

# Supersized Blooms: Hershey Gardens Brings Back the Popular “Mega Mum”

by Alyssa Hagarman, Horticulture Manager



The “Mega Mum” pots measure more than two feet wide.

Like many others, I look forward to the change of seasons, although I must admit that fall is my favorite time of year. The leaves as they change colors, that little nip in the air, plus all the beautiful colors of pumpkins, gourds and the chrysanthemums—they all welcome fall in the best way.

Each year at Hershey Gardens, we plant more than a thousand mums, which make for a colorful fall display in the Seasonal Display Garden. The “show stoppers,” however, are the five huge, colorful mums that are featured in enormous pots located right outside of the conservatory, near Swan Lake.

Of course, they always elicit the same question from guests, “Is that ONE mum?!”

The short answer is “no.” So what’s the secret to our gigantic mums? In the spring, our growers plant dozens of small mum

“plugs” in a single pot or in the larger “deck” planters. If they are planted in the deck planter, 10 to 12 are planted around the outer edge with a few in the middle. Drip irrigation tubes are pushed into the soil to keep the container damp and fertilized.

During the summer, there isn’t much to do but keep the plant watered and free of pests like spider mites. The mums continue to grow through August, which is when the growers will add a black mesh over the top. The mesh has 1-inch squares that the mums can continue to grow through. This helps hold the plants together and add stability, especially when the plants start to bud.

The garden crew receive these special mums with the other mums that are planted in the Seasonal Display Garden. The soon-to-be “mega mums” stay in their special containers that fit perfectly into our large concrete containers along the main walking path. This year, our mega mums will be a pale orange, a perfect accompani-

ment to nature’s fall colors.

Along with these awesome displays, Hershey Gardens will have more than 1,500 mums in the Seasonal Display Garden and at the Conservatory. Plus, new this year, look for a beautiful 8-foot mum tree arranged in an ombre effect.



Drip irrigation is used while the plants are growing.



More than 1,500 mums have been planted throughout Hershey Gardens.

# 10 Questions With...

## Rich Schory, Gardens Crew Foreman

### What is your primary role at Hershey Gardens?

I am responsible for the day-to-day coordination and supervision of Gardens staff. I assign routine duties, as well as delegate larger projects throughout the Gardens. I assist the gardening staff with these tasks and projects, too.

### What is a typical day like for you?

It varies, depending on the time of year. In winter, we perform more maintenance related activities. As the weather breaks, we start tidying up—cleaning up from the winter—mulching and mowing, trimming hedges, etc.

### How long have you worked at Hershey Gardens?

I've worked at the Gardens for more than 18 years, in total. I left for a few years, but eventually found my way back.

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

I like seeing how the Gardens changes from season to season. Working in the Gardens on daily basis, sometimes you lose sight of your efforts, but when the seasons change, our efforts become visible. All the tulips that the staff and volunteers plant in the fall begin to bloom in the spring, and the rose bushes that we prune in early spring begin to bloom in early summer, and so on; it's gratifying to see things coming to life as a result of the work we did months prior.

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

I would say the biggest challenge is having to pivot from doing one task to doing something different because of an unexpected occurrence. A damaging thunderstorm or a draught requires us to be flexible. Sometimes the day doesn't always go as planned.

### Word on the street is that you're a cook?

Yes, I am. I was a cook at a restaurant for 13 years before began working at the Gardens. I like trying dishes that originate from different ethnic cuisines.

### Any food you've had that stands out?

Lately I've been experimenting with making Middle Eastern food. The spices used in Middle Eastern cuisine are distinct and



aromatic, and some of the ingredients are unique, too. So far I've tried making my own hummus.

### Favorite part of the Gardens?

I like the Arboretum. I have always thought that trees are the backbone of every garden, and we have so many unique signature trees that stand out. I especially like some of the older trees. Because of their age, they're larger and have a commanding presence. My favorite tree in the Arboretum is the willow oak; it's an enormous tree that almost serves as a gateway to that area.

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

I love to hunt, fish, garden and go foraging for mushrooms. All of my hobbies have an end result: cooking! I like creating

something delicious from what I bring back from the woods, the garden or the boat.

### How have the Gardens changed since you've been here?

It has changed quite a lot. I began working at the Gardens in 2002, the same year The Children's Garden was being created. Soon afterwards, the Bill Bowman Garden and the nut grove were created; then in 2016 the Conservatory opened. Since then, we've also refreshed several theme gardens. We've also had to remove several large trees that were diseased, which unfortunately happens. Although the Gardens' footprint is the same, it looks much different now than it did 20 years ago.



