

Coming Soon: The Tulip Extravaganza!

Hershey Gardens to Feature More Than 27,000 Tulips This Spring

Spring has arrived, and with it the much anticipated tulip display at Hershey Gardens. This year, guests can immerse themselves in a vibrant sea of 27,500 tulips, showcasing 39 unique varieties. From delicate pastels to bold, striking hues, this season's display will be a showstopper.

"We will be featuring 19 new cultivars, along with some of my previous favorites," said Alyssa Hagarman, horticulture specialist. "In addition to the tulips, we also added bulbs to the Senses Garden: a foxtail lily mix - Fritillaria 'Twin Towers Tribute' and Spanish bluebells."



Dreamer tulip

The tradition of tulip displays at Hershey Gardens dates back to 1942, when the first seasonal exhibit was introduced to herald the arrival of spring.

Over the decades, this display has continued, captivating guests with its beauty and variety.

"I have a few favorite varieties this year," said Hagarman. "'Dreamer' is probably the

one I'm most looking forward to seeing. The double bloom makes this tulip have a peony like look and the soft, apple-pink petals are the perfect color for ushering in the spring season."



Silver Cloud tulips

"'Silver Cloud' is named after the Rolls Royce Silver Cloud. This tulip opens as a lilac-silver, flushed pink-lilac, and then matures to very pale lilac-silver with pale pink flushes," said Hagarman. "So, no matter the age of the bloom, it's always looking great."

"'Daydream' appears orange near the middle of each rounded petal and spreads towards the margins, leaving the base of the petal yellow around the small dark blotch," said Hagarman.



Daydream tulips

"The flower is large, and a group of this

tulip will contain a bright mix of yellows and oranges, varying in intensity."

"'Mariette' has won the most awards of the lily flowering tulips," said Hagarman.



Mariette tulips

"Being the most highly decorated of all lily flowering tulips, this 1942 heirloom is a luminous satin-rose with slightly paler petal edges and a lovely white base."

Look for these tulips along with other gorgeous varieties this spring. Be sure to keep an eye on our website or our Facebook page for bloom updates!

TulipWatch2025



[Click here to follow us on Facebook for bloom updates!](#)

Rose Garden Pavilion: A Stunning New Addition to Hershey Gardens

Capital Campaign Nearing Its Goal



Hershey Gardens is thrilled to announce the upcoming Rose Garden Pavilion, an elegant expansion of the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. Set to open in fall 2026, this beautifully designed structure will add 3,300 square feet of program and event space, offering guests breathtaking views of the Historic Rose Garden, Swan Lake and several magnificent specimen trees.

Replacing the seasonal tent at the Conservatory's east end, the Pavilion will provide a year-round venue for a variety of events. "This expansion allows us to enhance our offerings for school field trips, host larger flower shows like the popular Susquehanna Orchid Society Show and Sale, and accommodate more weddings and corporate gatherings," said Amy Zeigler, senior director. "A spacious terrace

“Many have chosen to honor loved ones by sponsoring a transom window or pendant light, creating a meaningful and lasting family legacy.”

will also be constructed, creating additional space for special events such as Music in the Gardens.”

Designed with artistry in mind, the Pavilion will feature ten custom-designed stained-glass transom windows, each adorned with elegant red roses, along with flower-shaped pendant lights that will complement the surrounding gardens.

“The capital campaign has been quite successful, with many donors excited about the unique naming opportunities,” said Zeigler. “Many have chosen to honor loved ones by sponsoring a transom window or pendant light, creating a meaningful and lasting family legacy.”

To learn more about the Rose Garden Pavilion and how you can contribute to this exciting project, please visit HersheyGardens.org. Pledges of any amount are welcome and can be paid over five years. Please consider joining us in this lasting legacy to Mr. Hershey and his original rose garden.

