretum.

Interesting Details: The white bracts are thought to resemble wings and give the dove-tree its common name. Other common names include the handkerchief tree and the ghost tree.



Flower detail



View of tree looking toward the Lunar Lawn



Leaf detail



Fruit on tree



Fruit with seed exposed



Bark

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2. Nellie Stevens holly

Ilex x 'Nellie R. Stevens'

Aquifoliaceae

Location: A medium sized evergreen tree on the northwest corner where the path from Lunar Lawn meets the cutting garden.

Characteristics: A vigorous, durable evergreen with lustrous dark-green leaves and a pyramidal growth habit. Plentiful red fruit develop and cover the tree.

Relevance: Planted in the mid-1990s

Interesting Details: The cultivar is named 'Nellie R. Stevens' after an Oxford, Maryland woman who originally obtained seeds of a cross between *Ilex cornuta* and *Ilex aquifolium* from the National Arboretum.



Viewed looking toward the Lunar Lawn



Detail of fruit



Leaf detail



Flower

3. Harvest Gold crabapple

Malus 'Harvest Gold'

Rosaceae

Location: A small deciduous tree on the southwest side at the entrance to the butler's house. There is a match on the northwest side.

Characteristics: A vigorous, vase-shaped deciduous tree reaching 30' high and 20' wide. Reddish buds open to clusters of five-petaled, white flowers in late spring. The small fruits (slightly bigger than a half-inch in diameter) are golden, and retain their color until the first freeze.

Relevance: Planted in the mid-1990s.

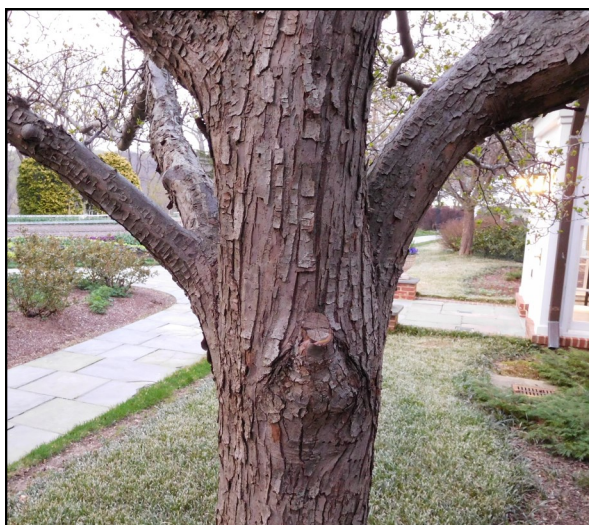
Interesting Details: Dr. Lester Nichols, a plant pathologist from Penn State University, listed 700 different crabapple species, cultivars, or hybrids in existence in the 1980s.



Bud and flower detail



In front of the butler's house with fall fruit



Trunk and bark



Leaf and fruit detail

4. Ginkgo

Ginkgo biloba

Ginkgoaceae

Location: The tall deciduous tree on the north side of the cutting garden just east of the middle set of stairs leading through the stone retaining wall.

Characteristics: A large deciduous conifer reaching over 80' tall. Leaves have a distinctive fan-like shape, are bright green in summer and golden-yellow in the fall. After the leaves have dropped, the rounded spurs along the branches are a good way of identifying the tree in winter.

Relevance: Already on the estate when Marjorie Merriweather Post purchased the property in 1955.

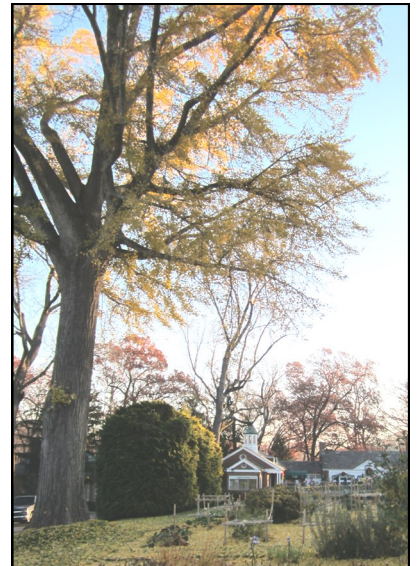
Interesting Details: This tree is a male, which means it does not produce the smelly fruit associated with Ginkgo trees. *Ginkgo biloba* is one of the oldest living trees and is thought to have been on earth for more than 150 million years. It is native to China.