One of Rich's favorite trees is the 100-year-old willow oak, which towers over the other trees.



Rich oversees the day-to-day coordination of Gardens staff and volunteers.

# Fluttering Wonders: Butterflies and Moths – What’s the Difference?

By Jody Santos, Manager of Conservatory Habitats

This summer, guests and staff of the Butterfly Atrium were treated to our first-ever species of day-flying moth. *Urania fulgens*, the Urania swallowtail moth, also called the green page moth, can be found in some areas of the deep southern U.S., Mexico, Costa Rica and other parts of Central and South America. It migrates locally in large groups and depends on one species of tropical vine, *Omphalea diandra*, to host its caterpillars. Its vivid black, white and iridescent green striping, long hindwing tails and diurnal activity and feeding behavior call to mind a swallowtail butterfly, but a closer examination of this day-flyer, and the presence of the word “moth” in its common name, suggest otherwise.

Having this moth in the Butterfly Atrium, flying alongside its Lepidopteran cousins, sparked our curiosity about the differences between butterflies and moths. We’ve always been satisfied with the description of butterflies as brightly colored, diurnal bearers of clubbed antennae, and moths as fuzzier, thicker-bodied, dull-colored and nocturnal with feathered antennae. As it turns out, classifying these insects as either butterflies or moths is not quite so simple, and it may even be an unimportant distinction.

The order Lepidoptera (Latin for “scale-wing”) is the third largest order of insects (Coleoptera, the beetles and Hymenoptera, wasps, bees and ants, are numbers one and two). It contains 180,000 species total worldwide, with the vast majority of the order being moths (160,000 species). During the early Cretaceous period, this order consisted solely of night-flying prehistoric moths. In the mid-Cretaceous period, about 100 million years ago, some of these night flyers became active during the day, seeking the nectar of flowers that had evolved alongside bees. With this ancient happening, butterflies were born.

It seems, then, that today’s butterflies could be accurately described as day-flying moths with some key modifications stemming from their diurnal lifestyles. For example, butterflies and moths hold their wings differently. Moths rest with their wings positioned horizontally (or tented, covering the abdomen), while butterflies



Urania swallowtail moth (*Urania fulgens*)

have developed the ability to “choose” a resting wing position. When a butterfly is seeking camouflage (as day-active prey animals often do), it will rest with wings held closed and vertical, exposing only the duller undersides. When it is seeking warmth, it rests with wings open or horizontal, collecting the sun’s rays.

Another example: butterflies tend to be more brightly colored than moths. It makes perfect sense that color signaling would be important to creatures of the day and less important to night flyers.

Additionally, butterflies tend to be less “hairy” than moths. Because temperatures are lower at night, moths benefit from thicker, fluffier scales covering their bodies and wings, and this is something that the day flying butterflies don’t need, since they can warm themselves in the sun.

Another commonly noted difference is that butterfly antennae are slender and clubbed at the end, while moths possess thicker, often feathered antennae. Feather-

ing is exaggerated in male moths to help them detect female pheromones and find their way to reproductive partners in the dark. Butterflies, being active when the sun shines, use more of their vision to locate others of their species (they do use some pheromone detection as well), and their antennae are slender and without feathering.

There are plenty of exceptions, however, maybe even enough to actually invalidate the “rules”. For instance, some moths, like the buck moth (*Hemileuca maia*) and genus *Urania* fly during daylight hours, while the American moth butterfly (family *Hedylidae*) flies at night.



Skipper butterfly)

And then there are the “skipper” butterflies (family *Hesperiidae*). These creatures have stout, fuzzy bodies, hooked antennae, vertical forewings and horizontal hindwings, and often dullish orange/brown coloration. They are thought to be an intermediate form between moth and butterfly, and really don’t conform to either set of rules.

The variation in characteristics and number of “exceptions to the rules” might just make distinguishing moths from butterflies a largely academic, and perhaps unnecessary, exercise.

Many moths are colorful, while some butterflies are drab.  
There are fuzzy butterflies, less “hairy” moths,  
and moths that hold their wings vertically.



Oleander hawkmoth  
(*Daphnis nerii*)



Tiger moths (subfamily *Arctiinae*)



Grey pansy butterfly  
(*Junonia atlites*)



Small heath butterfly  
(*Coenonympha pamphilus*)



Gyas jewelmark butterfly  
(*Sarota gyas*)



Winter moth  
(*Operophtera brumata*)

# A Sanctuary for Mind, Body and Spirit: The New Senses Garden is Complete



See, smell, touch and hear - the newest garden at Hershey Garden was intentionally designed to stimulate and engage our senses. It is located at the former Ornamental Grass Garden; the pampas grass and giant reed grasses remain.

