HERSHEY GARDENS Twigs & Figs

A publication for members of Hershey Gardens | Fall | Winter 2026 | Vol. 20 No. 2

Now in Full Bloom: The Rose Garden Pavilion Is Open!

A new chapter is blooming at Hershey Gardens. The Rose Garden Pavilion is now open, offering guests a beautiful new place to gather, learn and celebrate—all while enjoying one of the Gardens' most iconic views.

Made possible by a generous Founder's Gift from Hershey Entertainment & Resorts, the Rose Garden Pavilion is located at the east end of the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory. The permanent structure replaces the seasonal tent that previously served as a gathering space for school programs and community events and significantly expands the Gardens' opportunities for year-round programming.

Designed to complement both the Conservatory and its garden surroundings, the Pavilion provides a comfortable and elegant setting for educational programs, special events and other gatherings. Thoughtful details throughout the space—including custom floral lighting and stained-glass transoms—bring the beauty of the Gardens indoors.

ROSE GARDEN PAVILION
MADE POSSIBLE BY
HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS

Just outside, the new PNC Terrace offers a spectacular vantage point overlooking the Historic Rose Garden. Sponsored by PNC Bank, the expansive terrace invites guests to pause and enjoy sweeping views of thousands of roses in a remarkable variety of colors, shapes and fragrances.

"The location is especially meaningful," said Don Papson, executive director of The M.S. Hershey Foundation, the parent organization of Hershey Gardens. "When Milton Hershey asked for 'a nice garden of roses' in the 1930s, he set in motion what would eventually become Hershey Gardens. Almost 90 years later, that rose garden remains at the heart of this stunning 23-acre property. The new Rose Garden Pavilion provides a new way to experience that legacy."

"We are extremely grateful for all the generous donors who helped make the Pavilion a reality through our $3.5 million capital campaign," said Papson. "Their support has created a beautiful gathering place which will provide new opportunities for education and special events in an extraordinary setting."

"The Rose Garden Pavilion represents an exciting addition to Hershey Gardens—one that honors Milton Hershey's original vision while creating new opportunities for guests to gather, learn and enjoy the beauty of the Gardens," said Papson.

"Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile."

Celebrate the Beauty of Fall with 1,500 Vibrant Mums at Hershey Gardens

Few flowers capture the spirit of fall quite like the chrysanthemum. With their brilliant colors and abundant blooms, mums are a sure sign that autumn has arrived. This season, more than 1,500 mums will transform the display beds at Hershey Gardens, creating a vibrant celebration of one of the most beautiful times of the year.

Chrysanthemums—or "mums," as we know them—have a history as colorful as their flowers. First cultivated in China centuries ago for medicinal and culinary uses, chrysanthemums eventually made their way to Japan, where they became symbols of royalty. In 17th-century Europe, they took on a more somber meaning and were often associated with funerals and grave decorations. Eventually, mums arrived in America, where they became a beloved garden staple and an enduring symbol of fall.

"Our mum displays this fall will feature rich, warm hues that brighten the landscape even as temperatures begin to drop."

The genus *Chrysanthemum* includes approximately 200 species and tens of thousands of hybridized varieties. The familiar mums that brighten gardens each fall are typically grown as annuals. Their compact size, abundant blooms and wide range of colors make them an easy way to add vibrant seasonal color to garden beds and container arrangements.

"Our mum displays this fall will feature rich, warm hues that brighten the landscape even as temperatures begin to drop," said Deb Wiles, director of horticultural operations. "The colorful blooms are complemented by our annual painted pumpkin displays, transforming the seasonal display beds into a festive feast for the eyes."

Look for These Mum Varieties!

'Amiko Yellow'

'Beverly Orange'

'Chelsea Coral'

'Conaco Gold'

'Nikki Orange'

'Savona Red'

Click **here** to follow us on Facebook for bloom updates!

Is My Oak Tree OK?

