



# GARDEN GUIDE AND WALKING TOUR

## WELCOME TO GREENWOOD GARDENS,

the 28-acre historic garden oasis located in Short Hills, New Jersey. We invite you to take a self-guided tour through this enchanted hideaway, graced with terraced gardens, Arts and Crafts follies, stately fountains, hidden grottoes, romantic woodlands, and winding paths. Designed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Greenwood offers visitors a peaceful haven in which to connect with nature, set against a backdrop of startling beauty and the artifacts of unique family history.

### TO ENSURE A SAFE AND PLEASANT VISIT PLEASE OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES OF GARDEN ETIQUETTE:

- At all times, children must be accompanied by an adult.
- The only animals permitted in the garden other than Greenwood's own collection are certified service animals.
- For your safety and the safety of the animals in Greenwood's collection, do not feed, chase, or provoke domestic animals and/or wildlife. Please enjoy the animals from a safe distance.
- Due to the uneven paths and stairways, strollers are not permitted in the garden. For your convenience, we offer stroller parking on the Eat Terrace.
- Bicycles and scooters are not permitted.
- Food and beverages are to be enjoyed in Adelaide's café only. Only personal water bottles are permitted in the garden itself.
- Garden photography is permitted so long as it does not interfere with the on-site experience of other visitors, such as blocking pathways and views. The use of tripods, screens, props, and drones is not permitted.
- Special occasion posed photography is not permitted for weddings, engagements, pregnancies, birthdays, proms, graduations, and other similar events, whether by professional, semi-pro, or amateur photographers. Greenwood reserves the right to determine what constitutes a formal posed photography session and will curtail sessions that do not fit our guidelines noted above.
- Keep cell phones in silent mode so all visitors can enjoy our quiet oasis.
- Remove all personal trash when you depart.
- At all times, clothing and shoes must be worn.

### PLEASE REFRAIN FROM THE FOLLOWING

- |                                     |   |                                |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| • Formal posed photography          | • Entering or disturbing plant beds                               | • Drinking alcoholic beverages |
| • Obstructing pathways              | • Tree climbing   | • Smoking or vaping            |
| • Entering ponds or water features  | • Feeding, chasing, or provoking domestic animals and/or wildlife | • Playing active sports        |
| • Touching or climbing on statuary  | • Picnicking in the garden  | • Playing audible music        |
| • Entering areas that are roped off | • Bringing blankets and chairs                                    | • Making fires                 |
| • Picking flowers or berries        | • Sunbathing  | • Gathering for events         |

### ACCESSIBILITY

The restored Main Terrace with partial views of the Garden is accessible to all visitors. The remainder of the historic landscape at Greenwood Gardens is not accessible by wheelchair or stroller given that the uneven terrain is difficult to navigate. Certified service dogs are welcome.

**Note:** To help protect yourself against ticks, please use tick spray and check yourself for ticks after leaving.

### EMERGENCIES

In case of an emergency, please dial 911 and notify the nearest member of Greenwood Gardens staff immediately. A first aid kit is located at the Main House.

Stop by the Visitor Center at the Main House for more information and to visit Greenwood's Gift Shop.

Visitor Services Associates and Volunteers will assist you in the garden.

# HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

The origins of the Greenwood Gardens landscape lie in Triassic time (some 280 million years ago), early in the reign of dinosaurs when geologic events gave rise to a series of subterranean, parallel lava flows, which erosion would later reveal as the Watchung Mountains. Astride the Second Mountain of the Watchungs, Greenwood has offered inhabitants and visitors sweeping views made possible by the site's altitude some 450 feet above sea level. Fronting South Mountain to the east (part of a 2100-acre county park), Greenwood Gardens provides both a unique perspective and sense of seclusion amidst one of the country's most densely populated regions.

Following a long line of individuals of European ancestry who owned the land since Colonial times, the property was sold in 1906 to Joseph P. Day, New York City's most successful real estate auctioneer at the time, and his wife Pauline Martindale Pope Day. In anticipation of a wonderful life ahead for his wife and their six children, Joe Day named the property Pleasant Days.

