

# The Garden of Colonial Flowers at Munroe Tavern



The flowers in this garden were gathered and maintained by Kris Burton of the Lexington Field & Garden Club and her volunteers. Kris read numerous letters and diaries of Boston people in addition to catalogs, garden books and Boston newspapers to learn as much as she could about colonially flowers. This garden exhibits flowers you might have seen and been used by 18<sup>th</sup> Century Boston gardeners.

All the antique flowers in this garden are known today as “Heirlooms.” Whether you are a beginner gardener or someone who has been gardening for a long time, you have probably heard the term “heirloom.” So, what are heirloom flowers? To put it simply, an heirloom flower is a flower that is open-pollinated and that dates back at least 50 years.

The garden displays a beautiful array of colors from spring until fall. Kris was the steward of this garden for over 30 years. Volunteers from the Lexington Field & Garden Club have assisted Kris in the garden up until her passing. Barbara Morgan is now the current steward.





In the words of Nancy Trautman:

*"Kris took her job as steward of the Colonial Flower Garden at Monroe seriously and was committed to making it the place of peace and beauty that it is today. She also worked hard to ensure that the plants were authentic to the period, doing extensive reading, and wrote the well-researched brochure about the Colonial Flower Garden. Kris had a dedicated crew of LFGC volunteers who were there every Tuesday, rain or shine, to weed, plant, and tend. The fact that many of them had been with her for decades was a testament Kris's dedication and knowledge - everyone who worked with her learned from her."*

Here is a list of some of the flowers that are lovingly cared for: daffodils, tulips, bunch primrose, gasplant, lemon lily, Jonny-jump-ups, beebalm, phlox, dwarf morning glory, China aster, pincushion flower, summer snowflakes, bee larkspur, bouncing bet and pot marigolds.

*Photo of Munroe Tavern courtesy of Paul Doherty and Regina Sutton.*

*\*Excerpt from recent LFGC newsletter.*

# The Rose Garden at Munroe Tavern

The Rose Garden is a new addition to Munroe Tavern. Under the stewardship of Nancy Trautman, this garden is being brought back to life.

*The Rose Garden: Recently Rediscovered and Renewed.*

Members of the New England Rose Society have helped to identify them. Some of the species in the garden were brought from Spain or the Mideast during the Crusades.

The heirloom roses in the garden at Munroe Tavern only bloom once a year, in June, so come by to smell the rich fragrance of these old varieties that were grown before

the toughness and scent were bred out in favor of repeated blooms in the mid-1800s. The plants include several types of Spinosissima, Centifolia, Alba, York and Lancaster, Gallica officinalis and Gallica Hippolyte, Centifolia mucosa, and a Damask Ispahan. Indeed, a sight to behold! garden next to a rill (small seasonal stream). Altogether, well worth a stop

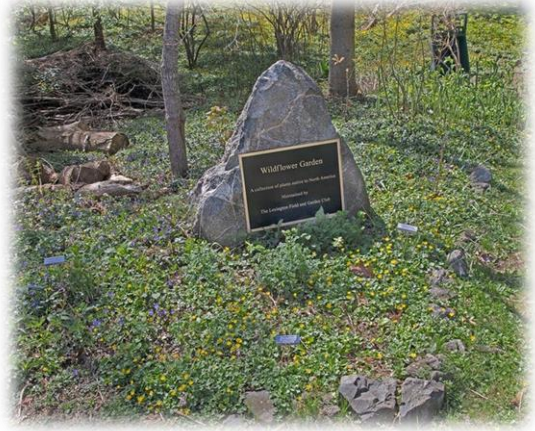


*Photos courtesy of Nancy Trautman.*

*Content courtesy of article written by Ashley Rooney.*

# The Wildflower Garden at Munroe Tavern

In 1985 the Lexington Field & Garden Club began the initial care of the lower portion of the grounds of the Munroe Tavern and established a naturalistic garden of American wildflowers and ferns. The garden club's efforts are to enhance the area in a natural but planned way and to add interest to the Munroe Tavern property, to establish an educational resource for the community, and to provide an on-going hands-on experience for garden club members. This garden also provides an opportunity to learn about native American flora.



Over seventy-five varieties of wildflowers are grown here. This is the only wildflower garden open to the public in Lexington. The garden steward is Joanne Fray.

The Wildflower or Native Plant Garden has a large trillium collection; many different plants, ferns and shrubs bloom during the spring. As long as the Conservation Commission approves, more natives could easily be added.