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

Oaks are considered "mighty" for many reasons. They often grow to great size and age—some 100 feet in height and 300 years old or more. Oaks are recognized as a keystone species, a plant that holds its ecosystem together. In his book *The Nature of Oaks,* conservation guru Doug Tallamy states that oak trees support 534 species of butterflies and moths, whose caterpillars are a primary source of food for baby birds. A vast number of additional insect species nurtured by oaks play a role in the food chain. Oaks provide shelter for nesting animals, and their acorns are a major food source for many mammals. They also provide shade and four seasons of beauty to humans.

The large oak trees in Hershey Gardens' Oak Grove are a testament to their mightiness.

No Cause for Worry

The "support" that oak trees provide to insects means that in many cases the insects will feed on the leaves. This will keep oak leaves and branches from looking pristine, but this causes no lasting harm to the tree. Some of the spectacular insects that feed on oak leaves at some point in their life cycle are the polyphemus and io moths, katydids, and butterflies in the hairstreak family.

Following is a list of additional phenomena that affect oak tree leaves but are not usually causes for concern.

Galls

In addition to feeding on the leaves, some insects lay eggs that cause abnormal growths of plant tissue on oak stems and leaves. Oak galls may resemble small green apples, pinecones, mushrooms, or other curiosities. They rarely cause significant harm to the tree.

Oak galls are growths that may resemble small apples, although they pose no threat to the tree.

Oak Leaf Blister

Similar to some galls, oak leaf blister causes raised buckling on the surface of leaves. A fungus active in spring causes this abnormal growth. Affected leaves usually do not fall prematurely, and no treatment is needed to protect the tree.

Leaf blisters appear as abnormal growth on the leaves of oak trees but do not need to be treated.

Withered Leaves

Many oak varieties do not drop all of their leaves until spring. This is normal and may occur to maximize nutrients or offer protection from grazing animals, such as deer, which will not be inclined to consume a mouthful of dried leaves along with developing leaf buds.

Oak Anthracnose

Caused by a fungus during a cool and wet spring, anthracnose can cause symptoms throughout the season, such as small brown spots, irregular dead areas, and distorted, shriveling leaves. Most affected trees will recover during hot, dry summer weather.

More serious conditions to watch for are listed below.

Bacterial Leaf Scorch

This disease seems to be on the rise in the Central Pennsylvania area. Caused by the bacterium Xylella fastidiosa, evidence of this disease includes yellowing and browning of leaves throughout the canopy in late summer and fall. Eventually, whole branches and the entire tree will die.

Oak Wilt

Oak wilt is caused by a fungal pathogen that blocks the water and nutrient "circulatory system" of the tree. It can be spread by "root grafting" between trees and also above ground by beetles boring into fresh wood. Once infected, an oak can weaken and die in a matter of weeks; this is particularly true of trees in the red oak family. Though not immune, white oaks are less susceptible to rapid demise from oak wilt. To date, oak wilt cases have only been confirmed in Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River. There is no effective treatment once a tree contracts oak wilt. One step residents can take to protect the tree is to prune only in winter, when the beetles who spread the disease are not active.

Oak Tree Diagnosis

Master Gardeners can advise on the severity of tree issues through description, photos, and samples sent to the Penn State Plant Disease Clinic. If the condition appears to be serious, we recommend that the tree owner consult a certified arborist—a list is available at TreesAreGood.org.

A directory of Garden Hotlines can be found here.

Giant Water Lilies Make a Royal Debut in the Japanese Garden

by Deb Wiles, Director of Horticultural Operations

Two new members of a botanical royal family have come to live at Hershey Gardens. First discovered in the early 1800s, the giant Amazon water platter was named *Victoria amazonica* after England's new young Queen Victoria. A few years later, another species was discovered in Bolivia and named *Victoria cruziana* after Bolivian general De La Cruz, who sponsored the exploration. These Amazonian wonders are the largest water lilies in the world.

