

JENKINS

50TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION



Summer + Fall 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: Allison Mellen (Common Yellowthroat)
Inside cover photo: Laura Ducceschi*

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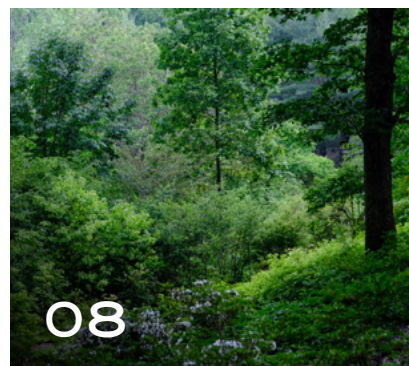
John Otto Haas
Honorary

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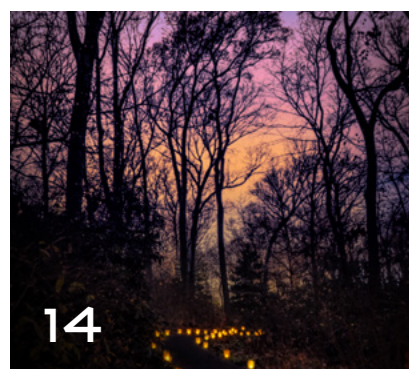
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Nature at Jenkins



**MAPPING FUTURE
GROWTH: INSIDE JENKINS'
MASTER PLANS**



A GREEN RIBBON REBOOT



WINTER LUMINARY NIGHTS



CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

Dear Jenkins family & friends,

As summer unfolds and we begin looking ahead to the beauty of fall, our 50th Anniversary year at Jenkins continues to offer opportunities for celebration, gratitude, and reflection. It has been especially rewarding to see so many of you joining us throughout this special year, walking the trails, attending programs, gathering for events, and sharing your own memories of what Jenkins has meant to you over the years.

Reaching this golden milestone has reminded me just how deeply Jenkins is rooted in community. For fifty years, this garden has been cared for and sustained by people who believe in the power of nature to inspire, educate, and bring us together. Because of that support, Jenkins has grown into far more than a beautiful garden, becoming a place of discovery, learning, and joy for generations of visitors.

As much as this anniversary has invited us to look back with pride, it has also encouraged us to look ahead with excitement. The future of Jenkins is bright, and I truly believe our best days are still ahead. The same values that have guided

us since 1976—principles of conservation, education, and stewardship—will continue to shape all we do. At the same time, we are thinking ambitiously about how Jenkins can continue to grow and serve future generations.

In the following pages, we share how we intend to build upon our ongoing stewardship with purpose and vision to strengthen our collections, expand opportunities for environmental education, and create new ways for our community to connect with this special place.

The Jenkins' story is still being written. What was planted fifty years ago has flourished because of vision, dedication, and generosity, but this next chapter of the gardens will be shaped by all of us together. Whether you are a longtime member,

volunteer, donor, neighbor, or first-time visitor, you are an important part of that future.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable year and for helping us carry

Jenkins forward. I hope you will continue to join us as we celebrate this legacy and grow into the next fifty years together.

For fifty years, this garden has been cared for and sustained by people who believe in the power of nature to inspire, educate, and bring us together.

Always growing,

Tom Smarr
Executive Director



Mapping Future Growth

INSIDE JENKINS' MASTER PLANS

In the early 1970s, landscape architect George E. Patton drafted a plan for developing the woodland that would become Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. This 1972 Master Plan described the overarching strategy for evolving the landscape, interspersed with the occasional line of poetry or reflection on the human-nature connection. His plan included analysis of the soil and site conditions, drawings of visitor amenities such as a small welcome center, locations for a network of paths, and descriptions of plantings and botanical collections to be featured throughout the new hillside garden. As with any plan of this scale, Patton's goal was to provide a macro view to building the garden, rather than detailed specification of each phase or project.