10 Questions With...

Lauren Daems, Chair, Hershey Gardens Advisory Board & Co-Chair, Rose Garden Pavilion Capital Campaign

Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in northern New Jersey and moved to Hershey with my parents in 1974. I attended Derry Township/Hershey schools and enjoyed serving in many leadership roles in my junior and senior years that prepared me for my future. While I was in college, I had a great opportunity to have an internship in Hersheypark's marketing department and an externship at The Hershey Company. After graduating from Penn State, I began working for a pharmaceutical company, Eli Lilly and Company, where I held roles in sales, marketing and human resources. My husband, Peter, and I were married in Hershey and lived in the Philadelphia area. We recently decided to move back to Hershey.

What is your involvement with Hershey Gardens?

I began serving on Hershey Gardens' Advisory Board in 2018 and have been chair of the board for the last few years. I recently became co-chair of the Rose Garden Pavilion Capital Campaign. I am excited to see the Gardens continue to grow and serve the community in many ways! Visiting the Gardens with family and friends has been something I have enjoyed since childhood, whether it be admiring the tulips in springtime, enjoying the Butterfly Atrium, or strolling through the Christmas tree display. I had the opportunity to become more involved in 2003 with the capital campaign for the new Children's Garden. I am currently enjoying volunteering, too.

What are your volunteer roles at the Gardens?

I enjoy volunteering in different capacities at Hershey Gardens, as it gives me the opportunity to have varied experiences, whether it be helping children with crafts during Pumpkin Palooza, assisting school groups, serving as a greeter to visitors in the Conservatory, or informing guests about wildflowers and native plants during Earth Day.

You also volunteer at other organizations?

In addition to volunteering at the Gardens, I recently served on the Derry Presbyterian Church's 300th Anniversary committee and serve as a volunteer with the Music Therapy department at Masonic Village Health Care Center.



How do you see the Rose Garden Pavilion improving the educational experience at Hershey Gardens?

The new Pavilion will expand the indoor space needed to provide a year-round experience for visiting school groups, allowing them to have a covered place to learn and to eat lunch away from the elements, especially during the winter months. Family activities that would normally be outdoors under the tent will now take place under full protection from rain and snow. The Pavilion will also increase the number of horticultural exhibits and displays that can be held at the Gardens, as well as expand space for existing horticultural events like the orchid show by providing room for additional displays and allowing for an increased number of vendors.

We hear that you're an avid traveler. What are some of your favorite places?

Yes! My husband and I thoroughly enjoy traveling. My first trip abroad was with my parents, where we enjoyed Zermatt and the Matterhorn in Switzerland and traveled through the Black Forest of Germany. Later this year, I will travel to my sixth continent, Africa! Peter and I recently climbed to the summit of the Sydney Harbor Bridge, went dogsledding on a glacier outside of Juneau, Alaska and enjoyed the local foods, drink and olive oil throughout the northern and Tuscan regions of Italy.

What are your fondest memories of growing up in Hershey?

My fondest memories revolve around making lifelong friendships with former schoolmates, playing with the neighborhood kids in our backyards, attending various con-

certs at Hersheypark Stadium like Whitney Houston in the mid-80s, graduating in the historic Hershey Theatre, being interviewed live on TV at The Hotel Hershey at my senior prom, and attending Friday night football games with friends then walking to DA's for pizza!

You have an interesting story about how you met your husband. Do tell!

My husband and I met while I was on a trip to the Baltic Sea area and he was the cruise director. Interestingly, my parents actually met each other abroad in Copenhagen, and I met Peter on a cruise leaving from Copenhagen. A few years later, Peter and I got engaged in beautiful Antarctica next to the penguins swimming and the gorgeous glacier backdrop!

Do you have any hobbies?

Yes—traveling near and far, meeting new people, learning about different cultures and admiring unique architecture. I have enjoyed singing over the years in high school, college, for friends' weddings, in church and now at Masonic Village. I have interest in photography, antiquing, decorating, swimming, Penn State football, gardening and tennis.

What is your favorite part of the Gardens?

It's hard to name just one favorite! The Children's Garden...seeing children enjoy and interact with the various themed sections like the Hershey's Kiss misters and the Hoop House, where school students have the opportunity to plant and then watch their crops grow. The Butterfly Atrium...looking for the many varieties of butterflies, colors, sizes and pointing out the cacao tree and the dangling pods. Of course, the amazing tulip display each spring. The tulip is my favorite flower and my husband is originally from the tulip capitol of the world, the Netherlands!





