**Home Page: home.html**

Welcome to the New Jersey Botanical Garden

Come explore the Garden of the Garden State.

From the delicate shades of a tiny wildflower to the vibrant colors of massed annual plantings, Skylands is a place of beauty in any season. Here you can wander amid the elegance of formal gardens, or along gentle paths winding through the woods. The NJBG includes 96 acres of specialty gardens surrounded by 1000 acres of woodlands. You're invited to wander and explore the miles of marked trails.

The New Jersey State Botanical Garden at Skylands, which appears on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day of the year. Skylands is also a safe haven for unusual plant species from around the world. The garden protects and preserves these plants as their natural habitats are changed forever by progress.

Enjoy your visit to the New Jersey State Botanical Garden at Skylands.

**Garden Page: garden.html**

Specialty Gardens

Annual Garden

Like that in all the formal gardens at Skylands, the layout of this garden has not been changed from the original design. It is the only garden at Skylands in which the main plantings are annuals. The displays in this garden therefore change not only through the seasons, but also from year to year. Note the small Four Seasons statues in the corners, and the Fawns which anchor the Ovals. Some of the benches here and in other parts of the garden were given by NJBG/Skylands Association.

Perennial Border

NJBG volunteers have restored this area to Mr. Lewis' original design. Here you will see a colorful floral display which changes with the seasons. This garden requires intensive cultivation.

Wildflower Garden

Winding wooded trails, stepping stone bridges and a frog-friendly Bog Pond make this part of the garden a favorite for youngsters. Wildflowers and ferns are found throughout, with a beautiful display of Japanese primroses in late spring.

Lilac Garden

On the East Lawn, immediately adjoining the terraces, is Skylands' extensive lilac collection, It contains over one hundred varieties.

This garden is at its best near the middle of May, although some species will continue their bloom into June. The lilac's genus name, Syringa, is derived from the Greek word syrinx for "pipe," a reference to the hollow shoots. Lilacs belong to the olive family (*Oleaceae*) and therefore are related to white ash and privet. They are native to Europe and temperate Asia, where they grow as large shrubs or small trees.

Presumably, some lilacs predate Lewis at Skylands. Lilacs have been popular shrubs since Colonial times because of their ease of culture and their fragrant spring flowers. One of the first varieties to be recorded in Mr. Lewis' plant accession books is Syringa x persica, which he procured in 1923. In 1928, the Japanese tree lilac (*Syringa reticulata*), and the Chinese lilac (*Syringa x chinensis*) were purchased along with the French hybrids "Edouard Andre´" and "Mme. Abel Chatenay."

**Skylands Manor Page: manor.html**

Skylands Manor

Designed in the mid-1920's by the distinguished American architect John Russell Pope, whose works include the National Archives and the National Gallery of Art, the Tudor Revival Mansion was intentionally made to appear centuries old. Note the building's weathered stone facade, and the sags and ripples in the slate roof. All stone was quarried on the estate.

Entrance Hall and Stairwell

The stairs and paneling are new American oak with carved panels and friezes. The ceiling is of plaster made to simulate carved wood. Bavarian and Swiss stained-glass medallions have been set into the upper landing windows and four contemporary hand-etched glass insets appear in the windows at the entrance and in the adjoining rooms.

The Dining Room

The oak paneling comes from Lyme Regis, a seacoast town in the south of England. Mr. Lewis's mother, Mrs. Helen Salomon, bought it in London, and it was brought here to be placed in the room especially designed for it. The woodwork is an outstanding example of Tudor design. The carved oak mantel is very rich in detail. The square panels on either side of the overmantel center are done in marquetry (various woods finely inlaid) in the Renaissance manner. There are 19 pilasters on the walls, an unusually large number, and they are of exceptionally fine quality. Their fluted and reeded shafts are carried on carved, molded pedestals, and the Ionic capitals support carved acanthus brackets.

The Great Hall

Rising to nearly the full height of the building, this room has oak paneling that was adorned by American craftsmen with acorns, pilasters, lozenges and fleurs-de-lis. The second-story organ loft includes carved wooden corbels with "wild man" heads; it was especially built for Mrs. Salomon. Door heads are carved with sea monsters and squirrels. Four sculptured iron chandeliers were designed by Samuel Yellin in a rudimentary bell shape and are surrounded by little horned dragon heads. In the seven great windows are twenty antique stained-glass medallions with such images as Jonah and the Whale, St. George and the Dragon, and insignia from Bern and Nuremberg. Most of them are over 400 years old. The massive stone mantelpiece is a replica of one from an estate in Gloucestershire; it bears a British royal coat of arms dated 1619. Mrs. Salomon purchased this copy in 1925 for $4,800. The beams across the ceiling are called "jesting beams" because they do not carry any weight and are purely decorative. Actually, the house is solidly supported by steel and concrete.