Cultivation of the giant water lily began in England. The first *Victoria* to bloom was grown by Joseph Paxton in 1849. Paxton also designed the Crystal Palace, then the largest greenhouse structure in the world, to house the Great Exhibition of 1851. It is said that the unique structure of the Amazon lily's leaves inspired his design. Interest in the colossal lilies rapidly crossed the pond back to the Americas. The first *Victoria amazonica* to bloom in the U.S. was grown in Philadelphia in 1851. Nearly a century later, these aquatic icons found their way to Longwood Gardens where Longwood's first aquatics gardener, Patrick Nutt, crossed *V. amazonica* and *V. cruziana* to develop the *Victoria amazonica* 'Longwood Hybrid'. For the first time in its history, Hershey Gardens now has both.

When I arrived as the new director of horticultural operations, I knew the recently renovated Japanese Garden pond would be the perfect place to showcase a giant water lily. Through my contacts at Longwood, we were given seeds of the 'Longwood Hybrid' and our first foray into growing the Amazon legend began. We gave our prized plant the obvious name Vickie. We also acquired a *V. cruziana,* which we affectionately referred to as Vickie's stunt double, Tom Cruziana.

Giant water lilies grace the newly renovated Japanese Garden pond.

The plants are famous not only for their enormous leaves, but also for their ability to hold a great amount of weight. Historic images of small children and adults standing on a lily pad attest to the leaves' strength, which is due to its unique construction. The underside of each leaf is a web of spongy, air-filled veins or ribs providing extreme buoyancy. The underwater leaf surface, stems and roots are also covered in spines which help protect it from nibbling fish and other herbivores. The spines also play an offensive role by crushing or damaging other nearby plants, thus eliminating any competition Victoria might have for space. And she needs her space. With each leaf capable of growing to 10 feet across, a single plant can take up several yards of surface area.

As a tropical native, our giant water lilies are grown as annuals and will be started from seed each year in heated germination pools. When the outdoor water temperature is consistently above 75 degrees, they are moved out to the Japanese Garden pond where they will spend the summer months. Once the first frost hits, the plants will be removed and the process starts again the following spring.

We have a lot to learn about growing these prized plants (Kew Gardens failed at their first attempt in the 1840s, so we're doing pretty good for first timers!) and are confident next year's display will be bigger and better!

The very first bloom of the gaint *Victoria amazonica* waterlily 'Longwood Hybrid'!

Underside of the leaf with its web of air-filled ribs and defensive spines.

What's That Humongous Fungus?

Visitors strolling through Hershey Gardens may expect to encounter towering trees, colorful blooms and plenty of butterflies—but every now and then, nature produces something truly unexpected.

Recently, an enormous shelf-like fungus appeared in an open area where a tree had been removed. Measuring an impressive 21 inches, the unusual growth is a type of polypore, a massive morphological group of fungi characterized by having pores instead of gills on the underside of their caps.

Unlike the familiar mushrooms that pop up in lawns after a rainy spell, polypores often form thick, sturdy structures known as conks or brackets. Some can grow remarkably large, creating formations that look more like oversized pancakes—or even pieces of sculpture—than mushrooms.

The large fungus appeared near the Garden Cottage after a heavy rain in August.

The top of the polypore measured 21 inches in diameter.

But what visitors see above ground is only a small part of the story. Most of the fungus exists out of sight as a network of microscopic threads called mycelium, which grows through wood and other organic material. "The large structure recently spotted in Hershey Gardens is the fruiting body, produced to release spores and reproduce," said Deb Wiles, director of horticultural operations.

Fungi also play an important role in the garden ecosystem. "Many species help break down dead and decaying wood, returning nutrients to the soil where they can be used by other plants and organisms," said Wiles. "This is why mushrooms often appear in mulched areas or on wood piles. When large fungi appear attached to living trees, however, horticulturists take notice, since some species are associated with decay in roots or wood, which could indicate disease in the tree."

While this garden giant may look strange, it's also a fascinating reminder that some of the most interesting activity in a garden is happening where we can't see it—beneath our feet.

The underside of this type of fungus features pores instead of gills.

The oozing droplets pictured here are part of a process called "guttation," which occurs when the fungus releases excess moisture and metabolic compounds through the surface.

Hidden in Plain Sight: The Dead Leaf Butterfly

Guests entering the Butterfly Atrium at Hershey Gardens are quickly surrounded by hundreds of butterflies in free flight. With so much color and movement, it might seem impossible for a butterfly to go unnoticed—but one fascinating species is remarkably good at doing just that.

