Aft er several cold months, there’s no season more eagerly anticipated than spring. And nothing says spring like 24,000 colorful tulips at Hershey Gardens!

“We added 16 new tulip varieties this year; we will have 45 varieties in total,” said Alyssa Hagarman, horticulture manager. “Most of them will be in the Seasonal Display Garden, with some also planted in The Children’s Garden and around the Conservatory.”

Alyssa selected a few of her favorite new tulip varieties:

The Miranda tulip is a vibrant red tulip. “They open wide with their full, double petals, similar to peonies,” said Hagarman. “This pretty and fragrant tulip has long-lasting blooms that make excellent cut flowers.”

Mary Ann is a gorgeous award winner that opens white and cherry with a yellow exterior base. “It matures to pale pink and raspberry with white highlights and glowing yellow splashes at the base,” noted Hagarman. “The interior is white with an accented base of yellow and garnet, edged in red. The blue-green foliage is attractively marked for a show of its own.”

Golden Prince Claus is a lemon-yellow tulip with plump, perfectly formed flowers. “They are the essence of spring sunshine,” said Hagarman.

Slawa has burgundy-maroon petals with contrasting apricot edges. “As the dramatic blooms mature, the petal margins morph to varying shades of apricot-pink to apricot-yellow,” said Hagarman.

The huge flowers of Big Love are bright pink with a lilac sheen. “They have an interior white-encircled heart of gold accented by variable blue flames and garnet stems,” said Hagarman.
Tell us a little bit about yourself!
I grew up in England and attended Newcastle College, graduating in 1999 with a degree in Theater Production. After graduation, I applied to be a camp counselor in America, as I enjoyed traveling and had always wanted to visit the U.S. I was placed in a camp in Thompson, PA, where I met my future husband, George, who was from Long Island. We were married in 2001 and moved to Hershey in 2008, when we became houseparents at Milton Hershey School. We have two daughters, and George still works at Milton Hershey School. People always kid me for sounding like Mary Poppins, but the accent is authentic!

What was it like growing up in England?
It was great. I was born and raised in a British seaside town called Bridlington (best fish and chips ever!), located on Yorkshire's east coast. I attended school where my father was the headmaster. My dad and mum also owned a quaint little antique shop called The Magpie’s Nest. In the summer, instead of going to places like Disney World for warmth and rollercoasters, we would visit France and Spain and camp in tents!

What is the new role you recently assumed at the Foundation?
Last fall I accepted the challenge of serving as guest and member experience manager. My role is basically two-fold: I provide guidance to the visitor experience supervisor at The Hershey Story Museum, and I also head up the membership department for both The Hershey Story Museum and Hershey Gardens, as well as manage donations.

Why did you and George want to become houseparents?
We felt growing up in a life of service to others was an important part of our daughter’s upbringing. We were grateful for the opportunity and felt it has had a positive impact not only on our girls, but on me and George as well.

How did you transition from your previous Foundation role?
In addition to the guest experience portion of my role, I assumed the role as member experience manager last fall, when our previous manager, Denise Frantz, sadly passed away due to cancer. Denise and I were not only office-mates and co-workers, but close friends. I thought I could honor her in some small way by stepping into her role. Admittedly, I have big shoes to fill, and I’m still learning. Denise was a shining light in every way; a great asset to the Foundation and an incredible human being. We all miss her terribly.

What has been the most challenging in your new role so far?
The most challenging part of my new position was the circumstance under which it became available. None of us at the Foundation dreamed that we would lose one of our own, but we take it day by day.

The most rewarding part?
Getting to know our members and witnessing their passion and dedication to our properties. It’s also been rewarding to work with other employees with whom I had little interaction in my previous role.

Do you have any hobbies?
I am a dance mom, so I am often my daughter’s Uber driver on dance weekends! I love to paint and go for walks with my dog, Marigold.

What is your favorite part of the Gardens?
I love The Children’s Garden; it reminds me of all the experiences with my MHS students and daughters on weekends. I am fascinated with the bugs in the Butterfly Atrium—especially the hissing cockroaches.