Summer



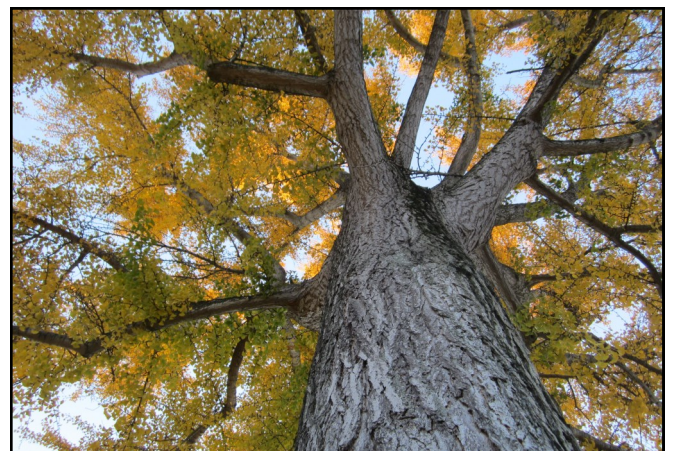
Winter



Fall leaf drop



Leaf detail



Bark and trunk

5. Hinoki falsecypress

Chamaecyparis obtusa 'Crippsii'

Cupressaceae

Location: The pair of tall, dome-shaped evergreen trees growing together to form an arch over the easternmost staircase leading through the stone retaining wall. Other Hinokis, which are not sheared, are located at the top of the Japanese-style garden and there are several more along the lower drive.

Characteristics: A conifer with slightly flattened, frond-like branches that droop at the end. The branch tips of this cultivar are a rich golden yellow, especially on the sides receiving the most sun, giving the plant a slightly ruffled look. Undersides of the branches have a whitish or silvery cast because of white markings, like tiny Xs or Ys, on the underside of the needles. Produces small (half-inch) round cones.

Relevance: Planted in the early 1960s.

Interesting Details: This is just one of several different *Chamaecyparis obtusa* at Hillwood. 'Nana Gracilis' is listed in the putting green section and the straight species is planted in the eastern Lunar Lawn bed.



On main drive



White markings on the underside of the needles



Color detail



Viewed from the cutting garden toward the cold frames



Bark

6. Beautybush

Kolkwitzia amabilis

Caprifoliaceae

Location: The deciduous arching shrub amongst the cold frames by the potting bench.

Characteristics: A large coarse shrub growing to 10'. Flat clusters of pinkish, bell-shaped flowers bloom in late May. Light-colored, grayish-brown branches form a fountain-like shape and often exfoliate.

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: Beautybush is a member of the honeysuckle family and is closely related to weigela.



View of location showing fountain-like shape



Exfoliating bark detail



Flower detail

7. Japanese tree lilac

Syringa reticulata

Oleaceae

Location: The deciduous multi-stemmed trees planted in a group behind the northeast corner of the cold frame area, below the brick retaining wall.

Characteristics: A large shrub or small tree with showy, creamy-white clusters of flowers appearing in late May. Flowers are very fragrant, which some people find off-putting. Leaves out earlier than many shrubs and has lustrous brown bark with horizontal markings (lenticels).

Relevance: From Post's tenure.

Interesting Details: *Syringa reticulata* is considered one of the most trouble-free lilacs due to its resistance to disease and insects that plague most of the genus.



