

The Children's Garden Revitalization Continues

Rainforest Themed Area Will Teach Kids About Cocoa Beans

The Children's Garden revitalization is continuing, with some of the biggest improvements still to come! "The Chocolate Tropics area will feature a newly reimagined rainforest hut, complete with a slide for our littlest guests," said Amy Zeigler, senior director. "And a new, larger interactive boat will help tell the story of where cocoa beans come from and how they get to Hershey."

"Colorful signage throughout the area will identify each of the smaller gardens, and also provide information about native plants, butterflies and even Milton Hershey," said Zeigler. "Inside the Hoop House and the Student Garden area, visitors will learn about rainwater harvesting, worm composting and, of course, growing fruits and vegetables."

The Children's Garden is still in bloom with the new landscaping plan that was implemented last spring. "While we still have work to do, much has already been done to make the space beautiful and engaging for guests," said Zeigler.



A new rainforest hut will be added next spring.



This interactive boat will tell the story of how cocoa beans get to Hershey.

**Please support The
Children's Garden
Revitalization Campaign**

How to Give:

[Click here](#) to give online via credit card.

[Print](#) and mail the Pledge Form.

Call Denise Frantz, Membership and
Donation Manager, at 717.520.5581.

10 Questions With...

Valerie Rowe, Retail Manager, Garden Shop

What is your role at Hershey Gardens?

As the retail manager of the Garden Shop, I choose the merchandise for the shop and work with vendors to customize items specific to Hershey Gardens. I am also the retail manager for The Hershey Story Museum.

What is your background?

After graduating from Hershey High School and Penn State University, I worked in the finance department at the Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center. After that, I worked for The Hershey Company for 19 years developing items for their gift catalog. I've been the retail manager for Hershey Gardens and The Hershey Story Museum since 2012.

You're a lifelong Hershey resident?

I was born and raised in Hershey and have lived here all my life. My late father worked for The Hershey Company for 37 years. He started out as a chemist but then became one of the first individuals to serve as a food technologist when the company expanded its research and development efforts. He basically became a peanut "expert," and worked with peanut growers to locate the best quality nuts for Reese's products.

Any memories of growing up in Hershey that stand out?

There are so many! My grandfather worked for Eastman Kodak and loved taking photos, especially of his grandchildren at the Gardens. I have fond memories of watching the Philadelphia Eagles practice on the sta-



dium field, sledding down the hill in front of Catherine Hall, and my mom and dad taking me and my siblings to the movies at Hershey Theatre. My very first date was going to Hershey Theatre to see a movie!

How do you decide what items to sell in the Garden Shop?

I often look to social media for trends. I am also an avid shopper myself (I love a bargain!), so I'm able to watch for trends that way. Obviously, visitors to the Gardens like buying things with a garden or butterfly-related theme. I also offer items reflective of our programs and exhibits, which are mostly geared toward children.

Any specialty items that you sell in the Garden Shop?

When I can, I like to support local businesses and artists. We sell stained glass butterflies made by a local artist, and lavender products made locally. All of our apparel

comes from a local vendor, too. Other than that, I make sure we have souvenirs that feature our logo for guests who like to have a memento of their visit.

What are some popular items?

People seem to enjoy gifts that are natural or support the environment. We sell lip balm made from beeswax and seeds that promote pollination, among other things. We also carry a beautiful collection of jewelry made from butterfly wings, which is very popular.

Do you have a favorite part of the Gardens?

The Japanese Garden. It's so serene, and it has special meaning to me because my family sponsored two Tribute Trees there in loving memory of my parents. I also frequently take my grandsons there.

Grandsons?

Yes, I have three grandsons, two of them live across the street, which is great. They have given me a funny nickname – they call me "Graham Cracker." It started as just "Gram," then morphed into a food they like to eat. It's quirky – but I like it.

Other hobbies and interests?

I enjoy traveling to hear my son's bluegrass band, Serene Green, which performs in venues across the U.S. I also love to garden with perennials, as well as hike and fish with my other grandson, who lives in Wellsboro, PA.



Charles Castillo, Val's grandfather, often brought his grandchildren to Hershey Gardens. He is pictured here, holding Val.



Val, at age 3, in the Rose Garden at Hershey Gardens.

Monarch Butterflies Are Declared Endangered: What Does It Really Mean?

On July 21, 2022 the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) added the North American population of migratory monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus plexippus*, to their “Red List of Threatened Species,” in the “Endangered” category.