“The idea behind a senses garden is rooted in the belief that engaging with nature through multiple senses can improve mental and physical well-being,” said Amy Zeigler, senior director. “By providing sensory-rich experiences, senses gardens can enhance memory, reduce anxiety and promote mindfulness. Each element is chosen to evoke a sensory response.”



The grasses provide both texture and sound in the Senses Garden.

Guests are encouraged to observe the colors, shapes and movement of the flowers. “Take a deep breath and smell the hyssop, lavender and eucalyptus,” said Zeigler. “Listen to the wind move through the tall grasses and a wind chime blowing in the breeze. Gently touch the plants and other garden elements to experience different textures.”

Some other new elements include a branch-lined pathway through tall grasses, a large touch wall with different natural textures, a solar-powered water fountain, and two magnifying glass stations with a mailbox full of natural items to borrow and examine up close. New plants include Chinese Astilbe ‘Mighty Chocolate Cherry,’ Blue Sage, Globe Thistle ‘Blue Glow,’ Butterfly Bush and Wormwood ‘Silver Mound.’



The various materials used in the Touch Wall create a tactile experience for guests.

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

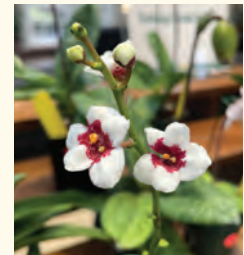
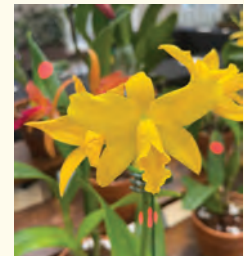
### Member-Only Preview:

**Thursday, January 30, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.**

### Open to the Public:

**Friday, January 31 through Sunday, February 2,  
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

The Susquehanna Orchid Society presents its 41st 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. For more details and a full schedule of events, please check [HersheyGardens.org](http://HersheyGardens.org) in the coming months.



# Spotted Lanternfly in Pennsylvania: An Update for Residents

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

It has been 10 years since the insect spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) was discovered to have established a population in Central Pennsylvania. Here is a concise update on where we stand with this invasive pest.

Spotted lanternfly (SLF) was first discovered to be in North America in 2014. This insect's piercing-sucking mouthparts can significantly damage plants, and the sticky honeydew that is a byproduct of feeding is a significant nuisance in outdoor spaces. According to a study carried out by economists at Penn State, SLF have the potential to severely affect Pennsylvania's economy.

## How much has it spread?

Since they were first noticed in 2014, SLF have spread to 52 Pennsylvania counties. Though they do not yet have established populations throughout the entire United States, they have spread to neighboring states and beyond. Fortunately, no established populations have been reported in Erie County, part of Pennsylvania's premier wine region.

## What kind of damage have we seen from SLF?

SLF have been documented in causing death to grapevines and small tree saplings. They have killed their preferred host plant, tree of heaven, though secondary insect invaders have been a factor in tree of heaven death. SLF are not known to have caused death to mature landscape trees, but their feeding on these trees stresses them and makes them susceptible to secondary invaders. This has been confirmed by research studies of popular street tree varieties.

## I see more SLF than I saw last year/I see fewer SLF than I saw last year—what is going on?

SLF's ground zero in North America is Berks County. Those living close to Reading were inundated with SLF in the early years of its arrival. Recently, residents in western Pennsylvania have been experiencing what seems like an onslaught. While numbers are not truly diminishing in any of the areas in which SLF are established, according to Brian Walsh, Extension Educator, populations fluctuate through the season and between the seasons; small



geographic differences can really impact the population numbers. For example, in a recent webinar for Penn State personnel, Walsh cited a monitored area of red maples that saw a jump in a two-week period from 509 to 16,400 SLF adults, not counting 9,600 that were killed. Though SLF numbers can be deceiving, Walsh confirms what many residents have noticed: generally, we see an expansion of SLF population for three to five years in an area that they have newly occupied.