The dead leaf butterfly is a master of camouflage. When its wings are closed, the underside closely resembles a fading leaf, complete with dark brown coloring, mottled spots and thin lines that look remarkably like leaf veins. Its unusual shape adds to the illusion, making these butterflies surprisingly difficult to spot among the foliage.

One of the best-known dead leaf butterflies is the *Kallima inachus,* commonly called the orange oakleaf. While its closed wings are designed to blend in, opening them reveals an entirely different look. The brown "dead leaf" disappears, replaced by rich blue coloring accented with a striking orange band across the wings.

For guests, finding one can become a real-life game of "I Spy." Many visitors are amazed when a seemingly ordinary leaf is pointed out—only to discover they have been looking at a butterfly all along! Their camouflage is an important defense in the wild. Dead leaf butterflies also use erratic flight patterns and quickly drop into foliage to evade predators.

Discover These Fascinating Creatures in the Butterfly Atrium!

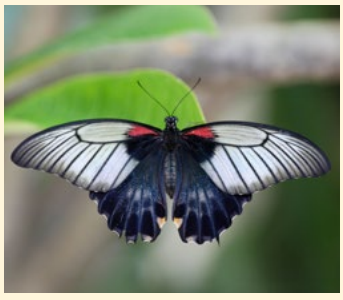
Leopard Gecko
Eublepharis macularius

Bird Poop Frog
Dendropsophus marmoratus

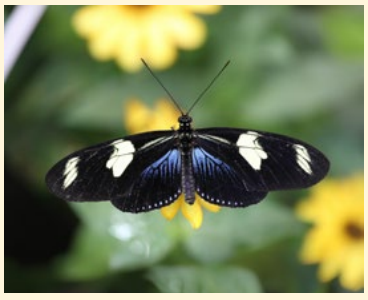
Brazilian Whiteknee Tarantula
Acanthoscurria geniculata

Bumblebee Poison Dart Frog
Dendrobates leucomelas

Atlas Moth
Attacus atlas



Great Morman (female)
Papilio memnon



Sara Longwing
Heliconius sara

Glasswing
Greta oto

10 Questions With...

Brady Wile, Horticulture Manager, Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory and Butterfly Atrium

1. Welcome! Tell us a little bit about yourself.
I am 33 years old and live in Pottsville, Pa. I attended Kutztown University and studied chemistry education and biology.

2. What is your role at Hershey Gardens?
I am the horticulture manager for the Butterfly Atrium. I care for all the plant life in the Conservatory, which includes the tropical plants in the Butterfly Atrium as well as all the plants in the Conservatory. I also order the butterflies for the Atrium and am tasked with monitoring plant health and pest control, and ensuring we follow all the federal rules and permits related to caring for tropical species. Last but not least, I manage Butterfly Atrium staff, who all work together to make the guest experience a memorable one.

3. What is your background?
Before coming to Hershey Gardens, I was a cultivation manager in charge of fertigation for a medical cannabis company here in Pennsylvania. Fertigation is basically the process of administering water soluble micronutrients to plants via the irrigation system.

4. How has your background helped you in your position at the Gardens?
There are parallels to my duties here and what I did at my former company. In my previous role, I was required to diligently monitor variables such as environmental factors, pest pressure and plant diseases. The job also included manual labor and constant deadlines. Strict regulations for cleaning, sanitizing, waste disposal and record keeping also required me to follow stringent standard operating procedures. Many of these have crossed over to my duties and responsibilities here at the Gardens.

5. Do you have any hobbies?
I really enjoy playing soccer, snowboarding, hiking, going to the gym and attending music festivals.

6. What has been your favorite music festival you've attended so far?
My favorite music festival would have to be Electric Forest in Michigan. The grounds that the festival takes place on are very beautiful, and the community that attends Electric Forest is filled with like-minded, warm-hearted people. The festival always features an incredible lineup of artists, the food and vendors are superb, and the art installations are

amazing. I have met many lifelong friends from traveling and attending music festivals, and I am forever grateful to have these individuals in my life.

