

STONECROP GARDENS



Cold Spring, NY

Table Of Contents

History of Stonecrop Gardens.....	Brittany
Lesson Plan.....	Laura and Marissa
Guidebook.....	Melissa and Kim
Bibliography.....	Brittany
Website Links.....	Brittany



History of Stonecrop Gardens

Located in Cold Spring, New York, Stonecrop Gardens is a public garden that is the headquarters of the Garden Conservancy, a national nonprofit organization. The garden was the home of Anne and Frank Cabot, who founded the Garden Conservancy in 1989 hoping to “preserve America’s finest gardens for posterity and to enhance public appreciation of gardens as part of our artistic and cultural heritage” (Casal 2007).

Before Stonecrop came into existence, Anne’s parents, George and Lynn Perkins, purchased property located in the Hudson Highlands in 1929, now called Glynwood Farm. This name was derived from both George and Lynn’s first names and the surrounding terrain, hence Glynwood. Mr. and Mrs. Perkins chose this location because the surrounding land held a deep connection to conservation. The property expanded to include 2,500 acres of fields, lakes, farm, and forests, and the couple wanted to show the importance of open space preservation.

Today the forested terrain has become part of Fahnestock State Park, while the property's main purpose is the Glynwood Center, which officially opened in 1997. Glynwood Center helps raise communities awareness of natural resources, cultural heritage, and economic development. Currently, Anne Cabot is on the Glynwood Center Board of Directors as Vice Chairman. Anne’s grandfather, also named George (Mr. Perkins's father), dedicated his time to the creation of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission (PIPC), which manages over 100,000 acres of parkland in New York and New Jersey (Glynwood Center 2005). For many years the elder George served as the Chairman of PIPC, and the family continues to be involved today.

History of Stonecrop Gardens

In the late 1950s, the Cabots built their summer residence at Stonecrop and according to Casal (2007), Cabot created magnificent venues to display his plant collections, most notably the alpine collection. He was an avid gardener and plant collector who began by creating raised stone beds for his alpine plants while his wife tended to vegetables and flowers. Together, Mr. and Mrs. Cabot constructed twelve acres of gardens while also remaining involved at Glynwood Farm, especially Anne.

In 1985, Frank “began work to turn Stonecrop into a public garden, but it took seven years to design, plant, and develop the gardens to a size mature enough to present to the public” (Jasch 2005). Mr. and Mrs. Cabot’s mission was to show “high standards and interesting horticulture stretching beyond the conventional in North America” (MacDonald 2007). Cabot had a vision to create a garden where people could learn about horticulture, experience his enthusiasm for fine gardening, and take inspiration back home to their own gardens (Casal 2007).

In 1992, Stonecrop opened to the public under the direction of Caroline Burgess. Burgess interned at Stonecrop for six weeks in 1985 from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England (Raver 2003). Mr. Cabot was impressed with her abilities, so he appointed her as director when his own gardener manager left. Burgess built up the shrub and tree collection and together, she and Mr. Cabot continue to maintain their garden today, while Anne is involved at their co-location, Glynwood Farm, where her parents and grandfather started the trend for conservation.

Lesson Plan

Topic: Stonecrop Gardens

Grade Level: 4th Grade

Time Frame: Field Trip- 3 hours at site, 1 hour transportation Time in the Classroom- 2 hours

Materials: Pens/Pencils, Paints, Crayons, Markers, Flower Pots, Soil, Five types of seeds

Objectives:

- 1) Students will become familiar with the Stonecrop Gardens.
- 2) Students will learn how to grow their own flowers and maintain a garden.
- 3) Students will learn how to follow directions and work cooperatively in a group.
- 4) Students will work on fine motor skills and creativity.

Introduction: Stonecrop Garden is used to convey what can be achieved by horticultural enthusiasts as well as being used as an educational resource. Francis Cabot was the first owner of Stonecrop and Caroline Burgess was a horticulturalist from England that took over the garden in the 1980s. The design influence in the garden mimics Burgess's mentor who was English, therefore an English background can be seen in different areas of Stonecrop. The result is a diverse but cohesive arrangement of landscape features including English borders and a vegetable garden. The features that can be observed at Stonecrop include an entrance pavilion, a boardwalk, the Conservatory, a Potting Shed, a Woodland garden, a Flower Garden, a Gravel Garden, a rock ledge, Hillside Garden, Flinstone Bridge, Metasequoia Grove, Himalayan Slope and a bamboo groove.

Purpose: The trip to Stonecrop Garden will occur towards the end of the year when students have completed lessons on topics such as ecosystems, gardens, photosynthesis and weather. The field trip will allow them to see the concepts that they studied first hand. Before the field trip, students will be assigned to five groups in which each will be growing a different type of flower that can be found at Stonecrop Gardens. This will include: Primula, Saxifraga, Gentiana, Crocus and Narcissus.