At first glance, this is an alarming bit of news – the familiar, iconic native butterfly that we all look forward to seeing every summer appears to be in imminent danger of extinction. Indeed, the eastern U.S. population of monarchs (east of the Rockies) has experienced a documented 84% decrease between 1996 and 2014. The decline of the western population has been even steeper, plunging 99.9% between the 1980s and 2021. These downward population trends, deemed to be due to habitat loss, pesticide use and climate change, prompted the IUCN to declare the migratory monarch population endangered.



What is the IUCN?

The IUCN, based in Switzerland, is a global network of scientific, governmental and private organizations that track the conservation status of the world’s plant and animal species. It is not a regulatory body and does not make policy, but it is a credible authority on conservation matters and is recognized and respected as such. Its red-listing of the monarch, however, has no regulatory or policy-related implications and provides no protections for threatened species.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Endangered Species Act of 1973

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is the regulatory agency in the United States responsible for listing species as endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. Once listed, a species is eligible for federal protection and funding under the Act. While



there has been some consideration of the topic by USFWS as recently as December of 2020, the monarch has yet to be listed as endangered, and so there are no regulations or policies protecting it in the U.S.

The Bigger Picture

While this latest news on the status of the monarch seems alarming, a broader look at monarch butterflies worldwide may offer a more complete picture, and some reassurance. Populations of non-migratory monarch butterflies, *Danaus plexippus*, can be found in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific, Hawaii, Portugal and southern Spain, and far southern North America, Central America and northern South America. These non-migratory monarch populations are considered stable and fall into the IUCN’s Species of Least Concern category. The North American migratory sub-species, *Danaus plexippus plexippus*, is the only IUCN endangered monarch population.

It is also encouraging to note that fluctuations in North American monarch numbers have occurred before. Population ebbs and flows have been documented throughout most of the 20th century. One article published by the Xerces Society even characterizes monarch numbers as inherently “bouncy” year-to-year, hyper-responsive to changeable environmental factors like weather. While history shows population bounce to be a normal part of monarch ecology, apparent even just last year when western numbers unexpectedly surged, there’s no denying that human

activity is having an increasing impact, and this remains a cause for concern.

How You Can Help

With no regulation or protections in place and no benefit from federal funding, the “endangered” monarch may seem largely left out in the cold by the IUCN designation. The new status does, however, renew the urgency with which we consider the monarch. It is a warning and a call to action, asking us to pay attention and act in ways that promote monarch population

health.

While small scale actions certainly can’t counteract all the factors affecting the monarchs (climate and weather changes, GMOs and agricultural herbicide use, deforestation of overwintering sites), there are ways to help, and small steps do add up. Here are a few:

• Plant Milkweed (the right kind) and Nectar Flowers

Monarch-specific pollinator gardens are a great, and gorgeous, idea (see article on page 5.) It doesn’t hurt to include host plants of other butterfly species in any pollinator garden...biodiversity is a great thing to support!



• Reduce or Eliminate Insecticide and Herbicide Use



Try “softer” alternatives like insecticidal soap and neem oil, and avoid spraying milk-

weed for pests altogether during egg and caterpillar season. Consider adding beneficial insects to a pollinator garden to combat pests. Avoid the use of herbicides near milkweed where spray drift may damage or kill the monarch host plant.

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- **Avoid Raising Monarchs in an Attempt to Boost Numbers**

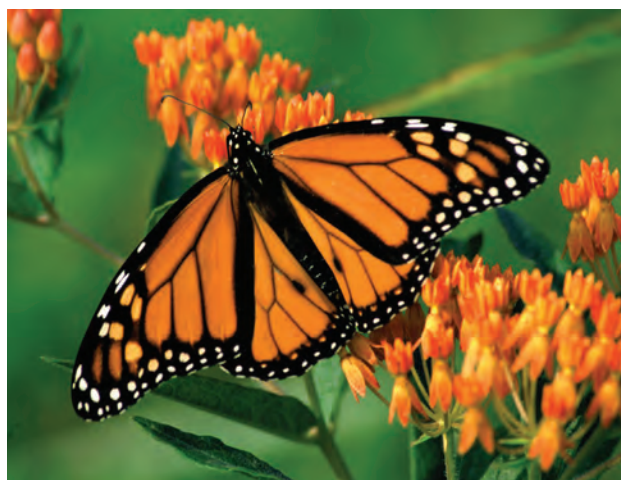
Home raising bypasses the survival benefits of natural selection. In the wild only the fittest survive to migrate and pass on their genetics. When home raised, weaker butterflies are “helped along” so that they make it to adulthood, and if they survive to reproduce, the traits that make them weak are passed to successive generations. Scientific studies also have demonstrated that captive-raised monarchs are weaker and less able to successfully migrate than their wild-born cohorts. Their wings are smaller and lighter in color and their grip strength is less. These factors are indicators of poor fitness and predictors of migration failure.

