

“Summer of 2022”

Where to go, what to do??

AGC MEMBERS, we have pulled together a list of places gardeners might enjoy visiting during the summer months. We cover: New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Maine.

Summer is a great time to get out. Some of the places are day trips, others you might want to make an overnight. Please let us know on our AGC Members Google site when you visit a place. It also is good to check out the websites given for these places for covid protocol or other important information.

Get outside and enjoy your summer!

• **NEW HAMPSHIRE** •

- **Pickity Place**
- **248 Nutting Hill Rd., Mason, NH (25 minutes)**

Step into a storybook at Pickity Place, crowned with a c. 1786 cottage that was the model for Elizabeth Orton Jones’s *Little Red Riding Hood* illustrations. It’s set amid 10 acres of woodlands and gardens that range from butterfly and bird themes to a kitchen garden that provides ingredients for the gourmet five-course luncheons served here. Plus, there’s an herb shop, a garden shop, and a greenhouse with plants for sale. A fun place to take company or meet a friend for lunch. A fixed menu, reservations required-sometimes way in advance. pickityplace.com

- **Monson Village**
- **Federal Hill Rd., Milford, NH (15 minutes)**

One of the best times to visit is mid-to late June, when the flowers have shifted from the woods to the fields and are wonderful! **White mountain laurel** can be at peak. The woodland floor is alive with many natives in bloom, including campion, motherwort, and trillium. Herons can be seen in their nests. More information on Monson Village can be found at www.forestsociety.org

- **Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park**
- **139 Saint Gaudens Rd., Cornish, NH (just under a 2 hour trip)**

This National Park preserves the home, gardens, and studios of Augustus Saint-Gaudens, one of America's foremost sculptors. Many details are at www.nps.gov. From July-September a Summer Concert Series is held each Sunday from 2-4 pm. {Note: Closer to July, the concert series will need to be confirmed for the season.} You can bring a picnic and eat on the lawns overlooking a wonderful view to Vermont, then walk the gardens and see many examples of this renowned sculptor's works.

Nearby in Plainfield is Edgewater Farm, a fabulous farm stand, stop for cut flowers, plants veggies, cheeses and many goodies produced in their kitchens.

www.edgewaterfarm.com

- **Bedrock Gardens**
- **19 High Rd, Lee, NH (45 min. trip)**

What was once a historic dairy farm has now transitioned to a 20-acre showcase of horticulture and art for public enjoyment. Among the eclectic attractions are a rock garden, a Japanese garden and tea house, a 200-foot water channel planted with lotus and water lilies, an abstract "painting" made up of ornamental grasses, scattered sculptures, and woodland trails. bedrockgardens.org

- **Bagley Pond native Perennial Farm**
- **648 Pumpkin Hill Road, Warner, NH (1 hour trip)**

Bagley Pond Native Perennials, located in Warner, NH was a new vender at our 2022 AGC Plant Sale. Their goal is to provide home gardeners with pollinator safe native plants and shrubs that are not only beautiful and garden worthy but also support wildlife. The company was started in 2018, but with the pandemic things really slowed down. They will be open every Friday and Saturday from 9am-3pm and invite you to come and visit the farm! Bagleypondperennials.com

- **Fuller Gardens**
- **10 Willow Ave., New Hampton, NH (1 hour trip)**

Fuller Gardens are a public botanical garden that was once part of the estate owned by Alvan T. Fuller. Set on the seacoast, these gardens feature horticulture at its highest level, with thousands of rose bushes and hundreds of varieties that bloom all season. Also included are formal English perennial borders, a Japanese Garden and tropical conservatory. <http://fullergardens.org/>

- **John Hay Estate at the Fells**
- **456 Route 103A, Newbury, NH (1 hour trip)**

Discover The Fells' 83.5 acres of beauty and tranquility and learn the legacy of diplomat and statesman John Milton Hay. Explore the forest, walk the woodland trails, and enjoy the extensive formal and informal renowned gardens. Check into the guided tours of the 6 Fells gardens. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a preservation project of the Garden Conservancy. You can even take a tour of the 22 room Colonial Revival home. Thefells.org

• VERMONT •

- **Vermont Garden Park (National Gardening Association)**
- **Corner of Dorset and Swift Streets, South Burlington, VT (3-hour trip)**

Home to the **National Gardening Association**, this 20-acre new botanical garden features a butterfly garden, a community garden, a children's garden, an ethnic heritage garden, a wildlife garden, a vegetable & herb garden, an All-American Selections garden, a secret garden, and a maze to name just a few.

