

JENKINS

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Winter + Spring 2026

Semi-annual news, education, and events at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens





MISSION & VISION

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens celebrates the wonder of plants and place as a destination for education, conservation, and community connection.

Our vision as defined by the will of H. Lawrence Jenkins states that Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is to be developed as a public park, arboretum, and wildlife sanctuary for the use of the public and responsible organizations engaged in the study of arboriculture, horticulture and wildlife, for educational and scientific purposes.

Cover photo: Harold E. Sweetman, Ph.D.

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**ROOTED IN THE PAST,
GROWING TOWARD
THE FUTURE**



**A PORTRAIT OF THE
GARDEN: THE JENKINS
FLORILEGIUM PROJECT**



SPRING BLOOMS



Dear Jenkins family & friends,

A GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

This year marks a momentous occasion—the 50th Anniversary of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. As we celebrate this golden milestone, we look back with deep gratitude at the vision and generosity that have allowed this sanctuary to flourish and welcome over one million visitors since 1976.

Fifty years ago, the land was entrusted to us with a clear purpose: to preserve its natural beauty, promote environmental education, and showcase a spectacular selection of North American native plants, along with our signature collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. Over the decades, we have remained true to our mission, growing from a fledgling idea into a vibrant, 48-acre garden that celebrates the wonder of plants and place as a destination for education, conservation, and community connection.

Our anniversary theme, “Rooted in the Past, Growing Toward the Future,” perfectly captures this moment. The foundation laid by our founders and early supporters is robust, allowing us to think ambitiously about the next half century. This year, we honor our past and future through a series of special events, educational programs, and new initiatives designed to deeper engage our community and enhance the visitor experience.

In the pages of this magazine, you will learn about the values and voices that have guided our work from the beginning, and how current projects build on our existing legacy. I invite you to join me at our Spring Blooms: 50th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 16th to recognize five decades of community, nature, and achievement.

This anniversary is not just a celebration of the gardens; it's a celebration of you. Whether you are a dedicated volunteer, a lifelong member, a generous donor, or a first-time visitor, your passion for this special place is what truly sustains us.

We invite you to join us throughout the year to celebrate this incredible legacy. Come walk the trails, attend a workshop, or simply take a moment to appreciate the shared care and commitment that have allowed this place, and our community, to flourish.

Here's to the past, the present, and the beautiful, sustainable future we are building together.

*Here's to the past,
the present, and the
beautiful, sustainable
future we are
building together.*

Always growing,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tom Smarr".

Tom Smarr
Executive Director

Rooted in the Past, Growing Toward the Future

50 YEARS OF JENKINS ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Fifty years ago, a quiet corner of Devon, Pennsylvania began its transformation into one of the region's most beloved gardens. What started as a bequest from H. Lawrence Jenkins—a man inspired by his late wife's love for nature and beauty—has flourished into a thriving center where people come together to explore, learn, and find a sense of peace in the natural world.

At the heart of all we do at Jenkins is our mission *to celebrate the wonder of plants and place as a destination for education, conservation, and community connection*. These guiding principles have shaped every path, program, and planting over the last five decades. As we celebrate this milestone year, we take a moment to reflect on how each pillar of our mission has evolved, from its earliest roots to its vibrant growth today.

EDUCATION

In our earliest days, educational programming at Jenkins was modest but meaningful; guided walks through blooming rhododendrons, lively “make and take” workshops, and collaborative programs with local garden clubs and the American Rhododendron Society. Even in those early years, our programs sparked curiosity, nurtured

JENKINS THROUGH THE YEARS



Elisabeth Phillippe and H. Lawrence Jenkins on their wedding day in 1925.

1968

H. Lawrence Jenkins establishes a trust to create a public garden in memory of his late wife, Elisabeth.

1971

Louisa P. Browning deeds her 26 acres of woodland to Jenkins.



A one-acre pond was excavated before the gardens opened to the public.



Jenkins' first Executive Director, Leonard H. Sweetman kneeling beside the red horsechestnut (*Aesculus x carnea 'Briotii'*) that continues to grow above the pond today.



Jenkins officially opens to the public on May 22. Guided by landscape architect George E. Patton's vision, two years of planting and construction transform the wooded hillside into a public garden.

1976



1986

Founding Director Leonard H. Sweetman retires. Harold E. Sweetman, Ph.D. is named Executive Director, ushering in a new era of leadership and growth.

6

a love for the native plants, and inspired a deeper commitment to caring for the natural world.

What began as a handful of programs each year has grown into a dynamic and diverse educational ecosystem. We now offer more than 225 programs annually that serve over 5,000 program participants of all ages. From curious children exploring pond life to artistic adults studying botanical illustration, our educational programs offer opportunities to strengthen our connection with nature and foster our sense of wonder. Whether on-site or online, our educational mission remains the same: to inspire a love of plants, nature, and our community.

CONSERVATION

From the beginning, Jenkins has been more than just a beautiful garden—it has been a refuge for plants and wildlife. Early conservation efforts focused on enhancing and protecting the woodlands gifted by the Jenkins and Browning families, with a particular emphasis on azaleas

and rhododendrons. These iconic plants became a defining feature of the garden's identity, shaping both the landscape and our horticultural direction.

Over the decades, our dedication to plant conservation has expanded in scope and recognition. Jenkins is proud to steward two Nationally Accredited Plant Collections® through the American Public Gardens Association's Plant Collections Network. These prestigious accreditations recognize not only the depth and diversity of our collections, but also our long-term commitment to documentation, curation, and public access.

Our most recent conservation initiative, the Native Rhododendron Germplasm Repository, began in 2020 and aims to conserve the genetic diversity of native azaleas and rhododendrons through field collection, propagation, and long-term study. Supported in part by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, this project reflects our mission to safeguard native species in the face of environmental change and habitat loss.

Jenkins welcomes its first Hamilton Educational Fellow (now the Hamilton Horticulture Apprentice), shortly followed by an expanded internship program.

1999



2009

The LEED-certified John J. Willaman Education Center opens, becoming an active hub for classes, events, art exhibitions, and deeper community engagement.



Today, our conservation work encompasses habitat restoration, sustainable land management, and partnerships with local and national organizations. Our horticulturists and volunteers work diligently to ensure that Jenkins is not only a place of beauty, but also a stronghold for biodiversity and ecological resilience. As climate change intensifies and natural areas shrink, our role as a living sanctuary has never been more vital.

