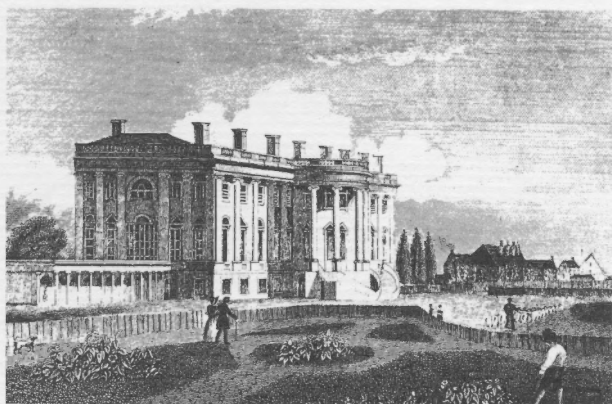


**The original documents are located in Box 38, folder “Garden Tour - Fall, October 19-20, 1974” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Betty Ford donated to the United States of America her copyrights in all of her unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.



*The White House  
Gardens and Grounds*

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

One of the things the President and I have enjoyed most about the White House are its beautiful grounds and foliage. And because we've had such enjoyment from them, we're especially happy to be able to share them with you.

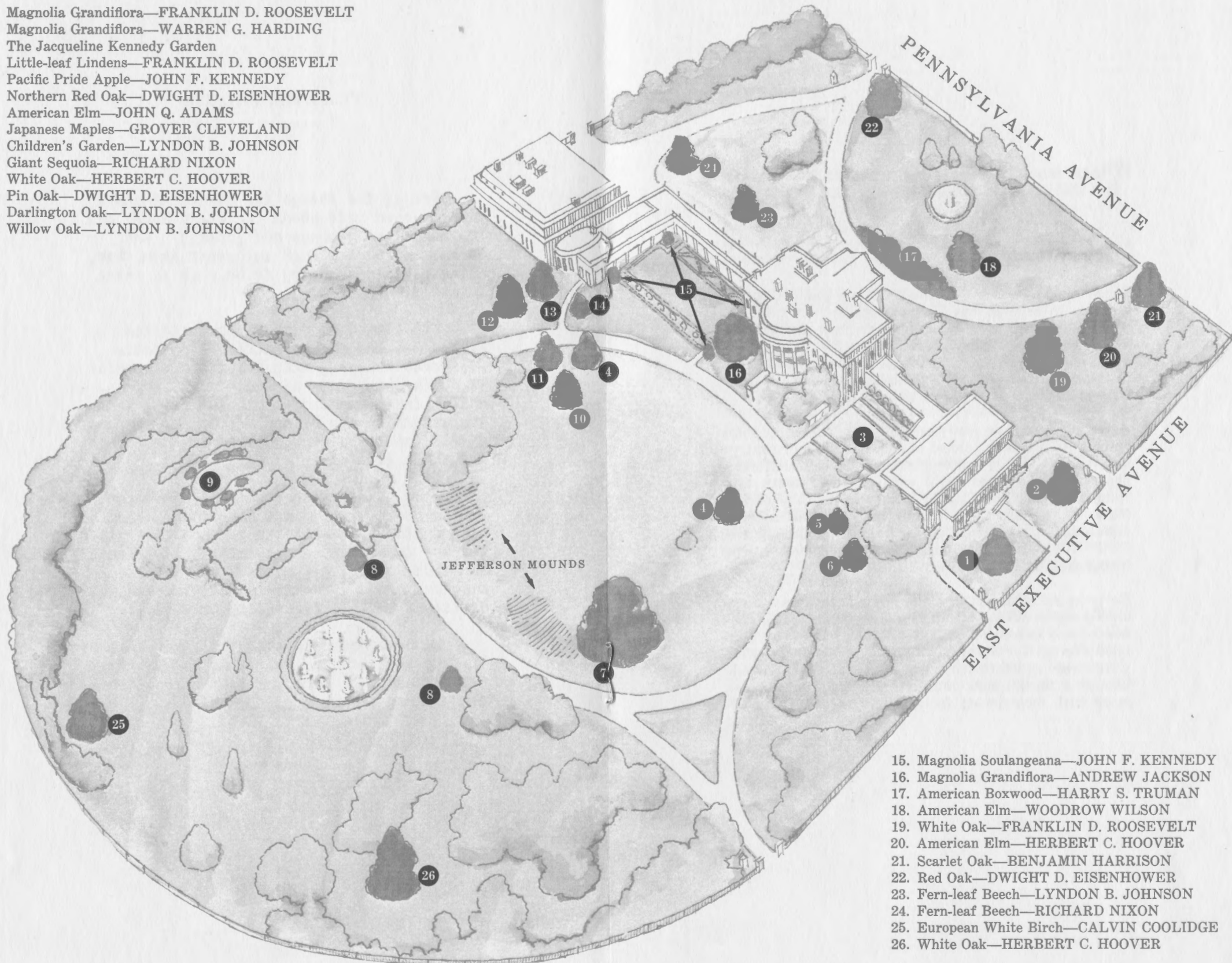
The lawns and gardens have greeted Presidents and their families for nearly 175 years. Each family has taken a special pride in the beauty of the grounds, often adding their own individual touches. What you see today may be one of the few composites of the taste and handiwork of 38 Presidents and their families.

