

At the Root Of It:

Kids enjoy the new root-viewing box in The Children’s Garden

There’s nothing more intriguing to a child than stumbling upon a large door in the The Children’s Garden that reads “Take a Peek at What’s Playing Hide & Seek!”

“They can’t wait to pull it open,” laughed Alyssa Richner, the gardener behind the creative root-viewing box.

The large wooden box, which sits next to the Education Center, is full of soil and plants. The fun begins with the inscribed door which opens to a piece of clear acrylic. Behind the acrylic lie all the secrets of what happens below the soil.

“It’s the perfect way for kids to see what a root is and the important role it plays in the plant’s survival,” said Richner.

The box, which was constructed by the gardening team, contains lettuce, carrots, radishes, peanuts and potatoes. “The kids seem to really enjoy it,” said Richner. “The Children’s Garden is the perfect place for it.”



The new root-viewing box features a window where guests can observe what happens below the soil’s surface.

Fall & Winter at Hershey Gardens Will Be...

A Little Bit of Scary and a Whole Lot of Merry!

PUMPKIN GLOW

October 18, 19, 25 & 26
6 - 8 p.m.

Kids, bring a flashlight and come in costume to trick-or-treat throughout the Gardens at Hershey Gardens’ Pumpkin Glow! Plus, you’ll enjoy more than 150 illuminated pumpkins and participate in Halloween storytelling.

Students from Lebanon County Career and Technical Center’s Culinary & Pastry Arts program will be carving pumpkins for display, as well as giving live pumpkin-carving demonstrations throughout the event.

As an added treat, students from this prestigious program will be selling freshly baked seasonal favorites such as pumpkin pies and rolls, in addition to the Garden Gate Café’s selection of seasonal favorites such as homemade soup and hot apple cider.

Pumpkin Glow is included in admission; members are free!



December 6, 7, 13 & 14
4:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Children will be greeted by Santa’s elves as they travel through a path of twinkling lights to discover Santa and his secret garden. Their enchanted journey includes take-home crafts, musical entertainment and storytelling with Mrs. Claus.

Kids can hunt and find their way through a winter wonderland of white lights, then meet Santa and receive a special gift to last the whole year.

New this year, the Garden Gate Café will be offering a tasty selection of holiday treats and warm drinks!

Santa’s Secret Garden is included in admission; members are free!

10 Questions With...

**Crystal Huff, Hershey Gardens Advisory Board Member and
Director of Agricultural & Environmental Education at Milton Hershey School**

You have a long history with Hershey Gardens. Tell us about it.

I joined the Hershey Gardens education staff in 1998 as a part-time public programs coordinator which turned into a full-time position the following year. The position was originally created to focus on adult educational programs. However, since the Butterfly House had just been added, there was an increased demand from local schools and families for butterfly programs.

What was your role in building The Children's Garden?

After we saw the success of the Butterfly House, we began talking about adding a children's garden. With the enthusiastic support of the Advisory Board, many volunteers and generous donors, I was given the opportunity to lead the design, construction and fundraising to build The Children's Garden, which opened in 2003. It was an amazing experience.

We understand you have an interesting degree. What's that about?

I have a BS in Horticulture and a MS in Plant Pathology from Penn State University. I was trained as a corn breeder and corn pathologist. I worked for an international seed company breeding corn for disease resistance through traditional breeding methods. This was long before genetically modified organisms!



As a former Hershey Gardens' staff member, Crystal enjoyed interacting with students.



"I am a huge fan of old, big trees. I think about all they have witnessed, weathered and endured and still continue to thrive."

How does all this horticulture experience help you in your position at Milton Hershey School?

Horticulture is my passion. Although my position as Director of Agricultural and Environmental Education is largely administrative, I still find ways to teach children and young adults about where their food comes from and the wonder of plants.

What's the most important message you give your students?

The most important message I give my students is to value everyone and everything with caring, respect, gentleness and fairness. My actions speak far louder than my words.

You are actively involved with the new Hershey Community Garden. Tell us about it.