It's remarkable to page through Patton's 1972 Master Plan and see how closely his vision has been realized in the gardens we experience today. He took a simple mandate from Lawrence Jenkins' will to develop the property "...as a public park, arboretum, and wildlife sanctuary for the use of the public..." and expanded it to visualize the living landscape growing around us decades later. In his plan, Patton mused about creating "...the kind of place where people can walk among the trees, see the birds, observe nature's many faces and moods and seasons; where people can find peace and quiet, refreshment and relief from urban stress..." Written more than 50 years ago, does this not still perfectly describe Jenkins today?

Master plans typically have a lifespan of several decades, and in our case, the original 1972 Master Plan guided our development for half a century. As Jenkins approached that 50th Anniversary milestone, we experienced exponential increases in visitation, program attendance, and visibility. We had accomplished many of the goals Patton outlined

in his plan and knew it was time to envision the next phase of stewarding Jenkins' landscape. In 2021, Jenkins' Board of Directors adopted a new Master Plan, which was created by Jenkins staff

with advisement from landscape architects Pete Moscufo and Mara Baird.

Our 2021 Master Plan provides a thoughtful 20-year roadmap for stewarding our landscape, enhancing the visitor experience, and strengthening the ecological health of our stream and woodlands.

Building on the strong foundation laid by Patton, our founders, and generations of dedicated staff and volunteers, this plan carries Jenkins forward with purpose and care. Since 2021, we have advanced a number of phased projects—many already complete or underway—featured on the following pages. Together, they represent meaningful progress within a broader, evolving vision, including plans to thoughtfully open and enhance additional areas of the property for public enjoyment. Each project reflects our mission to *celebrate the wonder of plants and place as a destination for education, conservation, and community connection.*



Construction of the Jenkins Pond, 1972

Mapping Future Growth: Master Plan Snapshot

Our 2021 Master Plan identified opportunities for enhanced exploration and discovery for our visitors, including varied routes through the garden with moments to turn a corner and experience something unexpected. With that in mind, we created an expansion to our Woodland Walk featuring a collection of highly fragrant, ornamental, native deciduous azaleas under a soaring canopy of mature oak trees. Opening in spring 2027, this new path will give visitors access to a special section of the woodland that has been hiding in plain sight for many years. The azaleas planted in this area of the garden are part of our Rhododendron Germplasm Repository, a genetic bank of ornamentally and ecologically extraordinary native azaleas.



Woodland Walk Expansion

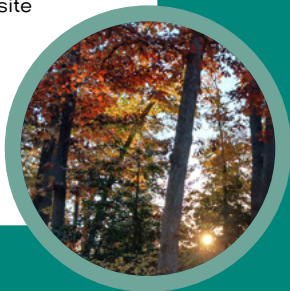
As Jenkins celebrates its 50th Anniversary and welcomes more than 90,000 visitors each year, we have an exciting opportunity to reimagine this important gateway. With thoughtful redesign, the entry garden will more fully serve as a place to welcome guests, orient visitors, host groups, and offer a beautiful and accessible overture to the gardens. With groundbreaking scheduled for late 2026, we will re-envision pathways, gathering spaces, and plantings to allow the landscape to better reflect Jenkins' ecological values and serve our diverse and growing community of visitors.

Visitor Entry Garden



Conservation Woodlands

Although work in the Conservation Woodlands has been quietly underway for many years, restoration began in earnest in 2020 following the installation of a deer exclusion fence around the 10-acre forest tract. Freed from deer pressure and supported by ongoing invasive species removal, native plant communities have begun to recover. Identified in the 2021 Master Plan as a site for future public access, the Conservation Woodlands will expand the acreage available to visitors by more than 60%. New hiking trails will guide visitors through a more secluded, less manicured woodland experience, offering an immersive connection to the landscape.





A quiet stream at the base of Jenkins' hillside, Browning Brook reflects decades of environmental change. Failed dams, sediment buildup, invasive plants, and increased stormwater runoff from nearby development have led to severe erosion. As part of our 2021 Master Plan, we have completed upstream projects as outlined in a comprehensive stormwater management strategy, including the installation of a subsurface storage system underneath Gregory Lane in partnership with Tredyffrin Township, as well as culvert restoration, bank stabilization, and habitat renewal downstream in partnership with PennDOT. With extensive native plantings and volunteer support, these efforts restore ecological health and build long-term resilience. Further downstream restoration efforts are slated for the coming years as we continue to repair the health of waterways on our property.

