

# The Children's Garden Revitalization is Complete!

After more than two years of fund-raising, planning and construction, the completed upgrades to The Children's Garden will have you feeling like a kid again!

"Our final projects included whimsical new wayfinding and educational signage, as well as several new benches," said Amy Zeigler, senior director. "A complete overhaul of the landscaping has grown into a lush and colorful backdrop for the new play structures and renovated amphitheater."

"We couldn't be happier with the results of the project," said Zeigler. "We are so grateful to the many donors who helped make the garden a beautiful and enjoyable experience for children and families for years to come!"



## The Children's Garden Improvements

### Rose Compass Court

New color scheme  
Powder-coated light poles and entrance sign  
New sign  
New donor recognition

### Hoop House

New raised beds inside and out  
New trellises  
New potting bench  
Cleaned pond  
New cover

### Chocolate Lane

Replaced wagon with bathtub truck used at the original chocolate factory

### Hugs and Kisses Garden

Repaired and painted pergola  
Repaired, repainted, sealed limestone wall  
Stamped concrete  
Sealed fountain

### Over the Garden Wall

Stamped concrete  
Repaired gate

### Botanical Tunes

New musical element

### Spa-tacular Garden

Stamped concrete

### Fragrance Garden

Relocated to sunnier area  
Stamped concrete

### Education Center

Painted exterior  
New flooring and acoustical panels  
Restrooms - to be completed

### Chocolate Tropics

Re-imagined treehouse with stepper pole  
New boat play structure  
New thatch umbrellas  
New sign depicting growth and harvesting of cocoa trees

### Pretzel Maze

Re-stained concrete

### Three Sisters Garden

Replaced Native American Garden

### Shaded Classroom

Powder-coated tables and chairs with new color scheme  
Added limestone wall

### Shaded Classroom

Powder-coated tables and chairs with new color scheme  
Added limestone wall  
Painted pergola structure

### River Banker's Picnic

Stamped concrete  
Replaced wooden bridge  
Repaired, repainted and sealed limestone bridge

### Bird Blind

Repaired, repainted and sealed limestone  
Replaced cedar structure  
Stamped concrete  
Robin and cardinal painted by MHS student

### Amphitheater

New shade sails  
Repaired and repainted pergola  
Powder-coated seating with new colors  
Repaired, repainted and sealed limestone wall

### Landscape

Planted 20 new trees  
New plants include Black Snakeroot 'Chocoholic', Yarrow 'Firefly Peach Sky' and False Indigo 'Pink Lemonade'

### Overall Garden

New benches  
New signage  
Irrigation repairs and new hose reels





# 10 Questions With...

Denise Morrison, Butterfly Atrium Associate

## What is your role at Hershey Gardens?

As a Butterfly Atrium Associate, I attend to all the needs of the butterflies as well as the insects and arthropods we have on display in the Zoology Zone. As a “bug handler,” I also use insects as a teaching opportunity. I will often take a bug out of its display case and hold it for guests to observe; this way guests can see it up close and learn more about it. Many times, guests who were initially afraid of a particular insect walk away having learned something, which makes them less afraid of it.

## What do you find most enjoyable about your job?

It's hard to choose just one thing. I LOVE interacting with guests by answering their questions, and I try my best to get them excited—or at least appreciative—about insects and other “critters” that are all around us. Looking after some of our non-butterfly friends that the Atrium houses, like the different species of roaches and walking sticks, is so much fun. Working here has allowed me to introduce so many people to these fascinating creatures and the important role they play in the health and well-being of the planet.

## How long have you worked at the Gardens?

I've been at the Gardens for almost six years now! Time flies!

## Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

After graduating from Millersville University with a degree in Art Education, I lived in Japan for three years and taught English to Japanese students! After moving back to Pennsylvania, I taught art to middle school students in Lancaster City. Then, I took a break from teaching to raise my three (beautiful and lovely) children.

## How did you get interested in insects?

Lots of time outdoors with my children exposed me to more of my garden. From there, my interest in native plants and the creatures



that rely on them really took off. Over the last 15 years, I've transformed our grassy lawn into a wildlife-friendly habitat.