From ponies to Easter eggs, from concerts to bar-b-ques, the lawns have traditionally been a place for children to grow, for historic figures to gather, for events of significance to occur. And the grounds have, as well, provided a peace and tranquility needed for decisions that would affect the world.

We hope you will feel the same sense of history that has touched us as you explore the grounds. We hope you will enjoy them-- they belong to you.

Betty Ford

1. Magnolia Grandiflora—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
2. Magnolia Grandiflora—WARREN G. HARDING
3. The Jacqueline Kennedy Garden
4. Little-leaf Lindens—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
5. Pacific Pride Apple—JOHN F. KENNEDY
6. Northern Red Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
7. American Elm—JOHN Q. ADAMS
8. Japanese Maples—GROVER CLEVELAND
9. Children's Garden—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
10. Giant Sequoia—RICHARD NIXON
11. White Oak—HERBERT C. HOOVER
12. Pin Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
13. Darlington Oak—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
14. Willow Oak—LYNDON B. JOHNSON



15. Magnolia Soulangeana—JOHN F. KENNEDY
16. Magnolia Grandiflora—ANDREW JACKSON
17. American Boxwood—HARRY S. TRUMAN
18. American Elm—WOODROW WILSON
19. White Oak—FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT
20. American Elm—HERBERT C. HOOVER
21. Scarlet Oak—BENJAMIN HARRISON
22. Red Oak—DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER
23. Fern-leaf Beech—LYNDON B. JOHNSON
24. Fern-leaf Beech—RICHARD NIXON
25. European White Birch—CALVIN COOLIDGE
26. White Oak—HERBERT C. HOOVER



There is no other place in the United States where a short stroll in the open air provides such a sense of the continuity of American history as one can feel on the grounds of the White House. All our Presidents except George Washington have lived and worked on this knoll overlooking the Potomac.

When John Adams moved into the newly built executive mansion in 1800 he described the grounds as a barren expanse strewn with building materials and rubble. Since then, nearly every President and First Lady have given personal attention to the gardens and used them in their own special way; lasting reminders of their care are spread throughout the grounds.

A stately American elm planted in the 1820's by John Quincy Adams is the oldest of some 25 commemorative trees placed by past Administrations. Thomas Jefferson first enclosed the grounds with a rustic fence and shaped the Mounds to help define the privacy of the Mansion. The magnolias next to the South Portico were replanted from Andrew Jackson's estate. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln looked out on troops bivouacked below his windows.

Early in the 20th Century, the grounds took on a more stately appearance with the removal of several greenhouses and numerous cutting gardens which had supplied flowers for state functions. New east and west wings were added to the White House and the grounds became a formal park rather than a botanical garden laced with meandering footpaths. Theodore Roosevelt

was observed outdoors almost daily, engaged in sports and brisk walks with his family and Cabinet members. Woodrow Wilson planted the first Rose Garden alongside the west wing, just outside the Presidential Office, and let sheep graze on the front lawn to dramatize the need for wartime woolens.

The present sightlines and ceremonial character of the President's Park follow landscape plans developed in 1935, when trees were removed to reopen the view toward the river. The grounds now lend themselves to varied kinds of official gatherings, Presidential arrivals and departures by helicopter, and welcoming ceremonies for visiting heads of state. Easter-egg rolling on the south lawn is an Easter Week tradition dating from the Hayes Administration.