Browning Brook Restoration



Browning Bioswale

Construction of the redesigned bioswale on the Browning Hillside is scheduled to begin in fall 2026 as part of Jenkins' ongoing stormwater management plan, in partnership with Tredyffrin Township. This meadow-like section of the garden will be reconstructed and replanted to hold stormwater runoff and release it slowly over time. The new plantings will prioritize species that offer robust habitat to wildlife and pollinators, with an emphasis on pollen specialist bees. Not only will this project reduce the harmful effects of stormwater runoff, it will also lay the groundwork for future expansion of the public portion of the garden, serving as a corridor into the Conservation Woodlands tract.



A Green Ribbon Reboot

Since the very beginning, Jenkins has been rooted in a deep commitment to the native plants of our region, celebrating their beauty, function, and ecological resilience. From the earliest days of the garden's creation, native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers were thoughtfully woven into the planting design, complementing a celebrated collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. This foundational vision continues to guide Jenkins today as we renew and strengthen our focus on the vital role native plants play in sustaining both gardens and the broader environment.

In the fifty years since the garden first opened to the public, Jenkins has become a leader in the cultivation and curation of both rhododendrons *and* native plants. For decades, Jenkins has aspired to promote these plants and educate our greater community about the critical function of native species in the landscape. Perhaps the most active way in which we promote native plants is through our Green Ribbon Native Plant® program.

Since the program's creation in 2003, Jenkins has promoted three Green Ribbon plants per year with the hope that members and visitors might incorporate them into their home landscapes. To be selected as a Green Ribbon Native Plant®, plants needed to be: (1) native to eastern North America; (2) adaptable to a wide range of environmental conditions; and (3) horticulturally appealing in a variety of landscape situations.

Since the Green Ribbon Native Plant® program was unveiled, our world has changed. Though Jenkins has always recognized that native plants possess value to insects, birds, and other wildlife, a plant's ecological value has not been among the criteria for selecting Green Ribbon plants. Today, as we face increasing climate instability, habitat degradation, introduced

insects and invasive species, and virulent new plant diseases, we recognize the opportunity, if not the responsibility, to shift from simply using and promoting native plants to making well-informed, data-driven gardening decisions that center plants with the greatest ecological impact.

For the past several years, Jenkins' staff and Horticulture Committee have discussed how we might rethink the Green Ribbon Native Plant® program to prioritize high functioning plant species. After years of debate, we have compiled a revised list of 87 species that meet the prior criteria and are recognized as providing high ecological and environmental value. We realize that every native plant has value and consider this list a living document, rather than a final, definitive list. Perhaps a species' ecological value has yet to be discovered or has not been researched extensively enough to merit their addition. We will continue to review literature as it becomes available and can add appropriate new species to the list over time.

With the introduction of our refreshed Green Ribbon Native Plant® program, we will continue to highlight selections from this growing list, beginning with three species that exemplify both outstanding garden performance and meaningful ecological impact.



SOURCES

- 2 Adamson, N.L. et al. 2017. Pollinator Plants: Northeast Region. https://xerces.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/17-051_03_XercesSoc_PollinatorPlants_Northeast-Region_web-3page.pdf [accessed 7 April 2026].
- 2 Collison, C. 2016. A Closer Look — Pollen Quality. Bee Culture. 23 – 27. https://cdn.beeeculture.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/September2016_V1.pdf.
- 2 DiPasquale, G. et al. 2013. Influence of Pollen Nutrition on Honey Bee Health: Do Pollen Quality and Diversity Matter? PLOS online. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0072016>.
- 1 Illinois Wildflowers. Relationships of Vertebrate Animals to this Plant: Prunus spp. https://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/plant_animals/plants/prunus_spp.html. [accessed 7 April 2026].
- 1 Mach BM, Potter DA. 2018. Quantifying bee assemblages and attractiveness of flowering woody landscape plants for urban pollinator conservation. PLoS One. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0208428>.
- 1 3 National Wildlife Federation. Keystone plant list for ecoregion 8: eastern temperate forests. <https://www.nwf.org/-/media/Documents/PDFs/Garden-for-Wildlife/Keystone-Plants/NWF-GFW-keystone-plant-list-ecoregion-8-eastern-temperate-forests.ashx>. [accessed 7 April 2026].