## How has your background helped you in your current position at the Gardens?

I think my background in education has made it easy for me to interact with guests. I hope they can sense my enthusiasm for our insects, and I try to inspire them to look more closely at all the cool creatures out there. I think that's what a good teacher can do.

## What do you like to do in your spare time?

I spend most of my spare time nurturing the habitat I created in our backyard and documenting what I see in nature journals.

Besides spending tons of time planting and tending to pollinator gardens around my home and my town, I enjoy illustrating or photographing my finds. Most of the art I still do is centered on the natural world.

## You're a music and sports fan, too?

Yes! I am a big fan of many genres of music, from classical to bluegrass to punk. My husband and I can often be found near a mosh pit at small concert venues in Philadelphia. My husband is from Liverpool, England, so we also like watching the Liverpool Football Club (which is actually soccer). I love ice hockey, too. My favorite team is the Hershey Bears, of course!

## You have your own collection of animals and insects?

It's true! We have three cats, a tarantula, a tailless whip scorpion and some hissing cockroaches. I sometimes find and catch other insects that I'll research to learn more, but I always release them.

## Do you have a favorite part of the Gardens?

I love The Children's Garden, especially the Hoop House. It is so much fun! I used to take my kids there (and to the former outdoor Butterfly House) when they were much younger. I also love to see the native plants and the perennials, and the trees of the Arboretum. Okay, I guess I have a lot of favorites!



Denise's illustration of Red-banded Hairstreak.



Denise's illustrations depict both flora and fauna.

# A Few of My Favorite Plants...

by Alyssa Hagarman, Horticulture Manager

Anyone who knows me knows that I love all plants. In fact, I have a funny little sign at my desk that reads, “Once there was a girl who loved plants. It was me! The end.”

I am often asked about my favorite plant. My reply is always the same – I can’t pick just one! However, I do have favorites in each plant category: tree, shrub, perennial and annual.

My favorite deciduous tree is Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*). I love this tree’s bark. It has this beautiful cinnamon color and it’s exfoliating, which gives it textural interest in the winter months. The fall color is amazing as well; the perfectly green leaves turn a stunning scarlet red when fall approaches.

Hydrangeas are my favorite shrub, especially white varieties. The panicle hydrangeas always get my attention; their blooms remind me of huge ice cream cones or big, puffy clouds.



Paperbark Maple (*Acer griseum*)

The last two types of plants, perennials and annuals, are probably the hardest for me to narrow down to just one simply because there are so many to choose from. As far as perennials, I like native, pollinator-attracting plants. Plants like purple coneflower, Joe Pye weed and yarrow—they are so easy to take care of and they require little maintenance. Also, with natives becoming more popular, the green industry is hybridizing these plants to give us more color and size options to choose from.



Panicle hydrangeas

And finally, annuals. I am really partial to summer snapdragon (*Angelonia*). This plant comes in a variety of shades of purple, pinks and white, and even some bi-colored varieties are now available. It is a true performer in the landscape or in a container, and you may even see a bumblebee or hummingbird visiting these plants.

If you haven’t tried my favorite plants at home, give them a try. You won’t be disappointed!

## Don’t “Frog-et” To Meet the New Tree Frogs in the Butterfly Atrium

The Butterfly Atrium is home to hundreds of butterflies from all over the world. Recently, other fascinating creatures have taken up residence with the butterflies. Among the most engaging are the “White’s tree frogs,” named Kermit and Paco. With their cute, bulgy eyes and perpetual grins, these amphibians can’t help but attract attention.

“White’s tree frogs are large arboreal frogs native to Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Indonesia. Kermit and Paco are displayed in a glass case in the Atrium’s Zoology Zone, and they can usually be found sleeping in plain view,” said Jody Santos, Conservatory Manager. “Being nocturnal, they sleep during the day, but they can be easily roused for a feeding session, day or night - these frogs are eating machines! Once their feeding response is triggered, they hurl themselves, mouths wide open, at anything in the vicinity remotely resembling food.”

