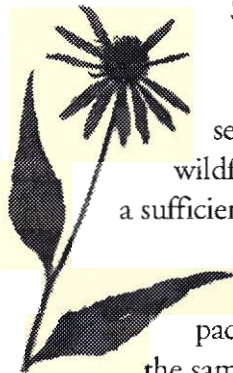


The Highstead Log

The Wildflower Meadow



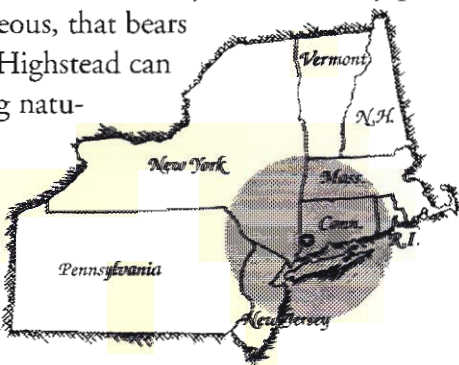
Segmented into four plots, two for sowing and two for control, the meadow at Highstead has been serving as an experimental field for wildflowers. Eight years has proven to be a sufficient time of study. The inspirational images of wildflower fields, as seen in catalogues and on seed packaging, cannot be achieved without the same care and attention received by any cultivated garden. Yet, timely disturbance of the soil surface during late summer, combined with mowing in late fall, can dramatically aid the distribution and germination of seeds.

Next Spring the meadow will no longer be segmented, as we allow the site to return to its natural state. An informal area within the meadow will be subjected to a light scratching, while mowing will occur once each year, in order to achieve an increased germination rate.

Looking down from the east side of the barn to the pond below, one will continue to admire the beauty of the meadow that connects the two.

Defining Native

The term *native* is loosely defined. It can describe an area as small as your backyard, or an area that encompasses an entire continent. Here at Highstead, we use a one hundred mile radius from the arboretum to determine which plants we will classify as native. Any plant, woody or herbaceous, that bears the *native* tag at Highstead can be found growing naturally within this radius, and was indigenous to this specified area in pre-colonial times.



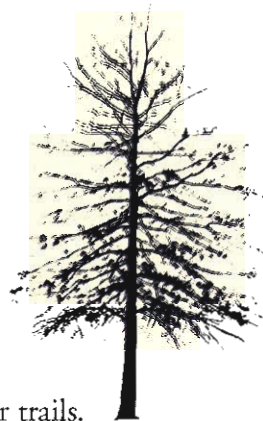
Revised Native Tree & Shrub Walk

The staff at Highstead has been busy updating the Native Tree & Shrub Walk. The addition of thirteen specimens brings the walk list to a total of sixty-six.

This increase reflects our effort to include new identifications, such as Northern Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*), as well as native plants that have been introduced at Highstead.

An effort has also been made to include some of the diminutive plants and groundcovers of the understory. In this way, we have achieved a more complete representation of the woodland at Highstead.

New Native Tree & Shrub Walk maps are available to members and guests, and may be requested for your next walk on our trails.



Azalea=Rhododendron

In discussing azaleas and rhododendrons, many of us have clear and separate images of each as a plant. In the past, azaleas were a distinct genus, limited to deciduous shrubs whose flowers contained five stamens. Rhododendrons were mostly evergreen and had flowers with ten or more stamens. Over time, discoveries of new species have made the difference between these two less distinct.

Today, azaleas are considered a sub-genus of rhododendron. In other words, all azaleas are rhododendrons, but not all rhododendrons are azaleas.

The term *Rhododendron* comes from the Greek *Rhodon* for "rose," and *dendron* for "tree," which suggests the effect when the Rhododendron flower trusses are in full bloom. *Azalea* is also from the Greek, meaning "dry," referring to those azaleas whose habitat is dry rocky woodland.

This Spring, join us during the month of May, when our collection of this sub-genus will be in bloom and full of fragrance.

Members Day Program

June 6-7, 1998

Join us in June for our Members Day Program, when we will present informative and inspiring lectures and walks for our members and their guests. Invitations and a program list will be sent in early May.

Spring 1998 at Highstead

Saturday Walk Programs

Highstead Arboretum invites members and guests for walks and talks on the second Saturday of each month. Come dressed to walk and plan to stay 1 to 2 hours. Reservations are suggested; call ahead for weather-related rescheduling.

Gardening Under Glass

Saturday, March 14, 10AM

Uncover the mystery of glass houses with Ted Lockwood. Whether it is utilized for propagation or your own personal plant collection, what size greenhouse is right for your needs? Where should it be sited? How will you provide heat and air circulation? Answer these questions, as well as the basic considerations of construction, irrigation, and maintenance of this underutilized garden structure.

Plant Propagation

Saturday, April 11, 10AM

Expand your garden by collecting the bounty that nature provides. This demonstrative lecture by the Highstead staff will teach the basics of sexual and asexual propagation. Learn the secrets to successful seed collection and germination. Discover how techniques like cutting, layering and division can reproduce the common, rare or unusual at little or no cost.

A Woodland in Spring

Saturday, May 9, 10AM

Take in the fragrance and color, as you are guided through the azalea collection at Highstead. George Elkins, Highstead's lead horticulturist, will offer a guided tour of the azalea collection. This collection, fenced for protection from deer, showcases fourteen species of deciduous azalea, as well as a fascinating collection of companion plants.

Sunday Walk Programs

On *May 17th*, and *June 14th*, Highstead will offer one-hour, guided tours of the arboretum. Walks will leave from the barn every hour on the hour, from 10am until 4pm. Please join us in May to enjoy the beauty of the azalea collection, or in June, when the laurel will be at peak bloom.

For further information, call Highstead Arboretum at 203-938-8809, 9AM-4PM, Monday-Friday.

There is a non-member fee of \$5.00 per program

Highstead Arboretum

P.O. Box 1097

Redding, Connecticut 06875-1097

Spring 1998

Arboretum: A living collection of hardy trees, shrubs, and woody vines, maintained for the purposes of study, research, and education.