Flowers in bud stage



Bark showing lenticels



Last year's seed capsule



Leaf detail

8. Empress tree

Paulownia tomentosa

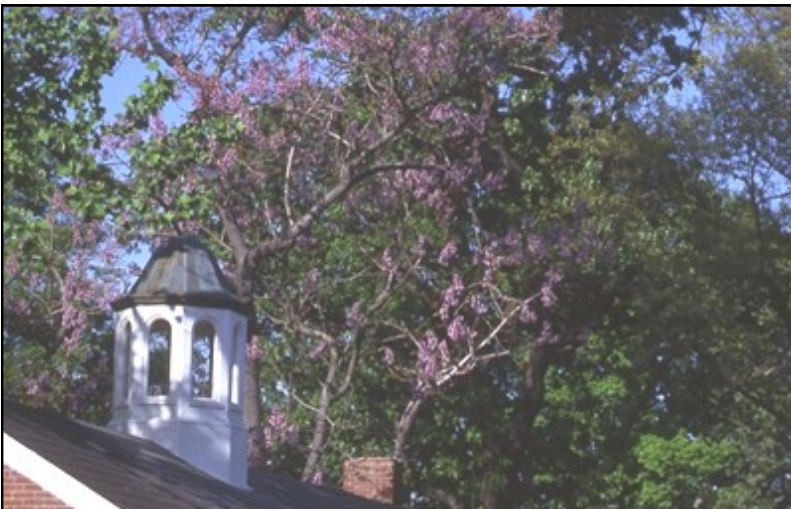
Scrophulariaceae

Location: The tall deciduous tree on the northeast corner of the café. Noticeable when in bloom over the top of the café.

Characteristics: A fast-growing deciduous tree notable for long clusters of lavender, vanilla-smelling flowers that bloom in April. Large leaves, up to 12" long, appear after flowering, are often heart-shaped and tend to drop early.

Relevance: Planted in 1960, under Post's direction, by her gardener Henry Rhyne.

Interesting Details: Now often considered an invasive weed tree, *Paulownia tomentosa* is kept under control through the removal of sprouts and seedlings at Hillwood. The genus *Paulownia* was named after Anna Pavlovna, the daughter of Tsar Paul I and wife of Prince William II of the Netherlands.



Lavender flowers above the café



Viewed looking towards the camellia house

Glossary

Not sure what a horticultural term means? Here is a list of terms taken from the Plant Resource Guide with their definitions to make it a bit clearer.

- **Bract**– A modified leaf that has evolved to protect the flower and attract pollinators on certain species of plants. Ex. The white bracts of the dogwood (not petals) protect and draw pollinators to the small yellow flowers in the center.
- **Broadleaf evergreen**– Describes a plant that maintains its foliage throughout the winter but has leaves instead of needles. Ex. Rhododendrons and aucuba
- **Catkin**– A pendulous flower cluster, typically of only one sex, arranged closely around a central stem with inconspicuous or no petals. Ex. Flowers of the white-barked Himalayan birch
- **Compound leaves**– Leaves that are made up of various leaflets attached to one leaf stem (petiole). Ex. Leaves of a horsechestnut
- **Conifer**– Describes a plant that produces cones, typically evergreen but there are exceptions. Ex. Evergreen conifer: pine and deciduous conifer: dawn redwood
- **Cultivar**– A plant that has been developed through cultivation, meaning that humans bred the plants to produce offspring with desirable characteristics. Ex. ‘Golden Dream’ boxwood was created for its variegated leaves
- **Deciduous**– Describes a plant that loses all its leaves before entering dormancy. Ex. Maple and oak
- **Dissected leaves**– Describes a leaf that is divided into deep, narrow segments. Ex. Japanese maple leaves
- **Drupe**– A fruit composed of a skin (epidermis), a fleshy layer (mesocarp) and a hard, stony pit. Ex. Peaches and cherries
- **Dwarf**– A plant that stays smaller than typically expected, typically slow growing. Ex. ‘Morris Dwarf’ boxwood
- **Espalier**– A plant that has been trained to grow in a flat plane against a wall, fence, or trellis. Ex. The magnolia in the French parterre
- **Evergreen**– Describes a plant that does not lose its leaves for the winter. Ex. Pine and holly
- **Herbaceous**– Made up of non-woody stems.
- **Lenticels**– Pores in the bark; can be quite visible on some species of trees and shrubs. Ex. Cherries and birch trees have prominent lenticels.
- **Margin**– The edge of a leaf
- **Panicle**– Describes a flower structure (inflorescence) that has repeated branching of multiple flowers. Ex. Pieris has a type of panicle inflorescence.
- **Perennial**– Having a life cycle lasting longer than two years.
- **Pubescent**– Covered with fine, soft, short hairs. Ex. The underside of a leaf of a Southern magnolia is pubescent.
- **Reversion**– A part of a plant that has mutated back to its original form. Ex. A dwarf Alberta spruce may develop a branch that reverts back to its original form– a 60’ + tall white spruce.

