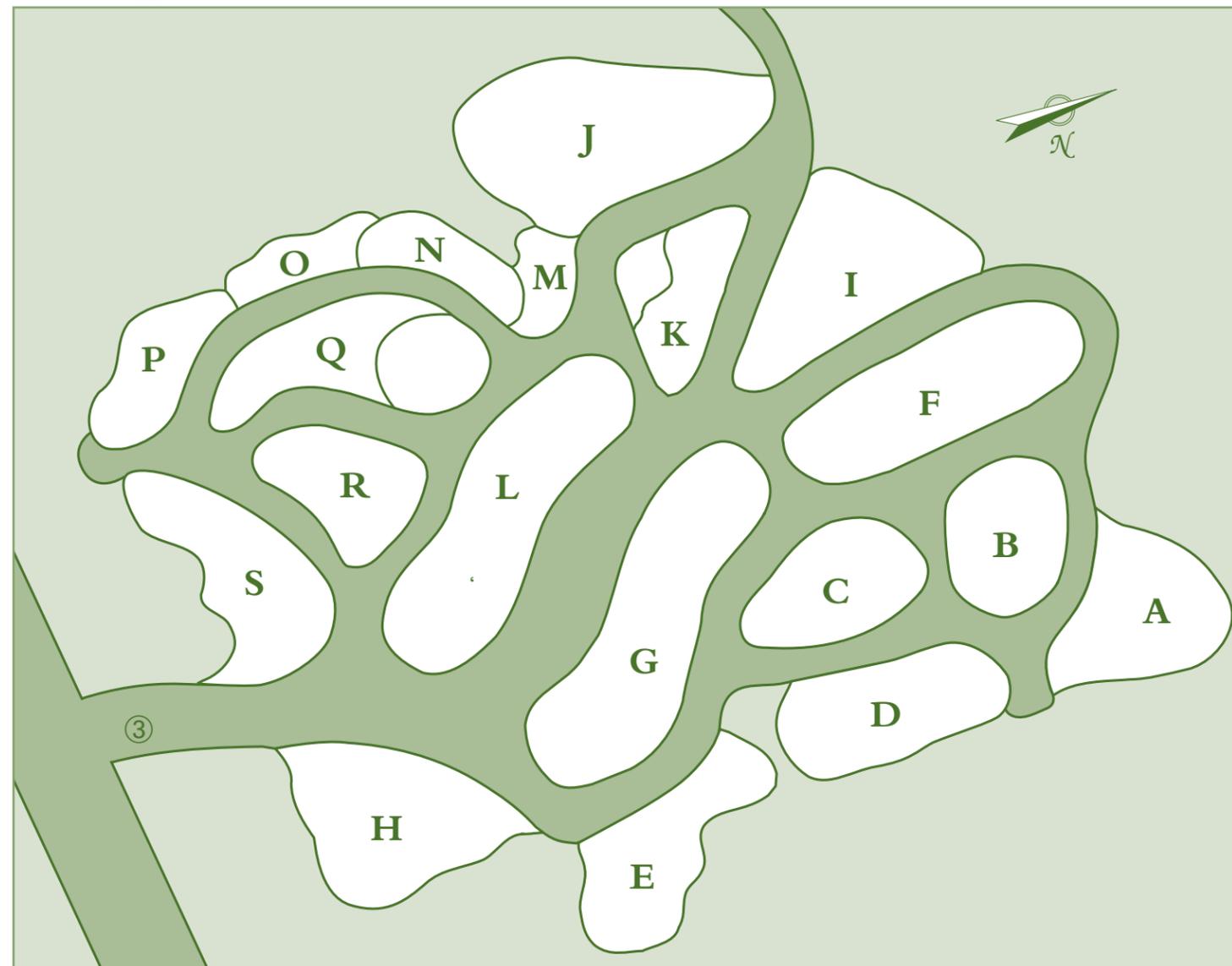


Plant List

Cultivar/Form	Qualities	Bed(s)
MOUNTAIN LAUREL <i>Kalmia latifolia</i>		
'Alpine Pink'	pink flower with white center	H,S
'Angel'	pure white flower	S
<i>f. apetala</i>	flowers lacking petals	Q,S
'Baystate'	coral-colored flower	H,S
'Big Boy'	pink bud, soft pink flower	G,Q
'Bravo'	dark pink bud and flower	S
'Bridesmaid'	deep pink flower with white center	H,S
'Bristol'	broad cinnamon-maroon band	Q
'Bullseye'	white flower with cinnamon band	B,H,S
'Candy'	dark pink bud, dark pink flower	H
'Carol'	deep red bud, white flower	G,H,S
'Carousel'	white flower with cinnamon band	H,S
'Claydian Pink'	pink bud, clear pink flower	G
'Comet'	white flowers and a more dense plant habit	S
'Compacta'	very compact, dense globe	F,S
'Elf'	semi-dwarf habit, light pink-white flower	G,R
'Emerald Sheen'	thick, rounded, dark green, glossy foliage	S
'Firecracker'	bright red bud, opens to light pink flowers	D-G,L
'Freckles'	pink bud, white flower w/ ten cinnamon spots	G,S
'Fresca'	white flower with burgundy band	G,S
'Galaxy'	cinnamon-maroon pigment on inside	Q
'Goodrich'	cinnamon-purple flower with white border	G
'Good Show'	deep pink in bud, rich pink when open	G,S
'Heart of Fire'	red bud, pink flower	G,S
'Hearts Desire'	red bud, cinnamon-red flower	G,S
'Hoffman's Pink'	medium pink in bud, light pink when open	E,G
'Kaleidoscope'	cinnamon flower edged in white	G,I,S
'Keepsake'	cinnamon maroon flower inside w/white edge	F,Q
'Keystone'	light pink bud, near white when open	E,G
'Little Linda'	semi-dwarf habit, red bud, pink flower	R
'Madeline'	only double-flowered cultivar known	D,E,G
'Meteor'	new 'Shooting Star' type, lavender-pink	Q
'Minuet'	semi-dwarf habit, flower w/ broad maroon band	G,R