The Days, who originally lived in Gramercy Park (NYC), favored the fledgling upscale suburban community of Short Hills with all the healthful benefits of country living, yet still offering convenient access to Manhattan by rail. Disaster struck in 1911, when the original wood-frame house caught fire due to an improperly stoked furnace. Joe Day commissioned his neighbor and friend, the talented architect William Whetten Renwick, to design a grand Italianate-style 28-room mansion as well as extensive formal gardens. Renwick's role in the creation of Pleasant Days was pivotal, given that his multi-faceted talents were in perfect sync with Joe Day's interest in creating a unique environment, and his ability to provide seemingly unlimited funding to do so.

In the following two decades, Joe Day would invest more than a million dollars in his dream castle and the 28 acres of property immediately surrounding it. The garden's features were a stylistic blend of Arts and Crafts and Italianate design. Pleasant Days consisted of the main mansion surrounded by the rustic stone Teahouse and Summerhouse, majestic fountains, wisteria-laden arbors, statuary modeled after his children, acres of perennials, a greenhouse, a nine-hole golf course, and a large vegetable garden.

The Days lived very comfortably in their new home until the 1929 stock market crash in which the family suffered significant financial losses. Pauline died not long after in 1932. Joe Day married Agnes Cole Young in 1942 and remained in the house until his death in 1944.

The property subsequently languished for about five years under absentee ownership until 1949 when the house, several service buildings and a good portion of the property was purchased by Peter P. Blanchard Jr., an IBM lawyer and New York businessman, and his new wife, Dr. Adelaide Childs Frick Blanchard, a pediatrician at New York Hospital, and a granddaughter of Henry Clay Frick, the American industrialist. The couple sought a rural retreat where they could ride horseback, farm, garden, and enjoy other outdoor pursuits. Owing to the mansion's deteriorating condition and their preference to live in a more modest home, the Blanchards replaced the Day mansion with a smaller structure in the Colonial Revival style, which is the house that survives today. The Blanchards also changed the name of the estate to The Greenwoods.



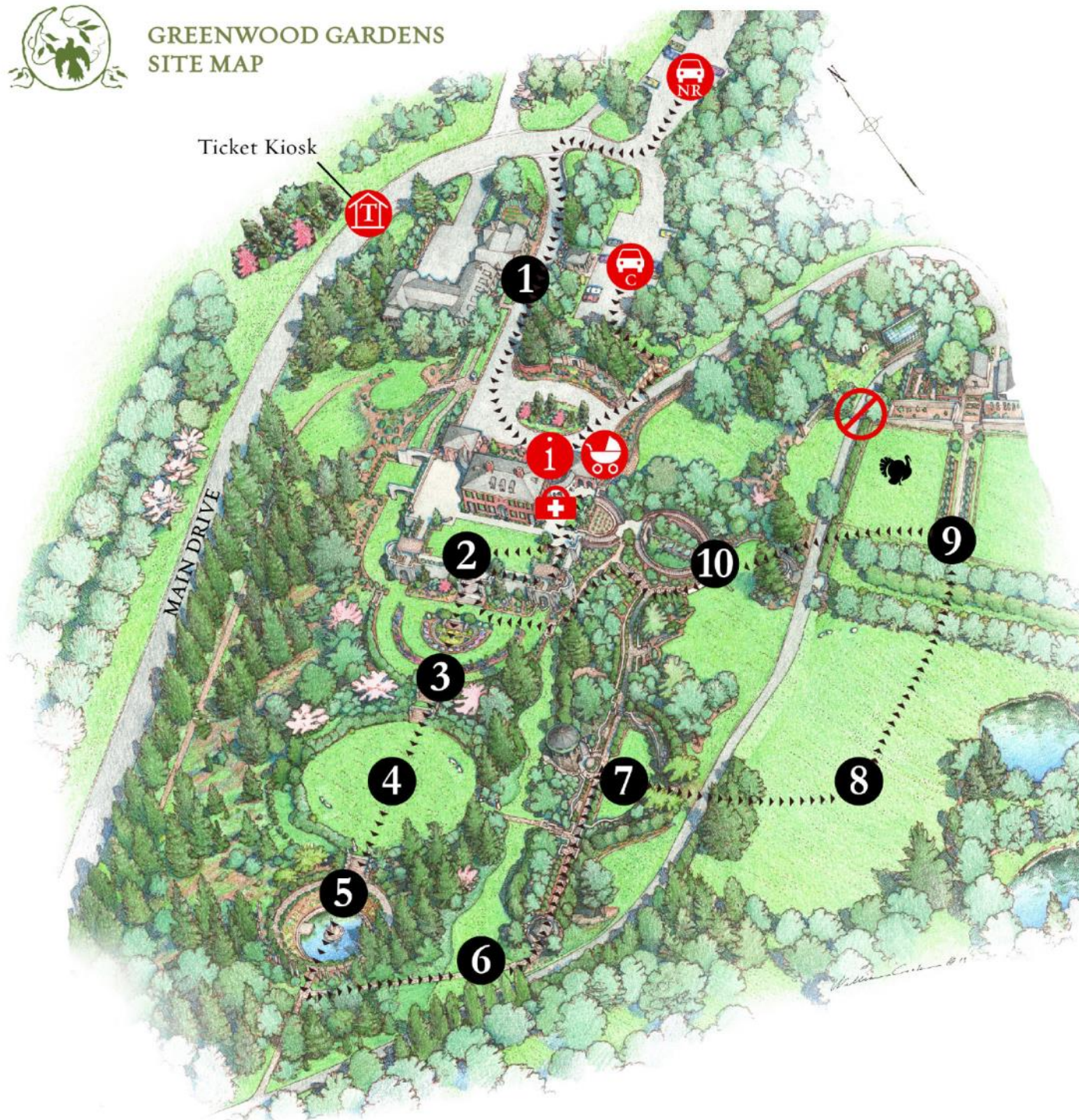
A year later, the Blanchards welcomed a son, Peter III. The family lived blissfully until Adelaide's untimely death in 1956, leaving father and son to focus wholeheartedly on creating and nurturing the garden. Taking inspiration from both the formality of Beaux-Arts gardens as well as agrarian country estates, Peter Blanchard installed long rows of boxwood along the main axial paths; laid out new allées, including the London plane sycamore allée adjacent to the main drive; planted hundreds of ornamental trees and shrubs; installed a significant amount of garden sculpture; and added ponds, pastures, and meadows. It was his dream to conserve, protect, and share the property for generations to come.

