




STONECROP GARDENS



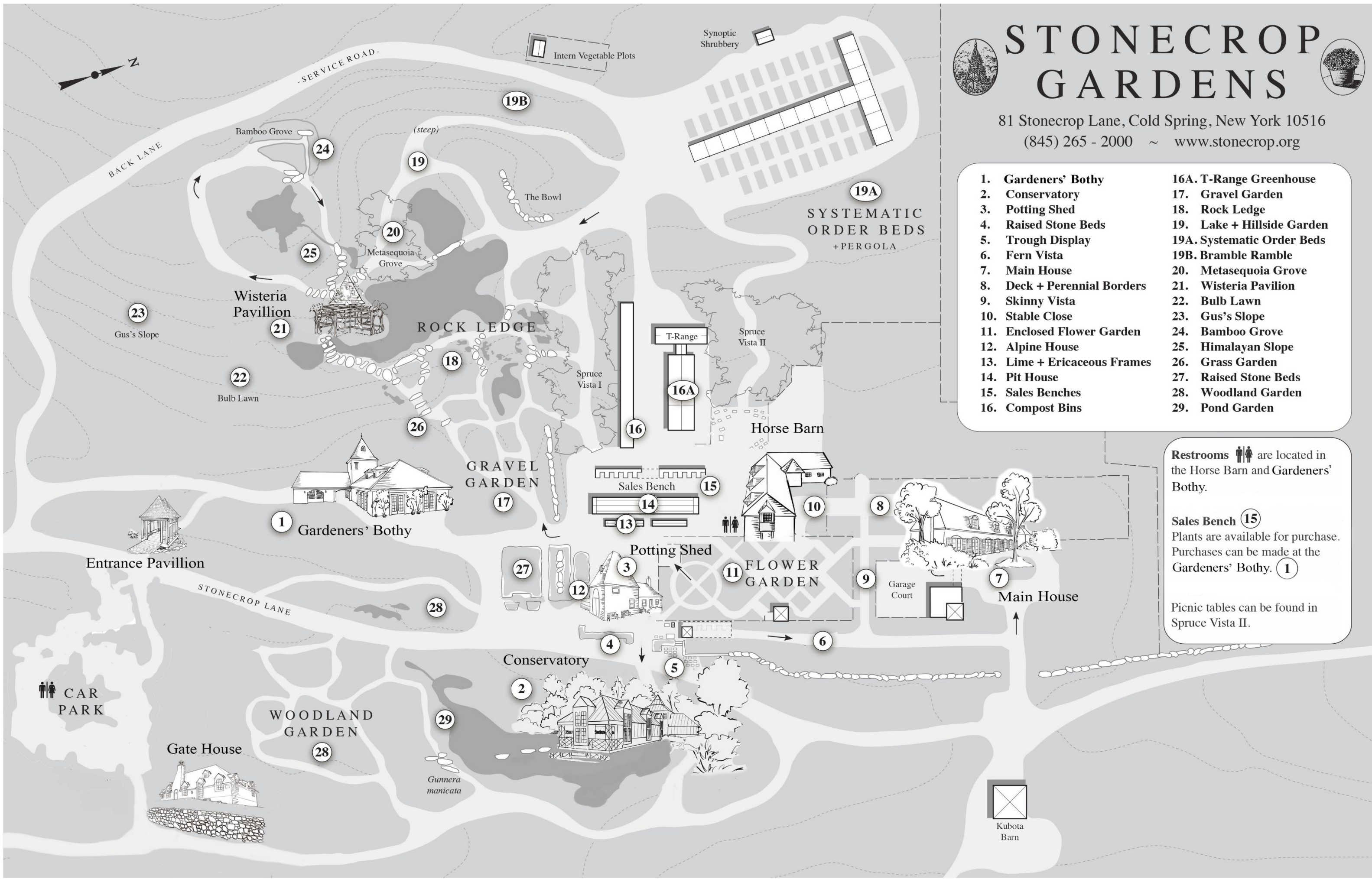
81 Stonecrop Lane, Cold Spring, New York 10516
(845) 265 - 2000 ~ www.stonecrop.org