7. What do you find most enjoyable about your job?
I enjoy working with all the different plants and exotic *Lepidoptera* featured in the Atrium. We also have a small collection of other animals that we care for, including snakes, frogs, tarantulas, and a few other animals. Getting to spend time with and care for these creatures give me the opportunity to learn more about them.

8. What is a typical day like for you?
I begin my day before the Butterfly Atrium opens, watering and fertilizing the plants. I'll then do a wellness check on our animals and prune any plants that need it. When school is in session, Atrium staff and I will often assist the education department with staffing the Zoo Cart, a mobile station where we help students discover these fascinating creatures. When not working in the Atrium, I am doing administrative work, such as inventory and purchasing, as well as scheduling and managing staff.

9. Do you have a favorite butterfly or creature in the Butterfly Atrium?
My favorite Atrium animals would be our White's tree frogs, whose names are Paco and Kermit.

White's tree frogs, Paco & Kermit

10. What is your favorite part of the Gardens?
My favorite part of the Gardens is the Japanese Garden. There is just something very calming and serene about that area of the Gardens. There are some amazing Japanese maples, a pond loaded with koi fish, and the perfect bench on which to sit and enjoy some peace and relaxation.

HERSHEY GARDENS
2026-2027 HOURS OF OPERATION

Now - January 3: 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
January 4 - 8: Closed for maintenance and repairs
January 9 - 27: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
January 28 - 31: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Orchid Show)
February 1 - 28: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
March 1 - May 28: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Mark Your Calendar!

All activities below are included in admission; free for members, except where a cost is noted.
Please check HersheyGardens.org for event updates.

Intro to Forest Bathing with ANFT Forest Therapy Guide Lauren Berg

Saturday, September 12, 9:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.
$30 for members; $35 non-members, per session
Online registration required here.

Forest bathing is a guided experience that invites participants to slow down, engage their senses, and cultivate a deeper connection with the natural world. Inspired by the Japanese practice of Shinrin-Yoku, forest bathing has been shown to reduce stress, boost immune function, and enhance overall well-being.

During the walk, your guide will offer embodiment-focused "invitations," which participants can use as a guideline, recognizing that each individual has a unique path to follow. Invitations are followed by a time to gather, listen and share, during which all expressions are welcome. The walk will end with a light tea tasting.

The walk will include changes in grade and walking surfaces as you may go off the main paved path and onto wood carpet or grass. Shoes with good tread are recommended. As this walk will be held outdoors, please dress for weather conditions and bring a water bottle. Rain or shine.

Bonsai Exhibit by Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Wednesday, September 23 through Saturday, October 10, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

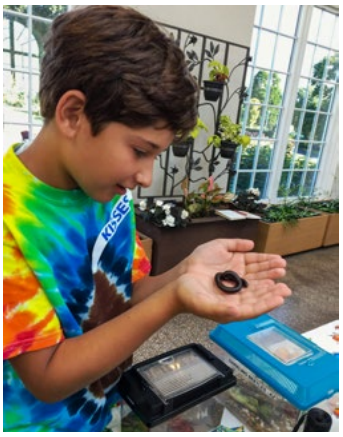
BONSAI: Living Art at Hershey Gardens
Exhibit courtesy of the Susquehanna Bonsai Club

Experience the living art of bonsai with this popular annual exhibit, provided by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club, and vote for your favorite bonsai! Exhibit located in the Hoop House in The Children's Garden.

Bonsai Demonstration

Saturday, October 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Gain insight into the techniques and artistry of the living art of bonsai. Members of the Susquehanna Bonsai Club will actively demonstrate techniques in branch selection, wiring and shaping the growth of woody trees and shrubs. Demonstration located in The Children's Garden.



BUG-O-Rama
INSECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Bug-O-Rama

Sunday, September 20, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Come join us for this family-friendly, hands-on event and participate in a variety of fun bug activities! Special guests include Lancaster County Bee Keepers Society, Penn State Entomological Outreach, PA Vector Born Disease Team "The Tick Man", Ryan "The Bug Man" Bridge, Smithsonian researcher Dr. Jorge Santiago, face painters and more! Please see the full schedule of activities here.