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Jenkins has always been a place of quiet connection between people and nature, and among neighbors and friends. In the early years, community engagement often meant a stroll through the gardens, attending a special event hosted by a local club, or taking part in weekly volunteer potlucks. These simple moments built a strong foundation of support and affection for Jenkins.

Today, that sense of connection continues to thrive. Jenkins is now a place where visitors of all backgrounds and generations come to learn, reflect, and celebrate. And while our community has grown, so has our role within it as a trusted resource, a gathering place, and a steward of green space in a rapidly changing world.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we mark this golden anniversary, we honor the vision and values that have guided Jenkins for half a century, and consider how our legacy informs our future. In the coming years, we will take bold steps to further our mission and serve an even wider audience. Plans are underway that will renew and expand key areas of the gardens, enhancing the visitor experience while preserving the natural beauty at the heart of Jenkins. We look forward to growing in the next fifty years and beyond, while remaining rooted in the community that helped us flourish.



Jenkins' Rhododendron and Kalmia collections are recognized by the Plant Collections Network, furthering Jenkins' role in national plant conservation.



Jenkins launches the Native Rhododendron Germplasm Repository—an ambitious, long-term effort to collect and conserve rare plants from across the eastern United States.

2010



2019



After more than 30 years of leadership, Harold E. Sweetman, Ph.D., retires. Tom Smarr becomes the third Executive Director, bringing vibrant vision to Jenkins' future.

2020



2026



With a bold strategic plan, reimagined master plan, and refreshed visual identity, Jenkins is ready to grow. A dedicated team now welcomes 90,000+ visitors, 1,100+ member households, and 5,000+ program participants annually, advancing a mission rooted in education, conservation, and community connection.

A Portrait of the Garden

THE JENKINS FLORILEGIUM PROJECT

At Jenkins, where each season brings subtle shifts in color and form, three artists created a lasting record of the landscape—not through planting, but through the precise layering of graphite and watercolor. Since 2019, three accomplished botanical artists, Carol Ashton-Hergenhan, Debby Dion, and Susan Mintun, meticulously observed, sketched, and painted select members of Jenkins' plant collection. Their goal: to create a florilegium—a timeless, visual archive of Jenkins' most iconic plant species, rendered with scientific accuracy and artistic grace.

A “florilegium,” from the Latin *flos* (flower) and *legere* (to gather), is more than a collection of beautiful illustrations. It is a carefully curated record of plants representative of a particular garden or region—an artistic herbarium of sorts. Across centuries, florilegia have served as both works of art and historical documentation, preserving a snapshot of botanical diversity and horticultural accomplishment.

The idea germinated in 2018, when Carol, Debby, and Susan, longtime friends and fellow artists, discussed collaborating on a project that would reflect their shared love for botanical painting. They envisioned a body of work that not only celebrated plants as artistic subjects but also highlighted the rigorous discipline of botanical illustration. After conversations with then-Executive Director Harold E. Sweetman, Ph.D., the idea of partnering with Jenkins gained momentum. With enthusiastic support from the Board of Directors and staff, a plant list was developed, and by spring 2019, the first strokes were laid on paper.

Unlike traditional floral paintings, botanical art merges beauty with scientific accuracy. The artists do not merely capture the spirit of a plant—they carefully depict how it truly exists in nature. Each painting is the result of deep observation: from measuring petal length and leaf shape to noting growth and decay throughout the seasons. Using watercolors and graphite, they render these subjects with delicate precision on paper or vellum.

The process is as meticulous as it is patient. Much of the work begins in the field where the artists study living specimens growing within the landscape. They collect cuttings to bring back to their studios, where sketches and studies unfold over weeks or months. Color swatches are often painted on-site, using natural light to capture the subtle hues of a fading dogwood bract or the soft underside of a fern frond. Their sketchbooks can quickly become scientific journals filled with notes, observations, and drawings made over multiple seasons, as plants reveal different phases of their life cycles.

Timing is everything. Some species must be observed at a precise moment: when flowers open, fruits ripen, or leaves unfurl. This sometimes means halting progress on a painting and waiting until the following year to complete it.

Over the course of seven years, the three artists have completed 35 works, each a visual tribute to the botanical richness of Jenkins. From native azaleas to towering oaks, the Jenkins Florilegium captures the story of the garden's unique collection.

This spring, the complete Florilegium will be exhibited at Jenkins as part of our 50th Anniversary Celebration. It will offer visitors a new way to see the garden through the eyes of artists who have spent years immersed in its seasonal rhythms and quiet splendor. The Florilegium serves as both a gift to the garden and a legacy for generations to come; a reminder that science and art, when intertwined with patience and care, can deepen our connection to the living world and each other.



CAROL ASHTON-HERGENHAN

Carol opted for egg tempera and metal points for her exploration of *Tiarella cordifolia* var. *collina*. She chose to capture the essence of the plant's mounding habit by indicating its outer edge in detailed drawings using both silver and copper point (pointed wires of sterling silver and pure copper). Carol tested colors first on paper, then did a practice painting on gesso with egg tempera (which uses egg yolks as the pigment binder) before starting the final piece.



DEBBY DION

Debby's method is to research the specimen, take notes, do sketches, photograph and color studies, spend a good deal of time on the composition, and do a graphite value study. Sometimes she paints parts of the plant as in the *Carex* study. She kept a dedicated journal for the Florilegium to stay organized. Outside of the Florilegium, Debby keeps individual 'job jackets' for other plants, a practice learned from her days as an art director and commercial illustrator.



SUSAN MINTUN

Many botanical artists choose to reflect interconnectedness of nature in their work. For her bog plant compositions, Susan depicted a variety of species cultivated at Jenkins, capturing them at different stages of growth. She collected specimens at various stages of development, did sketches, color studies, and photographs of each, then arranged them in a mixed composition. Many layers of paint are required to build the color and depth of values needed to portray each plant realistically.



Plants Featured in the Jenkins Florilegium

This curated selection of canopy trees, understory plants, shrubs, perennials, and vines captures a botanical snapshot of the garden as it stands today, offering a vivid portrait of Jenkins' unique living landscape.