- **Shelburne Farms**
- **1611 Harbor Rd., Shelburne, VT (3-hour trip)**

This 1886 model agricultural estate, now an environmental education center, was created by several including landscape architect Frederick Law Olmstead. The naturalistically landscaped grounds, optimizing vistas of Lake Champlain, include a garden at the magnificent house and a market garden. shelburnefarms.org

- **Hildene/The Lincoln Family Home**
- **1005 Hildene Rd., Manchester, VT (2.5-hour trip)**

The Lincolns built Hildene as a summer home at the turn of the 20th century. The estate now includes 412 acres with a Georgian revival mansion, formal gardens and observatory that was restored starting in 1978. All of the venues and exhibits are designed to be self-guided. They offer seasonal wagon rides and garden tours upon request. They are open Thursday through Monday all year. Check their website for more information hildene.org (Great places to eat and shop in Manchester)

- **Morrill Homestead**
- **214 Justin Morrill Memorial Hwy, Strafford, VT (1.5 - hour trip)**

The homestead of a former US Senator is now a National Historic Site. Self-guided tours of the gardens may be enjoyed at no cost. Outdoor interpretive signs, including images and maps, reveal the fascinating stories behind the kitchen garden, the ornamental Victorian gardens and Morrill's historic orchard. The house is open for tours Friday- Sunday through October 9. Morrillhomestead.org

• MASSACHUSETTS •

- **Castle Hill Tours | Crane Estate,**
- **290 Argilla Rd., Ipswich, MA (1 ½ hour trip)**

Explore the estates “outdoor rooms” on this new guided garden tour. You will see the Italian and Rose Gardens, Mrs. Crane’s favorite places to spend her time. The tour runs about an hour and your tickets last 3 hours to wander the gardens. Several great spots to order seafood. thetrustees.org

- **Bridge of Flowers**
- **Shelburne Falls, MA (under 2-hour trip)**

Once a trolley bridge and now a footbridge, the Bridge of Flowers lives up to its name: a stately 400-foot span with cascades of bright blooms from April to October, and greenery arching up and billowing over. Truly, this is a walk to remember. bridgeofflowersmass.org

- **Stevens-Coolidge House & Garden**
- **153 Chickering Rd., North Andover, MA (under an hour trip)**

Check out this Trustees site that promotes so many garden events at the Stevens-Coolidge House & Garden. Often a workshop combines with a ticket in to see the gardens. thetrustees.org

- **Concord Museum**
- **53 Cambridge Turnpike, Concord, MA (978) 369-9763 (1 hour trip)**

The Concord Museum is collaborating with Mass Audubon to present a special exhibition, “Alive with Birds: William Brewster in Concord”. Brewster (1851-1919) was Mass Audubon’s first President. Concord provides lots of lunch choices and there are great farm stands in the area. Concordmuseum.org

- **Heritage Gardens and Museum**
- **67 Grove St., Sandwich, MA (978) 369-9763 (2.5-hour trip).**

The Heritage property sports 100 acres of magnificent garden design featuring rhododendrons, hydrangeas, daylilies as well as the McInnes Garden (pollinator), Garden of Senses, and herbaceous perennials. Something for every age group. For those who are interested the rotunda museum features the original story of the American automobile through 23 cars from Heritage's permanent collection, taking you from the late 1800s to the 1960s. heritagemuseumandgardens.org

• RHODE ISLAND •

- **The Breakers & Green Animals Topiary Gardens**
- **380 Corys Lane, Portsmouth, RI (about 2-hour trip)**

Artistry meets arboriculture at the oldest topiary garden in the U.S., where you'll find more than 80 trees and bushes sculpted into geometric forms and animal shapes, from a giraffe to a teddy bear. Part of the Newport Mansions, this former country estate also boasts vegetable and herb gardens, orchards, and a Victorian house overlooking Narragansett Bay. newportmansions.org

- **Kinney Azalea Gardens**
- **2391 Kingston Rd., Kingston, RI (about 2-hour trip)**

Few places are as romantic as this hidden gem in spring, when more than 1000 varieties of azaleas, rhododendrons, as well as other broadleaved evergreens, native shrubs, and trees, come into bloom. The public is welcome to explore the six-acre wonderland, which only asks for a donation to be admitted; many plants are offered for sale too. kinneyazaleagardens.com

• MAINE •

- **The Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens (about 3-hour trip)**
- **105 Botanical Gardens Dr., Boothbay, ME**

The mission of the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens is to inspire meaningful connections among people, plants, and nature. This is well worth a day of roaming

around, seeing all their exhibits, having lunch and shopping in their wonderful gift shop.
Mainegardens.org

- **Mount Desert Island Gardens (3 different gardens)**
- **Mount Desert Island, ME (over 4-hour trip)**

The ultimate one-stop destination for garden inspiration. The Land & Garden Preserve maintains three of the island's gems: the historic Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden in Seal Harbor (reservations required); and the Japanese-inspired Asticou Azalea Garden and English-style Thuya Garden, both in Northeast Harbor. Plus, you can visit the onetime home of landscape architect Beatrix Jones Farrand, Garland Farm, in Bar Harbor, or explore nature's diversity in the Wild Gardens of Acadia, in Acadia National Park. gardenpreserve.org; beatrxfarrandsociety.org; nps.gov/places/wild-gardens-of-acadia.htm