Connecting the Dots Between Native Insects and the Great Outdoors

By Nate Reagle, Insect Conservation Advocate

People enjoy outdoor recreation for many reasons, from hiking and camping to simply unwinding in nature. While botany may not be your primary interest, it's hard to imagine the outdoors without the vibrant colors of native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees.

When you think of pollinators, bees and butterflies likely come to mind. But many other insects—including beetles, flies, moths, and wasps—also play a crucial role in pollination. Native pollinators rely on native plants, and in turn, many shrubs and trees depend on insect pollinators to reproduce.

Some plants go even further, relying on insects not just for pollination but also for seed dispersal. Take spring ephemeral wildflowers, for example—they depend on ants to carry their seeds away from the parent plant. These seeds come with a small, nutrient-rich food packet that entices ants to pick them up. Once the ants consume the food, they discard the seed in their waste piles, creating the perfect conditions for germination.



Beyond pollination, native insects like beetles, wasps and flower-visiting flies provide natural pest control, keeping harmful insects in check and maintaining a balanced ecosystem. Insects also play a vital role in bird populations—many baby birds rely on a high-protein insect diet to grow and develop, and some bird species continue this diet into adulthood.

Without native insects, nature would be much quieter and less colorful. The next time you head outdoors, take a moment to notice and appreciate these small but essential creatures!

Help Protect Native Insects!

Here are a few simple ways to support insect diversity:

- Plant pesticide-free native vegetation. If space is limited, many native plants thrive in pots.
- Leave some plant stems and fallen leaves over winter to provide shelter for overwintering insects.
- Protect pollinator habitats by reducing or eliminating insecticide use.
- Switch to yellow outdoor lights, which attract fewer insects than white lights.
- Install light shielding and motion detectors to minimize unnecessary nighttime illumination.

By taking these small steps, you can help ensure that our native insects—and the ecosystems that depend on them—continue to thrive.

We ♥ Homeschool Families! Join Us for Homeschool Days

Spring Homeschool Day: Spring into Birding

Tuesday, April 15 from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | For grades K – 12

Hershey Gardens is home to many migratory and resident birds. Discover what makes a great habitat, learn about their amazing adaptations and conservation efforts to protect our backyard and birds of prey.

Special Guests:

“Bird Banding Conservation in our Local Community”
Katie Hess, Curator, Animal Care, ZooAmerica
Quittapahilla Audubon Society
PA Game Commission

Timed Presentations:

10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Birds of Prey* with Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

*Due to statewide concerns of the highly pathogenic avian influenza, they may not bring live birds of prey.



\$11 per student, \$13 per adult; includes admission to Hershey Gardens and the **Butterfly Atrium**.

Registration required [here](#); closes on April 13.

Fall Homeschool Day: Green Careers

Tuesday, September 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Gain insights into outdoor careers, from horticulture to conservation and sustainability. Explore the garden as we highlight our careers at Hershey Gardens and welcome special guests from the industry.



\$11 per student, \$13 per adult; includes admission to Hershey Gardens and the **Butterfly Atrium**.

Registration required, starting August 1.



Mulch Much?

A Gardener's Guide to Mulch

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

The scents of spring often include the earthy smell of organic mulches being applied to landscapes. If you take part in this annual gardening ritual, here are some things to know to help you make the best use of mulch for your garden's appearance and your plants' health.

Why mulch?

Shrubs and perennials floating like neat islands in a sea of landscape mulch has become a popular garden look. Beyond aesthetics, mulch does serve a purpose. It preserves soil moisture, evens out soil temperature, reduces erosion, and prevents weed seeds from sprouting. Organic mulches can even add nutrients to the soil as they slowly decompose.

What kind of mulch should you use?

I recommend organic mulches for the ornamental landscape. Here is a brief guide to their characteristics.

Bark - Mulches made from tree bark are attractive and resist compaction. The chunkier they are, the longer they will last. Bark mulch that is shredded more finely might be a better choice for areas that are subject to water runoff.