The Hershey Community Garden is under construction on the grounds of the Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. It is scheduled to open in the spring of 2014. The purpose of the garden is to provide opportunities for community members to raise vegetables, herbs, flowers and fruits for either personal consumption or to donate to local residents in need.

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Who is creating the Hershey Community Garden?

All of the Hershey entities are involved in some way: The Hershey Company, Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, Milton Hershey School, Penn State Milton S. Hershey Medical Center and The M.S. Hershey Foundation. It is a privilege to work with a small team of individuals from these entities to build the garden.

What's your favorite area of Hershey Gardens?

The Children's Garden, of course!



Crystal made fast friends with this interesting creature at a Michigan State University garden while attending the American Horticulture Society's annual Children's Garden Symposium.

How about your favorite flower, plant, shrub or tree?

I am a huge fan of old, big trees. I think about all they have witnessed, weathered and endured and still continue to thrive. Their grandeur serves as a model on life.

Do you have a garden at home?

I garden at home on my tiny 1/4-acre lot. I love fresh vegetables and herbs from the garden. Since I have so little space to garden, I mix them in with my perennials and shrubs. Anywhere there is space, it is filled with an edible plant.



Finish with a Flourish

How to revive your fall landscape after the hardship of summer

By George Weigel, Central PA Garden Writer and Horticulturalist for Lebanon Seaboard

Home gardens don't always end the season in a blaze of glory. After a summer of heat, punishing storms, bugs, weeds, assorted diseases, and a few weeks of vacation-related neglect thrown in for good measure, it's no wonder so many landscapes look more raggedly dreadful than ruggedly handsome come fall. Sound like your place? Don't wish for an early snowstorm to put the yard out of its misery. A few judicious maintenance moves can revive your garden more than you think.



Most perennials readily tolerate early-fall trimmings, especially when you're removing ratty foliage.

One of the most common problems of early fall is messy overgrowth. Plants have had a whole season to grow (assuming they didn't die or get eaten alive), so it makes sense that now is when they're at their rumpiled peak. That's especially true if you've planted too closely or missed earlier-season cutbacks. Unfortunately, now's not the time to shear or sharply prune most trees, shrubs and evergreens. Those woody plants will be heading into winter dormancy shortly, and the last thing you want to do is stimulate new growth via pruning at a time when they'd rather rest. Especially avoid pruning flowering shrubs that bloom in spring (forsythia, azalea, lilac, etc.) because you'll cut off the flower buds that already are forming for next year. Wait at least until the leaves drop to think about pruning deciduous trees, and hold off on trimming the evergreens until the end of winter or next spring (depending on species). It is okay to make a few neatening cuts to woody plants, say, to eliminate a tree branch that's growing over a sidewalk or to remove the



A few tie-ups, cutbacks and neatening moves can keep gardens looking good down the fall home stretch.

browned-out flower tips from butterfly bushes or to shorten a few shrubby "arms" here and there that have parked themselves over the flower beds.

Perennial flowers are a different story. Most of these can be snipped, clipped, corralled and otherwise tidied in early fall without any long-term ill effect. Start by snipping off flowers that are spent – a technique called "deadheading." If some of the leaves are also looking ratty, snip them off as well. Dead, dying or diseased leaves aren't helping to energize the plant anyway, so you might as well sacrifice them in the name of neatness. Most perennials bounce back from fall pruning because at least they've had the majority of the growing season to recharge themselves.



Woody plants, such as butterfly bushes, can be neatened by "deadheading" the flowers that are spent.

Next, look to perennials that are still green and healthy but just growing well beyond their assigned bounds. Cut these back, too, but only enough to bring them under reasonable control. Unlike damaged leaves, green ones are still helping your perennials. An alternative to cutting is tying. Taller perennials, such as shasta daisies, phlox, yarrow, coneflowers and goldenrod, are notorious for flopping over by fall if they haven't been given support. The best time to give that support is at the beginning of the season when the plants can grow up through secured netting, inside of plant-support rings or onto stakes. By mid-season, the plant foliage has hidden the supports, and the plants spend the rest of the season magically upright. That kind of early-season support explains why the tall perennials at Hershey Gardens and other public gardens don't flop like the ones at home. Floppy perennials can be tied up or straitjacketed with bamboo stakes and jute now, but they usually come off looking tied up.