## What do we know after 10 years of research?

US Department of Agriculture, PA Department of Agriculture, Penn State University and other state universities and

agencies have conducted numerous studies on SLF in the past ten years. We now know more about what effect this pest has on landscape plants. We know that it does not cause damage to structures. Researchers have compiled a list of over 70 species of plants that SLF feed on. Research has been very helpful in combating SLF damage in vineyards. Though studies show that numerous pesticides will kill SLF, to date, research has not discovered anything that prevents SLF movement or keeps them out of a specific area.

One finding reveals that SLF are attracted by vibration and not chemical signals. (Japanese beetle traps are an example of insects being attracted to chemical signals.) These are baited with mating pheromones.) Scientists are hoping that the lab findings around SLF and vibrations may be translated to the field for use in SLF traps or to disrupt their mating signals. They are also looking at other insects that have preyed on SLF eggs and nymphs to see if there is a natural parasitoid that is already present in our area.

## What is the best thing that I can do to help?

### • Stop the Spread—Look Before You Leave

Despite the fact that SLF have spread from their initial introduction site in 2014, it is still important for people to be aware of them in all of their life stages and make sure that they are not hitchhiking. In Pennsylvania, 52 counties are under a state-imposed quarantine. Keep an eye for SLF on vehicles, camping equipment, or anything that could harbor SLF or their egg masses. Help by not assisting SLF movement to a new location, or a location that is currently sparsely populated by SLF.

### • Report SLF

Officials are still asking the public to report SLF sightings. This is especially important if you see SLF in an area where they are not known to be established. But residents are asked to report sightings once a year even in areas SLF have occupied in the past. To do so, visit [Penn State Extension Have You Seen a Spotted Lanternfly](#) or call 1-888-422-3359.

### • Do Not Use Home Remedies

Because SLF often appear in large numbers and we know that they are detrimental to plants, most of us feel a strong urge to kill as many as possible. Well-meaning residents often reach for household items, such as dish detergent, to kill them in a misguided attempt to be easy on the environment. Actually, using items that are not intended as pesticides can have a much more detrimental effect on plants and beneficial animals than using substances that have been tested as such.

For complete information on spotted lanternflies, see [Penn State's Spotted Lanternfly Management Guide](#). Authored by scientists and extension educators in Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences, the guide features comprehensive information, illustrations, charts and photos on the pest's biology, behavior, plant damage and management, and an overview of ongoing research. Please contact your local county Garden Hotline for answers to questions about SLF.

# Discover the Beauty of Buying Locally Made Items at the Garden Shop

by Eileen Daub, Retail Manager

As summer winds down and the leaves start to change, it's time to start thinking about the approaching holiday season. At the Garden Shop, we strive to provide a wide range of unique gift items suited for all ages.

We are proud to support our local small businesses and artisans; many of our most popular items come from these resources. Next time you visit the Garden Shop, be sure to look for some of these beautiful items.

- **Abstract Janice** - This Baltimore-based artist created a custom jewelry line for The Hershey Story Museum earlier this year and we are happy to expand our collection to Hershey Gardens this fall. These unique designs are made by coating hand-painted paper with resin to create one-of-a-kind lightweight pieces. The Hershey Story's collection highlights the color palette of popular candy brands, Hershey Garden's collection focuses on nature-themed shapes like flowers and butterflies.

- **Lavender Brook Farm** - Located just minutes away from Hershey, Lavender Brook Farm creates a line of lavender products including sachets, eye/neck rolls, lotion, shower gels, body butter and more. Each item is made by hand from English and French lavender plants grown at their five-acre farm. Lavender is well-known for its aromatherapy benefits including relaxation and headache relief.

- **Michael Feldser Photography** - Long-time Butterfly Atrium staff member Michael Feldser loves sharing his knowledge about butterflies as much as he loves photographing them! You can take his artwork home through beautiful notecard prints available in the Garden Shop.

- **The Tea Can Company** - The Tea Can Company is based in Pipersville, just north of Philadelphia. They create wonderful black and herbal tea blends in custom tins inspired by the sights - and smells - of Hershey Gardens. In addition to our herbal Garden Therapy and black Chocolate Bon-Bon blends, we just added a Lemongrass & Lavender Green Tea blend.



Michael Feldser's Atrium photography is featured on notecards for sale in the Garden Shop.

- **Pennsylvania-Made Products** - Most of the print and apparel materials offered in our shop come from local suppliers. Our postcards are printed by Elizabethtown-based ITP; our magnets come from Lancaster-based Jaxxon Promotions; embroidered products are created by Mister Bobbin Embroidery in Annville; and many of our screen-printed items come from Annville's Breckert Illustrated Shirts or Grove City's Earth Sun Moon Trading Company.