HERSHEY GARDENS 2023 HOURS OF OPERATION

Now through May 26:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily, including Easter Sunday

May 27 – September 4:
9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

September 5 – December 31:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily – with the following holiday exceptions: Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day; open 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve
Hershey Gardens’ staff is proud to create a special area in loving memory of former membership manager, Denise Frantz, who passed away in October 2022, after a brave battle with melanoma. The renovated garden will be located in a quiet area between the Bill Bowman Garden and the Oak Grove; it will be completed by late May.

Denise’s favorite flower was the hydrangea, so Horticulture Manager Alyssa Hagarman chose several gorgeous native ‘Incrediball’ hydrangea for the area, which have enormous white flower heads that will appear in midsummer.

Hagarman is also adding three varieties of hosta, which symbolize friendship and devotion. The first is ‘Komodo Dragon,’ which features blue-green leaves and tall lavender-colored flowering stalks, which emerge in mid-summer. The second is ‘Empress Wu,’ another large hosta, reaching nearly 5 feet tall and spreading 8 feet wide; it will have lavender blooms. The last variety is ‘Fragrant Bouquet’; its leaves have a beautiful variegated edge, and its white flowers are quite fragrant.

Much like Denise, the garden will have a quiet beauty, and it will forever represent a wonderful and beloved friend and colleague.

Hershey Gardens has the perfect setting for group fun! Click here to learn more on the group options, pricing and contact information.

**Self-Guided Experience**
Your group can enjoy the Gardens and Conservatory at discounted group rates.

**Private Before- or After-Hours Visits**
Visit the Gardens before or after normal operating hours for a private event or photography session.

**Private Guided Tours**
Learn the history and horticulture of Hershey Gardens through a guided group tour! The indoor Butterfly Atrium is included.

Tour options include:
- **Full Garden Tour**
  Learn the history behind Mr. Hershey’s Garden. Tour path is approximately three-quarters of a mile.
- **Historic Rose Garden Tour (June – September)**
  Learn the story of Hershey Rose Garden and how we care for our 3,000 roses.
- **Orchid Highlights Tour in the Butterfly Atrium**
  Enjoy a guided tour of Orchid species while walking among hundreds of butterflies.
The Children’s Garden Revitalization is Almost Complete

The Children's Garden revitalization progress continued throughout the winter months, with many improvements nearing completion.

“We have been working hard to reinvigorate this much-loved area to celebrate its 20-year anniversary,” said Amy Zeigler, senior director. “New this summer, children will be able to experience a new tugboat play structure, complete with shipping crates and a crane, a reimagined treehouse with a climbing pole, and new signage that explores the origins of cocoa beans.”

“Everyone is invited to join us for the grand re-opening on Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.,” said Zeigler. “We’ll be featuring some kids’ programs in the amphitheater, crafts in the Education Center, a planting activity in the Hoop House, food trucks, face painting and more.”

“Thanks to all our guests for their patience throughout this two-year process,” said Zeigler. “And of course, special thanks to all our generous donors who have ensured The Children’s Garden will inspire imaginations for another 20 years!”

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS

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Cheryl Martin
Patricia Atkinson
Janice Eby
The “Mystery” of the Cacao Tree
Atrium Manager Theorizes on How the Tree is Producing Pods inside the Atrium

The Butterfly Atrium boasts year-round tropical temperatures of 75-78 degrees, and steamy 78-80 percent humidity during daylight hours, with slightly lower nighttime temperatures and humidity. Filtered sunlight streams through the skylights and floor-to-ceiling windows. Soil is kept uniformly moist and nutrients are provided regularly.

“As it turns out, these are the perfect conditions under which cacao trees (Theobroma cacao) flourish,” said Jody Davey, Conservatory manager. “Attesting to this fact is our resident cacao tree, propagated and donated in 2017 by Judy Williams.”

“This tree is at least eight years old, and arrived here as a well-tended sapling,” noted Davey. “It was transplanted into the Butterfly Atrium in 2018, at a point where it had yet to bear any pods.”