*Content courtesy of article written by Ashley Rooney.*

*Photo courtesy of Wicked Local and Regina Sutton.*

# List of Flowers growing in the Wildflower Garden

APPENDIX III  
MINROE TAVERN WILDFLOWER GARDEN

Flowers				
Red Baneberry	Actaea rubra	part shade, poisonous	1-2'	May-June
Wild Bleeding Heart	Dicentra scotia	part shade	1-1½'	June-Aug
Bloodroot	Sanguinaria canadensis	acid woods	3-6"	June
Blue Flag	Iris cristata	damp soil, sun	2'	June
Blue-eyed Grass	Sisyrinchium angustifolium	low woods	6-20"	May-June
Yagbane	Cisticfusa racemosa	rich woods	3-6"	May-July
Sanberry	Cornus canadensis	cool woods	2-3'	May-June
Buttercup	Ranunculus acris	disturbed areas	3-6"	May
Canada Mayflower	Natalantherum canadense	moist acid woods	7"	May-Aug
Greater Oenothera	Oenothera biennis	soil open readily	2-5"	Apr - May
Lesser Oenothera	Oenothera linnæi	damp woods	3"	May
Cheekberry	Castilleja occidentalis	woods	3-18"	Feb-June
Coltsfoot	Tussilago farfara	dry soil, sun	1-2'	June
Coltsfoot	Anuloclea canadensis	half-sun	3-6"	July-Aug
Queen's Delight	Samolus virginicus	part shade	6-9"	May-June
Spigelia	Spigelia canadensis	rich moist woods	½-1'	Apr-June
Swamp Milkweed	Asclepias tuberosa	moist pine woods	4-5"	May-June
Prickly Milkweed	Asclepias speciosa	shade or sun	2"	June
Mill-over-the-crowns	Claytonia virginica	sun or shade	1-2'	July-Aug
Birchbell	Claytonia virginica	moist woods	1-2'	May-June
Indian Chokeberry	Adiantum virginicum	moist shade	1-1½'	June
Jack-in-the-pulpit	Amorphophallium tuberosum	moist acid soil	2-5"	July-Aug
Jewel weed (Spotted)	Impatiens capensis	dry acid woods	1'	May-June
Pink Lady's-slipper	Cypripedium acaule	open sunny woods	2'	May-July
Tamara	Lupinus texensis	rich moist soil	2'	June
Mayapple	Podophyllum peltatum	poor acid woods	1"	April
Mayflower (Trailing)	Linum catharticum	wet soil	2"	May-Sept
Moneywort	Lysimachia nummularia	moist acid woods	1"	June
Partridge Berry	Mitella repens	moist woods	10"	June
Multiflora Rose	Rosa multiflora	sun or shade	3"	April
Scilla	Scilla sibirica	rich woods	½-1½'	Apr-June
Shooting Star	Scilla maritima	moist rocky	8"	May-June
Shooting Star	Scilla maritima	wet	1'	May
Smooth Solomon's Seal	Polygonatum biflorum	moist shady woods	2-3'	May

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Flowers				
Sweet Woodruff	Asperula odorata	part shade	8"	May-June
Painted Trillium	Trillium undulatum	moist acid woods	1'	June
White Trillium	Trillium grandiflorum	moist acid woods	1'	June
Treat Lily	Erythronium americanum	shade	1'	Mar-June
Virginia Bluebells	Nertensia virginica	rich moist soil	2-3'	May-June
Wild Geranium	Geranium maculatum	sun, rich moist	1-1½'	May-June
Wild Hyacinth	Camassia scilloides	sparse woods	18"	May-June
Yellow Bead-lily	Clintonia borealis	Damp woods	7-15"	June
Yarrow	Achillea millefolium	sun, poor dry soil	½-2'	July-Sept
New York Aster	Aster novi-belgii	anywhere	1-3'	July-Oct

Ferns				
Maidenhair	Adiantum pedatum	cool moist shade	1½-2'	
Lady	Athyrium filix-femina	sun or shade	3'	
Cinnamon	Osmunda cinnamomea	part shade, moist	4'	
Sensitive	Oncoclea sensibilis	sun or shade woods	1'	
Royal	Osmunda regalis	part shade, acid soil	6-8'	
Christmas	Polystichum acrostichoides	rich limy soil	3'	evergreen
Woodfern	Dryopteris marginata	part shade woods	1½'	evergreen
Spinulose Woodfern	Dryopteris spinulosa	rich woods	2½'	evergreen
Hayscented	Dennstaedtia punctilobula	dry sun or shade	1½'	