Arborist Wood Chips - This type of mulch is made from the trunks and branches of trees. It consists of both wood and bark, and the particles are of an uneven size. Popular wisdom once held that these chips should be aged so as not to draw nitrogen from the soil as they decompose. However, research has shown that this is not the case.

Cocoa Shells - Made from the hulls of cocoa beans, cocoa shell mulch is usually only available in packaged form. It is an acceptable organic mulch, but since the hulls are light, they tend to blow away when dry.



Pine Needles - Also called pine straw, pine needles are a great, natural choice. Despite the fact that we associate pines (and other needled trees) with acidity, pine needles used as mulch will not significantly affect the pH of your soil.

Leaves - You can save your autumn leaves, shred them with a mulching lawn mower, and use them as mulch. They will break down more quickly than other organic mulches, but this is beneficial for your soil.

Be cautious using these mulches:

Dyed Wood Chips - The dye itself in artificially-colored mulches is not harmful. However, you should be aware that dyed mulch is made from pressure-treated wood, which often comes from recycled pallets and construction waste. These materials may contain elements that are detrimental to the soil. They are used to make dyed mulches since they absorb the dye more easily than fresh wood chips.

Landscape Fabric - Based on published research and my own observations, I would not recommend landscape fabric. Though it may be advertised as semi-permeable, it still restricts airflow, water and movement of soil microbes, which is not healthy for the soil. If it is topped with bark or wood mulch for aesthetic purposes, a layer of weeds usually develops on top. These can send roots down through the landscape fabric, making both the weeds and the fabric hard to remove.

Black Plastic - You may have observed black plastic used by professional growers underneath rows of vegetables. This serves the purpose of warming the soil, retaining moisture and suppressing weeds. However, this is not a model that should be followed in an ornamental landscape. Professional growers usually do not leave black plastic in place the entire growing season. If you use black plastic as mulch in your landscape beds for a growing season, it can smother the soil and kill beneficial soil organisms. Although some black plastic is biodegradable, it still can take several seasons to decompose.

Stone - Stone mulch is considered inorganic since it does not decompose like wood, pine needles and leaves. A layer of stone is not very effective at controlling weeds. The stones tend to sink into the soil, making them difficult to replace. White stones will cause more heat to reflect on the plants, especially in a sunny bed.

Mulching Do's and Don'ts

Don't mulch heavily against stems and tree trunks. This will hold moisture against the plant and makes an ideal cover for burrowing pests. Avoid the "mulch volcano" - a high mound of mulch around a tree trunk.

Don't mulch too deeply. Generally, research universities such as Penn State recommend between 2 to 4 inches of mulch. Recent research from Dr. Linda Chalker-Scott at Washington State University recommends wood chips at a depth of 4 to 6 inches. The bottom line is that you do not want your organic mulch to be so thick that it smothers the soil like an inorganic mulch.

Do consider "green mulch" or growing ground-cover plants at the base of larger

perennials, shrubs and trees.

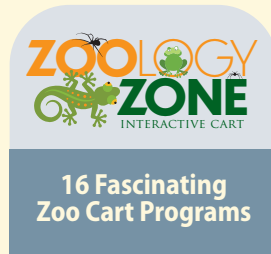
Do beware of artillery fungus. This fungus is sometimes found in bark and wood mulches and can shoot tar-like specks of spores onto your house or even your car. These specks are very difficult to remove. If you notice specks accumulating on a surface, consider removing existing mulch and leaving the soil bare in this area.

Don't let mulch take precedence over your plants! Nobody wants mulch to be the best feature of their landscape. Many shrubs and perennials, especially native plants, are happy growing cheek to cheek. Mulching between them can often just be a tool to help them get established.



HERSHEY GARDENS BY THE NUMBERS: 12 Busy Weeks of School Field Trips!

If you've ever wondered what magic happens behind the scenes of school visits - here it is, by the numbers!



New! Garden Shop Features Unique Floral Jewelry

Shrieking Violet is one of the newest jewelry lines to be added to the Garden Shop. "This floral jewelry comes from Hertfordshire in the United Kingdom, located just north of London," said Eileen Daub, retail manager. "It features real flowers encapsulated in resin with sterling silver and gold-plated hardware. The flowers and plants featured include roses, forget-me-nots, daisies, four leaf clovers, sunflowers, poppies and more - all set into various jewelry items, including bracelets, necklaces and rings." Each piece also includes information about the meaning of each flower.