TREES & SHRUBS

- Pawpaw (*Asimina triloba*) 
- Buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) 
- Flowering dogwood (*Cornus florida*) 
- Dwarf fothergilla (*Fothergilla gardenii*) 
- Franklin tree (*Franklinia alatamaha*) 
- Mountain laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*) 
- Sweetbay magnolia (*Magnolia virginiana*) 
- White oak (*Quercus alba*) 
- Rosebay rhododendron (*Rhododendron maximum*) 
- Pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*) 
- Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) 

PERENNIALS & VINES

- Northern maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) 
- Green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*) 
- Wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) 
- Butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*) 
- Winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*) 
- Plaintainleaf sedge (*Carex plantaginea*) 
- Spotted pipsissewa (*Chimaphila maculata*) 
- Yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) 
- Wild bleeding heart (*Dicentra eximia*) 
- Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) 
- Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*) 
- American waterlily (*Nymphaea odorata*) 
- Sensitive fern (*Onoclea sensibilis*) 
- Cinnamon fern (*Osmunda cinnamomeum*) 
- Purple passionflower (*Passiflora incarnata*) 
- Mayapple (*Podophyllum peltatum*) 
- Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) 
- Pitcherplant (*Sarracenia* sp.) 
- Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*) 
- Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*) 
- Heartleaf foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia* var. *collina*) 
- Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) 
- Broadleaf cattail (*Typha latifolia*) 
- Yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*) 



Northern maidenhair fern
(*Adiantum pedatum*)



American waterlily
(*Nymphaea odorata*)



A Living Palette

GROWING THE FLORILEGIUM

The plants represented in the Jenkins Florilegium are more than just works of art; they are part of a living, growing landscape. Each species was selected not only for its beauty, but also for its role in the habitats that define the garden's character. These are plants that thrive in our region and, in many cases, can be successfully grown in home gardens as well.

The Florilegium captures a seasonal journey through Jenkins, from canopy trees to spring ephemerals, summer wildflowers, and fall-fruiting shrubs. It reflects the diverse habitats common to our region, including dry upland woodlands, sunny meadows, and wetland edges. Thoughtfully curated, this collection of plants adds year-round texture, color, and ecological value to the garden, and offers inspiration for gardeners looking to replicate these plant communities at home.

Woodland Walk and Azalea Hill represent shaded upland forests with mature white oaks (*Quercus alba*), flowering dogwoods (*Cornus florida*), and shrubs like pinxterbloom azalea (*Rhododendron periclymenoides*). In

spring, woodland wildflowers such as Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*), and red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) emerge, followed in summer by the lush sweeps of wild ginger (*Asarum canadense*) and foamflower (*Tiarella cordifolia*). Fall brings bright red-orange berries from green dragon (*Arisaema dracontium*), a favorite of birds like the Wood Thrush.



Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Further along Jenkins Road, the landscape opens to include mountain laurels (*Kalmia latifolia*), groves of pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*), and Franklin trees (*Franklinia alatamaha*). Underneath, part-shade plants like Indian pink (*Spigelia marilandica*), yellowroot (*Xanthorhiza simplicissima*), and yellow lady's slipper (*Cypripedium parviflorum*) thrive. Ferns and sedges such as maidenhair fern (*Adiantum pedatum*) and plantainleaf sedge (*Carex plantaginea*) add texture to these dry-shade areas.

The lower end of the gardens transition to sunny, moist habitats surrounding the pond and bog. Towering bald cypress trees (*Taxodium distichum*) turn a rich burnt orange in fall, while buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*) attracts birds, pollinators, and waterfowl with its spherical blooms and seed heads. Around the pond, floating waterlilies (*Nymphaea odorata*) and cattails (*Typha latifolia*) bring a sense of calm to the aquatic edges. In the nearby wildflower beds, sun-loving perennials like butterflyweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), winecup (*Callirhoe involucrata*), and Stokes' aster (*Stokesia laevis*) are active with countless wildlife, from Monarch caterpillars to goldfinches eating seeds.

Plan your visit to Jenkins to experience the Florilegium exhibition (on view March 28–September 20) where art and horticulture come together to celebrate the beauty and diversity of native plants. After viewing the stunning botanical artworks, step outside and walk the very paths where these plants grow. Many of the Florilegium plants are available for purchase in The Garden Shop at Jenkins in season, making it easy to bring a piece of the Florilegium—and Jenkins—into your own garden.

Cultivating a New Variegated Form of Golden Alexanders

Back in 2022, Steve Wright, Director of Horticulture/Curator of Plant Collections, discovered something unique in our Conservation Woodlands—a variegated form of golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*). Native to the eastern United States, golden Alexanders is an herbaceous perennial with bright green, toothed leaves and umbels of yellow flowers in late spring. We love it for its low maintenance adaptability, as well as its attractiveness to Black Swallowtails as a host for their eggs.

What caught Steve's eye that day were the creamy white markings on the leaves of this specimen, unlike the usual solid green. He carefully transplanted it into the garden, where it has been thriving ever since. In the fall of 2024, then-Horticulture Intern Magi Kern collected seed from the variegated plant and germinated them at home. To everyone's surprise, many of the seedlings also showed

the same beautiful variegation—a rare and exciting outcome!

Variegation (when a plant's leaves show multiple colors) doesn't pass easily from parent to seedling, which makes this discovery especially promising. Usually, traits like variegation or unusual flower color are best passed down through cuttings, which produce exact genetic copies of the original plant. But in this case, the seedlings are showing consistent variegation, which suggests the trait is likely genetic and can be reliably passed on. Now, some of Magi's best seed-grown plants have returned to Jenkins, where they're being grown in the nursery and closely observed as they mature.

While golden Alexanders is a common and widely available native plant, there are currently no known variegated forms available for sale. Variegation in plants can appear in different ways, from beautiful to a

bit sickly depending on the origins of the trait (often a genetic mutation or caused by a virus). Finding an attractive, genetically stable variegated form is especially exciting, and there is limitless potential for incorporating these beautiful new plants into garden spaces.

At Jenkins, our nursery team is now collecting more seed from this plant and growing new batches of seedlings. As they sprout, those with the most striking variegation are carefully selected and potted. If the trait continues to prove stable and attractive, this unique form of golden Alexanders may eventually be registered and named as a new cultivar—a process that could even lead to future commercial availability. For now, this special plant is a shining example of how close observation and daily interactions with nature can lead to unexpected discoveries, even in plants we thought we already knew!



Max Dupont, Nursery Production Manager, collecting seed from the garden specimen.



A closer look at the variegated foliage of our golden Alexanders (*Zizia aurea*).