“In nature, the numerous tiny flowers of these trees are pollinated by a species of midge—a minute, mosquito-like insect,” said Davey. “Because these pollinators are generally not present in artificial environments, and because a great many cacao trees are self-incompatible, or unable to self-pollinate, it is widely accepted that a tree kept indoors requires hand-pollination with pollen from a separate tree.” Early attempts to hand-pollinate this tree proved unsuccessful, however.

“Cacao trees need five to seven years to mature before they produce pods in any quantity, and this may have been one reason for our tree’s early lack of pod production in spite of hand-pollination,” said Davey. “After 2018, however, as this single tree matured in the tropical Atrium environment, it began to produce pods in progressively larger quantities.”

“Interestingly, the tree was no longer being hand-pollinated at this point,” noted Davey. “What could account for the obvious successful pollination? The answer may be two-fold.”

“First, while most cacao trees are self-incompatible, a smaller number of them are self-compatible, or capable of self-pollination. It would appear that we are fortunate to be displaying one of these self-compatible trees,” said Davey.

“Also, cacao flowers can be pollinated by crawling or flying insects, and it’s possible that small insects found in the Atrium could be doing the job,” said Davey. “Ants, tiny beneficial predatory wasps, lacewings or other small insects may be moving pollen from flower to flower on this tree. The butterflies are too large to get into the flower’s pollen.”

“Without hand-pollination for the last three years, the tree has been producing more and more pods as it matures,” said Davey. “It is also adding height and bulk to its stature, which is also likely a factor in greater pod production.”

“The Williams family recently donated another young tree to Hershey Gardens,” said Davey. “It is being cared for in our ‘Grow Room’ in the winter and spends the summers outdoors in the understory of a grove of mature oak trees. This young tree is still a few years away from pod production, but with any luck and under the right conditions, we’re hopeful that it will grow to be as productive as its older counterpart.”
Healthy Home Gardens with Predatory Insects

By Kathleen Keough, Penn State Extension Master Gardener, Dauphin County

Keeping your home garden healthy can seem like a difficult task. It may feel as though hundreds of insects are waiting to consume your plants. Instead of grabbing an insecticide and drenching your plants, consider working alongside Mother Nature’s predatory insects to control those harmful insects.

What is a predatory insect? These are the “Good Guys” of a healthy garden. They are insects that feed on the egg, larval, nymph, pupal and adult stages of garden pests. Each predator has a specific feeding habit; a healthy garden will contain many and varied predatory insects.

Here are a few:

A praying mantis is a beautiful shade of green and has an interesting pair of forelegs, which can be raised upward as if in prayer when hunting prey. To capture their prey, mantises camouflage to blend with the environment. The outer side of their legs have blade-like thorns used to defeat victims. They have sharp eyesight and can rotate their head 180 degrees. Mantises use their antennae for smell. These predator insects move slowly and deliberately. When they feel threatened, they will fan their wings to appear larger.

You will find green lacewings in your garden in spring, summer and fall. The adults are light green with a delicate appearance and lacy wings. Their eyes are two golden hemispheres and though beautiful, they are poor fliers. During their larval stage, they are voracious feeders eating up to 60 aphids per hour. Lacewing larvae are the most beneficial stage of this predatory insect.

There are over 5,000 species of ladybugs in the world with the red/black seven-spotted ladybug most common in the United States. The name was coined in Europe during an insect plague when the farmers prayed to the Virgin Mary. Legend says that ladybugs then wiped out the harmful insects. They were given the name of “beetle of our Lady,” later shortened to “ladybug.”

Ladybugs are colorful and harmless to humans. Ladybugs’ unique coloring notifies other insects of their terrible taste. Gardeners love them because they eat harmful aphids. Ladybugs lay their eggs on leaf undersides, transform to larvae, then pupae. Within two weeks, a new ladybug emerges, and the lifecycle begins again. Ladybugs can eat 5,000 insects during their short lives.

Hover flies are true flies. They resemble a helicopter in the air. They hover, dart and then hover again. Like ladybugs, this predatory insect eats aphids. They lay their eggs near an aphid colony, hatching in two-three days. They then attach themselves to a stem to spin a cocoon. Ten days later they emerge, and the lifecycle begins anew.