<i>f. myrtifolia</i>	semi-dwarf habit, variable flower	A,G
'Nancy'	bright red bud, clear pink flower	G,S
'Nathan Hale'	red bud, pink flower	G,S
'Nipmuck'	intense red bud, pink flower	G
'Olympic Fire'	deep red bud, pink flower	S
'Olympic Wedding'	pink bud, pink flower with maroon band	G,S
'Ostbo Red'	bight red bud, pink flower	G,L
'Paul Bosley'	rich pink bud, medium to strong pink flower	G,Q
'Peppermint'	white flower with candy stripe	F
'Pequot'	red bud, light pink flower	G,L
'Pink Ball'	light pink flower	J
'Pink Charm'	red bud, rich pink flower with red ring	E,G,L
'Pink Frost'	rich pink bud, pink flower	G,L
'Pink Globe'	reddish-pink flower, globular	L
'Pink Surprise'	deep pink bud, pink flower	G,L
'Pinwheel'	white flower with cinnamon band	F,G,L
<i>f. polypetala</i>	flower with feathery petals	Q

Highstead Kalmia Collection



'Pristine'	compact habit, white flower	L
'Quinnipiac'	red bud, soft pink flower	L
'Raspberry Glow'	deep red bud, deep pink flower	F,L,O
'Richard Jaynes'	red bud, dark pink flower	L
'Sarah'	red bud, pink-red flower	C,E,L
'Sharon Rose'	buds bright red, fading to pink when open	F,H,L
'Shooting Star'	white flower, distinctly lobed	F,P
'Silver Dollar'	pinkish bud, large white flower	F,L
'Snowdrift'	white flower	N
'Star Cluster'	white flower with maroon band	L
'Stillwood'	white bud, white flower	D
'Sunset'	bright red bud, opening to strong pink	L
'Tiddlywinks'	semi-dwarf habit, pink flower	R
'Tightwad'	large pink buds, which never open	F,L
'Tightwad Too'	medium pink buds, resists leafspot	Q
'Tinkerbell'	semi-dwarf habit, deep pink flower	R
'Twenty'	dark pink bud, medium pink flower	H,J
'White Mountain'	white bud, sometimes tinged pink, white flowers	D
'Willowcrest'	pink flower, narrow leaf form	L