The creator's website, flowerjewelry.com, tells the story of Shrieking Violet. "It began back in the late 20th century in a field at the legendary Glastonbury music festival. In those days, after long nights spent dancing, we would head to the monumental Stone Circle, and watch the sun rise up over the gorgeous fields of Somerset. After spotting a lone daisy reaching for the early morning sunlight, a spark was born that eventually led to us capturing those natural wonders in jewelry," the website reads.



Shrieking Violet also proudly supports charitable initiatives. For every piece of jewelry sold, one tree is planted through Ecologi and the Eden Reforestation Project to help with soil degradation, to provide habitat, shelter, shade and food, and to improve the health and economy in local communities and more. "Their butterfly-shaped jewelry is offered through a partner-

ship with the Royal Entomological Society to raise funds and awareness," said Daub. "A donation is made with every sale from this collection."

"Stop by and check out this beautiful new jewelry and let us know your favorites," said Daub. "They make great gifts for the flower lovers in your life."

The Art of Butterfly Pinning

By Denise Morrison, Lead Butterfly Atrium Associate

Open the doors to the Butterfly Atrium and you are immediately struck by the rainforest-levels of humidity, but also by the many gorgeous varieties of butterflies!

There are over 400 Lepidoptera butterflies and moths in the world, and 30 of them can be found in the Atrium. Some of the more common species are *Morpho peleides*, *Caligo atreus*, *Heliconius melpomene*. Atrium guests can often experience many of these extraordinary butterflies, but Lepidoptera have relatively short lifespans of two to three weeks. As a result, guests don't always get to see every variety - that's when our displays of preserved specimens are amazing resources.

There are two display cabinets in the Conservatory: one on the lower level and one in the main lobby. In both cabinets, you can examine up-close the stunning details of not just butterfly wings, but other fascinating insects and specimens like jungle nymphs, tarantula molts and snake sheds. With the exception of the large displays of Lepidoptera in the downstairs cabinet, donated from the personal collection of Hershey Gardens staffer Randy Swank, all of the other specimens have been acquired from our own Butterfly Atrium and Gardens grounds.

A common question Atrium associates are asked is, "What happens to your butterflies after they die?" The simple response is that all of them are required to go through a deep freeze process in order to kill any pathogens. Most are then discarded. But some can be carefully preserved and exhibited for educational display. I became interested in learning how to preserve deceased insects after realizing there was a great opportunity to display some of the butterflies that were being discarded.

How, exactly, do you get a dead butterfly to look nice enough to exhibit? After all, they don't always expire with their wings splayed, revealing those stunning wing designs. And after a



A common birdwing, *Troides helena*, on the pinning board.

short time, their bodies are no longer soft, but stiff and brittle, making them difficult to handle. While the process of pinning Lepidoptera is a little different than for other insects, it starts out the same for everything: rehydration. A relaxation chamber is a small, air-tight enclosure where the dead insect is placed until it is rehydrated and pliable enough to maneuver into a displayable pose. There are a few ways to rehydrate, but a plastic container lined with water and isopropyl-dampened paper towels works well. After a few days in the container, most Lepidoptera are softened by the humidity and ready to pin. Larger insects can take a little longer to rehydrate.

There are several necessary tools, most notably the pins, which are surgical steel entomological pins, but sewing pins can also help. A pinning board is needed, as well as forceps tweezers for maneuvering and vellum for holding down delicate wings.

The first pin is the anchor, the one that is inserted at a 90-degree angle into the center of the Lepidopteran's body, or thorax. This pin keeps the specimen on the pinning board so that the wings can be positioned. Moving the wings into the correct pose is a delicate endeavor, as improper handling can remove the gorgeous scales on the wings. So, by carefully using forceps and

vellum to hold down one side while you position the other, then hindwings while you position forewings, eventually you get proper positioning. After the wings, then the head, abdomen, legs and antennae can also be manipulated by using pins and forceps. Pinning other insects like beetles, walking sticks and true bugs follows a similar strategy, but specific leg, wing and mouthparts should be considered. They all require practice, patience and a delicate touch, as well as a headlamp and reading glasses.