Many gardeners fear wasps. However, predatory wasps eat insects as well as pollinate flowers. These wasps lay their eggs inside the bodies of other insects. Once the eggs hatch, the young wasps eat their way out of the insect, killing the harmful insect in the process. The only thing left of the dead insect is a “hollow mummy” or exoskeleton. Predatory wasps have bright yellow and orange bands, another warning to other insects of their terrible taste.

Predatory mites are tiny insects that kill their prey by sucking the juice of harmful insects. These are wingless creatures, with one body segment and no antennae. Their life stages or “instars” are egg, larva and nymph. With no insect prey available, they feed on pollen and nectar.

How can you attract predatory insects to your yard? The solution is to have a variety of plants in your garden and, more importantly, to shake the “insecticide habit.” Chose plants that flower throughout the growing season or in series. And when you see insect pests, step back and let the predator insects get to work!

Plant hosts for predatory insects are dill, fern leaf yarrow, coriander, fennel, cosmos, carpet bugle weed, lemon gem marigold, sweet alyssum, parsley, thyme, statice and speedwell. When planting from this group, it’s best to place several plants together.

Predatory insects go through various life stages. They need different plants as they progress through their lifecycles so they can destroy harmful insects in your healthy garden.

Contact the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners in Dauphin County with your garden questions. Email dauphinmg@psu.edu or call 717.921.8803.
“Super Sprouts” Program Continues with Great Success
Federal Grant Helps Reach Thousands of Local Families

Hershey Gardens’ “Super Sprouts” project has continued into the current spring season with partners Hershey Public Library, Cocoa Packs, and the Lebanon Power Packs Project. This federally-funded program provides virtual and hands-on gardening opportunities, as well as at-home gardening kits to coordinate with food share packs.

“Each month, from February through May, education staff prepare and distribute over 500 seed kits to send home to families enrolled in the Cocoa Packs and Lebanon Power Packs programs,” said Rebecca Lawrence, education manager. “Our monthly seed kits include growing instructions in English and Spanish, recipe ideas, seeds and peat pellets to start at-home germination for families.”

“This spring, videos will be posted to our website that will help families extend the life of their produce and learn tips and tricks to help grow common vegetables at home,” noted Lawrence.

“Our seed selection is based on its ability to grow in containers and survey results on what families wish they could grow or had access to at their local food bank,” said Lawrence.

“We have enjoyed getting to know local families and be a part of cultivating their gardening journey,” said Lawrence. “Families who received seed kits last year were surveyed in the beginning of this year and commented positively about the experience.”

“Kids who received seed kits last year looked forward to more kits this year,” Lawrence said. “It has even inspired family members to continue growing in their garden. One person said, “my wife is planting more produce this year because she was so pleased about her growing experience [with the seed kits].” It also brought intergenerational families together as the seed kit activities united grandparents with their grandchildren.

Workshops at the Hershey Public Library, Hershey Gardens and Lebanon Power Packs Project will help extend the information shared in the seed kits to practical hands-on applications of gardening this spring for families.

In early March, families will build container gardens with kale, nasturtium and peppers at Hershey Public Library. In late March, families will build and take home a container of strawberry plants to grow strawberries at home. In early April, education staff will showcase how to grow peppers and tomatoes, providing live plants to Power Packs families in Lebanon. And in early May, education staff will provide live plants of watermelon and cowpeas to Lebanon area families in the Power Packs Program.

For more information on the Super Sprouts program, contact Rebecca Lawrence, Manager of Education and Public Programs at relawrence@hersheygardens.org

This project is made possible by a grant from the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, Grant Number CAGML-247949-OMLS-21.
**Mark Your Calendar!**

**Earth Day Celebration**

**Saturday, April 24 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Celebrate the natural world! Join us to learn how to compost with worms, plant potatoes, create a nature journal, and appreciate the natural beauty captured in the photography of Sarah Neighbors, Barbara Chestnut and Michael Feldser. Plus, enjoy kid-friendly performances in The Children’s Garden Amphitheatre at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Included in admission; free for members.