'Willowood'	willow-leaved, flowers light pink to white	F,L
'Window'	large, light-pink flowers, darkening with age	F
'Yankee Doodle'	red bud, white flower with maroon band	F,L

HYBRIDS <i>Kalmia polifolia</i> x <i>K. microphylla</i>		
'Rocky Top'	a cross of Eastern Bog & Western Alpine Laurels	Q

SHEEP LAUREL <i>Kalmia angustifolia</i>		
<i>f. candida</i>	low growing, white flower	K
'Forever Green'	better winter foliage, typical pink flower	A
'Hammonasset'	bright rose pink to bluish rose	Q
'Kennebago'	shiny leaves and deep rose flowers	D
'Poke Logan'	shiny leaves and light pink flowers	M
'Royal Dwarf'	rose-pink flowers in June and again in August	K
'Wintergreen'	deep colored foliage, especially in autumn	J

WHITE WICKY <i>Kalmia cuneata</i>		
species	deciduous, small white flower	Q

Companion Plant List

The site of the Kalmia Collection at Highstead lacked a tree canopy and air movement, effectively trapping the heat from this southern exposure. While mountain laurel can grow in full sun, the site can not be excessively hot. As a result, a few changes were made to improve this site so that the plantings would thrive. A second pathway from the Collection to the main trail was established, in order to create an additional channel for air movement. This helps to effectively cool the site. Companion plantings have been introduced in an effort to restore a shade canopy, lessening the effects of the southwest exposure received by these beds. Oak, dogwood, shadblow and witch hazel all provide a distinct contrast to the mountain laurel. Below is a list of some of the more noteworthy of these plantings.

WINTERBERRY <i>Ilex verticillata</i>		
'Afterglow'	slow growing and compact orange-red fruit	G
'Cacapon'	similar to Afterglow but more upright, red fruit	C
'Early Male'	a pollinator for early flowering varieties	E
'Jolly Red'	abundant red fruit, dark green leaves	D
'Kennebago'	dwarf female form	A
'Late Male'	a pollinator for late flowering varieties	F
'Red Sprite'	compact growth habit, large red fruit	J
'Sunset'	abundant dark red fruit, compact growth	K
'Tiasquam'	extremely hardy and drought resistant	L
'Winter Red'	dark green leaves, heavy, intense red fruit	H,I
'Yellowberry'	bright yellow berries, heavy producer	J
<i>Ilex hybrid (I. serrata</i> x <i>I. verticillata)</i>		
'Sparkleberry'	persistent fruit, plum-purple new leaf growth	I

VERNAL WITCHHAZEL <i>Hamamelis vernalis</i>		
'Purpurea'	purple spring bloom	F
'Sandra'	bronze/green new growth, yellow flower	H

WITCH-ALDER <i>Fothergilla gardenii</i>		
		G,M

FLOWERING DOGWOOD <i>Cornus florida</i>		
'Cherokee Princess'	large white bracts, flowers early and heavily	O,S
'Ruba'	like our native dogwood with pink bracts	C

SHADBLOW <i>Amelanchier</i>		
<i>A. canadensis</i>	our native Shadblow, found in swamps & lowlands	J
<i>A. laevis</i>	red autumn foliage	J,Q
<i>Amelanchier</i> x <i>grandiflora</i>		
'Autumn Brilliance'	brilliant red fall foliage, white flower	F
'Ballerina'	pure white flower, purple/bronze fall foliage	I
'Cumulus'	soft white flowers, yellow/orange-scarlet fall color	L,P

