



*Margaret P. Holden 1991*

# The Botanic Garden of Smith College

Lyman Plant House  
16 College Lane  
Northampton, MA 01063

(413) 585-2742  
garden@smith.edu  
[www.smith.edu/garden](http://www.smith.edu/garden)

## Teachers' Resource Guide



# Visit & Tour Information

## General Hours and Fees

- Lyman Conservatory—open daily from 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM.
- Conservatory hours change during our spring and fall flower shows.
- Campus arboretum and gardens: Open daily year-round
- Admission is free, but donations are always appreciated.

## Self-Guided Visits and Guided Tour Reservations

- Reservations are required for all groups of ten or more.
- **Self-Guided Visits** require *at least two weeks advance booking*.
- **Guided Tours** require *at least four weeks advance booking*.
- Please use our online form: <https://www.smith.edu/garden/visit/group-visits-guided-tours/request-a-tour-or-visit> , email: [garden@smith.edu](mailto:garden@smith.edu) or call (413) 585-2742 during regular business hours; M–F 8:30 am to 4:00 pm. Let us know about any special needs when booking a visit or guided tour.

\*All requests are processed during regular business hours and are handled on a first come first served basis.

## Tour /Visit Times

- Conservatory tours/visits last about an hour , start at 9:00 am and end at 3:30 pm.
- April to June, September and October are the busiest times for tours. Book early!

We do **NOT** offer guided tours during the following events:

- Smith College commencement and reunion in mid-May
- Fall Chrysanthemum Show — beginning of November\*
- Spring Bulb Show — beginning of March\*

**\*Groups of ten or more must call two weeks ahead to visit (no tour) during the Bulb and Chrysanthemum shows.**

## Group Size

- Groups larger than 40 must plan on splitting the group and sending half to another location, and then switching.
- The Smith College Museum of Art also offers tours for school groups. **PLEASE NOTE:** you **must** contact them directly to arrange a tour or visit. 413-585-2781 — [museduc@smith.edu](mailto:museduc@smith.edu)

## Chaperones

In accordance with child safety guidelines, minors must be supervised at all times. Please have adequate staff and chaperones.

For K-12 age groups, we require:

- 1 Adult for every 5 students ages 4-6
- 1 Adult for every 7 students ages 7-10
- 1 Adult for every 10 students over the age of 10

The Botanic Garden is a living museum for plants. We hope your group enjoys its visit and learns something new about the plant world.

## Botanic Garden Rules and Safety Info

- Do not touch the plants in the conservatory or outside gardens.
- Do not run in the greenhouses. Floors may be wet and slippery and there may be hoses or other materials across walkways.
- Do not bring food or drink into the greenhouses.
- Do not pick up anything from the floor of the greenhouses.
- There may be bees in the greenhouses.
- Stay on paths/walkways in greenhouses and outside gardens
- Climbing trees on campus is prohibited
- Anyone with respiratory or heart problems should know that some greenhouses can be very warm and humid.

**\*We cannot supply any medications or first aid.\***

## Bus Subsidies

- Provided by The Friends of the Botanic Garden **to groups scheduling guided tours.**
- We will cover costs up to \$200 per bus, per trip.
- Funds are limited and granted on a first come, first served basis.
- It is up to you to arrange transportation for your group.
- Payment is issued after the tour occurs and we receive all paperwork including an official invoice.
- Bus subsidy instructions and forms are online at:  
[http://www.smith.edu/garden/Home/Bus\\_Form.pdf](http://www.smith.edu/garden/Home/Bus_Form.pdf)

## Tour Confirmation

Once your tour details are finalized, you will receive a confirmation letter. Please review this for any errors or omissions.

If you must cancel, please notify us at least a week in advance except in the case of an emergency or a snow day.

## Accessibility

- There is a handicapped parking space in front of the building and two accessible entrances.
- The restrooms and all but one of the greenhouses are wheelchair accessible.
- Please advise us of any students with special needs when booking your group.

## Lunch

- The Botanic Garden has no indoor areas available to eat lunch.
- Groups may bring bagged lunches and eat on the campus lawns. **Please be prepared to take your trash with you.** Thank you!
- We recommend reserving an indoor space in case of inclement weather. Contact the Campus Center at 413-585-2639
- **Picnicking is NOT permitted in the Systematics Garden, Rock Garden, Capen Garden, the Overlook Garden or the Japanese Garden.**

## Parking

- **Allow 15-20 minutes for parking.**
- There is no parking on College Lane.
- Buses or large vans may park temporarily in front of Lyman Plant House to discharge passengers.
- Long term parking for buses is at the stables parking lot — a bus parking map will be included with your tour confirmation.
- There are two visitor parking spots in front of the Lyman Plant House, plus one handicapped parking space. Other parking is available on Elm Street. The Smith parking garage on West Street also has spaces for visitors.
- Campus parking lots are only available for public use on weekends and weekdays after 5 pm.

## Church Exhibition Gallery

To learn about the current exhibit, call ahead or visit our website — [www.smith.edu/garden](http://www.smith.edu/garden) — Don't miss our permanent exhibits, *Woods of the World*, on the walls and ceiling of the north hallway and the *Plant Evolution Mural* in the Palm House corridor.

## **Directions From I-91**

**From the south**, take the first Northampton exit (#18). At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Route 5 and follow into Northampton to Route 9 (Main Street). Turn left and follow to College Lane (across from Helen Hills Hills Chapel), left onto College Lane and the Botanic Garden's Lyman Plant House will be on your left across from Paradise Pond. NOTE: there is no parking along College Lane.