After taking several days to settle, pinned insects are finally ready for permanent display. By this time, the bodies have become fixed into position, and they are more fragile than ever. By carefully removing each individual pin, except the anchor pin, and piece of vellum that had been keeping bits in place, the finished product is revealed.

Another secret weapon in insect pinning, especially at this stage, is water-soluble school glue, which can be used for reattaching any body parts that might snap off. Specimens are slowly moved to their new home, usually a shadow box, by handling the anchor pin. Putting together a box of different insects can be like moving around delicate puzzle pieces, but with patience, it can be done.

In scientific displays of specimens, labeling is important to keep track of the species, as well as where, when and by whom they were collected. Most of our specimens do not have individual labels so that they can be removed and replaced easily. Species guides will soon be available alongside our displays so that guests can examine and discover on their own.

During your next visit, be sure to visit our display cases of preserved specimens. They offer an excellent opportunity to get even closer to these beautiful creatures that are otherwise on the move or out of sight.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

All activities below are included in admission; free for members, except where a cost is noted.

Art Exhibit: The Future is Botanical

Now through Wednesday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The exhibit, courtesy of the Philadelphia Society of Botanical Illustrators, features 12 stunning botanical paintings which depict plants that provide benefits to Earth's environments, wild-life and human population. The title is a reprise of the PHS Flower Show theme, and artwork from the 2025 Flower Show.



Manada Conservancy presents "Who's Who in Your Garden"

Thursday, April 3 at 7 p.m.

Ever wonder about those creatures that are crawling, flying and eating their way through your garden? Native plants are often used to attract butterflies and bees, but what else might you find? Join Dr. Randi Eckel of Toadshade Wildflower Farm as she identifies the insects, and other creatures, found in local gardens and offers a glimpse into their lives and ecological value. This program is free and open to the public. Please register by contacting Manada Conservancy at office@manada.org or 717.566.4122.

Earth Day Weekend

Saturday, April 19 and Sunday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Kids can receive an Earth Day themed scavenger hunt and sticker when visiting the Gardens! On Saturday, purchase ice cream treats from Sarah's Creamery from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



Easter Sunrise Service

Sunday, April 20 at 6:30 a.m.

Enjoy a Hershey Gardens tradition that began in 1947. This non-denominational service is provided by the Hershey Ministerium.

No admission fee prior to 8 a.m.

Gates open at 6 a.m. Guests must exit by 8 a.m.



National Public Gardens Day

Friday, May 9 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enjoy the height of springtime color and beauty! **Download this voucher** to receive 50% off admission on May 9 only. Plus, enjoy a guided garden tour at 2 p.m.



Mother's Day Weekend: Free Admission for Moms!

Saturday, May 10 and Sunday, May 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

On Sunday, see a variety of rhododendrons and azaleas from the Mason Dixon Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Display located in the Education Center in The Children's Garden. Enjoy food trucks:

Sarah's Creamery on Saturday and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Noel's Café on Sunday only from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Susquehanna Iris Society Show

Saturday, May 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Garden Cottage

Enjoy brilliantly colored irises and arrangements from members of the Susquehanna Iris Society. Knowledgeable members will be available to answer questions. Plus, enjoy Sarah's Creamery from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.



National Red Rose Day

Thursday, June 12 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

National Red Rose Day is the annual celebration of the red rose – a universal symbol of love and romance. Join us for 30-minute Historic Hershey Rose Garden tours at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Music in the Gardens

Thursday, June 19 from 6 – 8 p.m.

July date to be announced soon!

August date to be announced soon!

Join us for three 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.



Sponsors:

Robert Ackerman | Robert & Linda Pugliese | Dr. Thomas Davis



Sarah's Creamery

Saturday, April 26 and Sunday, April 27 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Saturday, May 24 and Sunday May 25 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Enjoy Sarah's Creamery festive ice cream *truck!* Their Penn State flavors are made at the Berkey Creamery at Penn State University's Main Campus. *Additional fee.*



Father's Day: Free Admission for Dads!

