

# WCHS/Tower Hill Botanic Garden Milestones REVISED 04/05/2011

- 1840 (September 18)** - Worcester County Horticultural Society (WCHS) organized
- 1842 (March 3)** - WCHS incorporated
- 1846** - Society receives its first bequest, \$3,000 from Daniel Waldo, one of its founders
- 1851** - 1st Horticultural Hall built at 16-20 Front Street, Worcester
- 1861** - All exhibitions canceled due to poor growing season (first and only time in Society history)
- 1928** - Second Horticultural Hall opened at 30 Elm Street, Worcester
- 1983** - Trustees vote to establish a botanic garden
- 1984** - Tower Hill Botanic Garden officially opens
- 1987** - Tower Hill designated a Special Environmental Site by Executive Office of Environmental Affairs of MA
- 1988 (September 25)** - Master Plan for Tower Hill unveiled
- 1990 (September 16)** - Lawn Garden and Harrington Orchard dedicated at Tower Hill
- 1991** - Tower Hill voted the Gold Medal for 1992 for excellence in service to its constituents and for the vision of developing a Botanic Garden, by the MHS
- 1992 (March 3)** - WCHS celebrates its 150th Anniversary
- 1992 (April 1)** - New half-mile entrance road, Fuller Drive, opens
- 1992 (September 9)** - Groundbreaking for the Entry Garden and Stoddard Education and Visitors Center
- 1994 (January)** - Stoddard Education and Visitors Center opens, with a library, classrooms, gift shop, theater, and management and administrative offices.
- 1996 (Fall)** - Parking Lot completed, Entry Garden hardscaping completed.
- 1997 (Spring)** - Entry Garden to be planted, entry pavilion will be constructed.
- 1997 (Fall)** - Groundbreaking for 4,000 sq. foot Orangerie (glass house) Planned to house temperate plants for year-round, winter interest.
- 1999 (February 28)** - Public Opening of Orangerie
- 2000 (September 9)** - Public opening of the Systematic Garden
- 2001** - Construction of The Folly completed in the Inner Park
- 2002** - Construction of The Hope H. Spear Wildlife Refuge Pond completed
- 2002** - Construction of The Temple of Peace completed in the Inner Park
- 2002** - Construction and installation of The Moss Steps completed on the Loop Trail
- 2006 to 2011** - Capital Campaign Phase IV fundraising begins and progresses
- 2010 (November 14)** - Public Opening of The Winter Garden and Limonaia

## Tower Hill Botanic Garden Facts

- 132 acres of gardens, meadows and woodland trails with a seasonal display of over 95,000 flowering bulbs
- 119 heirloom apple varieties in the amazing Harrington Orchard
- Easily accessible from all major routes in New England
- A tradition of educational and entertaining annual special events.
- Accredited by the American Association of Museums and funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council
- 350 varieties of trees and shrubs in the Lawn Garden