Programs at a Glance

● GARDENING & NATURE
● WELLNESS
● ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

● SPECIAL EVENT
● THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE
● YOUTH PROGRAM

1/5	Mindful Yoga (1/5–2/9) 6-WEEK SERIES 6:00–7:15 PM	2/14	Mindfulness Meditation Walk 9:15–10:30 AM	3/21	Flower Press Workshop 10:00 AM–1:00 PM
1/7	Member Exclusive: A Year in Review 7:00–8:00 PM	2/16	Mindful Yoga (2/16–3/23) 6-WEEK SERIES 6:00–7:15 PM	3/22	Gemstone Bracelets: Longevity and Vitality 1:00–2:30 PM
1/8	Mindful Yoga (1/8–2/12) 6-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:45 AM	2/19	Mindful Yoga (2/19–3/26) 6-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:45 AM	3/28	Jenkins Florilegium Exhibition (3/28–9/20) 9:00 AM–4:00 PM
1/11	Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music Concert 2:30–3:30 PM		Paved Paradise: The Ecological Impacts of Our Planet's Roads 7:00–8:30 PM		How to Select Plants 10:00–11:30 AM
1/15	Evolution, Environment, Drought, Frost: Insights from Extinct and Living Plants 7:00–8:30 PM	2/21	Practical Pruning 10:00 AM–12:00 PM		Restorative Nature Writing 1:00–3:00 PM
1/17	15th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition (1/17–3/22) 9:00 AM–4:00 PM	2/28	Snowflake Science (Ages 4+) 10:00–11:00 AM	3/30	Mindful Yoga (3/30–5/4) 6-WEEK SERIES 6:00–7:15 PM
1/18	Opening Reception for 15th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition 2:00–4:00 PM		Scientific Illustration Workshop 1:00–3:00 PM	4/2	Mindful Yoga (4/2–5/7) 6-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:45 AM
1/24	Native Seed Propagation 10:00 AM–12:00 PM	3/7	A Journey to Backyard Biodiversity 10:00–11:00 AM	4/8	Tai Chi (4/8–5/6) 5-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:30 AM
	Vision Board Workshop 10:00 AM–1:00 PM	3/14	Mindfulness Meditation Walk 9:15–10:30 AM	4/11	Mindfulness Meditation Walk 9:15–10:30 AM
1/26	Bird Walk 8:30–9:30 AM	3/15	Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music Concert 2:30–3:30 PM		Spring Sketching: Flowers and Foliage 1:00–4:00 PM
2/2	Celebrate the Season (All Ages) 10:00–11:00 AM	3/17	Celebrate the Season (All Ages) 10:00–11:00 AM	4/12	Understanding Herps with DIY Slime (Ages 4+) 10:00–11:00 AM
2/8	Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music Concert 2:30–3:30 PM	3/19	Return to the Sky: The Reintroduction of the Bald Eagle 7:00–8:30 PM		Forest Bathing 1:00–3:30 PM



REGISTER ONLINE

To register for programs + events and for more info, visit JAGardens.eventbrite.com

4/16	Art or Science? The Co-Construction of Botanical Illustration 7:00–8:30 PM	5/21	Past, Present, Future: A Journey Through Jenkins 7:00–8:30 PM
4/18	Photo Walk 9:00–11:00 AM	6/1	Mindful Yoga (6/1–6/22) 4-WEEK SERIES 6:00–7:15 PM
4/20	Bird Walk 7:45–8:45 AM	6/4	Mindful Yoga (6/4–6/25) 4-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:45 AM
4/21	Jenkins Juniors (4/21–5/12) 4-WEEK SERIES • AGES 2–5 10:00–11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM–12:00 PM	6/15	National Pollinator Week (6/15–6/21) Mini Microscope Monday (Ages 3+) 10:00–11:00 AM
4/22	Pennsylvania Piedmont: The Wildlands of Southeastern PA 7:00–8:00 PM	6/18	The Science of Attracting Butterflies 7:00–8:30 PM
4/23	Garden Shop Nursery Opening Night Party 5:30–8:00 PM	6/20	Photo Walk 9:00–11:00 AM
4/24	Garden Shop Nursery Opening Weekend Sale (4/24–4/26) 9:00 AM–4:00 PM	6/22	2026 Arbo-READ-um Partnership (6/22–7/31) Mini Microscope Monday (Ages 3+) 10:00–11:00 AM
5/6	Forest Bathing 6:00–7:30 PM	6/29	Mini Microscope Monday (Ages 3+) 10:00–11:00 AM
5/16	Photo Walk 9:00–11:00 AM		
	Spring Blooms 5:00–8:00 PM		
5/19	Jenkins Juniors (5/19–6/9) 4-WEEK SERIES • AGES 2–5 10:00–11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM–12:00 PM		
5/20	Tai Chi (5/20–6/17) 5-WEEK SERIES 9:30–10:30 AM		



APRIL 8–JUNE 24

Golf Cart Garden Tours

WEDNESDAYS 11:00–11:45 AM



APRIL 8–JUNE 24

Wednesday Walkabouts

WEDNESDAYS 1:00–2:00 PM

SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7

Member Exclusive: A Year in Review

7:00–8:00 PM

Steve Wright, Director of Horticulture/Curator of Plant Collections, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

This virtual talk celebrates our staff and volunteers, and highlights many of the accomplishments in our garden. Gain a new perspective on how Jenkins continues to develop and maintain our beautiful garden for all.

Free of charge | Members only | Virtual event

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Pennsylvania Piedmont: The Wildlands of Southeastern PA

7:00–8:00 PM

Roger Latham, Ecologist and Conservation Biologist, Continental Conservation

Step into the Pennsylvania Piedmont to uncover the unique geology and ecology that make Southeastern PA's wildlands truly special. See page 19 for event description.

Free of charge | Location: Penn State Great Valley, Conference Center Building

MONDAY, JUNE 15–SUNDAY, JUNE 21

National Pollinator Week

Celebrate the importance of pollinators with on-site education, activities, plants, and much more. We'll also highlight cool facts about winged wonders and how you can help on Jenkins' social media (@jagardens).

MONDAY, JUNE 22–FRIDAY, JULY 31

2026 Arbo-READ-um Partnership

Join Tredyffrin Public Library and Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens for our 6th annual Arbo-READ-um Community Read, promoting literacy and community conversations in Tredyffrin Township. Join us in reading *The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession* by Amy Stewart. Stay tuned for more information about Arbo-READ-um programs and activities!

