



## HISTORY OF THE GARDENS

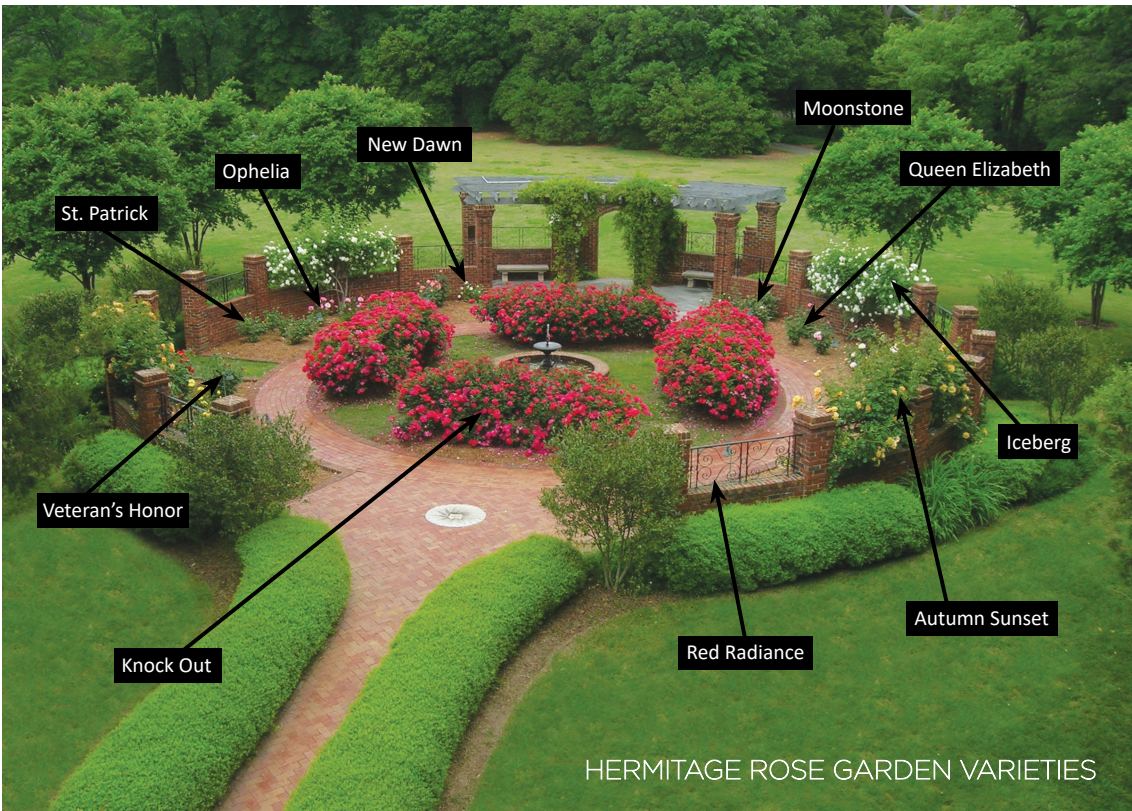
In 1908, when the Sloane family began construction on the Hermitage as their summer retreat, Florence Sloane began to beautify the gardens and grounds by incorporating the unique design of the house into her plans. Using her travels abroad as an inspirational template, she extended her artistic vision to this picturesque landscape.

The gardens feature 111 millstones, many of which reside in the Millstone Courtyard that welcome visitors at the Museum entrance. Along the south side of the house is a colorful English-style perennial border coupled with a pathway leading into the waterfront lawn. A large southern magnolia tree stands on the east lawn overlooking a stone terrace highlighted by Edward McCartan’s bronze fountain, *Girl Drinking From a Shell*.

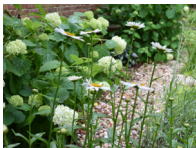
Today, the Hermitage is known for its beautiful grounds, which include twelve acres of semi-formal gardens as well as forest and wetlands. The Lafayette River wraps around the Hermitage on three sides, providing an elegant backdrop for walks, wedding ceremonies, and outdoor events. Both the wetlands and woodlands provide a natural habitat for hundreds of plants and animals, including a variety of waterfowl and migrating birds.



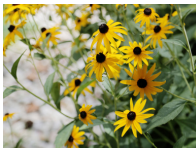
Photos by Justin Hankins Photography and Eleise Theuer Photography.



## SEASONAL BLOOMS + GARDEN ETIQUETTE



**SPRING:** Azalea, Bleeding Heart, Columbine, Foxglove, Hydrangea, Lenten Rose, Peony, Sweetbox



**SUMMER:** Black-eyed Susan, Daylily, Garden Phlox, Hollyhock, Jupiter’s Beard, Rose, Smokebush



**FALL:** Boston Ivy, Camellia, Chrysanthemum, Hibiscus, Japanese Anemone, Mexican Sage, New York Aster



**WINTER:** Beautyberry, Deodar Cedar, Dogwood, Holly, Heavenly Bamboo, Obedient Plant, Winter Daphnae

Please be respectful of the gardens while visiting: walk only on paths and lawns, leave the plants and animals as they are, do not climb on trees or fences, and do not wade in the wetlands. If you are bringing a pet please keep them on a leash at all times and pick up after them. Do not bring alcohol or firearms onto the property. Please check in at the front desk for professional photography.



## MUSEUM + GROUNDS HOURS

Open Tuesday–Sunday, 10am–5pm  
Group tours by reservation

## GARDEN TOURS

Garden tours are led by the Curator of Gardens and Grounds. Please visit our website for dates, prices, and reservation information.

## WETLANDS ENRICHMENT TOURS

*WET* is a special educational program aimed at bringing the Hermitage’s living shoreline restoration to life for students. Offered to students in grades four through six, *WET* teaches what a wetland is, creatures and features of wetlands, why wetlands are important, and the flood buffering and filtering effects of wetlands. For details and reservations call 757-423-2052.