

Grey Towers What's Blooming?

A Special Report of What's in Bloom at Grey Towers

APRIL 4/29/26



American Dogwood

- *Cornus florida*
- 3 varieties: straight species, "Autumn Gold", 'Cherokee Princess'
- 3 types of American dogwoods can be found on the property. The straight species, was planted by the Forest Service in locations where Cornelia Pinchot planted them, flanking the mansion. The variety 'Autumn Gold' can be found blooming along the Allee, and 'Cherokee Princess', in the lower Visitor Parking Lot.
- American dogwood, used historically by Cornelia, is disease prone. The additional native trees, and shrub plantings, used during the restoration of the Allee, and Visitor Parking lot, used newer varieties that are less disease prone.



Apple Tree

- *Malus sp.*
- The apples trees are blossoming into spring with clouds of pink tinged snowy blossoms.
- These remaining historic trees were in several orchards during Cornelia Pinchot's tenure.
- In the hay day of Grey Towers, there were as many as 52 Apple trees of various varieties in the lower orchard.
- Before 1935, there were approximately 50 Apple trees in the central portion of the lawn, and about 30 Apple trees near the upper section, nearest the Moat..
- Approximately 7 remain, and several trees were propagated from cuttings of the original trees. We are not certain the varieties of the historic trees.



European Copper Beech

- *Fagus sylvatica 'Purpurea'*
- The European Copper Beech was Gifford Pinchot's favorite tree, and had 9 planted at Grey Towers in the 1920's.
- The remaining trees measure more than three feet in diameter and stand almost 100 feet tall.
- It has a unique and beautiful bark, which some say resembles an elephant hide.
- In spring, their non showy flowers emerge along with the deep burgundy leaves, turning a brilliant copper in Autumn.
- one can find the European Copper Beeches near the Letter Box, the Moat, and the Amphitheater, as well a newly planted sapling by the turnaround wall.
- When these were planted by Gifford Pinchot, he knew, because of their slow growth, that they would be enjoyed by generations to come.
- The simple act of planting trees today for future generations, is the very essence of conservation, symbolized by Pinchot's favorite tree.

BOLO (Be On the Look Out) You can start to smell the lilac fragrance in the air, they'll be in full bloom soon.

Walk-in Pedestrian Gates open
7 days a week, weather permitting,
sun-up to sun-down
Drive-up Gates are open M-F
8am-3:30pm

GREY TOWERS
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
151 GREY TOWERS DRIVE
MILFORD, PA