The Gathering in the Garden: Rolls Royce Car Show

Sunday, June 15 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.



Bring dad to enjoy 3,000 roses in full bloom! Plus, experience a stunning display of Rolls-Royce and Bentleys and learn about their history from members of the headquarters region of the Rolls-Royce Owners' Club. Vehicles will be parked inside Hershey Gardens around Swan Lake. Enjoy food trucks: The Good, Good Coffee Cart Cold Brew Camper from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sarah's Creamery from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Zoology Zone Interactive Cart

Mondays through Thursdays,
June 23 through August 14
from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Come meet some new "friends" at the Zoology Zone Interactive Cart! The cart will be stationed in the Conservatory and will feature several small animals and arthropods, along with deceased butterfly specimens that guests can touch and feel. Staffed by Hershey Gardens Volunteers.

Garden Tastings in the Hoop House

Wednesdays, June 25, July 9, July 23 and August 6
from 10 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.

Enjoy seasonal tasting featuring a freshly harvested herb, vegetable or fruit growing in the Hoop House. Learn what's in season, compare varieties and learn how to determine ripeness. Staffed by Hershey Gardens Volunteers. In case of inclement weather, this program may be subject to last-minute cancellation.



Gretna

Gretna Theatre Summer Kids Series

Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!

Sunday, August 3 at 1 and 3 p.m.

Performances held in The Children's Garden Amphitheater. In the event of inclement weather, performances will be held under the tent in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.



Hershey Area Art Association Show & Sale

Friday, August 29 through Sunday, August 31 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Enjoy fabulous works of art at the "Blooming Art" display in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.



INSECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD



Bug-O-Rama

Sunday, September 7 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Get buggy with the PA Woodmobile and learn about invasive insects that live in the Pennsylvania woodlands and participate in a variety of fun bug activities with Penn State Entomology, Ryan the Bug Man and PA Bat Rescue, among others. Plus, enjoy Sarah's Creamery. See the full schedule of events at HersheyGardens.org.

Hershey Gardens Member Reception

Wednesday, September 24 from 4:30 to 6 p.m.

Members, look for your invitation in the mail!

Marvelous Mondays



July 7, 14, 21, 28 and August 4 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Mondays are marvelous in The Children's Garden! Join us for kids' crafts led by Volunteers, and explore weekly themes about Pennsylvania native animals and plants, birds, exploring the outdoors, gardening, and teen initiatives in the green industry. Come back each week to discover new activities and greet special guests. Additional guests may be added!

Themes:

July 7: Pennsylvania Natives with ZooAmerica and the Pennsylvania Game Commission

July 14: Birds with Quittapahilla Audubon Society and the Pennsylvania Game Commission

July 21: Get Outdoors with the Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources

July 28: Gardening with Penn State Master Gardeners and Commonwealth Charter Academy Ag Works Mobile Unit

August 4: Youth Scientist Day with the Governor's Youth Council for Hunting, Fishing and Conservation

SAVE
the DATE

Pumpkin Palooza

October 18, 19, 25 and 26 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Check HersheyGardens.org for more details in the coming months!



CALLING ALL GIRL SCOUTS!

Join Us for These Girl Scout Workshops

Registration is required and includes admission to Hershey Gardens and the Butterfly Atrium for the day. Please note that general admission tickets are required for accompanying family members. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)

Brownie Scout "Bugs" Badge Requirement Workshop Sunday, September 7 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Complete badge requirements during "Bug-O-Rama" at Hershey Gardens. At least one adult is required to register and accompany each troop, or individual Scout.
\$15 per Scout; \$13 per Scout leader



Brownie Scout "Senses" Badge Requirement Workshop Saturday, September 20 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Explore the Senses Garden and Historic Hershey Rose Garden while completing requirements for the Brownie "Senses" badge. At least one adult is required to register and accompany each troop, or individual scout.
\$15 per Scout; \$13 per Scout leader



Bonsai Exhibit by Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Wednesday, September 24 through
Saturday, October 11 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Marvel at a variety of bonsai specimens from the premiere bonsai club of the Susquehanna Valley. Exhibit on display in the Hoop House.