Art Exhibitions

GYLLERY OPEN DAILY

JANUARY 17–MARCH 22

15th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

2:00–4:00 PM

Enter your photography in our show! Submissions due January 10–13. Full entry submission details at jenkinsarboretum.org/photography.

Free of charge | Registration not required

MARCH 28–SEPTEMBER 20

Jenkins Florilegium Exhibition

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, MARCH 29

2:00–4:00 PM

Botanical artists Carol Ashton-Hergenhan, Debby Dion, and Susan Mintun present a visual archive of Jenkins' most iconic plant species.

Free of charge | Registration not required

Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music

Immerse yourself in classical music with the forest as visual inspiration. Each performance features different musicians with meet-and-greet following. This chamber music series is in collaboration with Allegro Music Consultants.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

2:30–3:30 PM

Gideon Whitehead (guitar) and Ekaterina Skliar (mandolin)

Members: \$35 | Non-Members: \$40

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

2:30–3:30 PM

Formosa Quartet – Jasmine Lin (violin), David Bernat (violin), Matthew Cohen (viola), and Debby Pae (cello)

Members: \$35 | Non-Members: \$40

SUNDAY, MARCH 15

2:30–3:30 PM

Philadelphia Orchestra members Socrates Villegas (clarinet) and Meng Wang (viola) with Hanchien Lee (keyboard)

Members: \$35 | Non-Members: \$40

Garden Shop Nursery: Opening Weekend Sale

Celebrate the seasonal return of our outdoor retail nursery by shopping during our annual plant sale! Join us for a festive Opening Night Party on Thursday, then shop for an expanded selection of plants during our Opening Weekend Sale.

Proceeds from this sale support Jenkins and the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. Both organizations work to connect people to plants through education, research, and outreach.

Can't make it for this special weekend? Don't worry—this is just the start of the season! Shop for native plants in The Garden Shop nursery, open daily from April 24 through mid-October.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Opening Night Party

5:30–8:00 PM

Kick off the growing season by attending our exclusive opening night party! Get first dibs on plants while enjoying an open bar and hors d'oeuvres in the company of other plant enthusiasts.

Experts from the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society as well as Jenkins' horticulture staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide expert guidance on plant selection throughout the evening.

Members: \$30 | Non-Members: \$40

FRIDAY, APRIL 24–SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Opening Weekend Sale

9:00 AM–4:00 PM

Choose from an expanded selection of native trees, perennials, and shrubs, including many rare and hard-to-find species during our Opening Weekend Sale. The sale will also feature uncommon and unusual rhododendrons and azaleas from our friends at the Delaware Valley Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society.

Opening Weekend Sale will be held outdoors at Jenkins, rain or shine. Parking is limited; carpooling is strongly encouraged. Credit card, cash, Apple Pay, Cash App, and checks will be accepted. Members receive 10% off on all purchases!

Free of charge | Registration not required



SPECIAL EVENT

Spring Blooms

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 16 | 5:00–8:00 PM

Join us for a special Spring Blooms as we celebrate 50 years of Jenkins! This milestone event honors five decades of growth, beauty, and community connection. Enjoy seasonal fare, delectable desserts, live music, and lively conversation surrounded by peak spring bloom.

Contact us at giving@jenkinsarboretum.org to learn more about Corporate Sponsorship and Patron opportunities.

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Wool Art Painting Workshop

1:00–3:30 PM

Maria Gio, Artist and Owner of Mara Effects—Wool Art

Discover the artist within through the process of painting with wool and create a unique, handmade work of art. Wool watercolor is an exceptional, meditative art where the piece is created by layering dry wool onto fabric (not needle felting). Under the weight of glass these complex layers of wool appear vibrant and rich with 3D effects. Choosing from sample designs, you'll go step-by-step through the process, finishing with your own artwork ready to hang.

All materials provided—size is 8" x 10," framed under glass. Perfect for any skill level.

Members: \$75 | Non-Members: \$85

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Scientific Illustration Workshop

1:00–3:00 PM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator and Founder of The Art of Ecology

Explore the beauty and detail of the natural world through the lens of an artist. Using natural artifacts as inspiration, participants will be guided step-by-step in documenting their observations with pencil, ink, and color. This workshop is ideal for anyone wishing to deepen their understanding of nature, animals, and plants while enjoying relaxing art techniques and improving their skills in a friendly, supportive setting.

All materials provided; no prior art or scientific experience required.

Members: \$45 | Non-Members: \$55

SATURDAY, MARCH 21

Flower Press Workshop

10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator and Founder of The Art of Ecology

Engage in the ancient practice of flower and plant preservation during this hands-on workshop. Discover the history, purpose, and art of plant pressing, then create your own press using watercolor, illustration, and pyrography techniques on wooden boards. Participants will take home their finished press, the leaves and flowers pressed during class, and inspiration for future projects.

All materials and plants to press are provided, though participants are welcome to bring additional flowers or plants from home.

Members: \$70 | Non-Members: \$80

SUNDAY, MARCH 22

Gemstone Bracelets: Longevity and Vitality

1:00–2:30 PM

Jessica O'Connell, Owner of Beads of a Feather

In a world of quick fixes and bio-hacks, true longevity comes from rhythm, ritual, and care. Acting with purpose fosters presence and connection, helping to curate the art of your life! Tune into your own earthly vibration and relax to a calming guided meditation with gentle live music. Learn how to connect with natural gemstones and mindfully craft a bracelet of your own.

All materials provided. Participants will make one bracelet. Suitable for adults and teens.

Members: \$40 | Non-Members: \$50

SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Spring Sketching: Flowers and Foliage

1:00–4:00 PM

Margaret Saylor, Botanical Artist and Illustrator

Draw inspiration from Jenkins! Explore how to document spring plants as they emerge, bud, and bloom. Learning not just to look, but to see your subject is crucial to drawing. Sharpen your skills during this insightful class. Dive into the spring season in the gardens and in the classroom as you work alongside a botanical artist and share your work.

Explore graphite, Micron pen, and watercolor as mediums with a small, manageable sketchbook.

All levels welcome; some drawing experience helpful but not necessary.

Members: \$55 | Non-Members: \$65

SATURDAYS, APRIL 18, MAY 16, JUNE 20

Photo Walks

9:00–11:00 AM

Laura Ducceschi, Fine Art Photographer

Capture the season while learning about photography! An award-winning photographer will be your mentor and guide for a small group session. Stroll the gardens and photograph what inspires you while learning about light, background, and composition on the spot.

