



BERKSHIRE BOTANICAL GARDEN

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Star Gardeners, Martha Stewart, Page Dickey and Jack Staub
Create Guest Gardens for Berkshire Botanical Garden's 75th Anniversary

July 21, 2009-- Stockbridge, MA. -- As part of the Berkshire Botanical Garden's 75th Anniversary celebration, three historic areas in the Garden's 15 acres are being redesigned by three leading figures in the gardening world. Guest Gardens will be on display throughout the season May 1 through October 12, 2009.

Martha Stewart has designed an heirloom-themed flower garden, **the Martha Stewart Garden**, around the Meadow Cottage. Her gardens are renowned for their profusion of flowers, abundance of color and romantic mood, and this signature style will be on full view. Heirloom flowers have been integral to Martha's own gardens in Connecticut, Maine, and New York, and the spirit of those often-photographed beds have inspired this new undertaking. In true Martha style, the garden will mix classic flowers with improved cultivars of old-fashioned favorites.

"Memories of plants, flowers, and fragrances from our childhood become romanticized and embellished through the years, and create a dream garden which is every bit as important as our real-world horticultural encounters, says Ms. Stewart. "I attempted to make this idealized place real in the heirloom garden created around the Meadow Cottage in the north half of the Garden."

The garden editors of Martha Stewart Living magazine charged with the design have worked in prestigious gardens throughout the Northeast. Their plans involve intermingling perennials, annuals and shrubs to create a fragrant, jubilant garden that begs visitors to linger and explore.

Page Dickey has restored **the Herb Garden**, leaving its historic terraced structure intact but expanding the number of plant varieties and rearranging them in theme beds that are more appropriate for our time. In addition to such basics as the Fragrance Garden, the Culinary Garden and the Medicinal Garden, Page has created the Potpourri Border and the Bug-Repellent Garden. She has even created a Hogwarts Garden, for plants with dangerous qualities or colorful histories or associations with ancient folklore. Page is the author of many gardening books, including "Gardens in The Spirit of Place", "Inside Out: Relating Garden to House" and "Breaking Ground", for which she won the American Horticultural Society Book Award. In "Duck Hill Journal: A Year in a Country Garden" she focused on her own home garden. Page lectures widely and was a founder of the Garden Conservancy's Open Days program.

Jack Staub has redesigned **the Vegetable and Fruit Gardens**. A passionate edible gardener and advocate of the CSA, Locavore, and Slow Food initiatives, Jack has drawn from his education with the legendary Rosemary Verey in redesigning the area, and from his celebrated "75" series of edible gardening books, which include "75 Exciting Vegetables for Your Garden", "75 Remarkable Fruits for Your Garden", and "75 Exceptional Herbs for Your Garden." "Multiple, raised beds and vertical gardening are the essence here: raised beds not only provide a much-needed parterre-like structure, but heat up faster, drain better, amend easier, and lift the garden up towards you. Teepees and trellising not only enlarge your gardening real estate considerably, but provide bold architectural exclamation points. I like to think of the garden I've designed for the BBG as a mini-version of the gardens at Villandry: 20 one-type of vegetable per bed with the beds laid out in a rigidly symmetrical four-square grid, but much more rustic as befitting a country garden in the Berkshires."

This renewal of essential elements in the Garden is part of a year-long program of activities tied to the theme, "Back to The Future: Rediscovering Our Roots," which recognizes its origins as an educational and inspirational resource for the community. For further information about Berkshire Botanical Garden's exhibitions, education and events please visit: www.berkshirebotanical.org or call 413-298-3926.