1

BLACK CHERRY (*PRUNUS SEROTINA*)

In addition to its fragrant white flowers and red-orange fall color, black cherry supports pollinators with abundant, high-quality nectar rewards. Its lustrous dark leaves are an important food source for 340 species of butterflies and moths, ranking second only to oaks in Eastern Temperate Forests (Ecoregion 8). Its small “cherries” provide yet another important source of high-quality nutrition to the more than 30 songbird species that relish them in summer.



2

PURPLEFLOWERING RASPBERRY (*RUBUS ODORATUS*)

The hollow or pithy canes of purpleflowering raspberry are ideal habitat for cane-nesting bees. Its large, showy flowers are high in proteins, sugars, amino acids, and antioxidants that provide bees with significant health benefits, including an increase in lifespan. Birds eat the attractive berries that follow; these contain high levels of antioxidants, particularly anthocyanin, which help reduce oxidative stress during flight.

3

ZIGZAG GOLDENROD (*SOLIDAGO FLEXICAULIS*)

The tall spikes of zigzag goldenrod provide highly valuable, late-season nectar and pollen. 42 species of pollen specialist bees rely on goldenrod; without it, their larvae would not survive. Goldenrod also supports 104 different species of moth and butterfly larvae—the most among all herbaceous plants in Eastern Temperate Forests (Ecoregion 8)—as well as beneficial predatory insects. Its seedheads provide songbirds with a winter food source.





Liesl Barkman leads volunteers in a planting project, 2023



Julia Matthews and Riley Callow, 2024



Jonathan Landsman and Amy McLean, 2006

Maggie Knapp, Former Head Horticulturist, and Fran Lawn, 2002

History of the Hamilton Horticulture Apprenticeship

Though Jenkins opened to the public in 1976, it was not until 1999 that the organization welcomed its first full-time gardener. That same year, philanthropist Mrs. Dorrance Hamilton generously sponsored a position that would provide emerging horticulturists with valuable hands-on experience, and Jenkins with critical support in the gardens. The following year, Mrs. Hamilton expanded the program to support a second position, and the Hamilton Educational Fellowship program was born. She would go on to endow the program just five years later, ensuring it continued in perpetuity.

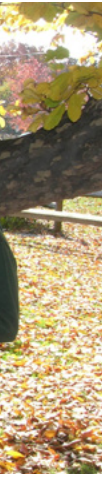
For the first fifteen years of the program, Fellows functioned as gardeners, working alongside the Head Horticulturist to manage daily maintenance of the gardens and grounds. As Jenkins' landscapes, staff, and scope slowly grew, so too did the program.

In 2024, the program was renamed the Hamilton Horticulture Apprenticeship to better reflect the professional working experience and mentorship provided. Over the years, this unique training program has evolved to incorporate rigorous educational experiences including plant identification lessons, a stipend for relevant certifications and training, and an individualized project designed and implemented by each Apprentice. These special projects are substantial and include large-scale renovations of low-value or neglected landscapes, detailed data collection, and mapping new trails, among others.

Through Mrs. Hamilton's forward-thinking support, Jenkins has trained thirty Apprentices, creating a deep-rooted alumni network of ecologically minded professionals with a robust toolbox of skills to steward landscapes with care and experience.



Josh Quinlan, Stephanie Kuniholm (now Director of External Relations), and Steve Wright (now Director of Horticulture/Curator), 2012



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Nicki Achor (2021–2023)

Native Plant Horticulturist, Independent Contractor

WHAT PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT JENKINS MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU?