Participants can use any kind of camera—from smartphones to DSLRs. Be sure to have a fully charged battery and storage space to shoot freely.

Members: \$20/walk | Non-Members: \$30/walk

WELLNESS

MONDAY & THURSDAY SERIES

Mindful Yoga

MONDAYS • 6:00–7:15 PM • HYBRID

6-week series: 1/5–2/9, 2/16–3/23, 3/30–5/4

4-week series: 6/1–6/22

THURSDAYS • 9:30–10:45 AM • VIRTUAL

6-week series: 1/8–2/12, 2/19–3/26, 4/2–5/7

4-week series: 6/4–6/25

Janet Muti, Yoga Instructor

Our Mindful Yoga practice consists of gentle stretching and strengthening exercises done slowly with awareness of breath as we move from pose to pose.

All levels welcome; modifications and variations will be offered. Bring yoga blocks and straps to use with modifications.

Members: \$48/4-week series, \$72/6-week series

Non-Members: \$68/4-week series, \$102/6-week series

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Vision Board Workshop

10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Liz Patterson, Founder of ProActive Wellness Coaching

No dream is too wild. Nothing is off limits! Unlock your creativity and set your intentions with a relaxing, guided vision board workshop. Through visualization and creative exercises, design a vision board that helps you turn your dreams into tangible, visual realities, and step confidently into the future you desire.

All materials and tools are provided. Bring an open mind, and any photographs, personal items, or clippings you'd like to include on your board.

Members: \$55 | Non-Members: \$65

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 14, MARCH 14, APRIL 11

Mindfulness Meditation Walks

9:15–10:30 AM

Nadine Kaylor, Mindfulness Meditation Teacher & Mentor

Deepen your appreciation for nature through meditation. Walk mindfully through the gardens, notice changes within the seasons, and connect with the natural world. Each class offers a framework based in mindfulness meditation to reduce stress and anxiety, increase focus and attention, and expand your practice.

All levels welcome, no prior meditation experience needed. Classes will be held outdoors with indoor or covered options available for inclement weather. Please dress appropriately with sturdy footwear.

Members: \$12/class | Non-Members: \$18/class

SATURDAYS, FEBRUARY 28, MARCH 28

Restorative Nature Writing

1:00–3:00 PM

Stacey Vinci, Certified Forest Therapy Guide

Unfurl your senses and connect to nature through creative writing, storytelling, and exploratory nature invitations. Classes blend elements of narrative therapy, somatic practices, and forest bathing to promote wellness and a stronger relationship to the natural land.

All materials provided, including notebooks, pencils, and an herbal tea tasting. Workshops will be held indoors with an outdoor walk, weather dependent. Please dress appropriately with sturdy footwear.

Members: \$35/class | Non-Members: \$40/class

WEDNESDAY SERIES

Tai Chi

9:30–10:30 AM

5-week series: 4/8–5/6, 5/20–6/17

Aimée Alegría Barry, Centaur Tai Chi

Tai Chi, a series of postures done slowly, promotes balance, flexibility, and strength. Learn the Tai Chi form, as well as the yin and yang principles that underlie this martial art. Tai Chi is known as a soft martial art because it emphasizes a calm mind and relaxed body. The beauty of Jenkins will create a peaceful backdrop for your practice.

All levels welcome. Classes will be held outdoors with an indoor option for inclement weather.

Members: \$60/5-week series

Non-Members: \$85/5-week series

SUNDAY, APRIL 12 & WEDNESDAY, MAY 6

Forest Bathing

4/12 • 1:00–3:30 PM

5/6 • 6:00–7:30 PM

Stacey Vinci, Certified Forest Therapy Guide

Join us for sensory walks rooted in the practice of Shinrin-yoku (“Forest Bathing”). These special forest bathing experiences will be nourishing to the soul, offering a safe space to wander, reflect, and restore. Begin with a guided mindfulness meditation, then experience the Jenkins woodlands through a series of exploratory invitations that encourage grounding and playfulness with nature. Walks will conclude with herbal tea and shared reflections.

Program will be held outdoors with indoor or covered options available for inclement weather. Please dress appropriately with sturdy footwear.

Members: \$35/walk | Non-Members: \$40/walk

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15

Evolution, Environment, Drought, Frost: Insights from Extinct and Living Plants

7:00–8:30 PM

Jonathan Wilson, Ph.D., Edward Drinker Cope Professor of Environmental Biology at Haverford College

Explore how fossil records of extinct plants are reshaping our current understanding of plant evolution and major events in Earth history, including the collapse of the Carboniferous Period rainforests more than 300 million years ago. Discover what sets plants apart from other multicellular organisms and how mathematical models applied to fossils can provide insight into plants that have been extinct for hundreds of millions of years.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Paved Paradise: The Ecological Impacts of Our Planet's Roads

7:00–8:30 PM

Ben Goldfarb, Author of Crossings: How Road Ecology Is Shaping the Future of Our Planet

Some 40 million miles of roadways encircle the earth, providing convenient infrastructure for humans at the expense of wildlife. Discover the profound ecological harm wrought by transportation, and the innovative solutions road ecologists, conservationists, and engineers are using to redress them. From tunnels for English toads to bridges for California's mountain lions, learn how we can create a better, safer world for all living beings.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, MARCH 19

Return to the Sky: The Reintroduction of the Bald Eagle

7:00–8:30 PM

Tina Morris, Author of Return to the Sky

In 1976, as the bald eagle faced extinction in the continental U.S., Tina Morris began her graduate work at Cornell University. By chance, she was chosen to reintroduce the species to New York State, hoping to repopulate eastern North America. Young, female, and inexperienced, she navigated the challenges of saving this iconic bird while gaining acceptance in the male-dominated world of raptor biology. Raising seven eagles helped her overcome the isolation of fieldwork, rescuing an endangered species—and herself in the process.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Art or Science? The Co-Construction of Botanical Illustration

7:00–8:30 PM

Tracy Qiu, Consultant, Artist, and Researcher

Embark on a journey into the complex and fascinating stories surrounding botanical renderings and colonial plant collections. Tracy's Ph.D. research explores the circumstances under which botanical illustrations were produced and asks the question, "How has the history of botanical illustration shaped the way we perceive plants, gardens, nature, and the environment today?" Drawing on archival research at the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew and Edinburgh, Tracy will share insights into how human-plant interactions crossed barriers of geography, race, class, and gender.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, MAY 21