Homeschool Day: Fall Avian Migration

Tuesday, September 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
Registration is required here; closes on Sunday, September 27.
$11 per student, $13 per adult; includes admission to Hershey Gardens and the Butterfly Atrium

Screech Owl, *Photo: Hawk Mountain Global Raptor Conservation*

Learn about bird species that stay year-round at the Gardens, as well as our temporary spring and summer residents, such as the eastern wood pewee, chimney swifts, barn swallows, tree swallows, and purple martins, which pass through for overnight stays. Representatives from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary will be onsite with live migrating birds of prey. Additionally, we'll highlight our new partnership with the Pennsylvania Game Commission and the results of our first season of artificial nesting and cavity structures in the meadow.

Hershey Gardens Member Reception

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

Members, RSVP here!

Pumpkin Palooza

October 17, 18, 24 & 25, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Pumpkin Palooza returns for all things pumpkin! Kids, come in costume and trick or treat at four Hershey's candy stations, enjoy over 200 painted pumpkins, a unique 14-foot "pumpkin tree" and the perfect photo backdrop of pumpkin mosaics! Plus, stop by to see if you can "handle" the Creepy Creatures Gallery! Guests can also enjoy food trucks and hundreds of mums on display, including a colorful 9-foot mum tree. See the full schedule of events here.

Creepy Creatures Gallery

Sponsors: HERSHEY | MEMBERS 1 FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

Manada Conservancy Presentation: Rebuilding Ecosystems with Regenerative Agriculture – How Farms Are Moving Beyond Sustainability

Thursday, November 12, 7 to 8 p.m.
Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Lisa Blazure of Stroud Water Research Center will share how some farms are going beyond sustainable farming techniques and instead regenerating their soils by managing land according to natural principles. These farms recognize that they are part of a larger natural system and rely on biological processes to provide crop nutrients, pest control, and water cycling. Crops grown on healthier soils can have higher nutrient density, and regenerative agriculture has the potential to enhance human health as well as the environment. Participants will leave with practical insights and real-world examples they can adapt to their own operations—from large-scale farms to small homesteads and even backyard gardens—demonstrating how regenerative principles can be applied at any scale to rebuild soil health and resilience. Please register here.

ECO-FICTION BOOK GROUP

Join us to explore works of eco-fiction, nature and environment-oriented literature, which often include a human element. It is not necessary to attend all sessions—please join as you can!

New participants are always welcome. We encourage participants to read each month's selections prior to the meeting to fully participate in the discussion. All sessions are located in the Garden Cottage and will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, October 23, 2026 - *Annihilation*, Jeff VanderMeer (non-fiction – *The Secret Life of Plants: A Fascinating Account of the Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Relations between Plants and Man, Peter Thompkins*)

Friday, January 22, 2027 - *The Sixteen Trees of the Somme* by Lars Mytting and *Tree Story: The History of the World Written in Rings* by Valerie Trouet

Save These Dates! Check **HersheyGardens.org** for book selections. **Friday, April 23 | Friday, July 23 | Friday, October 22**

To register, please email Kaitlin Dannenberg at kadannenberg@hersheygardens.org.

Celebrate the Holidays at Hershey Gardens

Holiday Hours: Open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the following holiday exceptions: Closed on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day / Open 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve

The Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 20 through Sunday, January 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Our signature holiday event features colorful tree displays with twinkling lights; each unique tree is created by a talented local designer. Guests will enjoy a pair of 14-foot and 8-foot poinsettia and tropical trees! The historic Hersheypark Comet coaster car is back for family photo ops and the Butterfly Atrium will be decorated for the holidays!

Sponsors:
Thomas Davis
PNC

Visits with Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus

Santa Claus

Saturday, December 12, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Storytime with Mrs. Claus

Saturday, December 19, 11 a.m.
Garden Cottage

Student Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 20 through Sunday, January 3, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily

Enjoy dozens of creative ornaments made by local school students displayed on live Fraser fir trees in the Garden Cottage.

