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# TRIANGLE GARDENER™

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO ENJOYABLE GARDENING

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER 2018

# Finally Fall!

**Easy Edibles**  
*growing guide*

**Daffodils**  
*time to plant*

**Hummingbirds**  
*migration time*

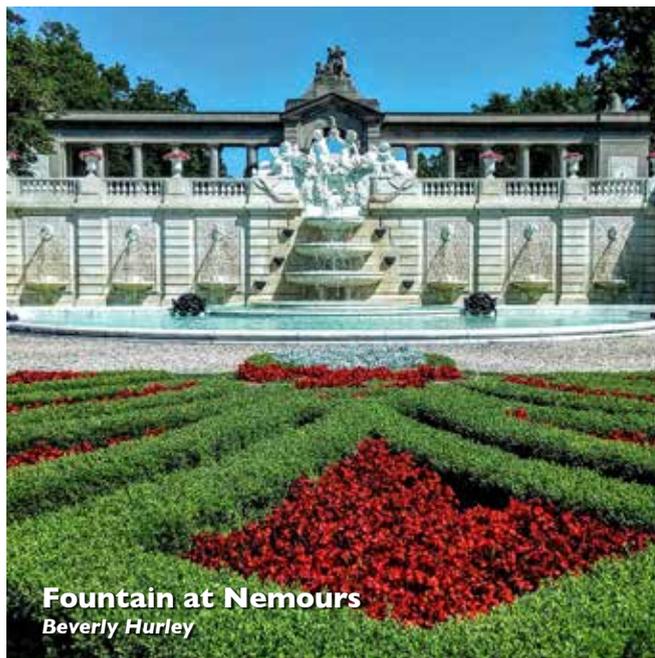
**ALSO!** GARDEN EVENTS • BOOKS • BIRDS • EXPERTS • TRAVEL • GARDEN NEWS

# Wilmington, Delaware: A Legacy of Gardens

**Y**ou don't have to travel far to see massive estates and magnificent gardens like the ones found in Europe. Wilmington, Delaware, has a legacy of these, and they have one family to thank—the du Pont family.

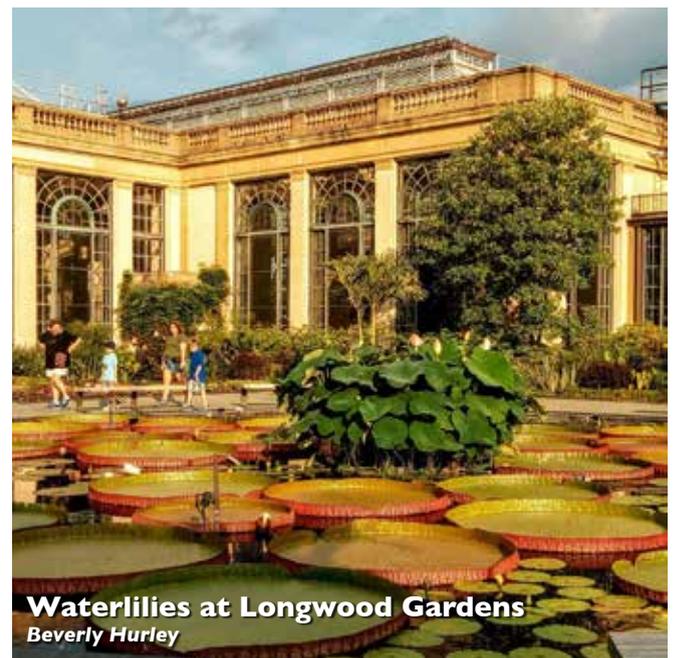
On a visit to Wilmington, I toured five major garden estates all created by du Pont heirs. My first stop was where the du Pont's began – at Hagley, the black powder mill that gave rise to the family's industrial power. Sited on 235 acres along the scenic Brandywine Creek, the Hagley Museum & Library tells the story of E.I. du Pont who started the powder mill in 1802 after emigrating from France with his father, brother and their families. The complex includes restored stone buildings that once housed the gunpowder manufacturing process.

On the property is the first du Pont home and gardens in America, Eleutherian Mills. The gardens are a showcase of E.I. du Pont's love of gardening and have been restored in a traditional French-style to the time of 1803-1834. E.I. was



**Fountain at Nemours**  
Beverly Hurley

an avid botanist who imported many of his plants from France. The French influence is furthered with the use of parterres, espaliers and intersecting paths. Plan enough time to soak in the history and wander the grounds at Hagley, which today is a certified wildlife habitat. (Hagley.org)



**Waterlilies at Longwood Gardens**  
Beverly Hurley

Winterthur is the most extensive of the du Pont legacies. E.I.'s daughter and husband purchased property from her father in 1837 and built a 12-room house. Future generations expanded the house and gardens, but it was Henry Francis du Pont (a great-grandson) who took it to the level it is today; a 175-room, nine-

story structure (with four levels below ground and five levels above) filled with his collection of American antiques.