- **Support Winter Habitat Conservation**

Learn more at [Monarch Butterfly Fund](#)

- **Get Involved with Citizen Science**

Learn more at [Monarch Watch](#) and [Monarch Joint Venture](#)



For now, Hershey Gardens has stopped purchasing monarch butterflies in the Butterfly Atrium. “It is more important for this species to procreate in the wild than to be on display for public education and enjoyment,” said Jody Davey, Conservatory habitats manager. “We will continue to provide educational information about the monarch and its conservation status.”



How Does Our Garden Grow? With Help From Generous Corporate Donors

Hershey Gardens is grateful to partner with [Lebanon Seaboard Corporation](#), to receive weed preventer and fertilizer, as well as plenty of birdseed for our featured friends!



Lebanon Seaboard was founded in Lebanon, PA in 1947 and its headquarters remain there today. They are committed to product research and development as they continue to create new product lines. Their product lines include [GreenView](#), [Preen](#) and [Lyric](#) Wild Bird Food.



GREENVIEW **Preen** **Lyric**
FAIRWAY FORMULA Wild Bird Food

Since 2011, [Penn State Health Dermatology](#) Department has donated dozens of umbrellas for guests to use to protect themselves from the damaging effects of the sun. This year, the department also donated new “shade sails” in The Children’s Garden amphitheater.



The umbrellas, which feature specially-treated fabric that protects the skin from UVA and UVB rays, are available for visitors to borrow while they visit the Gardens.

The donation of the umbrellas and shade sails are part of the Penn State Hershey Sun Protection Project, an initiative



started by Penn State Dermatology and the Community Advisory Board. The program strives to prevent skin cancer through projects such as shade pavilions, shade trees, shade umbrellas and shade clothing.



Attract Monarchs to Your Garden By Adding These Native Plants

Many gardeners want to help the monarchs, but few know what to plant besides milkweed. “If you have a garden, it’s important to plant items that are beneficial to monarchs,” said Alyssa Hagarman, horticulture manager. “We can all help this threatened butterfly species by including host and nectar plants in our garden.”

“Native plants are best,” said Hagarman. “The female monarch lays her eggs only on milkweeds - plants in the *Asclepias* genus, but nectar plants are also a critical source of food during the monarch’s fall migration to Mexico. Plus, these plants will add some color to your fall garden.”

“Try to plant in large groups; butterflies are more attracted to a large group of colorful plants, rather than singular plants,” noted Hagarman. “We have planted large groups of host and nectar plants in the Perennial Garden and in The Children’s Garden, and we see quite a few monarchs and other pollinators.”

Here are few of Hagarman’s favorite native plants that every gardener should consider adding. “These plants will not only support monarchs, they will also attract other butterflies and pollinators,” said Hagarman.

Ironweed or *Vernonia fasciculata*

Ironweed has excellent upright form in the garden. The intense purple bloom stands out in late summer, attracting many butterflies and other pollinators. While this tall, stately plant occurs naturally in moist soils and tolerates brief flooding, it grows equally well in average garden soils. The plant height may be reduced by cutting back the stems in late spring. Ironweed can be an aggressive



spreader by seed when the site conditions are favorable. Self-seeding can be toned down by removing flower heads before they go to seed. However, the dark rigid stems topped with contrasting fluffy seed heads do offer beautiful late season interest.

Meadow Blazing Star or *Liatris ligulistylis*



Meadow Blazing Star is the ultimate nectar plant for monarch butterflies. Numerous other butterflies and pollinators will visit as well, along with hummingbirds. The late season seeds are popular with goldfinches.

Liatris ligulistylis lends a vertical accent to perennial borders. It can grow up to 5-feet tall when planted in rich soils, so staking these plants is a good idea. They are somewhat tolerant of dry soils, but are best when planted in areas that have consistently “medium” soil moisture and fertility. It tolerates summer heat and humidity, but avoid planting it in soils that stay wet in the winter.