**National Arbor Day: Guided Tree Tours**

**Friday, April 28 and Saturday, April 29 at 2 p.m.**

Celebrate Arbor Day with a guided “tree tour!” These one-hour walks will focus on some of our signature trees, as well as general information on the importance of trees to humans, animals and the environment. Included with admission; free for members.

**Moms are Free on Mother’s Day Weekend!**

**Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

Celebrate Mom at Hershey Gardens! Docents will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer horticulture information. On Sunday only, stop by the Education Center in The Children’s Garden for a rhododendron and azalea display, “The Joy of Eastern Rhododendrons,” provided by the Mason-Dixon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Included in admission; free for members.

**Eco-Fiction Book Club**

Join us! This book club group explores works of eco-fiction which could be nature-oriented (non-human oriented) or environment-oriented (human impacts on nature). Participants are encouraged to read each month’s selection prior to the gathering to fully share in the discussion. Attend one, two or all three meetings!

- **Friday, May 12, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**
  *Birds of a Lesser Paradise* by Megan Mayhew Berman

- **Friday, August 11, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**
  *When There Were Wolves* by Charlotte McConaghy

- **Friday, November 10, 10 – 11:30 a.m.**
  *The Bear* by Andrew Krivak

Book selections for each month can be found at your local public library or at any major retailer. Meetings will be held in the Garden Cottage. Light refreshments will be provided. Included in admission; free for members. Please call 717-508-5970 to register.

**Easter Sunrise Service**

**Sunday, April 9 at 6:30 a.m.**

Welcome Easter by attending this free non-denominational service by the Hershey Ministerium in the Seasonal Display Garden. Gates open at 6 a.m. Coffee and hot chocolate provided by Hershey Lodge. Proceeds support Hershey Food Bank and Love INC. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held under the tent in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Guests must exit by 8 a.m.

**Homeschool Day: Living Things at Night**

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

For students Kindergarten through Grade 6

Discover how adaptations and behaviors of insects, spiders and creatures of the night allow them to survive and thrive in their environments. Take a fascinating closer look at butterfly wings and handle insects and herptiles on our Zoology Zone Cart. Homeschoolers will also get a close-up look at the observation bee hive with the Planet Bee Foundation, engage in a pollinator seed activity and learn about live bats from the Pennsylvania Bat Rescue. Guests are encouraged to arrive early to participate in all of the activities.

$9 per student, $10 per adult; includes admission to Hershey Gardens and the Butterfly Atrium. 

**Registration required here:** closes 48 hours prior to event.

**AMERICAN PUBLIC GARDENS ASSOCIATION**

**Join Us for Go Public Gardens Days!**

May 12 through May 21 is “Go Public Gardens Days,” an initiative by the American Public Gardens Association to encourage the public to visit, value and volunteer at public gardens in their area and when they travel.

**Half-off Admission with Voucher on Friday, May 12**

Celebrate public gardens by visiting Hershey Gardens – and save half off your admission with this voucher. Docents will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to offer horticulture information, and Sarah’s Creamery will offer ice cream for sale from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Annual Iris Show by the Susquehanna Iris Society

Saturday, May 27 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
The Susquehanna Iris Society is proud to showcase their annual show in the Garden Cottage at Hershey Gardens. A rainbow of irises will be on exhibit for judging and awards; see a selection of tall, intermediate and miniature-tall bearded varieties. Representatives will be available to provide additional information and answer questions. Included in admission; free for members.

The Children’s Garden Grand Re-Opening Celebration

Saturday, June 10 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Join us to celebrate the re-opening of the revitalized Children’s Garden! Activities include composting, harvesting and wildflower seed planting demonstrations. Families can enjoy food trucks, crafts inspired by the garden and receive a take-home pollinator seed kit. Visit the Zoology Zone Cart in the Conservatory to see and touch fascinating insects, reptiles and amphibians. Face painting is also offered for an additional fee.

Entertainment Schedule (Amphitheater):
11 a.m. Enjoy music by Steven Courtney, as he shares love, kindness and friendship through music.
1 p.m. ZooAmerica presents “Paws, Claws, Scales and Tails”

Music in the Gardens

Friday, June 16 and Friday, August 4 from 6 - 8 p.m.
Join us for two evenings of beautiful music in the Gardens! Guests are invited to bring their own beverages and snacks, as well as chairs or a blanket.