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Gardeners' Bothy | 16A. T-Range Greenhouse |
| 2. Conservatory | 17. Gravel Garden |
| 3. Potting Shed | 18. Rock Ledge |
| 4. Raised Stone Beds | 19. Lake + Hillside Garden |
| 5. Trough Display | 19A. Systematic Order Beds + PERGOLA |
| 6. Fern Vista | 19B. Bramble Ramble |
| 7. Main House | 20. Metasequoia Grove |
| 8. Deck + Perennial Borders | 21. Wisteria Pavillion |
| 9. Skinny Vista | 22. Bulb Lawn |
| 10. Stable Close | 23. Gus's Slope |
| 11. Enclosed Flower Garden | 24. Bamboo Grove |
| 12. Alpine House | 25. Himalayan Slope |
| 13. Lime + Ericaceous Frames | 26. Grass Garden |
| 14. Pit House | 27. Raised Stone Beds |
| 15. Sales Benches | 28. Woodland Garden |
| 16. Compost Bins | 29. Pond Garden |

Restrooms  are located in the Horse Barn and Gardeners' Bothy.

Sales Bench **15**
Plants are available for purchase. Purchases can be made at the Gardeners' Bothy. **1**

Picnic tables can be found in Spruce Vista II.



(1) **GARDENERS' BOTHY** - Welcome to Stonecrop. In the Gardeners' Bothy you will find information to help you make the most of your visit.

(2) **CONSERVATORY** - The Conservatory was completed in 1997. In winter and spring, it is used as a display house for a winter garden of non-hardy, blooming bulbs, trees, and shrubs, many of them native to South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand. In summer most of the plants are moved and displayed outside the Conservatory, Potting Shed and Main House Deck.

(3) **POTTING SHED** - The Potting Shed is the heart of Stonecrop. Most of Stonecrop's propagation work occurs here throughout the year.

(4) **RAISED STONE BEDS** - Raised stone beds adjoin the Potting Shed and house a number of alpine plants. There is a low tufa bed next to the Potting Shed, which is filled predominantly with Kabschia and Encrusted Saxifragas. Tufa is a naturally-occurring porous rock that is high in calcium carbonate. The Kabschia Saxifragas bloom in April and the Encrusteds bloom in June. The raised stone beds form an ideal habitat for alpiners.

(5) **TROUGH DISPLAY** - In front of the Potting Shed is a collection of troughs. Troughs are perfect for creating miniature gardens, a contained space to display collections of dwarf conifers and alpine plants. Troughs date back to the ancient Romans and were originally carved out of large blocks of natural tufa. Owing to the scarcity of natural tufa, our troughs are made of hypertufa, a substance made from cement, sphagnum moss, perlite, and vermiculite, that closely resembles natural tufa.

(6) **FERN VISTA** - The Fern Vista is the allée that leads from the Potting Shed to the front courtyard of the Main House. Ostrich ferns (*Matteuccia struthiopteris*) are on the west side of the path against the Flower Garden wall, and along the east side of the path the Sugar Maples (*Acer saccharum*) are underplanted with sweeps of *Narcissus* that bloom in early spring.

(7) **MAIN HOUSE** - The Main House was built as a summer house in 1958 with a small garden room added in 1978. The grass island in front of the house features a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*). The flower bed in the corner has a predominately white theme and starts off the season with an assortment of white flowering spring bulbs. Opposite is a specimen of *Halesia monticola* var. *vestita*, a particularly showy form of the Carolina Silverbell with large panicles of cream-coloured flowers flushed with pink at the tips. The tree is literally covered with blossoms in mid-May. This specimen was originally acquired from Hillier's Nursery in the UK.

(8) **DECK AND PERENNIAL BORDERS** - The entrance to the deck welcomes visitors to a large Katsura tree (*Cercidiphyllum japonicum*) that initiates a path between two large rectangular perennial borders. The configuration of the borders has changed several times over the years, most recently in 1987, back to a formal rectilinear shape from a series of informal curves. On the west side of the house along the gravel terrace is a "hedge on stilts" of Littleleaf Linden (*Tilia cordata*). The main axis from the house and deck runs through the perennial borders to a fountain pool set against the stable wall at the far end. An arbor seat in the west wall, inspired by those at Villandry, is flanked by "Belgian Fences" consisting of alternating espaliered apples and pears.

(9) **SKINNY VISTA** - Opposite the arbor seat is a cross axis of two narrow perennial borders leading back to the Fern Vista. These beds feature a succession of mostly blue and yellow bulbs in the spring, giving way to similarly hued perennials for the rest of the season.