Past, Present, Future: A Journey Through Jenkins

7:00–8:30 PM

Tom Smarr, Executive Director, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Join us on the eve of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens' opening day (May 22, 1976) to celebrate our 50th Anniversary as a public garden. Reflect on Jenkins' story—from its visionary beginnings to the milestones and growth that shaped who we are today. Then, look ahead as we share a glimpse of the exciting possibilities and plans for the future—where education, conservation, and community connection continue to guide our path forward.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

The Science of Attracting Butterflies

7:00–8:30 PM

Heather Andrews, Author, Photographer, and Gardener

Have you ever wanted to host butterflies in your backyard? Discover actionable, science-based tips to attract these fluttering friends to your outdoor spaces. Learn which host plants to grow, how to research what's native to your area, the benefits of native gardening, and the latest research on Monarchs and other butterflies. Just in time for National Pollinator Week (June 15–21)!

Free of charge | Virtual event

GARDENING & NATURE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Native Seed Propagation

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

*Max Dupont, Nursery Production Manager,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

It may be cold outdoors, but it's time to sow and grow indoors! Explore a variety of seed starting techniques for native plants, including winter sowing, leaching, soaking, scarification, and stratification. Get hands-on experience as you sow and take home native seeds collected at Jenkins.

Members: \$30 | Non-Members: \$40

MONDAYS, JANUARY 26 & APRIL 20

Bird Walks

1/26 • 8:30–9:30 AM

4/20 • 7:45–8:45 AM

*Bonnie Witmer, Birder and Visitor Services Associate,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Go birding with Bonnie! Search for resident birds in winter and migratory birds in spring, and explore various habitats including woodland, pond edge, and stream-side paths. Discover the GISS method to identify our feathered friends by recognizing the general impression, size, and shape of birds. Participants will learn to use their eyes, ears, and binoculars to find birds and other wildlife.

Bring binoculars if you have them. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes with good traction. Rain or shine.

Free of charge

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Practical Pruning

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

*Karen Miller, Head Horticulturist,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Do you have woody plants in your home landscape but are unsure how to prune them? Join us to get seasonal guidance for pruning everything from flowering shrubs to small trees. Explore current pruning methods to ensure your plants' future health and growth habits and learn proper garden tool care and maintenance. The workshop includes an indoor lecture and outdoor hands-on pruning experience, weather dependent.

Members: \$25 | Non-Members: \$35

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

A Journey to Backyard Biodiversity

10:00–11:00 AM

Katie Fisk, Environmental Educator and Home Gardener

How do you transform a tangled mess of a backyard and a traditional lawn and into a thriving wildlife oasis? Join native gardening enthusiast Katie Fisk as she shares how she used native plants to turn her own yard into a haven for pollinators and birds. Discover why native gardening matters now more than ever and gain practical tips to start your own journey, no matter where you live. Bring questions, leave inspired!

Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$20

SATURDAY, MARCH 28

How to Select Plants

10:00–11:30 AM

*Max Dupont, Nursery Production Manager,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Selecting the appropriate plants for your space can feel overwhelming, but we're here to help! Discover the essentials of site analysis and gain practical tips for proper plant selection. With the right knowledge, you'll be ready to create a thriving landscape and set yourself up for your most successful spring planting season yet! Participants will receive a pre-class site analysis worksheet to make the most of their learning experience in class.

Members: \$20 | Non-Members: \$30

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Pennsylvania Piedmont: The Wildlands of Southeastern PA

7:00–8:00 PM

*Roger Latham, Ecologist and Conservation Biologist,
Continental Conservation*

Step into the Pennsylvania Piedmont to uncover the unique geology and ecology that make Southeastern PA's wildlands truly special. Explore freshwater tidal marshes, mafic glades, forests on diabase soils, and serpentine barrens—all home to many state-endangered species. Learn about the natural history and ongoing stewardship of these ecosystems, found nowhere else in the state.

Sponsored by Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, Valley Forge Park Alliance, and Penn State Great Valley.

**Free of charge | Location: Penn State Great Valley,
Conference Center Building**

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 8–JUNE 24

Golf Cart Garden Tours

11:00–11:45 AM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Explore Jenkins on wheels! Golf cart tours are a great option for those who are not able to enjoy the beauty of the gardens due to the sloping terrain. This guided tour will feature seasonal garden highlights, behind-the-scenes stops, and history of the property with a drive-by view of the Jenkins and Browning Houses.

Tour topics and route will be the same each week. Limited spots available—only 5 people per tour. Guests need to be able to get in and out of the golf cart without assistance from Jenkins' staff.

Members and Non-Members: \$5/tour

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 8–JUNE 24

Wednesday Walkabouts

1:00–2:00 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Join us on Wednesday afternoons this spring for walking tours through our glorious gardens. Each week's tour will have a different focus depending on the staff leader and seasonal landscape. Topics may include spring wildflowers, flowering trees, our *Rhododendron* collection, native plants, Jenkins' history, and much more. Get outside and discover Jenkins with us!

Groups of five or more are requested to schedule private guided tours at other times (contact tours@jenkinsarboretum.org).

Free of charge

YOUTH PROGRAMS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2 & TUESDAY, MARCH 17

Celebrate the Season (All Ages)

10:00–11:00 AM

*Amy Mawby, Education Manager,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Experience the magic of the winter season through stories, nature exploration, and a fun craft to take home.

2/2 | Groundhog Day | Play with shadows and explore what animals do in winter.

3/17 | St. Patrick's Day | Discover all the green in our garden and their unique leaves.

All ages welcome; most suitable for ages 2+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Classes will start and end indoors with a short time outdoors, weather dependent.

Members: \$10/class | Non-Members: \$15/class

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Snowflake Science (Ages 4+)

10:00–11:00 AM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator and Founder of The Art of Ecology

Discover the grandeur and variety of beautiful snowflake shapes! Explore how temperature—especially in cool forest habitats—and humidity influence the formation of intricate or simple snowflakes. After some outdoor exploration and hands-on discovery, create a take-home garland of decorative paper snowflakes.

Suitable for ages 4+. Participants will be using kids' scissors. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Indoor/outdoor program, weather dependent.

Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$20

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Understanding Herps with DIY Slime (Ages 4+)

10:00–11:00 AM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator and Founder of The Art of Ecology

Investigate what makes reptiles and amphibians—collectively called herps—so unique in this exciting (and slightly messy!) program. Explore wildlife classification, discover how humans and herps differ, learn about their roles in our woodland and watershed ecosystems, and find out how we can help protect them. Create your own slime as a visual aid and hands-on way to understand these amazing animals.

Suitable for ages 4+. Please dress accordingly—slime can sometimes be sticky or tacky. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only.

Members: \$15 | Non-Members: \$20

TUESDAYS, 4-WEEK SERIES

Jenkins Juniors (Ages 2–5)

4/21–5/12 • 10:00–11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

5/19–6/9 • 10:00–11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

*Amy Mawby, Education Manager,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Let's go exploring—get your little ones outside this spring! Each class will include a story, scenic strolls, and a creative craft. Our activities will encourage children to embrace their sense of wonder, and adults to rekindle theirs. Each week will have a different theme so join us for one or both series.

Suitable for ages 2–5. Children must be walking (no strollers) and must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Rain or shine; indoor space for inclement weather.

Members: \$50/series | Non-Members: \$60/series

MONDAYS, JUNE 15, 22, 29

Mini Microscope Mondays (Ages 3+)

10:00–11:00 AM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Uncover the hidden details of nature's smallest marvels! Using kid-friendly, handheld mini microscopes, we'll get up-close with what's living and growing in Jenkins' gardens and appreciate the fascinating micro-world around us. Looking closer will help build focus, nurture curiosity, and boost observation skills. Discover something new each week!

Suitable for ages 3+. Registration required for children only.

Members: \$5/class | Non-Members: \$10/class

Program Registration

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL PROGRAMS, UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.

Please visit JAGardens.eventbrite.com to register.

Program and event prices do not include Eventbrite processing fees.

CAREGIVER REGISTRATION POLICY

Registration is free for a caregiver accompanying a program participant with a disability.

If you have program-related questions or to register for a caregiver, please contact us by emailing programs@jenkinsarboretum.org.

CANCELLATIONS

Please inform us of cancellations at least five days before the program. No refund will be issued if cancellation is made less than five days prior to the program start date.

Jenkins reserves the right to cancel any program if necessary. In the case of cancellation by Jenkins, registration fees will be refunded.



REGISTER ONLINE

Scan the QR code with
your phone's camera to
visit our registration page.

Saving Birds, One Window at a Time

At Jenkins, we know that small actions can have a big impact. A garden teaches us this every day: an acorn grows into an oak that shades generations; a patch of wildflowers provides nectar and pollen for countless pollinators; the deep, fibrous roots of native plants anchor soil, slowing erosion for years to come. Step by step, incremental changes build the foundation for a healthier, more resilient ecosystem.

In 2025, we took our next small step, applying a simple grid of white dots to the expanse of windows that wrap our John J. Willaman Education Center. Though subtle, these dots represent one of the most important conservation projects in our garden's history, helping to protect our feathered friends from an often-overlooked threat.

Unlike people, birds don't "see" glass. Instead, they see reflections of trees, sky, and habitat—and hurtle head-first into what looks like safe passage. If you have ever heard the heavy *thunk* of a bird hitting glass, you won't be surprised to learn that most strikes are fatal. Even birds that survive the initial collision are likely to die later from internal injuries or predation. The magnitude of the problem is devastating: each year, more than one billion birds are killed by window collisions in North America alone.

As gardeners, we take pride in cultivating spaces that support wildlife, not endanger it. So when birders from our community voiced concerns about

the windows on our property, we listened. In conversation with Bonnie and Phil Witmer, trained experts who share a deep love for birds and Jenkins, we committed to retrofitting our windows with deterrent markers from Feather Friendly®, a proven leader in bird-safe technology. Spaced in a 2" x 2" grid, these small markers break up reflections, helping birds recognize glass as a solid surface to avoid.

Last winter, we invited our community to support this effort by making a donation. The response was extraordinary. Dozens of donors came together to fund the purchase of materials and the installation of markers on our highest-risk and hard-to-reach windows. In July, a skilled crew from NGS Films and Graphics treated the windows along our tree canopy deck, back lobby, and workshop bay, while staff and volunteers applied markers to the remaining windows later that fall. Together, we treated more than 1,500 square feet of glass, reducing bird-window collisions on site by over 95%.

This accomplishment embodies the best of Jenkins: caring for nature, learning as a community, and collaborating to create lasting change. Step by step, one window at a time, we can all make an immediate, life-saving impact for generations of birds.

As we celebrate 50 years of conservation and education, projects like this remind us that our legacy is not only about the past, but about the choices we make today to ensure a better, more resilient tomorrow.



NGS Films and Graphics using a lift to treat hard-to-reach windows.



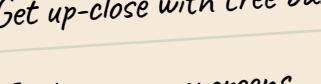
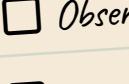
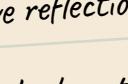
LEARN MORE

Scan the code to explore solutions from the American Bird Conservancy.

Staff and volunteers treat remaining windows.

50 Ways to Celebrate Nature at Jenkins

We've got 50 ways to celebrate Jenkins turning 50! To kick things off, we're sharing 25 of our favorite things to do in our gardens during the winter and spring seasons. The rest? You'll have to wait to catch our summer/fall magazine—the adventure continues!

-  Become a member or renew your membership
-  Bring binoculars and go birding
-  Relax on the Tree Canopy Deck
-  Look for animal tracks
-  Get up-close with tree bark
-  Explore our evergreens
-  Check for witchhazels in bloom this winter
-  Try nature journaling or sketching
-  Spot a nest (bird, squirrel, wasp)
-  Adopt a plant from The Garden Shop
-  Count the different colors in spring
-  Visit our art exhibitions
-  Find an unfurling fern frond
-  Listen for frogs
-  Watch a recorded education program
-  Join a free Wednesday Walkabout tour
-  Build a fort in the Explorer Garden
-  Cozy up with a good book on a bench
-  Learn tree names with our plant labels
-  Stop and smell the flowers
-  Observe reflections in the pond
-  Enjoy the beauty of our azaleas
-  Snap a photo of your favorite spot at Jenkins
-  Find our state flower in bloom
-  Spot a soaring bird

Stay tuned for the next 25...

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

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jenkinsarboretum.org



**Jenkins
Arboretum
& Gardens**



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