The Butterfly Atrium will be closed. Regular admission rates apply; free for members.

Gretna Theatre

Gretna Theatre Kids Series presents Curious George: The Golden Meatball
Sunday, August 6 at 1 and 3 p.m.
Join Curious George, the inquisitive, lovable monkey-star of books, movies and the award-winning PBS television show in a brand new musical. Curious George: The Golden Meatball is a lovable adventure, specifically designed for young audiences, that is sure to leave them singing and swinging down the aisles. Included with admission; free for members.

Susquehanna Orchid Society Sale
Saturday, August 12 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Learn more about growing orchids with members from the Susquehanna Orchid Society and then purchase the right orchid for your home environment from local orchid growers and suppliers. Sale located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Included in admission; free for members.

Hershey Area Art Association Show & Sale
Friday, September 1 through Sunday, September 3 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
See fabulous works of art by members of the Hershey Area Art Association in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Included in admission; free for members.

Bug-O-Rama
Sunday, September 10 from 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Join us to see bugs, amphibians and reptiles from around the world and learn about their origin and behavior. Special guests include Penn State Entomology with an interactive insect zoo, Ryan the Bug Man with a variety of native and exotic insects, Pennsylvania Bat Rescue with live bats, and a live observation hive with the Planet Bee Foundation. Guests can also enjoy the Zoology Zone Interactive Cart as well as participate in worm composting and pollinator garden activities. Plus, Sarah’s Creamery will be selling ice cream treats! Included in admission; free for members.

Bob & Linda Pugliese
Bob & Carole Ackerman
Dr. Tom Davis

Dads are Free on Father’s Day!
Sunday, June 18 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
The Annual Penn-Jersey District Rose Show
Saturday, September 16 from 1 p.m. – 5 p.m. and
Sunday, September 17 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Rose lovers rejoice! Members of the Penn-Jersey District of the American Rose Society will have their roses judged and displayed in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Awards are presented in the following classes according to the American Rose Society: horticulture, specimen, novice, floral design and photography. The show operates under standards established by the American Rose Society with ARS Accredited Judges. The show also includes pruning demonstrations and presentations about rose care. Included in admission; free for members.

Member Reception
Tuesday, September 26 from 4:30 - 6 p.m.
Members, look for your invitation in the mail.

Bonsai Exhibit by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club
Wednesday, September 27 through Saturday, October 14 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. Located in the Hoop House located in The Children’s Garden. Included in admission; free for members.

Marvelous Mondays
July 10, 17, 24, 31 and August 7 from 10 a.m. – Noon
Mondays are marvelous at Hershey Gardens! Join us for kids’ crafts, entertainment and story-telling! This year’s special guests include PA Farms to Families Immersion Lab, the Planet Bee Foundation and more! Come back each week to discover new activities. Included in admission; free for members.

Springtime Brings New Projects
Gardeners everywhere know the promise of spring brings the promise of some outdoor improvement projects. This spring, you’ll likely catch a glimpse of Hershey Gardens gardening staff busying themselves with these enhancements.

• The southeast corner of the Japanese Garden will be re-graded and planted with new trees and plants to better reflect the aesthetic of a Japanese Garden, while at the same time greatly improving stormwater runoff. Look for a new pagoda statue and bench as well. New trees include a dwarf weeping Japanese maple, an ornamental plum and a black pine ‘Thunderhead.’

• The Rock Garden is also receiving some clean-up, as a few failing trees and shrubs are being removed to improve sightlines and open up the space. New plantings will include unique dwarf conifers more suited to the area, and rocks are being relocated and added. Improvements in the Rock Garden are in honor of Marcus Sanford.