Bonsai Demonstration by Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Saturday, October 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Join members of the Susquehanna Bonsai Club for multiple demonstrations of how to take care of bonsai specimens. Demonstration will be held in The Children's Garden. In case of inclement weather, it will be moved to the Conservatory.



Eco-Fiction Book Club

Join us to explore works of eco-fiction, nature and environment-oriented works, which often include a human element. It is not necessary to attend all sessions - join us when you can! New participants are always welcome. We encourage you to read each month's selection prior to the meeting to fully participate in the discussion. Located in the Garden Cottage.



Friday, April 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler
Bonus read: *Bee Conspiracy* by David Boito

Friday, July 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

The High House by Jessie Greengrass

Friday, October 24 from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Gun Island by Amitav Ghosh

Book selections for each month can be found at your local public library or at any major retailer.

Please contact Vera Kolstrom to register: 717.508.5970 or velkolstrom@hersheygardens.org.

HERSHEY GARDENS 2025 HOURS OF OPERATION

Now – May 23:

9 a.m. – 5 p.m., daily, including
Easter Sunday

May 24 – September 1:

9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily

September 2 – 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

2025 SUMMER CAMPS at HERSHEY GARDENS

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

Full day options are \$415/week; half day options are \$240/week.

For more information or to register for the camps, please visit scienceexplorers.com

SCIENCE EXPLORERS®

Wizards World of Science (Formerly Potions, Powders and Polymers)

June 23 – 27

Half Day: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Full Day: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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, unravel the mysteries of illusions and build your own spectrosopes to explore the vibrant spectrum of light. Stay for the full day and prepare for more captivating discoveries! We'll reveal many mysteries of science as we investigate creepy creatures, learn clever troll tricks, capture a rainbow in a bottle, make instant snow, mix up glowing slime and conduct lab tests on mystery substances.

Camp CSI

July 21 – 25

Full Day: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ages 7-11

Become a Science Explorers CSI! We'll use forensic techniques to document evidence, lift fingerprints, analyze mystery powders, conduct simulated blood testing, extract DNA from bananas, perform fiber analysis, and use a black light to uncover hidden clues. See if you'll be the one to crack the case!



Science Adventures!

July 28 – August 1

Half Day: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Full Day: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Ages 7-11

Uncover the mysteries of ancient Egypt, build your own weather station to explore

the wild world of meteorology, and get elbow deep in the science of slime. Plus, you'll whip up delicious homemade ice cream, investigate the fascinating realm of sound, and experiment with chemistry mixtures that fizz and pop. Each day is packed with fun and discovery!

Take A Dive

August 4 – 8

Half Day: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Full Day: 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

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 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!

Junior Discoverers

August 11 – 15

Half Day Only: 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Ages 4-6

Get ready to roll up your sleeves and explore botany, oceanography, astronomy and entomology! We'll dissect a plant and learn what each part does, plant seeds in your very own terrarium, investigate a real octopus, discover the fascinating world of shell-dwelling creatures, craft a constellation viewer, and embark on a journey through space in our homemade planetarium. Plus get ready to "bug out" as we create insect habitats so we can investigate our 6-legged friends up close. This will be an exciting exploration of the natural world that promises to spark curiosity and imagination!



HERSHEY AREA PLAYHOUSE

Hershey Area Playhouse Summer Theatre Camp

For students grades 4 through 9 only

Public performance on Friday, July 18

at 12 p.m.

Cost: \$275 + registration fees

Instructor: Laurie Miller Petersen



The Stuff of Legend, based on a book by James C. Christensen, and adapted and written by Jennifer Feldser, is an epic adventure featuring a cast of classic and popular literary figures. From characters like Peter Rabbit to the Wicked Witch, and fantastical places like Narnia and Wonderland, there is something for everyone! The camp will be complete with auditions, casting of all 30 campers, acting games, rehearsals, memorized lines, blocking and stage combat.

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 18. Learn more and register at HersheyAreaPlayhouse.com.

