



The Gardens of Glen Burnie

Welcome to the Glen Burnie Gardens of the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley. The gardens you see today were laid out mostly by Julian Wood Glass Jr., the last descendent of the Wood family to own Glen Burnie, and his partner at the time, R. Lee Taylor. In the 1730s, Winchester founder James Wood chose this site for his home, part of an original tract of 1,241 acres. Wood likely selected the site for the natural springs that still produce the waters that flow through Winchester today.

Julian Wood Glass Jr. acquired the property in the 1950s. By 1960, he and Lee Taylor began laying out and constructing the gardens as a series of “rooms” for informal entertaining and visual interest. Self-taught and inspired by gardens they’d seen on their travels, they designed and planted these gardens through trial and error. Several of the gardens you’ll be looking at today were actually on the back side of the property.

Glass and Taylor were constantly upgrading and changing the gardens. This practice continues to this day as we endeavor

to make this once-private garden publicly accessible. In recent years, museum staff created Kathie’s Spring Garden, a new garden along Amherst St., and enlarged the Rose Garden that was Lee Taylor’s pride and joy. Follow the curving path to your left to begin this self-guided tour of the Gardens of Glen Burnie.

Family Cemetery

Early generations of the Wood family followed the traditional practice of burying their dead in a small family cemetery. By the time Taylor literally stumbled upon the cemetery, many of the original tombstones had been destroyed and those remaining were in disarray. Taylor restored the cemetery and repaired and repositioned some of the headstones. In addition to members of the Wood and Glass families, Lee Taylor’s ashes are also interred here. The remains of Dr. and Mrs. Victor Albright are here as well. Dr. Albright was Julian Wood Glass Jr.’s friend and physician. The grave of Glass and Taylor’s pet dog Punky is also in this cemetery.





Pink Pavilion and Sunken Garden

Julian Wood Glass Jr. designed this pink building for

entertaining. The windows can be raised to create additional doorways. On cool evenings, a wood burning fireplace kept guests warm. Glass and Taylor also furnished the pavilion from Glass's collection of antique furniture. A lover of classical art and literature, Glass had at one time studied architecture. He designed the building in the style of Renaissance architect Andrea Palladio (1508–1580). Glass also designed the nearby pool and fountain.

Vegetable Garden and Greenhouse

Julian Glass and Lee Taylor wanted a

vegetable garden that was ornamental as well as functional. The planting beds are in various shapes that allow garden staff the freedom to experiment with planting designs and selections. A large obelisk trellis installed a few years ago supports hops plants. Other plants in the garden include vegetables, like beans and tomatoes; examples of traditional field-grown crops like cotton, peanuts, and tobacco; asparagus grown for more than 30 years; herbs along some of the paths; and an annual display of flowers near the central urn. Glass and Taylor added the greenhouse in 1964 to house tropical plants and orchids.



Today, garden staff uses the greenhouse to sprout seeds and start plants for the gardens.



Herb Garden

On the end of the Carriage House opposite the greenhouse is the Herb Garden. Glass and Taylor planted it in 1962 as an ornamental garden to fill a

small space. Over time, however, growth of nearby foliage prevented the sun-loving species from thriving. Today the Herb Garden boasts 20 culinary and medicinal herbs, along with ornamental urns, obelisks, and winding brick paths.

Kathie's Spring Garden

The Spring Garden is dedicated to the memory of Kathryn Perry Werner, who died in 2016, and who

funded the Spring Garden's creation.

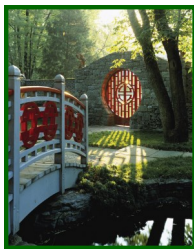
During construction of this garden in 2014–2015, staff discovered 12 natural springs that flow from and through the property into the Town Run. A variety of spring and summer flowering shrubs and perennials line the walkways. Two small buildings along the garden are the “ram”—which once housed a gravity-operated water pump—and a spring house near the old front entrance to the estate. The latter is the oldest structure on the property and provided an early form of refrigeration through its cool spring waters.