As always, the Garden Shop is open year 'round and admission to Hershey Gardens is not required to shop. Visit today and shop local!



Guests can purchase Pennsylvania-made tea in beautiful keepsake tins.



The Garden Shop features lavender products from Lavender Brook Farm, located just outside Hershey.

# Second Arbor Bench Installed in Historic Rose Garden

When Hershey Gardens opened in 1937, it featured a single arbor bench not far from the gazebo overlooking Swan Lake.

“This original bench was built for the Gardens, but it was replaced in 1998 by a group of Hershey Industrial School (now Milton Hershey School) alumni led by Nick Leitner, class of ’44,” said Amy Zeigler, senior director. “We noticed in 2021 that the bench was in disrepair, so a new bench, which replicates the original bench, was created during the 2022-2023 school year by the Milton Hershey School carpentry shop.”

“Last year, we agreed that the view when entering the rose garden from the conservatory was stunning, but seemed to be missing something,” said Zeigler. “We knew a second arbor bench on the other side of the gazebo would be a beautiful addition. We once again called upon Milton Hershey School for their carpentry expertise. They enthusiastically accepted and built us a second bench, which was recently installed.”

The next time you visit, make a point to stop and admire the



roses while relaxing on one of these beautiful benches. We are thankful for our partnership with Milton Hershey School and always impressed with the talent of their carpentry students and instructors!

## Welcoming Nature’s Charm: The Rock Garden Now Features Wildlife Statues

New wildlife statues have been added to the Rock Garden through a generous donation from Rob and Cathy Sanford in memory of their son and former staffer, Marcus Sanford.

“We have five native animal statues: a fox, doe, bear, wolf and a rabbit,” said Amy Zeigler, Sr. Director. “It’s a beautiful way to celebrate the diversity of the natural world, and they bring a little whimsy and playfulness to the garden as well.”

“The statues are a great educational tool, and they add year ‘round interest,” added Zeigler. “They are another way our guests can connect with nature during their visit.”



HERSHEY COMMUNITY  
ARCHIVES



**Saturday, September 21**  
**10 a.m. – 1 p.m.**  
**at The Hershey Story**

**In celebration of  
Hershey Community  
Archives’ 40th Anniversary**

Preserve your treasured  
memories and be a part  
of Hershey history!

[Learn more](#)

# 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.

## BUG-O-Rama

INSECTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

**Bug-O-Rama**  
 Sunday, September 8, 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 ZooAmerica, Fort Indiantown Gap Wildlife, Penn State Entomological Outreach, Ryan “The Bug Man” Bridge, PA Bat Rescue, Keys to Bees, face painting and more! [See the full schedule of events here.](#)

Fort Indiantown Gap and ZooAmerica’s wildlife team will discuss their collaboration to create a habitat to raise the regal fritillary butterfly at the Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training Center, where the only remaining population of eastern regal fritillaries exists.

**Bonsai Exhibit by the Susquehanna Bonsai Club**  
 Wednesday, September 25 through Saturday, October 12, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily



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

**Manada Conservancy presents “Climate Change and Penn’s Woods”**  
 Thursday, September 26 at 7 p.m.

Join Greg Czarnecki, director of Applied Climate Science with the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR),



to look at the current and projected impacts of climate change globally, in the U.S. and here in Pennsylvania. He will also relay how one state agency, DCNR, is adapting to climate change to minimize the impact on state parks, state forests and the natural resources of the commonwealth. This program is free and open to the public. Please register by contacting Manada Conservancy at [office@manada.org](mailto:office@manada.org) or 717.566.4122.



## Pumpkin Palooza

October 19, 20, 26 and 27, 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.](#)



Sponsors:





# Celebrate the Holidays at Hershey Gardens

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

## The Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 22 through Sunday, January 5 from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.  
Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory

Our signature holiday event has been reimagined to a dreamscape of nine colorful tree displays with twinkling lights; each unique tree is created by a talented local designer. Guests can also enjoy the 14-foot

poinsettia tree in brilliant solid red and a stunning 8-foot bromeliad tree. Plus, the Butterfly Atrium will be decorated for the holidays, too!

### Enjoy Live Music on Sundays from 1:30 to 3 p.m.

The Professors: November 24 and December 29  
Appalachian Breeze: December 1, 8, 15 and 22

## THE Christmas Tree Showcase



Thomas Davis



Sponsors



## Santa and His Reindeer Use This Special Sleigh... Only When They Come to Hershey, PA!

It's Hersheypark's Comet coaster car, of course! Bring the whole family to Hershey Gardens and sit in it for the perfect holiday photo op!