Hyssop or *Agastache foeniculum*

The light purple flowers and textured foliage of Hyssop are popular in the sunny perennial garden, and in the herb garden as well. Lavender flower spikes up to 6-inches long are produced in midsummer, and persist for up to two months. The crushed leaves have a fragrance of mint and licorice and can be used to make herbal teas, or dried for use in potpourri. The seeds can be used as an alternative to poppy seeds in baking.

Also known as Giant Blue Hyssop or Anise Hyssop, this upright, clump-forming perennial of the mint family is typically found



in dry upland forest edges and fields. While it is not drought tolerant, it does fare better in dry conditions than many other members of the mint family. Plants will self-seed readily, with success in well-drained soils. The flower spikes are a pollinator favorite and offer a rich source of nectar to bees, butterflies and hummingbirds. Lavender hyssop is also a host plant for the spring azure butterfly.

Whorled Milkweed or *Asclepias verticillate*



Whorled milkweed flowers later than most milkweeds, often into September. The small umbels of white flowers attract many pollinators, including monarch butterflies. This small milkweed spreads to form attractive drifts. The thin whorled leaves have a delicate texture which combines well with other plants of lower stature in an interplanted design or a rock garden. Delicate 4-inch pods form later in the season as the leaves turn to yellow and orange, providing interest well into autumn. Whorled milkweed likes dry sandy, or rocky soil in full or partial sun. It is deer and rabbit resistant.

Upgrades Made to Historic Gazebo and Arbor Bench

A beautiful gazebo and custom-built arbor bench have been fixtures at Hershey Gardens since its inception in 1937.

"These structures are popular locations for weddings and photos, and they are enjoyed by guests all year long," said Amy Zeigler, senior director. "This summer, both needed a little love to bring them back to their original splendor."

"Earlier this year, shrubs surrounding the gazebo were showing the effects of box-wood blight and they had to be removed," said Zeigler. "Sadly, we also had to remove the struggling Eden climbing roses that were planted at each corner."

"While removing these plants, damage to the gazebo structure was uncovered, so we seized the opportunity to remove decades of old paint, make necessary repairs and repaint the entire structure," said Zeigler. "New Eden climbers will be planted next spring. While it will take a few seasons for them to grow and fill in, the gazebo is already looking gorgeous!"

The arbor bench, located in the Historic Rose Garden just west of the gazebo, has an interesting history. "It was originally built for the opening of the Gardens, but it was replaced in 1998 by a group of Hershey Industrial School (now Milton Hershey



The historic gazebo and bench are undergoing necessary improvements to ensure their longevity.
Photo courtesy of George Weigel, circa 2010

School) alumni led by Nick Leitner, class of '44," said Zeigler. "They built the new bench in the Milton Hershey School carpentry shop and assembled it on site."

"Over the years, Mr. Leitner assisted with repairing the bench. This year when it became necessary to replace the bench once again, Bill Kieffer, senior manager of operations at the Gardens, approached Milton Hershey School to see if students in the construction/carpentry career path would

be able to take on the task," said Zeigler.

"With the help of teacher Joe Fick, they are doing just that! The new bench will be installed in late September on a newly poured concrete pad, which will help with structural integrity moving forward."

"It is always a pleasure to work with Milton Hershey School students on a project like this," said Kieffer. "They have something to be proud of that they can come back to see year after year."

This Just In.... MUMS!

Chrysanthemums are abundant at Hershey Gardens – almost 1,500 in total.

"We just spent two days planting mums, and I can't wait to see them in bloom," said Alyssa Hagarman, horticulture manager.

"Whenever we plant mums, tulips bulbs or annuals, it's an 'all hands on deck' kind of day!" laughed Hagarman. "Plus, we have many loyal volunteers who also assist with these large plantings."

"Guests can see most of the mums planted in the Seasonal Display Garden and around the Conservatory, but there are also a few planted in fall displays around the Garden," said Hagarman.

"While they haven't bloomed yet, their colors will range from vibrant red to burnt orange and bright yellow," said Hagarman. "It's going to be amazing."





Sheet Mulching: Lawn to Garden Bed in a Few Easy Steps

By Lois Miklas, Retired Educator, The M.S. Hershey Foundation and
Penn State Extension Area Master Gardener Coordinator



Photo credit: Michael Schmotzer, York County Master Gardener.

Cardboard can be used to create a garden bed.