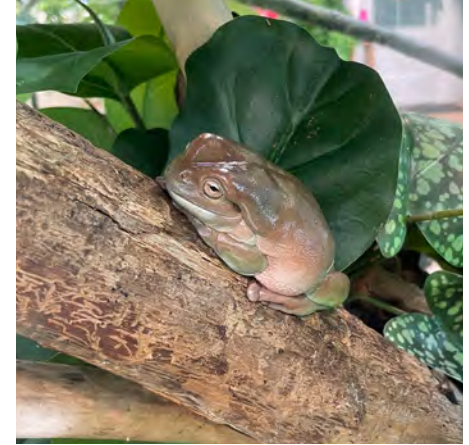
Their favorite food item is a Dubia roach, and each frog will eat four or five at a time. “Their primary keeper, Sarah,



Kermit

regularly takes each frog out of its enclosure for public feeding sessions, exercise and behavioral enrichment,” said Santos. “The frogs are encouraged to climb her hands as though climbing a ladder, jump from one area to another, and take their prey offered with tongues. Guests are fascinated by Kermit and Paco and enjoy watching them interact with Sarah.”

“They are sometimes called ‘Dumpy’ tree frogs, and they aren’t the most grace-



Paco

ful jumpers, which adds to their charm,” smiled Santos. “With a seeming lack of any forethought or planning, they spring haphazardly from one surface to the next, relying on their large grippy toe pads to catch them.”

Flutter by the Butterfly Atrium soon to see the adventures of Kermit and Paco. And in between visits, follow the frog fun on Instagram @kermitandpaco!



# Arboretum's Four Seasons Statues To Be Replaced

Statues Honor the Creation of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence

In 2008, Hershey Gardens installed the Four Seasons Statues as a dedication to the retirement of Susan Kelly-Dreiss, long-serving executive director of the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence (PCADV).

Kelly-Dreiss lives on "Pat's Hill," which is located directly behind Hershey Gardens. It was at her kitchen table that a small group of women came together in 1976 to create the nation's first state domestic violence coalition.

"Since their installation in 2008, thousands of Hershey Gardens visitors have enjoyed the statues and read the placard describing the PCADV's work," said Kelly-Dreiss. "However, when the statues were installed, we didn't realize that their internal elements included iron. Unfortunately, within a few years the iron created a 'bleed' of rust on the surface of the statues."

"Hershey Gardens attempted to address the rust by sanding and painting the surface of the statues several times," said Kelly-Dreiss. "Sadly, the problem has only grown worse."

In the past year, numerous problem-solving methods were considered and experts



Hershey Gardens' new Four Seasons statues are similar to these, but will be created in marble white and set on pedestals.

were consulted. "A common recommendation emerged: replace the statues with concrete versions that won't rust," said Kelly-Dreiss. "I volunteered to do the fundraising necessary to pay for the replacement statues. The total cost is \$3,599."

The new statues will be installed in the arboretum at Hershey Gardens in mid-September. New landscaping around the statues will be planted later this fall and in the spring.

**Please consider financially supporting the new statues. To donate online, please [click here](#).** Simply select "I would like to dedicate this donation" and type in "Four Seasons Statues." Checks can also be mailed to Hershey Gardens, 170 Hotel Road, Hershey, PA 17033. Hershey Gardens is an operating division of The M.S. Hershey Foundation, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, so your donation is tax deductible, as allowed by law.

## Thank you, Volunteers!

Throughout the summer, 21 teens volunteered their time to connect guests and families to the natural world.

"They also built professional skills, socially connected with their peers, and most importantly, they gained a better understanding of their unique impact on the community," said Rebecca Lawrence, manager of education. "Working alongside gardening and education staff, they spent over 600 hours assisting with public programs, beautifying the grounds, and continuing the work of cultivating and harvesting fruits and vegetables."

"Their efforts helped create more than 360 pounds of produce for families in the Cocoa Packs program," said Lawrence. "That's pretty remarkable."



Ella and Raya proudly show their harvest of Chinese red noodle beans and squash to donate to Cocoa Packs.



Addilyn helps with the butterfly puddling station during a Marvelous Monday event.