Facility Notes

For the protection of the fragile plant environment, please note:

• No dogs, bicycles, play equipment, food or beverages

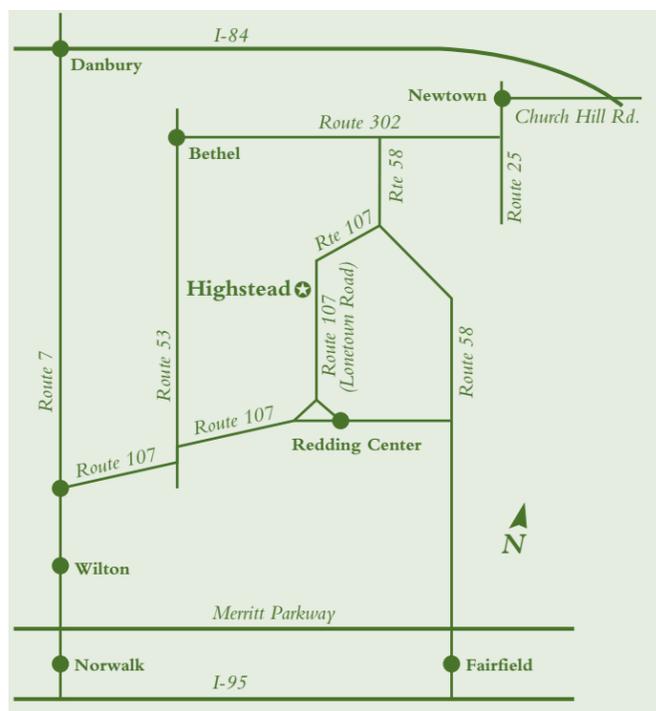
• Stay on the paths and boardwalks

• Please refrain from picking plants and flowers

• No smoking

Peak time for viewing mountain laurel in bloom is usually the second week of June. Bloom time can vary as much as one week either way, depending on weather conditions.

Please call ahead to make a reservation, and to check on the timing and condition of the bloom.



Individuals or groups interested in visiting Highstead may make arrangements by writing or calling:

Highstead
P.O. Box 1097
Redding, Connecticut 06875-1097
203-938-8809
www.highstead.net

Guide to the Laurel Collection

Mountain Laurel

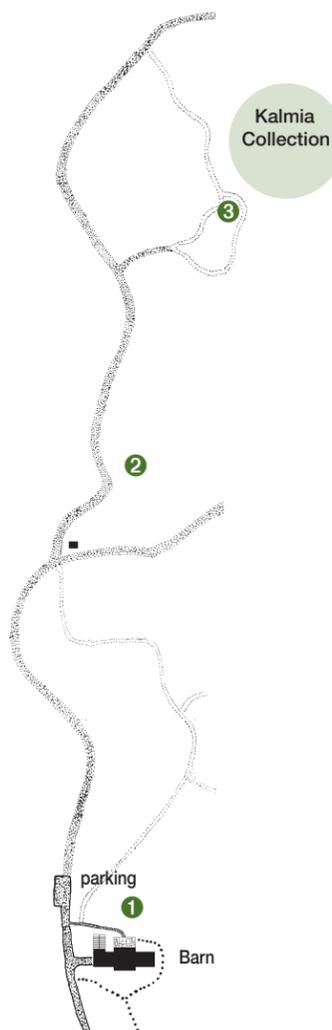
Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), the State Flower of Connecticut, grows extensively and naturally at Highstead. This led to the decision to devote a section of the grounds to a concentrated display of laurel species, forms and cultivars.

The *Kalmia* Collection at Highstead is only a five minute walk from the Barn, but visitors should be prepared to spend at least one hour viewing the Collection and absorbing the beauty of the surrounding woodland.