Less lawn and more space for garden beds is a recent trend in home gardening. Creating more space for flowers, edibles and native plants is an admirable goal, but where do you start? Through a process called sheet mulching, you can create a planting bed right over existing turf grass (or even over weeds). It does not require rototilling or herbicides but does involve planning, a little work and patience. Since the process takes about six months, now is a great time to plan for a new bed to be ready by spring.

Here are steps to create a new garden bed through sheet mulching:

1. Lay out the bed.

Use stakes for a rectangular bed or a garden hose for a freeform shape. You can use landscape paint to mark the outline.

2. Mow as short as possible.

Use the lowest setting of the mower to cut down the lawn or other vegetation that you are going to smother.

3. Dig the edge.

Use a flat-bladed shovel to dig a 4- to 6-inch groove around the edge of the bed. Toss the turf scraps inside the bed you are laying out. (I must confess that I have omitted this edging step and still achieved my goal.)

4. Cover the bed with sheets of cardboard or newspaper.

Use a single layer of corrugated cardboard or 10 sheets of newspaper to cover the entire surface of the future bed. Overlap the edges by 8 to 10 inches. Wet the paper as you go—this helps hold the paper in place and contributes to the breakdown of the mulch material. Make sure to remove tape if you are using corrugated cardboard and remove the glossy sections if you are using newspaper.

5. Finish with a layer of organic material.

If you are planning to fill the bed with native plants, a 4- to 6-inch layer of organic material on top is all that is necessary—pine needles, dead leaves, grass clippings, wood chips or bark. Most native plants do not prefer rich soil. If you intend to plant annuals, vegetables or fruit, you should add several layers of organic material. Use the same principal you would apply to a compost pile: alternate layers of nitrogen-rich materials (such as fresh grass clippings) with carbon sources (such as dried leaves or sawdust). The layers will shrink down over time.

After about six months your new bed will be ready for planting. Do not remove the mulch materials but punch right through them to plant in the underlying soil (but keep the mulch from touching the plants' stems). Note that for the first season you should plan to use transplants or vegetable starts. The sheet mulch materials will help preserve moisture and keep down weeds. If you wish to plant seeds, the mulch materials should be broken down enough by the second year to sow seeds directly into the ground.

[Click here](#) for a video about sheet mulching created by Penn State Master Gardeners of York County.



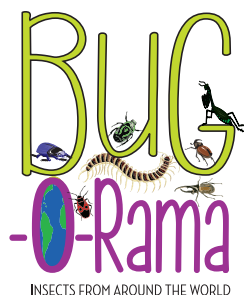
Photo credit: Michael Schmotzer, York County Master Gardener.

Add organic material over the cardboard.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

All events are included in admission; free for members of Hershey Gardens.

Please check HersheyGardens.org for event updates.



Bug-O-Rama is even bigger and *buggier* than ever before! This year's event has expanded to also feature an array of unique insects from around the world, as well as small reptiles, including snakes, lizards, frogs and geckos. Come join us for this family-friendly hands-on day, and participate in a variety of fun bug activities. Special guests include Ryan "The Bug Man," Refreshing Mountain Wildlife Center, PA Bat Rescue and more! [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

Bug-O-Rama

Sunday, September 11 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



Lecture: "Discover Your World" Education Program

with Dr. Diane Husic, Moravian College
Thursday, September 15 from 7 - 8 p.m.
in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Advances in technology have allowed more people to participate in the scientific process. Dr. Diane Husic, professor of biology at Moravian College and climate change researcher, will discuss how citizen science, phenology (the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena), and place-based learning are helping to address environmental challenges.

This event is free to attend. Please contact Manada Conservancy at 717-566-4122 or office@manada.org to register.



The Annual Penn-Jersey District Rose Show: "Roses and Chocolate"

Saturday, September 17 from 1 - 5 p.m. and
Sunday, September 18 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Members of the Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society will have their roses judged and displayed in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. At select times, rosarians will be in the Historic Rose Garden to answer questions about rose varieties and care.



On Sunday, family activities including a "rose bud" tour for our young guests will be hosted by Hershey Gardens staff and volunteers. [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

Bonsai Exhibit by the

Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Wednesday, September 28 through
Saturday, October 15
from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily



Experience the living art of bonsai with this popular annual exhibit provided by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club. Exhibit located in the Hoop House in The Children's Garden.

Lecture: Ten Reasons Why Immersion in Nature is Good for Your Health

Tuesday, October 18 at 7 p.m.

in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Dr. Matt Silvis, family practice and sports medicine physician with Penn State Health will discuss the many health benefits of spending time in the natural world.