# Coming Soon...Mums!

This Year's Display to Feature More Than 1,400 Colorful Mums

If chrysanthemums are your favorite fall flower, you won't want to miss this year's vibrant mum display!

"We are planting eight varieties representing a wide range of colors," said Alyssa Hagarman, horticulture manager. "Of course, we'll have the traditional red, yellow and orange, but we'll also be featuring white, pink and purple mums, plus two varieties that are bi-colored."

"All of our mums are grown by a local wholesale grower," said Hagarman. "When they are ready to bloom, the gardening staff and volunteers get busy planting."

"We have a very efficient method to get more than 1,400 mums planted in just two days," said Hagarman. "The mums are grown in 8-inch containers, which are removed when they are placed into the ground. The gardening staff use a gas-powered auger to drill holes into the beds. The auger's bit is exactly 8 inches - a perfect fit; one mum gets planted into each hole. Once the mums are in the ground, they are watered and left to bloom until the end of the season."

"I love chrysanthemums; they are the perfect flower to extend the blooming season into the fall," said Hagarman. "I can't imagine a brisk fall day without them."



## Look for These Chrysanthemum Varieties at Hershey Gardens This Fall



Pobo Red



Stacy Dazzling Orange



Adiva Purple



Addison White



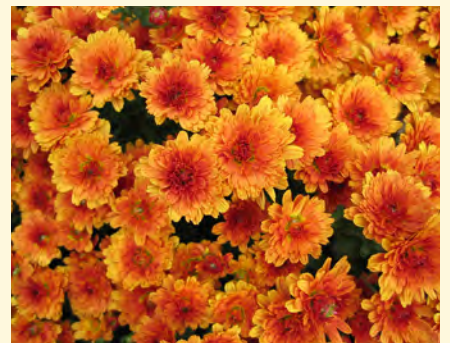
Mary Yellow



Makenzie White



Stacy Pink



Aubrey Orange

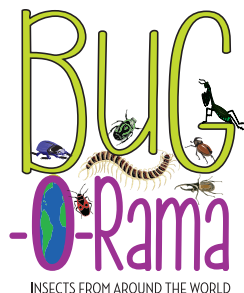


# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

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

Not a member? Join Now!

Please check [HersheyGardens.org](http://HersheyGardens.org) for event updates.



This year's expanded Bug-O-Rama will feature an array of unique insects from around the world, as well as small reptiles including snakes, lizards, frogs and geckos. Join us for this family-friendly hands-on day, and participate in a variety of fun bug activities including the creation of a take-home mason bee house with the Butterbee Foundation! Special guests include Penn State Entomological Outreach program, Ryan "The Bug Man," PA Bat Rescue, SayBees Apiary – The Keys to Bees, Planet Bee Foundation and more! [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

## Bug-O-Rama

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



## Junior Scout "Flowers" Badge Workshop

Sunday, September 17 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Junior Scouts, earn your "Flowers" Gardener badge by exploring the science and meaning of flowers! Price includes a "Flowers" badge and general admission to Hershey Gardens and the Penn-Jersey District Rose Show. After purchasing your ticket online, present it at the Scout information table to receive a checklist of activities to complete between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

**\$20 per Scout, \$14.50 per Scout leader**

General admission ticket required for accompanying family members.

Pre-registration is required here.



## 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. Exhibit located in the Hoop House, located in The Children's Garden.

## Art Exhibit by Chris Dillon

Friday, September 22 through  
Friday, September 29  
from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily

See the magnificent works of local artist Chris Dillon, who focuses on abstract and fluid art. Fluid art is the process of pouring thin, fluid acrylic paint on a canvas to create unique pieces of art. [Click here to learn more about the artist and see his work.](#)

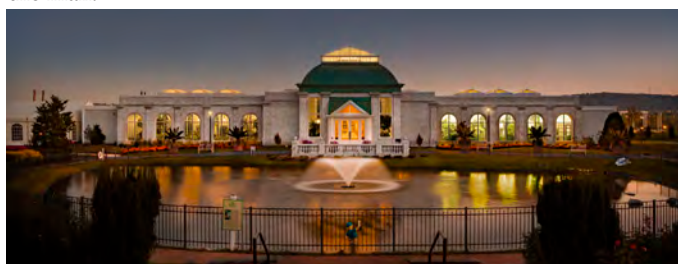
Exhibit located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.