**From the north**, take Exit 20 and go straight on King Street to Route 9 (Main Street — the Hotel Northampton will be on your right). Take a right onto Main Street and follow directions above.

### **Visit Our Website**

**<http://www.smith.edu/garden>**

Find out more about the Botanic Garden of Smith College and our current exhibitions. Explore our collections with a virtual tour and be sure to check out the Kid's Corner link on our home page.

We guarantee you will learn something new!

# Lyman Conservatory Highlights

## **Conservatory Collection**

Dating from 1895 there are 12,000 square feet under glass with approximately 3200 different plants. Two special shows are featured annually: the Spring Bulb Show, begins the first Saturday in March and the Fall Chrysanthemum Show, begins the first Saturday in November. Both shows run for two weeks including the third weekend.

## **Succulent House**

The plant collection here represents flora from deserts and other arid regions of the world. Here students can examine the adaptations that these plants have made to survive in their harsh environments. Don't miss the living stones!

## **Palm House**

Step into this room and you'll feel like you're in the jungle! Tropical plants fill this room with life. Look for the large cone-bearing cycad. Be sure to notice the plants whose products students may be familiar with, such as bamboo, coffee, cacao, banana, cinnamon, and rubber.

## **Cool Temperate House**

Plants here can't survive outside in freezing weather but they don't need a tropical climate either. The greenhouse is divided into four sections: Asia, Latin America, Africa, and Australia. Economic plants include coffee, tea, olives, eucalyptus, and the rice paper plant.

## **Warm Temperate House**

The plants in this greenhouse mostly come from tropical and subtropical climates where winters don't exist or are very mild. Look for the sensitive plant, which will fold its leaves when it is touched gently. You can also see insectivorous plants, such as the pitcher plant, as well as many common houseplants.

## **Stove House**

The Stove House is home to our collection of orchids, bromeliads, and aquatic plants. Notice the vanilla orchid, where we get vanilla beans, the pineapple bromeliad, rice plants, sugar cane and water lilies. You may even see a frog hopping through the pool!

# Campus Gardens & Arboretum

## **Campus Arboretum:**

Features over 1100 woody trees and shrubs spread throughout the campus. Look for the 100+ year old ginkgo tree near the Conservatory.

## **Systematics Garden:**

The garden was originally laid out in 1894. Redesigned in 2014, it contains angiosperms (flowering plants) laid out in a visual representation of a phylogenetic tree. Twelve families are represented.

## **Rock Garden:**

Established in 1897, it contains over 1600 alpine taxa, including some threatened and endangered plants. Modeled on the Rock Garden at Kew in London, it exhibits outcrop, moraine, and scree rock formations of alpine habitats.

## **Ruth Brown Richardson 1913 Perennial Border:**

Planted in 1984 for purely ornamental purposes, along the fence bordering College Lane. Colorful annuals are planted along the road.

## **“Happy” Chace '28 Garden:**

Surrounds the 1920s president's residence and offers views of Paradise Pond and Mount Tom.

## **Wildflower and Woodland Garden:**

Situated along the ravine behind the President's House.

## **Japanese Garden for Reflection and Contemplation:**

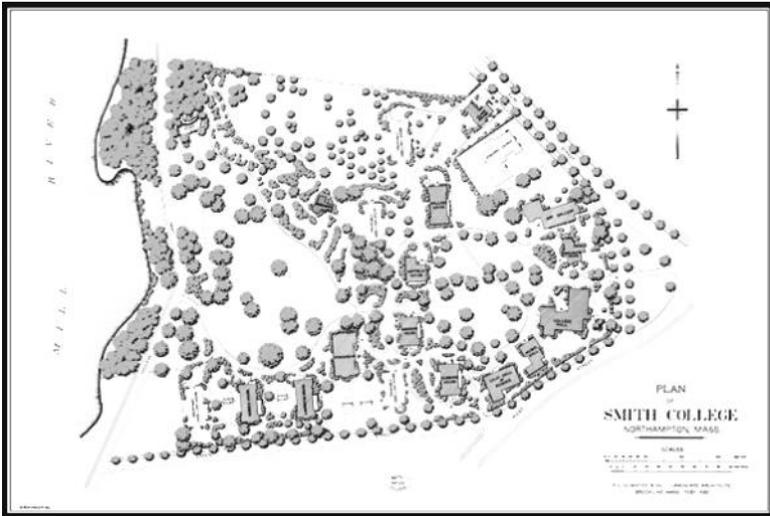
Designed in 1986 with the goal of creating the harmony and serenity of a traditional Japanese garden, while tying it into the New England landscape by using native flora. The garden incorporates locally collected rocks that symbolize seven events in the life of Buddha.

## **Capen Garden:**

Across Elm Street on other side of campus, used as an outdoor laboratory for horticulture students and as a quiet garden space. It is designed as a series of outdoor garden rooms and includes formal knot garden, bulb and iris displays, a rose arbor, gazebo garden, and more.

# *The Botanic Garden of Smith College*

was founded over one hundred years ago by L. Clarke Seelye, the College's first president, who expressed his hope that the whole campus could be developed as a botanic garden so that it might be of scientific as well as aesthetic value. The landscape architecture firm of Frederick Law Olmsted, of Central Park fame, was enlisted to create that plan.



The spirit of this concept has persisted at Smith College since that time and remains basic to our purpose of education, research, display, and conservation.. Today the Botanic Garden serves as a living museum of plants native to New England and areas all around the globe. The Garden encompasses the Lyman Conservatory and the 125 contiguous acre college campus with a variety of specialty gardens, which contain over 7000 labeled and mapped plants.