

Plant Geek Day



Wednesday, August 26, 2026 ■ 7:30AM–3PM
Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum
1465 Brush Hill Road ■ Milton, MA

Sponsored by the MCH Board!—sharing a great educational opportunity with all nursery and landscape professionals within the green industry!

Knowledge, networking & fun!

Receive 2 MCH credits toward continuing education for attending.

Our Day's Agenda

7:30AM Arboretum Opens

8:00AM Registration at the Carriage Barn

Our morning begins simply with: assorted pastries, assorted teas, fresh brewed coffee (regular and decaf) and coffee accompaniments.

9:00AM Welcome & Recognition of New MCHs for 2026

Join us at the Isaac Davenport Mansion as we welcome attendees and speakers while recognizing the newest MCHs of 2026 from the February 4th & August 5th exams.

9:30AM Breakout Session I

Attendees can select one session to attend (each session is approximately 45 minutes):

- 1. Conifer Tour**—The Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum is a Reference Garden for the American Conifer Society and hosts over 50 species of conifers. This tour will showcase some of the unique conifers in the collection and how conifer collecting has evolved.
- 2. The Native Plant Garden**—Polly Wakefield's original plant collection focused on nonnative species that the Arnold Arboretum was collecting. The staff is working to expand the collection with a diverse range of native plant species. This tour highlights the new native plant garden and plans for its future expansion.
- 3. Meadow Project**—Discover the new native meadow trial and the woodland restoration project and learn about Wakefield Arboretum's efforts towards creating ecologically beneficial habitats for native fauna and educational opportunities for the public.

10:30AM Breakout Session II

Same sessions as above, please select one.

11:30AM Plant ID Challenge at the Isaac Davenport Mansion

12:00PM Lunch

Box lunch pick up at the Isaac Davenport Mansion

12:30PM Garden Tour

Tour the formal gardens while hearing about the horticulturist's efforts to preserve the extensive Kousa dogwood collection while expanding the number of native species.

1:30PM Thank you and final remarks

2:00PM Grounds open for self-guided tours



Photo courtesy of Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum.



Home to one family for more than 300 years, the Mary May Binney Wakefield Arboretum consists of formal gardens, nurseries, orchards, wetlands, and woodlands. Polly Wakefield, a trained landscape designer, designed and propagated plant material for many of the gardens on the property. Today, the staff continues to preserve her legacy, while adding new gardens that focus on a wide range of species. The organization carries out Polly's wishes and vision to transform her family's historic property into a place of life-long participatory learning. The arboretum offers programs, events, memberships and volunteer opportunities.

For more information visit wakefieldtrust.org.



What to wear: Green industry professionals are always prepared and today should not be an exception. We highly recommend bringing bug spray and suntan lotion. Be sure to wear your most comfortable walking shoes, and be prepared for all types of weather. This is a rain or shine event!

The Massachusetts Certified Horticulturist (MCH) is a program of the Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc. (MNLA).

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