Following the death of Peter P. Blanchard, Jr. in 2000, his son Peter, along with his wife, Sofia, set out to fulfill the elder Blanchard's wishes, launching the present non-profit organization, Greenwood Gardens, to serve as a resource for the public's enjoyment. Private tours were conducted up until 2013, when the garden opened to the public for free-roam visitation following an extensive first phase renovation. In 2020, the second phase of renovation was completed with a redesign of the Main Axis, including the Reflecting Pool Terrace and the Garden of the Gods. A 50-space parking lot was added, along with a rain garden to catch run-off and a ticket kiosk inside the main gates. Extensive landscaping changes were also made throughout the garden and the addition of teak benches created new seating options for visitors.





## GREENWOOD GARDENS SITE MAP



- |                           |               |  |   |
|---------------------------|---------------|--|---|
| 1 Cottages                | 6 Summerhouse |  Ticket Kiosk               |  First Aid                       |
| 2 Main House              | 7 Teahouse    |  North Ridge Parking Lot    |  Stroller Parking                |
| 3 Reflecting Pool Terrace | 8 Ponds       |  Cottage Parking Lot        |  Service Area Closed to Visitors |
| 4 Croquet Lawn            | 9 Farm Allée  |  Visitor Center & Gift Shop |   |
| 5 Garden of the Gods      | 10 Cascade    |  |   |



## FINDING YOUR WAY FROM THE PARKING LOTS TO THE GARDEN

From the North Ridge Lot, follow the pedestrian sidewalk to the end, then make a left onto the Cottage Walk as you proceed toward the Main House and beyond to the garden. Along the way, you will encounter **the first stop on your tour, the 1925 and 1926 Cottages and First Tee** (for detailed descriptions, see stop #1 inside).

From the Cottage Lot (former Day era tennis court), walk down the pedestrian ramp and at the end, make a right and walk straight until you reach **the first stop on your tour, the First Tee, 1926 and 1925 Cottages** (for detailed descriptions, stop #1 inside). After that, turn back to proceed toward the Main House and beyond to the garden.

## SELF-GUIDED WALKING TOUR

### NOTABLE STOPS ON YOUR TOUR:

Follow the numbered entries that correspond to the numbered posts at each stop on the site.