The Japanese Garden will get some new plantings, a new pagoda statue and a bench, in honor of the retirement of Hershey Trust Company CEO Jan Bratton.
Ready, Set, Science!
June 26-30, Full- and Half-Day options
For ages 7-11
We’ve taken our after-school club topics from 2022-23 and turned them into a fun-filled week-long camp! Get your goggles ready to experiment with chemistry that fizzes, bangs and pops. Make an explosion in a bag, erupt a mini geyser, mix up fizzy bath poppers, elephant toothpaste and other bubbling concoctions! Explore the world of physics and chemistry that exists in toys. Examine how simple machines make work easier and more fun too! Compete with your friends in a pulley race, construct a lever to make a cool catapult, and explore gears. Discover the secret colors in candy, conduct heat sensitive experiments that change color, and make the best bubble solution ever!

Potions, Polymers and Powders Academy
July 17-21, Full- and Half-Day options
For ages 7-11
Is it science or magic? You’ll find out! In our half-day camp you’ll create erupting foam monsters, conduct amazing air pressure experiments, dig for hidden treasures, investigate the science of illusions and build spectrosopes to view the spectrum of different types of light. Stay for the full day and we’ll reveal many mysteries of science as we investigate creepy creatures, learn troll tricks, capture a rainbow in a bottle, make instant snow, mix up glowing slime and conduct lab tests on mystery substances.

Take a Dive
July 24-28, Full- and Half-Day options
For ages 7-11
Dive into the world of marine biology and oceanography! In our half-day camp, you’ll dissect a real shark, participate in a fisherman’s challenge, examine the anatomy of a fish and learn the ancient technique of gyotaku or “fish rubbing”, learn to survive at sea with a homemade solar still, create a kelp forest and make your own submarine. Stay for the full-day camp and come face-to-face with some unique sea creatures! You’ll complete a squid dissection, bring to life genuine Triassic Triops, conduct a whale adaptations lab, and examine many weird wonders that live under the sea!

Far Out Space Academy
July 31-Aug 5, Full- and Half-Day options
For ages 7-11
3…2…1 BLAST OFF to discovering space and flight! Half-day campers will explore the stars and constellations as you take an out-of-this-world sky tour in our homemade planetarium, prepare for lift-off as you build and launch your own rocket while learning about Newton’s Laws of Motion, complete a mission to Mars as you design and build your own model space station and work in engineering teams to construct space capsules that will be used to launch “eggstronauts”! Full-day campers will continue to use their astronaut wits as we build air powered nano-rovers, make craters and dry ice comets, and work with a robotic arm as we learn how astronauts use robots to work on satellites. Come join us on our mission through outer space!

Jr. Investigative Team
Aug. 7-11, Half-Day Only
Ages 4-6 (Pre-K)
Hey there, future Science Explorers, do we have the camp for you! Join our team of curious tiny-techs as we explore a new theme each day. We will create an edible ocean, experiment with a “magic” magnet bottle, investigate butterflies, discover how birds adapt to their environments and make colorful sidewalk chalk! Children are never too young to be scientists!

Our exciting, hands-on approach to science gives children the unique opportunity to conduct exciting and engaging experiments and activities. We make learning science FUN!

Full-day options are $415; half-day options are $240.
For more information and to register for the camps below, please visit scienceexplorers.com

HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE
The Show Must Go On… No Matter What!

Hershey Area Playhouse Summer Camp
July 10 – 21 from 9 a.m. – Noon
For grades 4 – 8
Cost: $275 + registration fees
Instructor: Laurie Miller Petersen
A group of students are set to begin a rehearsal of their play, Saint George and the Dragon, when suddenly their director has an emergency and must leave. The students are left on their own to get through the show without stopping, no matter what! Egos collide, rivalries and crushes interfere, and all manner of missteps occur! The show must go on, but can it?! Join us for a two-week camp and performance. Limited spots available, please register early. Monday rehearsals are at the Playhouse, Tuesday through Friday rehearsals are at Hershey Gardens. The camp will culminate with a full production on Friday, July 21. Learn more and register at HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com
Become a Museum Member Today

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- Discounts in Tastings, Chocolate Lab, Shop & Cafe
- Tour Historic Sites like High Point Mansion & Hershey Theatre
- Friends & Family Days Throughout the Year
- Electronic Newsletters
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Senior Individual: $50  
Individual: $60  
Dual: $100  
Family/Grandfamily: $135  
Flex: $200

Click Here To Join