Henry transformed the grounds to include flower gardens, greenhouses, and natural areas. Today, it is 60-acres of jaw-dropping beauty where everything is

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**Flowers at Mt. Cuba Center**  
Beverly Hurley

planted with a purpose. Start your visit with the tram tour that takes you through the gardens and provides interesting stories about the property. (Winterthur.org)

Longwood Gardens (in Pennsylvania, but near Wilmington) has been on my bucket list for years. It is breathtaking beyond words. It's all about the gardens



**Winterthur Reflecting Pool**  
Terry Hurley

here, and you will hardly notice the home of Pierre S. du Pont (a great-grandson) who purchased the land in 1906. He laid out the first garden in 1907 – the 600-foot-long Flower Garden Walk that today is one of the most popular garden sections at Longwood. Other gardens on the 1,000-acre property range from roses and peonies to wisteria, conifers, and an allée of catalpa trees.

The Conservatory is room after room of tropical plants from around the world plus an interactive children's garden all housed inside the four-acre glass structure. Outside is the most amazing waterlily display with aquatic plants from across the globe. The entertainment options at Longwood are extensive; organ con-

certs in the Conservatory, performances in the Open Air Theatre, and local entertainment in the Beer Garden. The highlight entertainment is found at the Main Fountain Garden where

dancing waters and music (with lights in the evening performance) combine with technology and choreography to create an experience not found anywhere else in the world. (longwodgardens.org)

The Nemours Estate was created by Alfred I. du Pont (a great-grandson) at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and features a 77-room French-styled mansion. The grounds include formal French gardens and nearly 200-acres of woodlands and meadows. A sweeping lawn leads up the hill where it is punctuated by some of the grandest displays of reflecting pools, sunken gardens, fountains, marble structures, gilded statues, and plantings. You will think you are touring an estate of a French nobleman. (nemoursmansion.org)

Mt. Cuba Center is the estate of Lamont du Pont Copeland (a great-great-grandson) and his wife. In 1935, they built a home high on a hill outside

of Wilmington. They too loved gardens and hired the top landscape designer of the day, Thomas W. Sears, and formal gardens designer Marian C. Coffin. Years later they added naturalistic gardens.

The focus of Mt. Cuba is mostly native plants displayed in a variety of settings. The formal garden is a mix of boxwood allées, towering magnolias and conifers, and well-sited plants, both native and seasonal, designed around a main lawn. There is a trial garden where research is carried out on select cultivars of plants over a three-year time period. From here, the gardens take a naturalistic path through the woodland canopy and ends at the bottom of the hill where four ponds await. (Mtcubacenter.org)

Wilmington's waterfront has been renovated and is lined with restaurants and entertainment venues. At the far end is the DuPont Environmental Education Center with panoramic views of the river and marshland. Not far from downtown, Rockwood Museum & Park is a naturalistic garden and country estate of Joseph Shipley, who was not a du Pont. In the summer it hosts theater in the park by Delaware Shakespeare.

Learn more about Wilmington at VisitWilmingtonDE.com.

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Beverly Hurley is the editor of Triangle Gardener magazine and www.GardenDestinations.com. When she is not gardening, she loves to travel.

perennials, shrubs, grasses, trees, vines, ferns & bog plants

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### IS YOUR GARDEN A PICNIC FOR INVASIVE PESTS?

Follow these **TIPS** to fight them.

#### Know Your ROOTS

Only buy plants and seeds, online or in person, from **REPUTABLE** sources that follow USDA regulations.

You may live in an area under quarantine for an invasive pest. Call your local **USDA OFFICE** to find out before moving homegrown produce, plants, and plant parts.

Moving citrus plants or items with citrus, such as floral arrangements, could spread a devastating citrus disease: **CITRUS GREENING.**

#### HUNT FOR HOLES

**LOOK FOR D-SHAPED AND ROUND** holes in trees. These could be signs of emerald ash borers or Asian longhorned beetles.

#### CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL

Call your local USDA office to find out how to safely dispose of **TREE BRANCHES** and other yard debris.

#### soak 'em in soap

To fight gypsy moths, immerse their egg masses in **soapy water.** And don't move dirty outdoor items to new areas.

America's gardeners are on the front line of the fight against invasive pests. Do the right thing and help keep Hungry Pests from spreading.

For tips, regulations and how to report Hungry Pests, go to [www.HungryPests.com](http://www.HungryPests.com).

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