Three other moves will make a huge difference heading down the home stretch – yanking any weeds, cutting a fresh edge around your bed perimeters, and putting down a light, fresh coat of mulch. Once your gardens are back under control, give them a treat of water and fertilizer. After all, they're not done growing yet.

Roots continue growing so long as the soil temperature is 40 degrees and above, which means our "growing season" technically lasts beyond the first foliage-killing frost of fall. Give perennial gardens a good weekly soaking any time it's rainless in fall and the soil is dry to the touch. And give them an early-fall scattering of a gradual-release fertilizer, such as GreenView's 7-7-7 All-Purpose Plant Food with GreenSmart, or another alternate organic fertilizer source.

Finally, if you've got any dead or empty spots, fall is a good time to fill them. Mums, asters and sedum are three perennials that will add immediate color. Pansies and violas are two of the best cold-hardy annuals that will bloom now through late fall, survive winter (usually), and then re-bloom next spring. And don't overlook the herb section, where you'll find several cold-hardy choices with colorful foliage. Take a look at purple sage, golden oregano and silver thyme.

Enjoy the revival while it lasts. That snow will be here before we know it...

The M.S. Hershey Rose Flourishes in New Tribute Garden

As part of Hershey Gardens' 75th anniversary celebration in 2012, a new garden was created to honor Milton Hershey's love of horticulture. The garden, aptly named the M.S. Hershey Tribute Garden, proudly features a unique circular seating area that includes Mr. Hershey's personal quote: *"The more beautiful you can make the place look, the better life the people will have."*

While the seating area is remarkable, the truly special part of the new garden recognizes Mr. Hershey's legacy in a different way: the M.S. Hershey rose.

"In 1938, the American Rose Society honored Milton Hershey's support of roses by naming a rose after him," said Jamie Shiffer, grounds manager. "In 1940, the M.S. Hershey rose was planted in Hershey Gardens."

Over the years, the number of M.S. Hershey roses steadily declined to only a few



J.C. Bakker Nursery, the grower who propagated the rose, is located in Canada.

remaining bushes. "Using cuttings from existing bushes, the M.S. Hershey rose was propagated last year to create healthy, new rose bushes," said Shiffer.

"Several new M.S. Hershey roses were planted last year when the garden was unveiled, which have flourished over the summer months," noted Shiffer. "We'll plant additional bushes next spring. We always intended to have 75 bushes to mark the 75th anniversary. The nursery just needed time to grow them."

Special thanks to all the donors who generously donated to create this special garden. "I think Mr. Hershey would be proud of the way we honored him and our 75th anniversary," said Shiffer.

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These rows of M.S. Hershey roses will be ready for harvest in November and available for sale in the Gift Shop in the spring.

M.S. Hershey Tribute Garden Donors will each receive a M.S. Hershey rose bush in the spring. Please look for your voucher in the mail.

A Shout-Out to Hershey Gardens' Volunteers: Thank You!

The small education team at Hershey Gardens swelled its ranks by an additional 22 members this summer, all thanks to some dedicated and hard-working youth volunteers.

"They were fantastic kids," said Megan Talley, programming coordinator.

They assisted guests in several ways. "Using the mobile Discovery Cart, they travelled throughout the Gardens to educate guests on this summer's 'wind' theme," said Talley.

They also helped with crafts and lessons for the "Marvelous Mondays" programs, and assisted guests in the Butterfly House.

"They dedicated over 250 hours of their time this summer. We couldn't have done it without this enthusiastic bunch," said Talley.



Four Volunteers assist with a pinwheel craft activity.

The Art and Nature behind BONSAI

By Jim Doyle, Nature's Way Nursery & Bonsai Studio

The art of the bonsai tree began centuries ago in China, where monks brought trees down from the inspirational mountains they visited and placed them in ornate pots to study. This was the birth of "penjing" or "bonsai" as we call it today. The word bonsai simply means "plant in pot."