## Member Reception

Tuesday, September 26 from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Members, join us for an evening of wine and cheese as you listen to live music and stroll the grounds. Look for your invitation in the mail!



## Brownie "Bugs" Badge Workshop

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

Scouts, earn your "Bugs" Brownie badge during the "Bug O' Rama" event! Price includes a "Bugs" badge, as well as general admission to Hershey Gardens. After purchasing your ticket online, present it at the Scout information table to receive a checklist of activities to complete between 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please arrive by 2 p.m. to complete all activities to earn your badge!

**\$14.50 per Scout, \$14.50 per Scout leader**

General admission ticket required for accompanying family members.

Pre-registration is required here.



## The Annual Penn-Jersey District Rose Show: "Celebrating Life's Happy Moments with Roses"

Saturday, September 16 from 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

and Sunday, September 17 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. On Saturday afternoon, 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 younger guests, will be hosted by Hershey Gardens staff and volunteers. [See the full schedule of events here.](#)



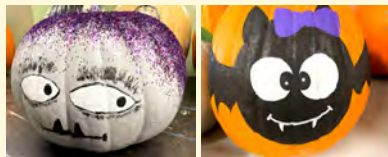
# Pumpkin Palooza

Saturdays and Sundays, October 21, 22, 28 & 29  
from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Kids, come in costume and trick or treat at three candy stations, enjoy beautiful painted pumpkin displays, walk through pumpkin arches, see a unique "pumpkin tree," as well as pumpkin mosaic works of art! Plus, experience the Creepy Creatures Gallery full of spellbinding reptiles, amphibians and insects. Guests can also enjoy live entertainment, food trucks and hundreds of mums on display. [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

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## Celebrate the Holidays at Hershey Gardens

### The Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 24 through Monday, January 1 from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

(Closed Thanksgiving and Christmas Day)

### New! Friday Night Lights!

Every Friday in December  
from 4:30 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Enjoy the twinkling lights of the indoor Christmas Tree Showcase and live holiday music from 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Music schedule:

**Appalachian Breeze:** December 1, 8 & 15

**Segno Duet:** December 22

**Jake Nguyen:** December 29

### THE Christmas Tree SHOWCASE



Thomas Davis

PNC  
Sponsors

### Crafty Christmas Creations

November 25, 26, December 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, 31 from 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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



### Visit with Santa Claus & Mrs. Claus

Ho, Ho, Ho.... Santa Claus is Coming to Town! Kids, visit with Santa on Sunday, December 10 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Hear Mrs. Claus read stories on Saturday, December 9 and Saturday, December 16 from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.



### "A Plan Forward: Local Climate Action"

### Panel Style Presentation by Manada Conservancy

Thursday, November 2 at 7 p.m.

Pennsylvania recently adopted a statewide "Climate Action Plan" to reduce emissions. What does that mean for local residents and townships? In this panel-style presentation, representatives will discuss the state's climate action plan and how local townships can use research tools to create their own climate action plans. Panel includes Becky Wills, Derry Township Climate Change Advisory Committee, Brandi Robinson, Penn State University and Christopher Nafe, Energy Programs Office, PA Department of Environmental Protections. Free to attend. Please register by contacting Manada Conservancy at 717.566.4122 or via email at [office@manada.org](mailto:office@manada.org).



### Eco-Fiction Book Group

Friday, November 10 from 10 - 11:30 a.m.

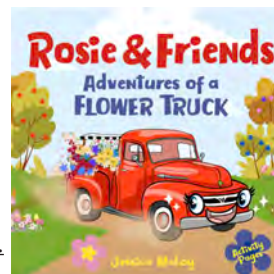
*The Bear* by Andrew Krivak

Join us! This book club group explores works of eco-fiction, which could be nature-oriented or environment-oriented (human impacts on nature). Participants are encouraged to read the book prior to the gathering to fully share in the discussion. Meetings will be held in the Garden Cottage. Light refreshments will be provided. Please call 717.508.5970 to register.