Calling All Kids! Crafty Christmas Creations

November 21 & 28; December 5, 12, 19 & 26, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Perfect for kids of all ages. Join in the fun of creating your own holiday craft, inspired by nature. Located in the Education Center in The Children's Garden.

Winter Wreath Workshops

Friday, December 4 at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 5 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and Sunday, December 6 at 10 a.m.
$55 for members; $65 for non-members
Registration required here, beginning November 1.

Celebrate winter by creating a beautiful and festive wreath, perfect for the holidays! Using fresh limbs, twigs and pods pruned from the Gardens, participants will learn how to create a stunning, long-lasting 18-inch wreath for their door or table. All supplies and materials are provided. Led by Hershey Gardens education programs staff.

Winter Bird Watch

Saturday, January 16, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Saturday, February 20, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Registration is recommended by calling 717.508.5968 or email rellawrence@hersheygardens.org.

Bring the whole family—and your binoculars—and learn to identify the various birds that call Hershey Gardens home during the winter. Each Saturday we'll walk you through Project Feederwatch, take you on a unique guided bird walk and provide additional information about bird behavior, the best plants to support birds, identification tips and best feeding practices. For the youngest birders, additional bird family crafts and activities will be offered in the classroom. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. In partnership with Quittapahilla Audubon Society.

Sponsored by

Lyric Wild Bird Food

Art Show & Display
"For the Love of Art" by the Hershey Area Art Association

Friday, February 12 and Saturday, February 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Sunday, February 14, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This dazzling display of art will feature works by members of the Hershey Area Art Association. Pieces for purchase will include woodworking, prints, acrylic and oil, jewelry and more. Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.

Dried Floral Arrangement Class

Saturday, February 6, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
$65 for members; $75 for non-members
Registration required here, starting December 19.

Join us to create your own dried floral arrangement to bring beauty to your home in the winter months. We'll use an assortment of dried specimens such as seed pods, florals, grasses and greens to learn about color, form and texture when creating an arrangement. Class held in the Education Center in The Children's Garden. Led by Kaitlin Dannenberg, horticulturist and education associate.

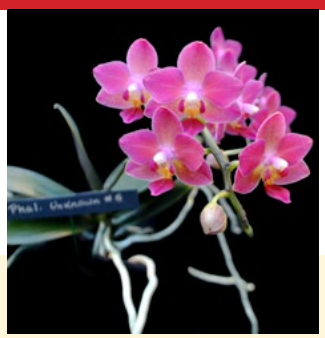
LUNAR NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT HERSHEY GARDENS

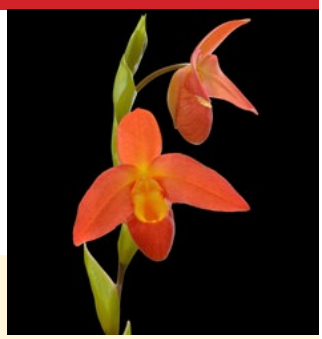
Winter Wednesdays: Celebrating the Lunar New Year with the Little Star Chinese School

February 3, 10, 17, 24, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Sunday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Celebrate the Lunar New Year with Hershey Gardens and the Little Star Chinese School! Each week we'll explore a different cultural activity. Bring the family and interact with Asian species like our mossy frog, jungle nymphs, walking sticks, and more at the Zoology Zone Interactive Cart. Learn more about our Asian butterfly and moth species in the Butterfly Atrium. Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory.

2027 Annual Orchid Show & Sale





For the Love of Orchids, 2027 Annual Orchid Show & Sale, Susquehanna Orchid Society

Member-Only Preview: Thursday, January 28, 2 to 5 p.m. | Open to the Public: Friday, January 29 to Sunday, January 31, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Susquehanna Orchid Society presents a newly expanded orchid show and sale in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory and new Rose Garden Pavilion! This year's show features additional informational sessions, activities for kids, plus new vendors and exhibition categories, including a new vendor, E.B. Orchids from Holley, New York, and a student entry.

More than 1,000 orchids representing dozens of varieties will be on display, including rare species and unique hybrids. 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.**