For over 2,000 years, this horticultural art form has brought people together from all over the world, but has only been in America since the early 1900s.

There is currently a strong pursuit of knowledge surrounding the art and culture of bonsai, which has made it a popular hobby. The art and science of bonsai is taught in many schools as part of art



classes and horticultural science.

Bonsai begins with any tree that has small leaves, short internodes, an interesting trunk and exposed roots that is planted in a small

pot. It is created by carefully pruning and wiring the branches. Carving and reducing the roots are sometimes necessary.

These plants can live hundreds of years past their counterparts in nature because they are cared for year-round.

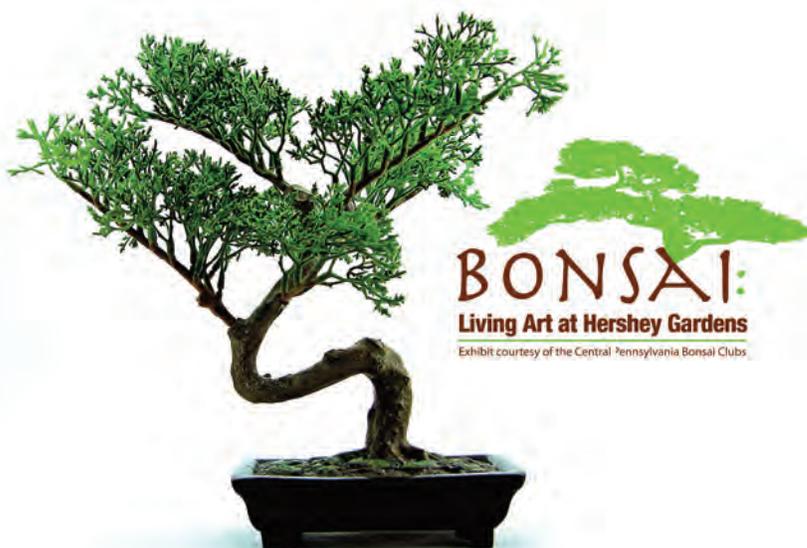
Tropical bonsai plants are very popular and may be grown indoors. The traditional bonsai trees must be grown outside and can be displayed for a few days at a time inside.

To learn more about bonsai, please contact the Susquehanna Bonsai Club at

717.545.4555, which gathers about once a month. Nature's Way Nursery & Bonsai Studio in Linglestown also offers bonsai trees, classes and exhibits.

See the exhibit at Hershey Gardens

Bonsai: Living Art of the Central Pennsylvania Bonsai Clubs
Friday, October 11 – Sunday, November 10



Adult Education: Edible Herbal Bonsai Demonstration

Join us!

Saturday, October 19

from 1 - 2 p.m. in the Education Center

Join bonsai expert Sylvia Braderman as she demonstrates how to transform an herb plant into a beautiful art form.

Included in admission.



Bravo! Theater Camp Students Perform “Alice in Wonderland”



Twenty students participated in a week-long theater camp, hosted by Hershey Area Playhouse at Hershey Gardens. The student actors explored theater performance, discovered what goes into creating a show and learned theatrical stunts.

The final day culminated in a fantastic presentation by the students for friends and families in the Hershey Gardens Amphitheater.



Hershey Gardens Memberships Make Great Gifts

A gift membership is the perfect idea for grandparents, new parents, friends and family – or clients and colleagues. With unlimited admission privileges, members soon discover that every visit brings a new experience. Whether it’s a quiet morning walk or an afternoon in the Butterfly

House, each visit is a new adventure.

Simply call 717.520.5581 to order your gift membership today. Gift memberships can be mailed to you or directly to the recipient with your personal message. Gift memberships are fully tax-deductible.



Membership Benefits

- Unlimited admission during regular business hours
- Invitation to annual member reception
- Newsletter subscription
- Discount in the Gift Shop & Great Garden Adventure
- Reciprocal admissions with other participating botanical gardens
- Discounts to local restaurants through the Dining Partner Program
- Special pricing on many adult and youth educational programs

Individual membership: \$40

Dual membership: \$60 Two named individuals

Family membership: \$75 Two adults living at the same address and children/grandchildren under 18 years of age

Hershey Gardens Hits the Road!

