



Spring Witch-Hazel  
(*Hamamelis vernalis*)



Catawba Rhododendron  
(*Rhododendron catawbiense*)

THE PALMER W. BIGELOW, JR.  
**INNER PARK**  
GARDEN GUIDE

**Mountain Laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*)** One of our finest evergreen shrubs. Pink buds open to reveal pale pink cup-shaped flowers in late May and early June. (Southeastern Maine to southern Ohio, south to Louisiana and western Florida.)

**Sweet Gum (*Liquidambar styraciflua*)** A rapidly growing tree, up to 100' tall, known for brilliant fall foliage and spiny globular fruit. (Southern Connecticut to New Jersey, Illinois, southeastern Texas and central Florida.)

**Tulip Tree (*Liriodendron tulipifera*)** This magnolia relative bears greenish tulip-shaped blooms in early summer. It soars to 150' or more, with strong straight trunks. (Vermont to southern Ontario and Michigan, south to Missouri, Louisiana and Florida.)

**Cucumber Magnolia (*Magnolia acuminata*)** Cucumber-shaped cones of fruit follow yellowish flowers. May reach 80' or more. (New York to Georgia, west to Illinois, Arkansas.)

**Ashe's Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla subsp. ashei*)** 24" long leaves and large white flowers in spring. (Western Florida.)

**Fraser's Magnolia (*Magnolia fraseri*)** Fragrant white, 8–10" wide flowers open in June. (Virginia to Georgia and Alabama.)

**Bigleaf Magnolia (*Magnolia macrophylla*)** Bears huge leaves up to 3' long and a foot across. After leaves have unfurled, fragrant off-white blossoms up to 16" across open. (Virginia to southern Ohio, to Tennessee, Louisiana and Georgia.)

**Pyramid Magnolia (*Magnolia pyramidata*)** An unusual Magnolia bearing 4–8" leaves and white flowers up to 5" on 10–20' plants. (Georgia, Florida and Alabama.)

**Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)** Bears creamy, fragrant flowers in early summer, followed by red fruit. (Eastern Massachusetts to New York to Florida and Texas.)

**Mountain Andromeda (*Pieris floribunda*)** Evergreen shrub up to 4' tall, covered in white urn-shaped flowers in early spring. (West Virginia and northern Georgia.)

**Smooth Azalea (*Rhododendron arborescens*)** Fragrant white or pink flowers with red stamens open after the leaves in early summer. Foliage turns red in the fall. Grows 8–20' tall. (Pennsylvania to Georgia, Alabama.)

**Catawba Rhododendron (*Rhododendron catawbiense*)** Lavender-pink flowers in large white trusses top 8–10' stems with thick evergreen foliage. (Virginia to Kentucky, south to Alabama and Georgia.)

**Rosebay Rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*)** A large evergreen shrub, up to 10' tall, sports pinkish blooms in early summer. (Southern Maine, Ontario to Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Georgia.)

**Roseshell Azalea (*Rhododendron prinophyllum*)** Bears heavily scented pink flowers in spring just as leaves are preparing to unfurl. (New Hampshire, southern Quebec to Virginia, Illinois, Missouri.)

**Pinkshell Azalea (*Rhododendron vaseyi*)** Inhabits the higher elevations of North Carolina where it becomes an 8' tall shrub. Clothed in pale pink flowers in early spring.



ABOVE: Internationally-acclaimed artist Patrick Dougherty and a team of volunteers and staff constructed the site-specific installation, *The Wild Rumpus*, entirely from locally-harvested saplings in 2016.

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Plants for the Inner Park generously provided by Bigelow Nurseries, Inc., Northborough, MA  
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COVER PHOTO: Sweetbay Magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*)

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**TOWER HILL**  
BOTANIC GARDEN





The Palmer W. Bigelow, Jr. Inner Park was once a five-acre field. When left fallow, it developed into a woodland of mixed hardwood trees. Beginning in the early 1990's, Tower Hill staff and volunteers began clearing trails, thinning the dense understory, and opening up the canopy in what would become a native plant garden.

The Greco-Roman landscape parks of the 18th and 19th centuries inspired the style of the Inner Park. Classical Revival style architecture, including features like the Folly, the Pope Urn, and the Temple of Peace, reflect the romance of antiquity. Tower Hill continues to develop the Inner Park as a display of North American flora. The trees, shrubs, and perennials planted here illustrate the vast range of native plants hardy to Zone 5B, including those highlighted in this brochure.

#### TREES AND SHRUBS

**Moosewood (*Acer pensylvanicum*)** A small, understory tree distinguished by large 3-lobed leaves and green bark with prominent white stripes. (Nova Scotia, southern Quebec to Minnesota, south to Pennsylvania, Michigan and Georgia.)

**Bottlebrush Buckeye (*Aesculus parviflora*)** Native to central Alabama, this large, suckering shrub bears spires of white flowers in mid-summer.

**Serviceberry, Shadbush (*Amelanchier canadensis*)** An early blooming understory shrub or small tree with delicate white flowers. (Newfoundland to Mississippi.)

**Sweetshrub (*Calycanthus floridus*)** Deep red flowers provide sweet spring fragrance. (New Jersey, Ohio to eastern Iowa, south to Texas and Florida.)

**Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)** Bears large nuts enclosed in thick green to brown rind. (Maine and Quebec to Minnesota, south to Texas and Florida.)

**American Chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)** Remnants of this once abundant tree still sprout stubbornly from old stumps. A promising hybrid has been planted here in the hopes that it will resist the chestnut blight.

**Redbud (*Cercis canadensis*)** Provides soft purple-pink flowers along forest edges and understory in spring. Heart-shaped leaves. (Southeast New York, Pennsylvania, Michigan, eastern New England.)

**Fringe tree (*Chionanthus virginicus*)** Large shrub of moist woods. In spring it is a lacy mass of fragrant white blooms. (From New Jersey to West Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, eastern Texas and Florida.)

**Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)** Showy bracts surround small flowers in the spring, followed by bright red fruit in the summer. (Southern Maine to Southern Ontario and Michigan, south to Illinois, Oklahoma, Mexico and Florida.)

**Yellowwood (*Cladrastis kentukea*)** Beautiful dangling clusters of white, pea-like flowers in late spring. Rarely seen in the wild. (Occurs sporadically in western North Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, and northern Alabama, Missouri, Arkansas and eastern Oklahoma.)

**American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)** A stately tree, to 70' tall, with smooth gray bark and yellow foliage in the fall. (Nova Scotia to southern Quebec and Ontario to eastern Minnesota, south to Illinois, Mississippi, Texas and Florida.)

**Franklin-tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*)** A little known tree that has not been seen in the wild since shortly after its discovery by John Bartram in GA in 1770. White camellia-like flowers occur in late summer.

**Mountain Silverbell (*Halesia monticola*)** Bears lovely white bells in the spring. Prefers moist acidic soil and will grow to be up to 40' tall. (West Virginia, North Carolina, Mississippi, northern Florida.)

**Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)** In October, fragrant yellow flowers on arching 1–20' stems. (Nova Scotia, southern Quebec, southern Ontario to eastern Minnesota and south to Texas, central Florida.)

**Spring Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis vernalis*)** March and April bring fragrant flowers. (Missouri, Arkansas, eastern Oklahoma.)