### 1 COTTAGES, GARAGE, TENNIS PAVILION, AND FIRST TEE

In addition to designing a new 28-room Italianate mansion for Joseph P. Day and his family after the original wood-frame house burned down in 1911, architect William W. Renwick renovated several of the estate's other buildings in the same style as the main house. He incorporated tile and stucco exteriors, slate roofs, Rookwood faience tiles, and Della Robbia plaques that identified the year in which each building was built. These are still in place today on the two cottages used to house a portion of the Day's staff, which at its peak, numbered 100 in the 1920s. The smaller of the two (rebuilt in 1925) contained five bedrooms; the larger adjacent Annex/Office Building (rebuilt in 1926) accommodated more staff and office space. A new five-bay garage, built around 1927, adjoined the annex with additional staff quarters above. A special Rookwood ceramic tile of a motor car with license plates proclaiming the year "1927" decorates an exterior wall. The Cottage Garage Courtyard was enclosed with painted wooden trelliswork and whimsical wooden gates were used in other areas of the estate.

Across from the 1925 Cottage is a former tennis pavilion that is adjacent to the Cottage Parking Lot, originally a clay tennis court on which the Day family enjoyed playing the game. The Cottage Lot is bounded on the south side by the Tennis Loggia, whose curved pergola and arched gateway once led from the main house to the former riding stables, service buildings, and vegetable garden.

The first tee of Joe Day's private nine-hole golf course is located between the Main House and the 1926 Cottage. Most of that golf course lies within today's Old Short Hills Park. During the Blanchard era, the golf course was converted into a pasture for horses and sheep with two ponds and a windmill that provided electricity and pumped water into a large water tower.



### 2 MAIN HOUSE, EAST PAVILION (ADELAIDE'S CAFÉ), AND MAIN LAWN

The 1950 Georgian Revival style house built by the Blanchards was constructed of brick on the site of the former Day and Feigenspan homes. The building was originally painted white but was later restored to its original unpainted brick façade in 2012. Carved in wood over the main entrance, rising sun and pineapple motifs bestow welcome and good luck to visitors. (Coincidentally, the rising sun was also a Day motif!) Currently, while reflecting the interior décor of the Blanchard-era, the 1950s house comprises the Visitor Center and a gift shop. The second floor serves as office space for the Greenwood Gardens staff.

The East and West Pavilions flank the sides of the Blanchard home with archway overpasses. Occasionally, in warmer weather, the family would take breakfast al fresco in the East Pavilion, now referred to as Adelaide's Café - named in honor of Adelaide Blanchard. The West Pavilion served as the original two-car garage, which was converted to public restrooms during the first phase of Greenwood Gardens' restoration in 2009. Housed in the East Pavilion is the magnificent wrought iron and gilt bronze Bird of Paradise Gate featuring wisteria vines and other flora and fauna. The gate is the source of Greenwood's logo, a songbird in a leaf rondel. This intricately-crafted gate is the work of Edward F. Caldwell & Co., the pre-eminent designer and manufacturer of lighting fixtures and decorative metalwork from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century through the 1940s. The gate was one of the only artifacts left from the Day's Italianate mansion and was located outdoors at the end of an allée, exposed to the elements for decades before being restored and moved for protection inside the East Pavilion.

The Main Lawn, also known as the Upper Terrace, was filled with comfortable benches, planters, decorative Majolica vases, cherry trees, and pergolas draped with wisteria to provide shade during the Day era.

## 3 REFLECTING POOL TERRACE WITH D-SHAPED POOL

Pleasant Days was at its prime in the 1920s and 1930s, when it was the scene of numerous parties given by the large Day family. With its shady grottoes enhanced by richly-colored Rookwood glazed faience tiles and sunny lawns surrounded by beds of peonies, iris, and mixed borders, the gardens also served as a quiet retreat for the family. Majolica urns and flower-filled pedestals were in place all throughout the terrace. As evidenced in home movies which miraculously survive from the 1930s, the Day children frolicked and performed costumed dances on this terrace.

Throughout their tenure, the Blanchards maintained the original Day era garden features, adding their own garden features as well as an extensive overlay of formal evergreen plantings. Following Peter Blanchard's death in 2000, planning began for the evolution of the estate into a public garden. The first phase included restoration of the Main Terrace and retaining wall, conversion of the garage to public restrooms, and repurposing the Day era tennis court to a parking lot. Between 2019 and 2020, a second phase commenced in which a new 50-car parking lot, rain garden, and ticket kiosk were added. The entire Main Axis also was renovated and most landscape areas throughout the entire garden were revitalized.