“One experience that really shaped my path and personal ethos on gardens was observing the diverse pollinators that frequent Jenkins. Day to day, I was able to take in the massive variety of insect life that visited flowers at the garden with curiosity and awe. In all my roles since Jenkins, I’ve ensured pollinator support is one of the key purposes of the garden and is reflected in strong plant choice and cultural practices.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT AT JENKINS?

“I think my favorite areas of the garden are hard to pin down to one place— they’re the smaller, more intimate moments that feel fleeting but are always around if you visit the garden often enough and know where to look.”

John Cassels (2016–2019)

Field Operations Supervisor, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

WHAT PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT JENKINS MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU?

“One element of Jenkins which stood out to me the most is probably the tight-knit community which makes it such a special and welcoming place. To this day, I have always been inclined to include others, bring them alongside, share thoughts and ideas and make all feel welcomed because the outcome is always better when you enjoy the process and the people you are with.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT AT JENKINS?

“I love Woodland Walk because of all the native azaleas. I am obsessed with the smells, flower shapes, and colors...even the branching structure is stunning.”

Maddison Perzel (2014–2016)

Landscape Designer, Bedner’s Farm and Greenhouse, Inc.

WHAT PART OF YOUR EXPERIENCE AT JENKINS MADE A LASTING IMPACT ON YOU?

“One of my favorite parts of my experience at Jenkins was being able to create and lead professional lectures and classes for the public. I’ve continued to build on this skill throughout the years teaching community classes and being invited to be the keynote speaker at a sustainability conference. I love being able to share what I’ve learned with fellow gardeners, and each year I create new lectures to share with the gardening community.”

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE SPOT AT JENKINS?

“My favorite area of the garden will always be the Browning Hillside. Not only will it always be a place I call home, but it was the focus of my [Apprenticeship] project.”



Programs at a Glance

- GARDENING & NATURE
- WELLNESS
- ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- SPECIAL EVENT
- THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE
- YOUTH PROGRAM

<p>6/22 2026 Arbo-READ-um Partnership (6/22-7/31)</p> <p>7/6 Mindful Yoga (7/6-8/17) 7-WEEK SERIES 6:00-7:15 PM</p> <p>7/7 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>7/8 How to "Read" A Tree: An Artistic Approach to Tree ID 6:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>7/9 Mindful Yoga (7/9-8/20) 7-WEEK SERIES 9:30-10:45 AM</p> <p>7/14 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>7/16 Arbo-READ-um Author Lecture: The Tree Collectors 7:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>7/21 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>7/22 Restorative Nature Writing: Wisdom of Trees 6:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>7/23 Discover Native Turtles (All Ages) 10:00-11:00 AM</p>	<p>7/28 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>8/4 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>8/5 Pressed Flower & Resin Jewelry 6:30-7:30 PM</p> <p>8/11 Sidewalk Chalk Walk (All Ages) 9:30 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Summer Storytime (All Ages) 10:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>8/19 Creating Safe Spaces for Birds 6:00-7:30 PM</p> <p>8/20 Gardening for Birds 7:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>8/22 Member Exclusive: Bird Walk and Window Tour 9:00-10:30 AM</p> <p>8/27 Member Exclusive: Summer Sip 'n Stroll 4:00-6:00 PM</p> <p>9/8 Jenkins Juniors (9/8-9/29) 4-WEEK SERIES • AGES 2-5 10:00-11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>9/12 Mindfulness Meditation Walk 9:15-10:30 AM</p> <p>9/14 Mindful Yoga (9/14-10/26) 7-WEEK SERIES 6:00-7:15 PM</p>	<p>9/16 Closing Reception for Jenkins Florilegium Exhibition (3/28-9/20) 6:00-7:30 PM</p> <p>9/17 Mindful Yoga (9/17-10/29) 7-WEEK SERIES 9:30-10:45 AM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Native Plants Spotlight 7:00-8:00 PM</p> <p>9/19 Photo Walk 9:00-11:00 AM</p> <p>9/21 Fall Planting Week (9/21-9/27)</p> <p>9/26 The Art of Identification: Photography by Chris Swisher (9/26/26-1/10/27) 9:00 AM-4:00 PM</p> <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Breaking the Rules: Ecology-Based Landscape Design 10:00 AM-12:30 PM</p> <p>9/27 Opening Reception for The Art of Identification: Photography by Chris Swisher (9/26/26-1/10/27) 2:00-4:00 PM</p> <p>10/3 Wild, Crawly & Cool (All Ages) 11:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>10/6 Jenkins Juniors (10/6-10/27) 4-WEEK SERIES • AGES 2-5 10:00-11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM-12:00 PM</p> <p>10/8 Member Meander: Boulder Haven 4:30-6:30 PM</p> <p>10/10 Mindfulness Meditation Walk 9:15-10:30 AM</p>
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REGISTER ONLINE

