



Winterthur Garden, Wilmington, Del., offers a wide variety of specialty gardens to visit. This sundial garden with the blooming snowball bushes accenting the entranceway is close to the pinetum (pine forest) shown in the background.

Winterthur: a scenic delight for garden lovers and others

By SUSAN KAUFFMAN
Feature Writer

Winterthur Gardens, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Del., provides its visitors with an opportunity for serious study or sheer visual delight. Both the specialist and the casual visitor can derive pleasure and knowledge whether from a leisurely stroll through the gardens or from a guided tour of the museum.

Sixty of the 950 acres of the park, formerly a private estate, are open to the public in the Spring and contain a vast variety of blooming flowers and shrubs, protected overhead by enormous, stately trees. Two and one-half miles of tanbark walks and grass-covered paths wind through the gardens which were developed under the personal direction of Henry Francis duPont.

In a leisurely hour and a half stroll through the gardens, which surround Winterthur Museum and merge unobtrusively into the surrounding woods and green meadows, one can see innumerable species of flowering plants, shrubs, and trees as if they had always been there, even though many are rare or imported from various parts of the world. Spring is the season of brightest color at Winterthur, with snowdrops, crocuses, and great masses of daffodils giving way in May to the famous beauty of the Winterthur azaleas and rhododendrons.

Although last Winter's bitter chill winds destroyed many azalea blooms in central Pennsylvania, these renowned azaleas in the Winterthur Gardens are as beautiful as ever.

While walking along the winding paths between the six-

foot-deep blanket of whites, pinks, reds, and lavenders, one can absorb enough of the visual beauty to last through dreary Spring days to come.

The landscape enthusiast—student, expert, or amateur—will observe skillfully planned areas incorporating streams, pools, rocks, hills, vales, sculpture, and various garden plans. Subtle combinations as well as striking contrasts of color, mass, and texture of various shrubs and ground-cover plants are artistically arranged to study and enjoy. All the popular plants as well as mature forest trees, magnificent flowering bushes and wildflowers and shrubs can be seen growing naturally in swamps, meadows, upland marshes, and beside creeks and ponds.

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Viewed from the pool on the east side of the house, the Winterthur museum is barely visible

through the blooming trees and bushes.

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