

KEY PLANTINGS



Taxus baccata

English yew, which defines the space around the Reflection Pool, requires annual shearing.



Camellia japonica

Our collection of camellias along the trail provide striking color during the cooler months.



Oxalis oregana

Redwood sorrel provides a lush ground cover along the Camellia Trail.



Dichroa febrifuga

Closely related to hydrangeas, this Chinese quinine is a broadleaf evergreen whose flowers and berries add a pop of color to the woodland.



DID YOU KNOW?

Camellias are native to Asia, and can live to be 200 years old!

The Reflection Pool is cut into the water table, and the water flows through the Japanese Garden, the Mid Pond, the Swan Pond, the Rhododendron Glen, and out to the sound.

MEET OUR TEAM



Sean Peterson has worked at the Reserve since 2012 and currently manages Gardens North and the Compost Facility. He studied printmaking in school and enjoys using his creativity in the gardens.



Ed Moydell is the Reserve's President and CEO. A former Longwood Gardens Fellow, Ed has served in this role for 13 years.



DONATE TODAY



WWW.BLOEDELRESERVE.ORG

REFLECTION POOL & CAMELLIA TRAIL

REFLECTION POOL

1951 - 1975

Concept for the "Canal Pond" was developed in the mid-60s by Prentice Bloedel working with hydrologist Neil Twelker and Landscape Architect Thomas Church. The site was chosen for its natural spring, which bubbles up to form the pool and feeds other water features on the property.

Cleared in 1967 and in 1968, Skilling-Helle-Christeansen-Robertson Engineering was hired to finalize the design which includes a concrete curb.

Architect Paul Kirk designed custom wooden benches for the site. Built by Peder Knudsen, these curved rough-finished benches were placed not long after grading and excavation was finished.

Landscape Architect Richard Haag was brought onto the project in 1969. He defined the transitions and boundaries with the addition of yew hedges: clipped in the Reflection Pool and unclipped in the wilder Moss Garden and Camellia Trail.

1986 - 1994

In 1989 Virginia Bloedel's ashes were interred at the south end of the pool and a simple stone marker was added.

1995 - 2006

In 1996 Prentice Bloedel's ashes were interred alongside his wife's.

In 2000 the benches were removed due to delamination and to address circulation issues.



THE EXPERIENCE

Nestled within deciduous and evergreen forest patches that separate the Meadow from the Japanese Garden landscapes, the Reflection Pool stretches 28' x 200', reflecting treetops and the narrow strip of sky. Surrounded by mown turf and 10' tall yew hedges, this is a surprisingly formal, relaxing space carved out of the forest which creates a sense of enclosure and security.

Directly connected, but intentionally distinct, the Camellia Trail wanders gently away from the Reflection Pool and through the adjacent woods forming a connection with the Meadow beyond. Well-spaced plantings of camellias provide brilliant pops of color against the green background, enhancing the experience of light filtering through the canopy.

CAMELLIA TRAIL

1951 - 1975

As early as 1952 the Bloedels began transplanting camellias from the Residence to this part of the property. A trail was created by the mid-1970s, connecting the Reflection Pool to the Meadow.

1976 - 1985

Camellias continued to be planted deeper into the woods and farther off the trail, adding depth and interest to the walk.

Additional understory plantings were tried. Many failed, with the exception of a double flowered native trillium.

By 1985 the understory had filled in with a mix of shade-loving plantings.

1986 - 1994

In 1988 Environmental Planning and Design (EPD) reconfigured and extended the Camellia Trail to better connect circulation through the Meadow and back to the parking lot, passing along a low stone wall.

1995 - Today

Around 2000, Reserve staff enhanced plantings along the trail, adding trillium, white violets, wood poppies, Grecian windflowers, ferns, and oxalis.

Staff thinned the evergreen canopy along the trail to increase light.

FORM, COLOR AND TEXTURE