Located in the Milton & Catherine Hershey Conservatory  
Friday, November 22 through Sunday, January 5  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



## Student Christmas Tree Showcase

Friday, November 22 through Sunday, January 5  
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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

## Calling All Kids! Crafty Christmas Creations

November 23, 30, December 7, 14, 21, 28 and January 4  
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.

## Visit with Santa Claus & Mrs. Claus

Santa Claus: December 14, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Story Time with Mrs. Claus: December 7 and 21, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Ho Ho Ho... Santa Claus is coming to town! Bring the whole family to visit with Santa and hear stories from Mrs. Claus.



## Art Show & Display

**"For the Love of Art" by the Hershey Area Art Association**  
February 14 and 15 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and February 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



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

## Fall Homeschool Day

### "Biodiversity" Homeschool Day

**Tuesday, October 1, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

**Kindergarten through Grade 6**

Appreciate and understand why differences in the plant and animal world are important to our livelihoods. We'll take a closer look at native plants and insects, the impact of invasive species and climate change, and how we can play a role in conserving and protecting biodiversity.



Special guest Elyse Jurgen of Waxwing Ecoworks will present on the importance of empathizing with wildlife's needs and how native plants and building back wildlife habitat are solutions to rebounding their populations.

Ms. Jurgen facilitates Lancaster's Schoolyard Habitat program in collaboration with the National Wildlife Federation. She earned a Master's Degree in Environmental Education and an Ecological Gardening Certificate from Mt. Cuba Center.

Additionally, learn about bonsai trees with the Susquehanna Bonsai Club.

**\$11 per student, \$13 per adult**

**Online registration required here. Registration will close September 29.**

## ECO-FICTION BOOK GROUP

Join us quarterly 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 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.



**10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in the Garden Cottage**

January 24: *How Beautiful We Were* by Imbolo Mbue

April 25: *The Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler

July 25: *The High House* by Jessie Greengrass

October 24: *Gun Island* by Amitae Ghosh

Included in admission; free for members. To register, please email Vera Kolstrom at [velkolstrom@hersheygardens.org](mailto:velkolstrom@hersheygardens.org)

## Calling All Scouts!

*At least one adult is required to register and accompany each troop or individual Scout. All requirements will be completed, but badges are not included. All tickets include admission to Hershey Gardens and the Butterfly Atrium for the day. General admission tickets are required for accompanying family members.*

### Brownie "Outdoor Art Creator" Badge Requirement Workshop

**Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Explore creative movement, make art with recycled and natural objects and further develop your observational skills as you complete your "Outdoor Art Creator" badge requirements.

**\$15 per Scout, \$13 per Scout leader. Registration is required here.**

### Junior "Outdoor Art Explorer" Badge Requirement Workshop

**Saturday, October 5, 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.**

Let Hershey Gardens be your inspiration as you explore, learn about and create various artworks designed with nature in mind!

**\$15 per Scout, \$13 per Scout leader. Registration is required here.**

## ADULT & FAMILY CLASSES

### Winter Wreath Workshops

**Friday, December 6 at 10 a.m., Saturday, December 7 at 10 a.m. and Sunday, December 8 at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.**



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

Led by Hershey Gardens Horticultural and Education Programs Staff

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

**Advance registration required here, beginning November 1.**

### Garden Gnome Winter Family Workshop

**Saturday, December 7 at 2 p.m.**

Create your own 3- to 4-foot garden gnome using fresh limbs and twigs pruned from the Gardens! All supplies and materials are provided; however, participants are encouraged to bring mittens, scarf and a hat to fashionably dress their gnome.

Led by Hershey Gardens Education Programs Staff

Members: \$40; Non-members: \$45

Price includes one garden gnome for up to two individuals. Additional guests are required to purchase a general admission ticket.

**Advance registration required here, beginning November 1.**



### Winter Bird Watch at Hershey Gardens

**Saturday, January 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Habitat & Feeding**

**Saturday, February 15, 10a.m.-12p.m. Citizen Science & Identification with Quittapahilla Audubon Society**

Bring the whole family—and your binoculars—and learn to identify the various birds that call Hershey Gardens home during the winter. We'll take you on a unique guided bird walk that will include information about how to support wildlife and build bird habitats. For the youngest birders, additional activities will be offered in the classroom. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes.

Included in admission; registration is required by calling 717.508.5968.