The redesigned east garden was dedicated in 1965 to Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. This intimate, friendly garden is the one most often used by the First Lady in her official duties and for entertaining friends. The beds are planted with spring bulbs; annuals are changed with the season. In addition, small plots are devoted to a variety of herbs, which are cut and used regularly in the White House kitchen.

The President uses the Rose Garden for small official ceremonies and receptions. In spring, flowering bulbs come up beneath blossoming crabapple trees; in summertime some 25 varieties of annuals and perennials bloom with the roses, followed in the fall by a colorful array of chrysanthemums.

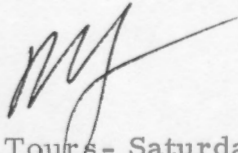


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 16, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: NANCY HOWE

FROM: MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT: 1974 Fall Garden Tours - Saturday,  
October 19, and Sunday, October 20,  
2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

I would very much appreciate your informing Mrs. Ford that we are all set for the 1974 Fall Garden Tour.

As she requested, we have extended a special invitation in her behalf to servicemen in the area hospitals. Approximately 60 will come to the White House on Saturday, October 19 at about 1:15 p.m. for a preview tour. The men are from the following hospitals: Walter Reed Army Medical Center  
DeWitt Army Hospital, Ft. Belvoir  
National Naval Medical Center, Bethesda  
Malcolm Grow USAF Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base

On Sunday, October 20, we will expect approximately 150 guests from the Immanuel Church-On-The-Hill. I spoke with Reverend William Dols to extend the invitation. Those coming represent the Altar Guild Members (they work with the flowers and are interested in gardening) and their families. They understand that Mrs. Ford will not be able to greet them personally and have asked that we convey their deep appreciation to her for including them.

I am sending a note over to Warren Rustand for the President's information but I understand at this time the President's schedule is fully committed for both afternoons. Do you suppose Susan might enjoy meeting either of the groups or the public in behalf of the First Lady?

Thank you.

cc: Brad Patterson - Susan Porter

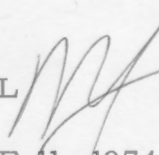


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 18, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: NANCY HOWE

FROM: MIKE FARRELL 

SUBJECT: Garden Tour - Fall, 1974  
Saturday, October 19 and  
Sunday, October 20

Irving Williams and Rex Scouten indicate that on Saturday, October 19 and Sunday, October 20 the gardens and grounds should be near their peak. I would appreciate your checking with Mrs. Ford to obtain her approval for the above dates and for the following:

1. The tours would be held from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. each afternoon. This permits Rex sufficient time to clean the residence and for the Tour Officers to have lunch, etc. The gardens and grounds tour would include a walk-through tour of the State Floor.

2. We can schedule the bands of the Armed Services to play on a staggered basis from the balcony outside the Blue Room, or perhaps another location which Mrs. Ford might like to suggest.

3. I understand you are working on Mrs. Ford's introduction to the brochure at this time. As you know, each visitor receives a copy as their guide to the grounds.

If the basic format outlined above meets with Mrs. Ford's approval, I would like to have Helen Smith's office do a brief press release soon which will be aimed at small newspapers and weeklys in the area. This is a public service announcement to ensure that people in the area know of the tour. A more complete release can be done at a later date for the major newspapers.

Continued...





Page Two  
Nancy Howe  
September 18, 1974

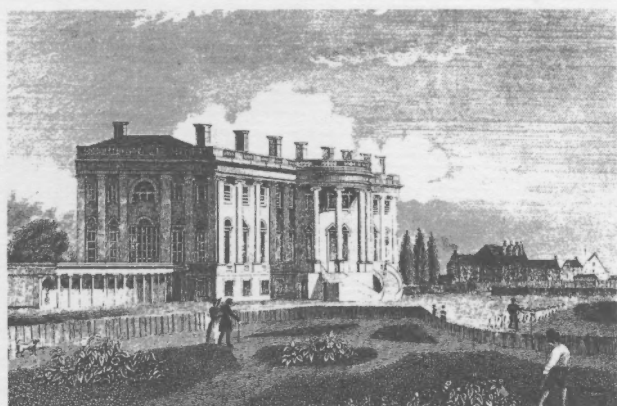
I think it would be great if Mrs. Ford and Susan could informally greet some of the visitors attending the first day, Saturday.

