

May at Winterthur Over Time.

Unless otherwise stated all letters are from H.F. du Pont

May 1875 Lousia Gerhard du Pont to Henry Algernon: I wish you could see Winterthur in the first beauty of spring! Everything is now at last in leaf & the woods full of flowers. The gardeners seem industrious and attentive but the work there is a most laborious, the whole ground is a mass of matted roots and briars.” Quoted in Norman Wilkinson, *E.I. Botaniste*, (University Press of Virginia, 1972) p102.

May 5, 1933 H.F. du Pont to Alexandra Moore, HF 350: I hope so much that you and Benny are going to be able to come here on the 26th. I think my Iris garden will be at its best then.

May 6, 1938 to the Hon. Robert Woods Bliss, HF 525: The garden which should have been at the height of its bloom at the time of your last visit, is already losing much of its charm, and I am so disappointed.

May 11, 1928 to Alice Belin du Pont, HF 558: No matter what kind of planting you have in your garden after the tulips are over there is, at least for two weeks [after May 10], a great lack of bloom, not only in the flowers but in the shrub line. While the tulips are in bloom, there is a good show in the rock garden which also adds to the interest of one's place.

May 11, 1937, to Diego Suarez, box 413: Referring to the vines which are growing on my tennis court, there are two varieties, namely: Polygonum Auberti and Polygonum Baldschuanicum. Please tell Evie that the yellow Ornithogalum which she liked is “Aureum Hybrid.”

May 12, 1931 to Rene de Stael: The place has been perfectly lovely the past few weeks with the flowers and shrubs and tulips in the garden. I am able to heat the swimming pool so we can bathe every hot day that comes along, and we have had no end of enjoyment out of it this spring.

May 17, 1939 to Rene de Stael, box 410: The azaleas here this spring have been perfectly lovely, and every time I see a Kurume azalea I am grateful to the Japanese nation for having created such beautiful plants.

May 21 1932 Ruth Wales du Pont to her mother.

Dady [her pet name for her husband, H. F. du Pont] walked me around yesterday to see the shrubs. I never anything so beautiful in all my life either.

May 22, 1956, Ruth W. du Pont to PL Harrison, RW 20: The azaleas are perfectly superb and tomorrow we are entertaining twenty at lunch following a tour of the garden.

May 22, 1937, to Bert Ives, box 338: We have had the most wonderful spring you can imagine. It has been really cool all through the spring season and the garden has been beautiful with the tulips, wisteria and everything blooming all together. It has been one of those springs that need no apologies, judging from the appearance of the garden.

May 23 1930 Ruth Wales du Pont to her mother: It is hot here & the most beautiful white tree in bloom outside my window. All feathery drooping blossoms. Mary Dewey told me the Col. told her it was a French lilac but that does not seem possible. I am to ask the Squirrel. Madeline Draper has just been to lunch & she & he set out to the iris garden Marian is doing. It is between house & greenhouse & I think will be really lovely.

May 27, 1901, Victorine Foster to HF du Pont, HF 488: On Tuesday we drove through the Winterthur grounds. The wild azaleas were handsomer than ever this year. I also saw a beautiful indigo bird. Your father's dogs Jack and Luther [?] ran to meet us and looked lonely.

May 27 1932. Ruth Wales du Pont to her mother

After lunch the Esq [H.F. du Pont] & I went out to see all the iris. I never saw anything like them.

May 27, 1961 to Bert Ives, box 629: I wish you might see our Pavilion. It is beyond the greenhouses in the little meadow with trees at the back. We have a new drive, starting from the Pike quite near the brick church, quite a drive, high on a hill with lovely views, and as you get down past the cutting gardens there is a pond with a good size reservoir on the upper side of the bridge. The parking space for 500 cars and 30 buses is quite hidden among the hills beyond. Outside and in it is slightly Japanese.

May 29, 1942, to Bert Ives, box 338: We have had a wonderful spring here. All the blooming shrubs have been marvelous and I enjoyed to the fullest all the flowers in the conservatory, on the terrace, etc. etc. but I am retrenching very much this year. I won't see a display again for several years to come. However, this is very little to give up in order to win the war.

May 31 1841, Sophie du Pont to "Mrs. Evelina G. Bidermann Winterthur" W9-21458: Brother told me how fast the new house was progressing, which surprised me to hear, I long to be able to go & see you & visit all yr new improvements ...Everything must be lively around yr house now, but I suppose all the wildflowers are gone.