(10) **STABLE CLOSE** - Separated from the perennial beds by a pair of latticed dividers is a garden devoted to interesting and unique plants, many of them with a dark theme to their flowers or foliage. Some fine specimens of the Stable Close are *Enkianthus campanulatus* on one side of the fountain and *Styrax japonicus* on the other, and a large *Gleditsia triacanthos* 'Rubylace'. The yearly display of annuals is usually dominated by Canna, Coleus, and other striking foliage plants.

(11) **ENCLOSED FLOWER GARDEN** - A tall fence separates the Stable Close and the Skinny Vista from an inner garden, the "inner sanctum." Inside is a series of colour-themed square and triangular beds, the pattern for which was derived from the original lattice design of the peripheral fence, which was later replaced with the current solid cedar walls. These beds, together with the surrounding enclosures and permanent plantings of hardy perennials, roses, grasses, trees, and shrubs, create a formal framework in which to display intermingled informal plantings of annuals, biennials, half-hardy perennials, and tropical plants. Constant experimenting with colour and plants yields new combinations

every year. Four of the square beds have steeple trellises on which grow annual and perennial vines, giving vertical accent to the garden. The walls surrounding the enclosed garden are planted with *Chaenomeles*, *Clematis*, *Hydrangea*, and *Lonicera* species, as well as other espaliered shrubs and climbers. A vegetable garden fills the largest bed in the middle of the "inner sanctum" and is watched over by "Miss Gertrude Jekyll, "who is keeping an eye on our colour theories. Behind Miss Jekyll, linked by a circular path, curved beds represent the colours of the rainbow. In the southwest corner, planted tubs and pots fill a panelled post and beam garden room whose decorative Chinese windows create a clairvoyée back into the rainbow.

(12) **ALPINE HOUSE** - The northernmost greenhouse attached to the Potting Shed is a display Alpine House. Here, the choicest alpiners are grown and propagated. This house also includes a small room for tropical plants and a mist propagation bench. Alpiners are considered to be those species that grow at high elevations, usually above the tree line, and are dwarf in stature, often growing in a mat or cushion form. They typically need maximum light, sharply drained soil, and good air circulation with low humidity. The Alpine House is equipped with air conditioning and a refrigerated bench to help combat the heat and humidity of our northeastern summers. Sinking the pots in sand helps us to regulate moisture and to have control over watering. The alpine display begins in late January with the Kabschia saxifrages, closely followed by the European primulas. By April most of the other alpine plants are in bloom with the *Lewisia*s and *Campanulas* extending the display through May into June.

(13) **LIME AND ERICACEOUS FRAMES** - The raised Lime and Ericaceous Frames are designed to display plants that prefer different levels of the pH scale. Acid-loving plants begin at the north end of the frames and extend to the lime-loving plants at the south end. These beds are not heated but are slightly protected from the elements with plexiglass panes in the winter and shade screens in the summer.

(14) **PIT HOUSE** - To the west of the Enclosed Flower Garden, and Lime and Ericaceous Frames, lies the Pit House. The Pit House, like the Alpine House, is a cool greenhouse enjoying ideal temperatures in the low 40's. The sunken level of this house provides protective insulation, thus making it efficient to heat during the winter. The Pit House contains a collection of dwarf bulbs that start to bloom in November and continue through the winter months until the end of May. There are also collections of *Cyclamen*, *Primula*, *Galanthus*, and *Helleborus* species. The gabled ends of the Pit House are designed as display frames for bulbs.

(15) **SALES BENCHES** - The Sales Benches are located to the west of the Pit House and feature mostly alpiners and woodland perennials. This is the only place at Stonecrop where plants are available for sale. Selections should be brought to the Gardeners' Bothy for purchase.

(16) **COMPOST BINS** - Further west from the Sales Benches are eleven Compost Bins containing garden vegetation in all stages of decomposition. In late spring, the Compost Bins are seeded with a variety of vining vegetables and sunflowers, and by midsummer they are overflowing with produce and blooms.

(16A) **T-RANGE GREENHOUSE** - The T-Range, built in 2014, is a working greenhouse used for propagation, growing on stock plants, and overwintering tender perennials.