When proceeding from the Main House down broad steps to the Reflecting Pool Terrace, notice three restored lead dolphins delightfully spouting water in the D-shaped pool. The dolphins were formerly in situ at Clayton, Adelaide Blanchard's childhood home on Long Island, and were installed at The Greenwoods around 1965.

## 4 CROQUET TERRACE (CROQUET LAWN)

The Reflecting Pool Terrace leads to an expansive open circular Croquet Terrace where the Day family relaxed on summer weekends under a pair of arbor pavilions structured like those on the Main Lawn that offered shelter and possibly storage for croquet equipment. Peter Blanchard's most significant alteration to the Croquet Terrace was the installation of double rows of boxwood hedging, guiding one to the steps leading down to the Garden of the Gods. The boxwood hedges remained in place at Greenwood Gardens until 2020, when they were removed during the renovation of the entire Main Axis.

## 5 GARDEN OF THE GODS (GARDEN OF THE ZODIAC)

At the foot of the southern end of the Main Axis lies the romantic garden centered on a pool known as the Garden of the Gods. The name of this distinctive garden feature refers to a series of painted busts of Roman divinities, each of which once occupied a niche between paired columns during the Day era. The series started with Mars, the Roman God of War, from whose name "March" – the beginning of the planting season – is derived. The circular pool, ringed with low beds of iris and peonies, featured a central figure – a life-sized statue of Pauline Day (Joe Day's oldest daughter) posing as Venus gazing back up to the mansion looming on the hilltop. Two bronze fountain sculptures modeled after her siblings, Fairfield Day and Laura Day, ringed the edges of the pool.

During the Blanchard era, a refurbished Garden of the Gods was ringed with boxwood. The most striking sculptural additions were pairs of stone elephants bearing obelisks lining the steps that, along with the boxwood hedges, transformed the garden from an informal family lawn to a formal European-inspired garden.

In 2020, renovation of this garden feature, including pool and trelliswork, was completed, evoking the design of the original feature as it existed during the 1920s. The bronze sculpture of the *Boy with Waterfowl* by Emilio Angela, originally located in front of the Teahouse Water Garden, was reinstated in the center of the Garden of the Gods' pool.





## 6 SUMMERHOUSE

The Summerhouse, built in 1920, is a distinctive octahedral stone pavilion with copper coursing and a cone-shaped roof. It was constructed by Italian stone masons using local sandstone and basalt and is surrounded by four granite water basins. The Summerhouse provides an attractive contrast to the formality of the terraced gardens and is the most intact feature of the Day era gardens. (See #7 for ornament details.) An exposed aggregate concrete pathway leading from the Summerhouse emulates the rustic elements found in Italian Renaissance gardens.

The building was originally electrified, as evidenced by the light switch on the inside wall. The floor of the structure is graced with colorful tiles manufactured in Flemington, New Jersey by Fulper, Inc. Four horse chestnut trees, each well over 100 years old, were strategically planted to shade the Summerhouse. When you stand directly in the middle of the structure, you can view a tree through each window. On the path leading to the Teahouse, notice the stone polyhedral sundial, which was formerly at Clayton, Adelaide Blanchard's childhood home on Long Island.



## 7 TEAHOUSE

Similar in Arts and Crafts-style design to the Summerhouse, the interior of the iconic two-story Teahouse, built circa 1920, features a ceiling studded with blue, green, and brown seashell-shaped Rookwood tiles and floors paved with the same Fulper tiles as the Summerhouse. Tea was prepared during the Day era utilizing the sink and fireplace at the ground level. The Teahouse lawn was punctuated by a water feature with descending basins known as the Teahouse Water Garden, built circa 1920. A granite frog, one of five original granite ornaments that remain on site, served as a focal point at the head of this Water Garden. *Boy with Waterfowl*, a bronze sculpture now prominently placed in the Garden of the Gods, was located here during the Day era.



During his ownership of the estate, Peter Blanchard purchased more than 100 pieces of garden sculpture, including limestone chess pieces (knights, pawns, queens, and kings), that line the horseshoe stairway of the Teahouse. Ancient Chinese granite Foo dogs from the Day era overlook the walk nearby. In 2020, ornamental trees and shrubs around the Teahouse underwent an extensive renovation.