Perhaps in the next couple of weeks we could have a planning meeting to see if we can develop any new ideas for the tour.

Thank you.

cc: Helen Smith  
Lucy Winchester  
Susan Porter  
Rex Scouten





*The White House  
Gardens and Grounds*

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

*It is a very special pleasure to welcome you to the White House Gardens and have you share with us their present beauty and past history.*

*As you walk along, you may experience an aura of living history, a growing, evolving witness to the many fascinating personalities and momentous events which have moved among this setting of flowers, shrubs and trees.*

*The gardens, which reflect our American appreciation of nature, are a striking complement to the Residence of Presidents as well as a stately mirror of our national heritage.*

*May you enjoy your tour and take home with you delightful memories of your visit among the flowering beauty of this season in the White House Gardens.*

*Leticia Wilson*

There is no other place in the United States where a short stroll in the open air provides such a sense of the continuity of American history as one can feel on the grounds of the White House. All our Presidents except George Washington have lived and worked on this knoll overlooking the Potomac.

When John Adams moved into the newly built executive mansion in 1800 he described the grounds as a barren expanse strewn with building materials and rubble. Since then, nearly every President and First Lady have given personal attention to the gardens and used them in their own special way; lasting reminders of their care are spread throughout the grounds.

A stately American elm planted in the 1820's by John Quincy Adams is the oldest of some 25 commemorative trees placed by past Administrations. Thomas Jefferson first enclosed the grounds with a rustic fence and shaped the Mounds to help define the privacy of the Mansion. The magnolias next to the South Portico were replanted from Andrew Jackson's estate. During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln looked out on troops bivouacked below his windows.

Early in the 20th Century, the grounds took on a more stately appearance with the removal of several green-houses and numerous cutting gardens which had supplied flowers for state functions. New east and west wings were added to the White House and the grounds became a formal park rather than a botanical garden laced with meandering footpaths. Theodore Roosevelt

was observed outdoors almost daily, engaged in sports and brisk walks with his family and Cabinet members. Woodrow Wilson planted the first Rose Garden alongside the west wing, just outside the Presidential Office, and let sheep graze on the front lawn to dramatize the need for wartime woolens.

The present sightlines and ceremonial character of the President's Park follow landscape plans developed in 1935, when trees were removed to reopen the view toward the river. The grounds now lend themselves to varied kinds of official gatherings, Presidential arrivals and departures by helicopter, and welcoming ceremonies for visiting heads of state. Easter-egg rolling on the south lawn is an Easter Week tradition dating from the Hayes Administration.

The redesigned east garden was dedicated in 1965 to Mrs. Jacqueline Kennedy. This intimate, friendly garden is the one most often used by the First Lady in her official duties and for entertaining friends. The beds are planted with spring bulbs; annuals are changed with the season. In addition, small plots are devoted to a variety of herbs, which are cut and used regularly in the White House kitchen.

The President uses the Rose Garden for small official ceremonies and receptions. In spring, flowering bulbs come up beneath blossoming crabapple trees; in summertime some 25 varieties of annuals and perennials bloom with the roses, followed in the fall by a colorful array of chrysanthemums.



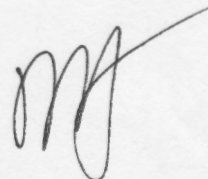


THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 4, 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: NANCY HOWE  
FROM: MIKE FARRELL  
SUBJECT: Fall Garden Tour



As we discussed, would you please check with Mrs. Ford to determine if she wishes to sponsor the Spring and Fall Garden Tours. In the past these have been scheduled for a Saturday and Sunday afternoon from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. According to Mr. Irving Williams, Chief Horticulturist, the peak weekends for the gardens would likely be October 19 and 20 or October 26 and 27.

Each visitor receives a brochure which is a key to the grounds. An example, which needs to be updated, is attached. These have been very popular "special" tours and have drawn a "full house" of 6,000 or so each afternoon. Various bands of the Armed Services play appropriate music from the South Portico during the tour.

If she approves, we will submit suggestions later for her to review. It would be great, if her schedule permits, to have her informally greet some of the visitors during the tour.

Thank you.

*- Nancy - these have been  
one weekend in the Spring,  
one in the Fall.*