(17) **GRAVEL GARDEN** - Continuing toward the south past the Pit House, a Spruce Grove, and a stone wall to the west, one turns west to enter the Gravel Garden. The plants here like hot, dry, and sunny conditions. Many are of Mediterranean origin, and a significant number are grey and silver. Some stars of the Gravel Garden are *Securinega suffruticosa*, *Fontanesia phillyreoides* subsp. *fortunei*, *Zanthoxylum simulans*, and many different species of *Hypericum*. The left-hand path leads down the south side of the Gravel Garden toward the Wisteria Pavilion, passing a specimen of *Sibiraea laevigata* from China, a large *Juniperus rigida*, and the Grass Garden. The middle path leads down the centre of the Gravel Garden past a specimen of *Malus x scheideckeri* 'Red Jade' to a series of steps descending the face of the Rock Ledge beneath a specimen of *Sophora japonica* 'Pendula'. The right-hand path has several opportunities to exit into the Spruce Grove, providing gentler access to the Lake and Hillside Garden.

(18) **ROCK LEDGE** - With the exception of what is clearly massive rock ledge, all the rocks in this garden were placed, the smaller ones by hand and the larger by machine. The Spruce Grove to the north was planted as a windbreak in 1986. The lake and surrounding landscape were finished in

1991. Water from the lake below is re-circulated, flowing through the Gravel Garden pool above into the three streams that trickle down the face of the Rock Ledge. The Rock Ledge is planted with sweeps of alpiners, dwarf conifers, shrubs, and Mediterranean plants, providing transition between the plantings in the Gravel Garden and the lake. When the peak flowering time of the alpiners is over, our aquatic collection in the Rock Ledge pools continues the display.

(19) **LAKE AND HILLSIDE GARDEN** - From the Rock Ledge, the land originally sloped down to the fields below. To give a natural surrounding to the new lake, fill was trucked in during the reconstruction of Route 301 to achieve the current landscape. A path runs around the lake past a beautiful specimen of *Cercidiphyllum japonicum* f. *pendulum* on the peninsula of the north shore leading to the Hillside Garden. This grassy, exposed site is planted with groups of shrubs chosen for their year-round interest and resilience to drought and wind. An opening to the right leads down to the Systematic Order Beds, and a left turn leads you over the Flintstone Bridge into the Metasequoia Grove.

(19A) **SYSTEMATIC ORDER BEDS** - This educational feature of the garden was constructed in 2003 and consists of a T-shaped Pergola and 40 beds with a peripheral planting of roses. Our 40 beds were previously laid out alphabetically, according to a simple Linnaean binomial classification with over 50 Plant Families from Acanthaceae to Zingiberaceae. In 2009 this area underwent revision and is now arranged at a higher taxonomic level, recognizing Plant Orders in a Phylogenetic tree, tracing the history of plant evolution, and incorporating the latest developments in plant taxonomy and genetics. The beds now contain over 80 different Plant Families. The plantings on the Pergola feature additional Plant Families of annual and perennial vines demonstrating their climbing methods. At Stonecrop, the Systematic Order Beds provide the only area where we can plant with no restrictions due to colour, height, or texture. The plantings supply an excellent seed source for our Index Seminum and Rarium. At the north end of the Pergola is a collection of American and European *Paeonia* cultivars. On the west side of the Order Beds is a Synoptic Shrubbery Bed which currently boasts a sampling of shrubs from A to Z (*Acer* to *Zelkova*). As you head south towards the Bramble Ramble you will find an area dedicated to our Intern vegetable plots.

(19B) **BRAMBLE RAMBLE** - A path wanders through a collection of roses grown for their fragrance, flowers, fruit, and autumn colour. A steep incline leads back to the edge of the lake, and a beautiful eastern view of the Flintstone Bridge and Rock Ledge.

(20) **METASEQUOIA GROVE** - At the southwest end of the lake is a grove of Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*) that was planted in 1986 when the young trees were just five feet tall. The Dawn Redwood has been in existence for over 50 million years but was thought extinct until rediscovered in China in 1941 by a Chinese botanist. The Arnold Arboretum sponsored an expedition to gather seeds in 1944 and the tree has since become widespread.

(21) **WISTERIA PAVILION** - The Wisteria Pavilion was built in 1984. It is planted with *Wisteria floribunda* and *Clematis* 'Mrs. Cholmondeley', with sweet autumn clematis (*Clematis terniflora*) growing around the moon windows, each of which look out over a unique vista. As well as being a beautiful structure, the Pavilion also covers a well house and a 13,000-gallon water reservoir.