Outreach Program Brings Nature to Schools

The Gardens' education team can bring the outdoors to your school! These fun, interactive programs last about an hour and are available November through March. Content is tailored appropriately for students based on grade levels, preschool through 5th grade.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, please call 717.508.5968 or email Education@HersheyGardens.org.



Outreach Program Themes

Butterflies Take Flight

Kids compete to be the top "Flight Attendant" in this interactive game show that incorporates stunning video and photography to teach students about metamorphosis. This program includes hands-on exploration for an up-close and personal look at the amazing butterfly.

Eastern Woodland Indians

Explore the important role of nature in the everyday life of the Eastern Woodland Indians. Discover how Native Americans used natural resources to feed, clothe and shelter themselves as children grind corn, use a pump drill and handle regional artifacts.

Ready, Set, Grow!

Students discover their own green thumbs as they learn about plants, make a seed necklace, and take a pledge to care for plants.

NEW! Magic of Science Programs

Books with a Twist

Students will love this magical presentation with themes based on nature found in children's literature.

Science with a Twist

Classes will enjoy an interactive magic show exploring basic scientific principles and natural effects from the world around us.

Girl Scout Saturdays in the Gardens

Girl Scouts, join us for a few hours of fun and learning – and earn your badge or patch!

Pre-registration is required; please call 717.508.5968 or print and mail the form available at HersheyGardens.org. A picnic area is provided for lunch.

Clover Petal Workshop for Daisy Scouts

Saturday, April 26, 2014

10:00 a.m. - noon

Daisy Scouts will join us for story time, discovery stations and a craft while completing all the steps to earn the Clover (White) petal. Throughout the day, Daisy Scouts will discover the importance of being resourceful.

\$10 per Scout, Hershey Gardens patch included

\$8.50 per adult



Flowers Badge Workshop for Junior Scouts

Saturday, May 17, 2014

10:00 a.m. - noon

Junior Scouts will discover all that is wonderful about flowers as they complete the steps to earn their Flowers badge. Scouts will become botanists, plant something to take home, learn about herbs, and have fun with flowers.

\$10 per Scout, badge included

\$8.50 per adult



Bridging Ceremony Day

Saturday, May 31, 2014

9:00 a.m. - noon

Troops will hold their individual Bridging Ceremonies on the Hershey Gardens Japanese Garden Bridge as friends and family watch. Afterwards, Scouts and guests can enjoy a guided tour of the Butterfly House and time in The Children's Garden.

\$10 per Scout, Hershey Gardens patch included

\$6 per guests ages 3-12

\$8.50 per adult guests ages 13 and up

The M.S. Hershey Foundation



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Calling All High School Students: Enter the Garden Design Scholarship Competition

Hershey Gardens and Ames True Temper are encouraging high school students to “dig in” to gardening in the new “Garden Design Scholarship Competition.”

“We want to get high school students thinking about gardening and garden design,” said Kim Frew, education coordinator. “Young students love to garden, but older students tend to take a gardening hiatus. This competition is a great way to bring those older students back to enjoy nature and gardening.”

“The design theme is a Kitchen Garden,” said Frew. “We selected it because there are so many benefits to growing your own fruits and vegetables.”

Any student or group of students in grades 10, 11 or 12 who live in one of 12 surrounding counties may create and submit their garden design.

The winning entry will receive a \$1,200 scholarship. They will also get to install their winning design at Hershey Gardens, and receive gardening tools from Ames True



Temper. The second place entry will receive a \$400 scholarship and gardening tools.

Registration forms are due by November 15, 2013; completed plans are due March 21, 2014. For more information and guidelines, please contact Kim Frew at 717.508.5968 or education@hersheygardens.org.



Members Only:
\$5 Fridays!



**Bring any number of guests...
any age...any Friday -
and they're only \$5 each!**
**Simply show your Hershey Gardens
membership card at admissions.**