This event is free to attend. Please contact Manada Conservancy at 717-566-4122 or office@manada.org to register.



Saturdays and Sundays, October 22, 23, 29 and 30
from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Pumpkin Glow is now
Pumpkin Palooza!

Kids, come in costume to celebrate all things pumpkin! Enjoy beautiful painted pumpkin displays, walk through pumpkin arches, see a fascinating pumpkin mosaic mural and a unique "pumpkin tree" Plus, experience the Creepy Creatures Gallery full of spellbinding reptiles, amphibians and insects.

Guests can also enjoy live entertainment, food trucks and hundreds of colorful mums on display. And the sweetest ending? All children get a bag of delicious Hershey's candy, of course!



[Learn more and see the full schedule of events here.](#)

Included in admission; free for members.



Celebrate the Holidays at Hershey Gardens

Experience the splendor of the holidays with us!
All events are included in admission; free for members.

The Christmas Tree Showcase

9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily, from Saturday,
November 19 through Sunday, January 1
(Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)

Bring the whole family to visit the annual Christmas Tree Showcase in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory! Experience trees that are uniquely decorated by local florists, as well as the signature poinsettia tree. The Welcome Pavilion and Butterfly Atrium will be decorated for the holidays, too!

The Garden Cottage will also feature a "Cozy Christmas" display of holiday trees decorated with colorful ornaments made by local school students.



Crafty Christmas Creations

November 19, 20, 26, 27, December 3, 4, 10, 11,
17, 18, 24, 31 and January 1
from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Kids, stop by the Education Center in The Children's Garden to make your own holiday ornament, inspired by nature!



Visit with Santa Claus & Mrs. Claus



Sunday, December 11
from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. and
Saturday, December 17
from 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Kids, bring your Christmas list as you visit with Jolly Ol' Saint Nick and Mrs. Claus! Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.

Annual Orchid Show and Sale

Member Only Preview: Thursday, February 2, 2023 from 2 - 5 p.m.

Open to the Public: Friday, February 3 through Sunday, February 5
from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

The Susquehanna Orchid Society presents its 39th Annual Orchid Show and Sale, "For the Love of Orchids" in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. More than 1,000 orchids representing dozens of varieties will be on display, including rare species and unique hybrids. Daily orchid show tours and informational sessions will take place in the exhibition and Garden Cottage. In addition, vendors will have orchids for sale; various orchid societies will have showy displays that will be judged onsite and presented with awards.

[Learn more and see the full schedule of events here.](#) Included in admission; free for members.



ADULT EDUCATION - JOIN US!

Beginning a Botanical Sketchbook

Saturday, October 1 from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Join botanical artist and illustrator Margaret Saylor in a fun introduction to starting and maintaining your personal botanical sketchbook. Margaret will guide participants in what botanical illustration is, how to make observations, and share her techniques. The class also includes time to sketch outdoors, please dress accordingly. A recommended art material list will be provided to class participants. Margaret is a member of the American Society of Botanical Artists, as well as the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators, and has exhibited with both groups. Since 2013, she has been the Editor/Designer of The Botanical Artist, the quarterly journal of the American Society of Botanical Art. Working primarily in watercolor on vellum and egg tempera, Margaret specializes in mushrooms, fungi and woodland plants. She is co-founder of the Contemporary Naturalism Guild of Art.



Members: \$25; Non-Members: \$30

[Advance registration is required here.](#)

Registration closes on September 28.



Winter Wreath Workshops

Saturday, December 3 and Sunday,
December 4 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Celebrate winter by creating a festive wreath, perfect for the holidays! Using fresh limbs, twigs and pods pruned from the Gardens, class participants will learn how to create a stunning, long-lasting 24" wreath for their door or table. All supplies and materials are provided.

Led by Jody Davey, Hershey Gardens Horticulturist

Members: \$55; Non-members: \$65

[Advance registration is required.](#)

Registration opens on November 1 and closes on November 30.

Fall Homeschool Day

Seasonal Patterns and Changes

Tuesday, October 11 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

For students Kindergarten through Grade 6

Autumn brings seasonal change as the sun sets earlier in the day and the nights are cool. We'll explore why seasons change, what happens in the lifecycle of trees, as well as in the garden beds. Students can participate in a winter garden preparation activity, a seasonal art activity, and explore what happens inside a compost pile.

\$8 per student, \$9 per adult; includes admission to Hershey Gardens



and the Butterfly Atrium.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

Registration closes 48 hours prior to class.