### Rosie & Friends, Adventures of a Flower Truck Book Signing and Meet the Real Rosie!

Sunday, December 10 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

*Rosie & Friends, Adventures of a Flower Truck* by Jessica Maloy of Palmyra Greenhouse is a delightful story of an old truck and her transformation into a beautiful flower truck. Pose for pictures with Rosie, the Flower Truck. Copies of Rosie & Friends will be available for purchase and signing. [To pre-purchase copies, click here.](#)



### Join Us for a Wreath Workshop!

Saturday, December 2 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and

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

Kick off the holiday season at Hershey Gardens' annual wreath workshop! Participants will learn how to make a beautiful seasonal wreath with a variety of fresh greens collected from Hershey Gardens' grounds. A continuous wire wrap technique will be taught, in which greens are bundled and secured to an 18-inch wreath form. The result is a lovely, fragrant, long-lasting seasonal decoration perfect for displaying on a door or above a fireplace mantel. All tools and supplies are provided; refreshments will be served.



Led by Jody Santos, Conservatory Manager

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

Advance registration is required here, beginning on Monday, October 16. Class sizes are limited; register early!

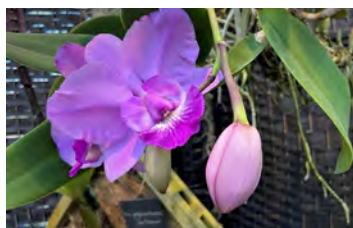


## For the Love of Orchids, Annual Orchid Show and Sale Susquehanna Orchid Society

**Member-Only Preview: Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 2 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

**Open to the Public: Friday, February 2 to Sunday, February 4, 2024  
from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

The Susquehanna Orchid Society presents its 40th annual orchid show and sale 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 national awards. To see a schedule of events, starting in early January, please click [here](#).



## Fall Homeschool Day

### All About Botany

For students Kindergarten through grade 6

**Tuesday, October 3 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.**

Botany is the scientific study of plant life from biological structures to how plants function. Take a deeper look into the anatomy of plants, their life cycles and how they benefit our ecosystem. Learn how pollinators rely on plant structures to do their job! Visit our guest, the Butterbee Foundation, to discover how bees convert nectar to honey and how other popular pollinators prepare for seasonal changes. Join the Susquehanna Bonsai Club to discover what processes take place when they remove a leaf or branch to create miniature versions of trees and shrubs. \$11 per student, \$13 per adult.

Pre-registration required [here](#) prior to October 1.



## PennState Extension Upcoming Events

**The Penn State Extension Master Gardeners of  
Dauphin County has some exciting opportunities for you!**

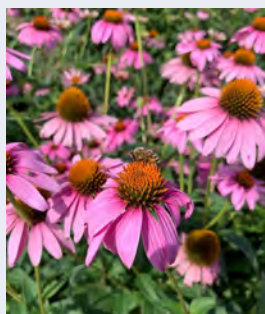


Photo Credit: Audree Khalishah, Extension Educator, Master Gardener Coordinator

### Walk & Talk with a Master Gardener

Soak in the beauty of our parks and demonstration gardens in the height of summer. See what's blooming and learn about the plants and flowers. This program is supported by Dauphin County Parks & Recreation and Highmark Blue Shield's "Get Healthy" initiative.

**October 13 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. at  
Wildwood Park.**

### Trees, Plants & Landscapes Photography Workshop

Learn the basics of photography and how to capture the beauty of nature in its purest form. This workshop will teach you everything you need to know about taking stunning photos.

**September 30 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. at the  
Historic Harrisburg Cemetery.**



### 2023 Speaker's Series

Our last two talks of the year will feature an in-depth discussion about ferns, the ancient and often underused plants, and a deep-dive into gardening for wildlife, and how it can be both beautiful and functional. This program is in collaboration with Dauphin County's Wildwood Park.

**October 28 and November 8 from 9:30  
to 11:00 a.m. at Olewine Nature Center  
(Wildwood Park).**

Photo Credit: Kevin Kelly,  
Dauphin County Master Gardener



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