

“Open House”—a floral treat!

Elm Bank, the home of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, will be at its spring glory peak at the end of May. Why not plan to spend a day there enjoying the flowers... indoors and out? That's the idea behind 'Open House', a standard flower show---floral, horticultural and educational displays; and tours of Elm Bank's wonderful gardens to be held on Saturday and Sunday, May 30 and 31.

“Open House” takes its inspiration from the Cheney-Baltzell Manor House on the grounds of Elm Bank. The mansion, built in 1906, is a legacy of an era of genteel country living , surrounded by beautiful gardens. Flowers in their natural setting are a delight to grow and to admire. Artfully arranged by skilled hands, cut flowers can give both new beauty and imaginative expression to those same blooms. Visitors to Elm Bank will have the opportunity to see the work of top designers at a standard flower show incorporating 36 distinctive arrangements ranging from traditional to creative and designed to recall the gracious era of country estate living.

While the flower show will take center stage in the Hunnewell Building, there will be much more to see and do over the show's two-day run. A broad variety of horticulture from skilled amateur growers will be on display as well as an exhibit of Ikebana by Ikebana International in the nearby Education Building. Educational exhibits will offer useful information on a variety of subjects. And there will be vendors offering a range of garden related merchandise.

For those who want to better appreciate the gardens, Massachusetts Master Gardeners will be on hand to offer horticulturally informative tours of Weezie's –a specially designed children's garden and the Adrian Bloom designed Bressingham Garden, as well as to answer your gardening questions at their HelpLine Booth. And, of course, Elm Bank's many other gardens – from the formal Italianate Garden to those specializing in rhododendron, herbs and daylilies among others – will be open for your visiting pleasure.

“Open House” is jointly sponsored by the GCFM and the MHS. Tickets may be purchased for \$10each from District Directors, ordered by calling 617-932-4995 or by sending a check to Betty Sanders, 15 Wild Holly Lane, Medfield, MA 02052. Tickets purchased at the door will be \$15. The Cheney-Baltzell Manor House is not handicapped accessible.