Lesson Plan

Procedure:

- 1) Students will leave their elementary school on a Friday at 10:30am in order to arrive at Stonecrop Gardens around 11:00am when their tour will begin.
- 2) Once they arrive at Stonecrop they will receive a fill-in-the-blank worksheet to fill out while they listen to the tour guide. The worksheet will have approximately 10 questions on it.
- 3) Students will also be responsible for finding their designated flower in the groups that they have been placed in prior to the field trip.
- 4) Students will break for lunch at 12:30pm with their group members and designated chaperones.
- 5) After lunch students will stay in groups to create a painting/drawing of their favorite garden.
- 6) In these groups they will also create a logo for the garden and answer the question: If you were the owner of this garden what would you name it?
- 7) After group work will have a scavenger hunt to complete throughout the gardens.
- 8) Next they will board the bus at approximately 2:00pm to return to school.
- 9) Once the students return to their classroom they will discuss briefly what they liked and disliked about the garden.

Follow Up: On the day after the field trip the class will review the information they learned at Stonecrop Gardens. They will go over their worksheet and present their group drawings. They will also share what they learned about their group flower. In addition to this they will have the opportunity to ask the teacher any remaining questions they have.

Conclusion: Students were able to work on their fine motor skills by painting/drawing their favorite part of Stonecrop Gardens. They had the opportunity to see flowers and vegetables being grown in large numbers. They were able to work in their designated groups, helping to foster cooperative learning and peer assistance. Overall they learned a great deal of information about what goes into a garden, in particular how to raise the flowers that they have been learning about in their classroom.

Lesson Plan: Scavenger Hunt

Name _____

Group Name _____

Date _____

During your trip at Stonecrop Gardens find the following items:

1. Alpine plant collection
2. Galanthus Bulbs
3. Crocus Bulbs
4. Narcissus Bulbs
5. Black Garden
6. Vegetable Garden
7. Scarecrow
8. Horses

Lesson Plan: Fill in the Blank

1. Stonecrop includes numerous gardens and plants over _____ acres.
2. Alpines are small plants native to a mountainous region that grow at _____ .
3. There are _____ bulbs planted outdoors at Stonecrop.
4. Bulbs are recommended to not be planted near _____ because it may be too dry.
5. Located near the “Inner Sanctum” and the scarecrow lies curving beds that represent the _____ of the _____.

Guidebook for Stonecrop Gardens

81 Stonecrop Lane
Cold Spring, New York 10516
(845) 265-2000



Hours: April-October, Monday-Friday and the first and third Saturday of each month 10am-5pm.

Garden Conservatory Open Days: April 29, May 13, June 10, July 15, August 12, September 23

Admission Fee: \$5.00

Websites: [Http://www.Stonecrop.org](http://www.Stonecrop.org)
[Http://www.GardenWeek.org](http://www.GardenWeek.org)

Guidebook for Stonecrop Gardens

What does the Garden Include?

Stonecrop Garden is situated in Putnam County, New York. It consists of sixty-three acres of gardens, fields, and woodlands. There are twelve acres of various plants, including woodland, water gardens, grass gardens, raised alpine beds, cliff rock gardens, and English flower gardens. It is elevated 1,100 feet and has a zone five climate. The garden also has a conservatory, alpine house, pit house with a wide-spread collection of choice dwarf bulbs and systematic order beds representing over fifty plant families.



The Entrance Pavilion

When entering the garden, an Entrance Pavilion sits right in the front. In this pavilion, there is information available for people to learn more about the garden and to make the experience more informative. There are trees and shrubs in the parking lot which is near the pavilion, and each has a great appeal due to their flower, fragrance or fruit.



The Conservatory

The Conservatory at Stonecrop has four wings. Each wing has the ability to maintain a unique environment with climate control systems. It was completed in 1997, and is used as a display house in the winter and spring. At that time of year, the display house consists of non-hardy plants and various blooming bulbs, trees, and shrubs. In the summer, most of the plants are moved out into the garden, so the Conservatory becomes a space for special projects. The heart of Stonecrop is The Potting Shed, where visitors check in, pick up maps, pay the admission fee, begin their tour, and have the opportunity to purchase some plants for themselves.

Guidebook for Stonecrop Gardens

Flower Garden

South of the main house, including the perennial borders, lays the flower garden. There is also a fountain pool set in an area called the Stable Close, which is also known as the “Black Garden” because it has plants with dark flowers and foliage. There are flower beds in the “The Skinny Vista” area, which consist of blue and yellow bulbs, and perennials in the spring season. A vegetable garden is in the “Inner Sanctum,” which is an enclosed flower garden.



The Alpine Plant Collection

The Alpine plant collection is known for its diversity. These plants are in raised stone beds, troughs, Lime and Ericaceous Display Frames, Alpine House, and on the Rock Ledge. They are located at these spots of the garden because these types of plants grow at high elevations.



The Woodland Garden

The Woodland Garden has a beautiful display that begins in March and April. The trees leaf in late spring. In October and November, the Woodland Garden consists of autumn colors, which causes it to be very popular during that time of year.



The Pond Garden

Next to the Woodland garden is the Pond Garden. The Pond Garden overlooks the Conservatory. It has many Petasites and Ligularia, as well as a plant from Brazil called the Gunnera Manicata, which is the largest herbaceous plant in the world. The pond is also full of water lilies and aquatic plants throughout the pools.

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Website Links

www.stonecrop.org

<http://upstatehouse.com/archive/article.php?issue=24&dept=59>

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