## 8 PONDS

Seeking to add natural water features to the eastern edge of the property, Peter Blanchard, Jr. created two ponds, adjacent to one another, in 1965. With depths of up to 15 feet, the ponds provide a habitat for a range of fish including carp, sunfish, catfish, and several species of frogs. The ponds are also frequented by waterfowl including great blue herons, belted kingfishers, wood ducks and mallards. In their heyday, the ponds sported a fountain from which water burst forth at the touch of a button located in the Blanchard master bedroom. At the terminus of this view are wrought iron gates created for the Frick residence in New York City, built between 1912 and 1914, according to designs by architects Carriere and Hastings.

**Please note: Visitors are cautioned to remain at a safe distance from the ponds. Please do not feed, chase, or provoke Greenwood's domestic animals and/or wildlife.**



## 9 FARM ALLÉE AND BARNYARD

Both Greenwood and Pleasant Days celebrated rural life and farming on a small scale. The Day family-owned cows, pigs, turkeys, chickens by the hundreds, horses, and a large array of dogs. Mrs. Day sold fresh chicken eggs to local stores, and her chauffeur drove her to Newark weekly to sell excess produce from the property's vegetable gardens. Year-round, a greenhouse provided fresh citrus fruit and flowers for the many visitors welcomed by the Day family. During the Blanchard-era, domestic animals of the farm area complex were augmented with ducks, geese, guinea hens, turkeys, pheasants, peacocks, and fancy pigeons, while horses and sheep grazed the meadows. Currently, the Greenwood farm is home to chickens, turkeys, geese, and ten hives of honeybees. The hives were donated by Overlook Hospital in Summit, New Jersey and are maintained in collaboration with Greenwood Gardens. The benefits to the hospital are fresh honey for culinary use and support of a good cause; the benefits to Greenwood are both environmental and educational!

## 10 CASCADE

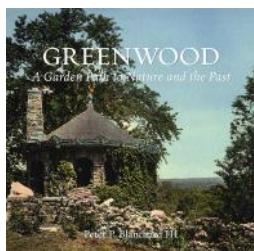
In the gardens designed in 1916 by William Renwick for Joe Day, the Cascade was, and continues to be, a major feature. This seven-tier, gravity-fed fountain culminated in an elliptical reflecting pool originally named "Dragon Fountain Pool," which Peter Blanchard replaced in 1950 with an oval-shaped swimming pool. On the overlook, he added two lead Pegasus figures, sculpted by Wheeler Williams, which are surrounded by low stucco walls and flower beds at their feet.

Peter Blanchard was a lover of dogs. Accompanied by a mixed pack of corgis and Labrador retrievers, he greatly enjoyed daily walks around the fields, which would later become Old Short Hills Park. Various sculptures in the garden indicate that he and Joe Day also expressed their fondness for canines in artful ways.

The reflecting pool basin is now a grass terrace that overlooks the formal European-inspired allée of London plane trees created by Peter Blanchard in 1966. Two Dawn redwoods (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), a species long believed to be extinct, were planted at the base of the Cascade.



Greenwood: A Garden Path to Nature and the Past  
By Peter P. Blanchard III, Co-founder and Chairman



Learn More.

Order *Greenwood: A Garden Path to Nature and the Past*, written by Peter P. Blanchard III, co-founder and chairman of the Board, for a personal account of the estate's history and his childhood at Greenwood Gardens.

Scan QR



# GET INVOLVED

Greenwood Gardens is made up of a warm and engaging community of people who care about nature, beauty, and history. We hope your visit inspires you to become a member and/or a volunteer. Join our email list and connect with us on social media. To learn more, read below or scan the QR code.



## JOIN AS A MEMBER

Enjoy all the benefits of Membership including free admission; access to special programs, workshops, and events; reciprocal entry at over 350 gardens and more, depending on the Membership level. Scan the QR code above to learn more.

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Our award-winning volunteers are highly valued members of the Greenwood family who serve as greeters, docents, and tour guides, and Green Team gardeners. If you are interested in volunteering, scan the QR code above.

## SIGN UP FOR OUR E-MAIL LIST

Our regular emails provide organizational updates, beautiful seasonal photos, gardening insights, historical vignettes, and program notices. Stay connected by visiting [greenwoodgardens.org](http://greenwoodgardens.org) and subscribing on the homepage or scan the QR code above

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