Looking at Mountain Laurel

A visit to any collection in full bloom can be overwhelming. Please take the time to study each cultivar closely for leaf shape, stem and bud color, as well as flower color and form. Note how some flowers are banded with color on the inside, and how this internal banding effects the color on the outside of the flower as well.

Highstead's *Kalmia* Collection presents the opportunity to compare the characteristics of mountain laurel found in the wild with plants which have been cultivated. As you start out from the Barn ①, look at the mountain laurel on the slope adjacent to the terrace and see as great a natural variation in bloom color as you will find on the property. This stand of mountain laurel is self-sown and grows in full sun. As you walk toward the *Kalmia* Collection, make note of the native stands of mountain laurel that are part of the woodland understory ②. Here you will find naturalized mountain laurel flowering less prolifically than the laurel near the Barn, with many stiff, often leggy limbs supporting crooked branches. The Collection itself ③, shows a much wider range of flower color, and a much lower and denser growth habit. These are traits achieved through selection and cultivation.



The Collection at Highstead

Set on a previously disturbed site, the *Kalmia* Collection at Highstead was begun in 1989. Raised beds were created for optimum drainage, and consist of an organic soil with a pH range of 5 to 5.5. Several inches of mulch have been applied for root protection and moisture conservation. Although normally growing in dappled shade, mountain laurel will do quite well in full sun, as long as the location is not excessively hot.

Kalmia Species and Their Cultivars

Kalmia is part of the Ericaceae (Heath) Family. This family of plants also includes *Rhododendron* (rhododendron and azalea), *Vaccinium* (blueberry), and *Gaultheria* (wintergreen). Three of the seven *Kalmia* species are represented at Highstead; mountain laurel (*K. latifolia*), sheep laurel (*K. angustifolia*), and white wicky (*K. cuneata*). All native to North America, they are most notable for their late spring flowers. The forms and cultivars have been selected to represent as complete a collection of *Kalmia* as possible.

The Three Kalmia Species at Highstead

K. latifolia

Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), also known commonly as calico bush and spoonwood, is a broad-leaved (*lati*=broad, *folia*=leaf), evergreen shrub. It rarely exceeds a height of twelve feet. The natural range of this species is along the east coast of the United States, from southern Maine to northwestern Florida, and as far west as Mississippi.

K. angustifolia

Sheep laurel (*Kalmia angustifolia*), has a much narrower leaf than mountain laurel (*angusti*=narrow, *folia*=leaf). It is also shorter, attaining a height of only three to four feet. This plant can be harmful to sheep and other livestock. When eaten in sufficient quantity it can be fatal.

K. cuneata

White wicky (*Kalmia cuneata*), is the only deciduous member of the *Kalmia* genus. Found growing natively in a narrow band which runs from North Carolina into South Carolina, it is one of the rarest shrubs in North America. The specific epithet *cuneata* is from the Latin meaning "wedge-shaped."

Cultivars and Forms

In the wild, there is great variation in the color of the bud and flower of mountain laurel. Differences in foliage shape and overall growth habit can be noted as well. Through selection and breeding, these naturally occurring differences have been the source of many beautiful cultivars (over seventy at last count). Much of this work was and continues to be done by Dr. Richard A. Jaynes, whose book, "*Kalmia, Mountain Laurel and Related Species*," is recommended reading for additional information. Several botanical forms (abbreviated f.), such as *apetala* (flowers without petals) and *myrtifolia* (miniature or dwarf growth habit), are also represented in the collection at Highstead. The *Kalmia* Collection at Highstead is part of the North American Plant Collection Consortium (NAPCC). This consortium was formed in the early 1990's to ensure the future biodiversity of plants in North America. Highstead's collection is included, due to the depth of natural occurring mountain laurel on the property, and the number of cultivars represented in the planted area.

The Kalmia Collection

A Self-guided Tour of Mountain Laurel and Companion Plants



Highstead 