Rupert Werner and the late Kathryn Perry Werner in 2015

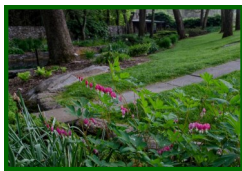
Asian Garden

Although Glass and Taylor called this a “Chinese Garden,” it’s actually better described as a garden of Asian influences. A tea house (where the two often served cocktails) overlooks water features and plantings. The latter include bamboo beyond the red “Moon Gate,” and Japanese maples and weeping hemlock near the paths. Sculptures from Asia adorn the garden, including Chinese guardian lion-dogs and dragons, as well as Buddhist figurative sculpture.



Water Garden

When Julian Glass acquired Glen Burnie, this area was full of rocks and springs, and choked with vegetation. Lee Taylor called it “a mud hole.” Over the twenty-some years that followed, the two created this Water Garden. The limestone outcroppings are a natural feature here, but the waterfall is man-made, fed by water pumped from the Town Run. In one corner of the garden, Glass and Taylor erected a small structure to resemble a building in ruins. Like other structures in the garden, they used it for entertaining. Daffodils, bluebells, bleeding hearts, and other spring blooms are among the Water Garden’s flowering plants, with ferns, hostas, and other flora filling in over the summer.



Parterre Garden (pictured on front)

Glass and Taylor called the garden on the south side of the Glen Burnie House the “Parterre Garden.” Parterre (par TEAR) comes from the French *par terre*, meaning “on the ground.” Originating in France in the 1600s, parterre gardens are level gardens with ornamental planting beds arranged in intricate and geometric shapes. These gardens are often placed near a building so viewers can admire their design from an upper story. At the center of this parterre stands a bronze sculpture of Mercury, the messenger of the gods. It is based on a sculpture made about 1580 by Giambologna, a Flemish artist working in Italy. In 2014 MS garden staff and other specialists renovated and replanted the Parterre Garden. The beds feature bulbs and seasonal displays of flowers.

Knot Garden

Directly behind the Glen Burnie House is a garden composed of interlocking heart and diamond-shaped hedges that Taylor and Glass called the “Knot Garden.” This was the first garden Taylor planted after Glass acquired the property. Taylor’s original boxwood became overgrown with time. MSV garden staff has re-planted portions of the Knot Garden with slower-growing Korean boxwood.



Grand Allée

An allée (al-LAY) is pretty much what it sounds like: an alley—specifically one in a

formal garden—lined with trees. Taylor designed this allée to create the illusion of length. The Grand Allée is slightly wider on the house end and narrower toward the cemetery end, visually lengthening the space. In 2015, garden staff removed the aging and diseased trees and replanted the allée with a new, heartier variety of crabapple. The site is a favorite among brides and grooms as a location for weddings.



Statue Garden

The “Statue Garden” is more an outdoor

sculpture gallery than a true garden. Here Glass and Taylor placed a collection of sculptures based mostly on ancient Greek and Roman art. Among the sculptures here are busts of Apollo, Greek god of music and healing; Diana, Roman goddess of the hunt; Ares, Greek god of war (look for his helmet); and Dionysus, Greek god of wine (look for small grape leaves in his hair). Glass and Taylor originally surrounded the space with tall yews, but with time the yews became overgrown. Garden staff have recently replaced the yews, and a stonemason has reset and stabilized the sculptures.

Perennial Garden

The Perennial Garden is one of the more recently refurbished gardens at Glen



Burnie, with a new brick walk and all new plants. Perennials are plants that re-grow annually. In full bloom, this Perennial Garden is particularly colorful, featuring varieties of hibiscus, coneflowers, day lilies, and delphiniums. The Perennial Garden has evolved over several decades. Taylor initially planted it as a cutting garden, later incorporating perennials and ornamental grasses in the 1990s. Many visitors have noted the layout resembles the flag of Great Britain. Taylor once claimed that was his intention, but garden staff suspects it was a coincidence.

Rose Garden

Along with the Perennial



Garden, the Rose Garden has also recently been renovated. Now nearly double its original size, it includes hundreds of individual roses of all types: floribundas, hybrid teas, old roses, and hybrid perpetual roses. The recent expansion of the Rose Garden was made possible by a generous donation from Beverley B. and Steven E. Shoemaker and the James L. and Mary Jane Bowman Charitable Trust.

Photo credits: Vegetable, Herb, Water ,Parterre, Perennial, and Rose Gardens, Knot Garden/Grand Allée: Perry Mathewes; Family Cemetery, Pink Pavilion, Asian Garden: Ron Blunt; Rupert & Kathryn Perry Werner: Rick Foster



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