Glossary (continued)

- **Rhizome**– Modified stems that run horizontally underground.
- **Semi-evergreen**– Describes a plant that loses a majority but not all of its leaves before dormancy. Ex. Many of Hillwood’s azaleas are semi-evergreen. Most keep a few leaves at the ends of the branches throughout the winter.
- **Sepals**– The green leaves that surround and protect a flower bud and typically remain attached to the flower stem throughout the life of the flower. Ex. Roses have prominent sepals covering the flower buds.
- **Shrub**– A woody plant under 20’ tall that lacks a dominant stem in the center of the plant. Ex. The deutzia by the rose garden is a tall shrub.
- **Specimen**– A single plant in a bed or lawn grown for ornamental effect. Ex. The Hollywood juniper in the Japanese-style garden is a specimen.
- **Tepals**– Term used for the outer parts of a flower when these parts cannot easily be categorized as either sepals or petals.
- **Tree**– A woody plant that has a strong central stem (or stems) and has lateral branches some distance above the ground. May or may not be tall. Ex. The dissected Japanese maple in the Japanese-style garden is a tree but is only 4’ tall.

Sources for Further Reading

If you would like to learn more, here is a list of places to start. Have fun!!

Books

- Dirr, Michael A., (2009). *Manual of Woody Landscape Plants: Their Identification, Ornamental Characteristics, Culture, Propagation and Uses* (6th ed.). Champaign, IL: Stipes Publishing.
 - considered the prime source of detailed information on woody shrubs
- Dirr, Michael A., (1997). *Dirr's Hardy Trees and Shrubs: An Illustrated Encyclopedia*. Timber Press.
 - lots of good photos of the highlighted plants

Web-based databases

- Missouri Botanical Garden. *Plant Finder*. <<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/plantfinder/plantfindersearch.aspx>>
 - Search to learn characteristics and cultural needs of nearly 7,000 plants that have been grown in Kemper Center display gardens.
- Cooperative extension: NC State University and NC A&T State University. Plants. <plants.ces.ncsu.edu>
 - Search for plants by name or categories to find information and photos
- The Ohio State University. *Plant facts*. Website Administrator: Dr. Tim Rhodus, Department of Horticulture and Crop Science. <<http://plantfacts.osu.edu/web/>>
 - Consolidates plant information from 46 different universities and government institutions across the United States and Canada. A good source of scholarly articles on a wide variety of plant subjects.
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. *PLANTS database*. <<http://plants.usda.gov/home>>
 - Find information on plants in the US. Especially good for classification and topics like native or invasive status.

Plant societies

There are a number of plant societies that have really good websites, some with searchable databases. Here are a few to check out:

- American Conifer Society. *ConiferBase*. <<http://conifersociety.org/conifers/>>
- The American Rhododendron Society. Rhododendron (and azalea) Plant search. <http://www.rhododendron.org/search_intro.asp>
- Azalea Society of America. <<http://azaleas.org/glenn-dales/>> Has good information on azalea care and a list of all the Glenn Dale azalea hybrids, most of them with pictures.

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