(22) **BULB LAWN** - South from the Pavilion, behind the copper frog, is a sloping lawn planted with sweeps of naturalized bulbs. Members of the 13 divisions of the genus *Narcissus* are represented here, such as *N.* 'Actaea', *N.* 'Barrett Browning', *N.* 'Jetfire', *N.* 'Mrs. R.O. Backhouse', *N.* 'Sir Winston Churchill', *N.* 'Spellbinder', and *N.* 'Thalia'. Intermingled with the *Narcissi* are plantings of *Fritillaria meleagris*, *Scilla siberica*, and many species of *Crocus* and *Colchicum*.

(23) **GUS'S SLOPE** - From the west side of the Pavilion, broad stone steps descended to the Bulb Lawn which is bordered by a north-west wooded slope planted with a large selection of Gustav Mehlquist's early flowering Rhododendron hybrids. In spring, this area is filled with blossoms in all shades of pink and white, blooming amongst the native Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*) and the *Narcissi* on the Bulb Lawn.

(24) **BAMBOO GROVE** - Continue around the lower pond to the entrance of the Bamboo Grove, which is marked by a wonderfully variegated dwarf bamboo (*Sasaella masamuneana* 'Albostriata') and a specimen of *Acer palmatum* 'Dissectum Nigrum'. The Bamboo Grove was planted in 1991 and consists mainly of *Phyllostachys aureosulcata* (the Yellow-Grooved Bamboo), and other species such as *P. bissetii* and

P. nuda. The Flintstone Bench offers a shady spot to rest.

(25) **HIMALAYAN SLOPE** - The Himalayan Slope bordering the lower pond is well-suited for moisture-loving perennials, including many *Hostas*, *Ligularias*, and *Rheums*. The pond serves as a swimming hole in the hot weather and is fed by a rocky stream that falls down the hillside from the Lake. The stepping-stones from the Bamboo Grove climb the Himalayan Slope back up to the Pavilion.

(26) **GRASS GARDEN** - East from the Pavilion, the path across the stepping-stones leads up toward the Gravel Garden, passing a garden of grasses and monocots. At the edge of the Grass Garden pool is a scree moistened by underground water (to simulate a moraine) culminating in a small cave at the water's edge.

(27) **RAISED STONE BEDS** - Directly across from the Gravel Garden entrance is a series of Raised Stone Beds. Amongst the oldest features at Stonecrop, these beds hold a collection of dwarf conifers and rock garden plants, providing a succession of interest throughout the seasons.

(28) **WOODLAND GARDEN** - To the south of the Raised Stone Beds is an entrance to the Woodland Garden. The Woodland Garden surrounds both sides of Stonecrop Lane and is connected by a number of mulched paths amongst the native Oaks, Maples, and Mountain Laurel. The woodland display begins in March and April with drifts of *Galanthus*, *Narcissus*, *Trillium*, and *Arisaema*, and as the trees leaf out in late spring, a succession of shade-loving perennials, groundcovers, and shrubs continue the display. Beautiful autumn colour brings the Woodland Garden to centre stage again in October and November. The west side of the Woodland Garden curves around a rock pool that takes advantage of a prominent rock ledge, and at the south end of the pool is a White Redbud (*Cercis canadensis* f. *alba*). This path continues past a large clump of Umbrella Leaf (*Diphylleia cymosa*) and across Stonecrop Lane to the east side of the Woodland, passing by four large plantings of *Hakonechloa macra* 'Aureola'. The east side of the Woodland Garden features many interesting specimens, such as the Epaulette Tree (*Pterostyrax hispida*), the Seven Son Flower of Zhejiang (*Heptacodium miconioides*), and sweeps of *Rodgersia podophylla*.

(29) **POND GARDEN** - The Pond Garden joins to the Woodland Garden to the south and overlooks the Conservatory to the north. *Petasites* and *Ligularia* dominate, with the focus on a very large specimen of *Gunnera manicata*, the largest herbaceous plant in the world and a native of Brazil. Each year great care is taken to preserve this treasure, as it is not hardy in Stonecrop's Zone 6a climate. In winter a wooden box filled with insulation and surrounded with mulch protects the crown. The top of the box is lifted mid-spring and the box is gradually removed until the plant is allowed to grow uninhibited. Our *Gunnera* has its own personal drip hose and a yearly ring of manure, which together brew a strong manure tea.

"I believe the great secret for ensuring its reaching gigantic proportions...is to 'feed the brute'." - Edward Augustus Bowles

VISITATION (April - October)

10:00am to 5:00pm

Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and select Sundays

Appointments required for Saturday and Sunday

Please visit the website, www.stonecrop.org

to make your reservation

Guided tours for groups of 10 or more are available by appointment.