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

- 10/11 **Seed Saving Workshop**
1:00-2:30 PM
- 10/12 **Bird Walk**
8:00-9:00 AM
- 10/15 **Ecological Restoration for Backyard Habitats: Lessons from Larger-Scale Projects**
7:00-8:00 PM
- 10/17 **Photo Walk**
9:00-11:00 AM
- 10/18 **Wool Art Painting Workshop**
1:00-3:30 PM
- 10/22 **Member Exclusive: Circle of Friends Reception**
5:00-7:00 PM
- 10/24 **Tree Trunk or Treat (10/24-11/1) Self-Guided Activities**
9:30 AM-3:30 PM
- The Colors of Trees (Ages 4+)**
10:00-11:00 AM
- Storytelling Through Nature Photography**
1:00-3:00 PM
- 11/2 **Mindful Yoga (11/2-11/16)**
3-WEEK SERIES
6:00-7:15 PM
- 11/5 **Mindful Yoga (11/5-11/19)**
3-WEEK SERIES
9:30-10:45 AM
- 11/6 **Member Exclusive: Conservation Woodlands Hike**
10:00-11:30 AM
- 11/7 **Forest Bathing**
1:00-3:30 PM

- 11/8 **Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music**
2:30-3:30 PM
- 11/14 **Mindfulness Meditation Walk**
9:15-10:30 AM
- Autumn Harvest Centerpiece**
1:00-3:00 PM
- 11/17 **Celebrate the Season (All Ages)**
10:00-11:00 AM
- 11/19 **Garden for Life**
7:00-8:00 PM
- 11/21 **Photo Walk**
9:00-11:00 AM
- 11/30 **Mindful Yoga (11/30-12/14)**
3-WEEK SERIES
6:00-7:15 PM
- 12/3 **Mindful Yoga (12/3-12/17)**
3-WEEK SERIES
9:30-10:45 AM
- 12/5 **Holiday Greens Wreath Workshop**
10:00 AM-12:00 PM OR 1:00-3:00 PM
- 12/6 **Holiday Greens Wreath Workshop**
1:00-3:00 PM
- 12/8 **Celebrate the Season (All Ages)**
10:00-11:00 AM
- 12/11 **Winter Luminary Nights**
5:00-6:30 PM & 6:30-8:00 PM
- 12/12 **Winter Luminary Nights**
5:00-6:30 PM & 6:30-8:00 PM
- 12/17 **Colors of Nature**
7:00-8:00 PM



JULY 1-NOVEMBER 11

Wednesday Walkabouts

WEDNESDAYS

7/1-8/26 | 10:00-11:00 AM

9/2-11/11 | 1:00-2:00 PM



OCTOBER 14-NOVEMBER 4

Fall Golf Cart Garden Tours

WEDNESDAYS 11:00-11:45 AM

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 21–
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Fall Planting Week

Fall is a great season for planting in your garden! Learn about the benefits of fall planting with on-site education, activities, and much more. Don't miss our featured program *Breaking the Rules: Ecology-Based Landscape Design* on Saturday, September 26 with Larry Weaner—see page 16 for full description.

Come get new additions for your landscape from The Garden Shop at Jenkins. Shop for a variety of perennials, shrubs, and trees—members receive 10% off all purchases.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24–
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Tree Trunk or Treat (All Ages)

9:30 AM–3:30 PM

Self-guided exploration at Jenkins

Forget about car trunks—come to Jenkins for tree trunks! Our self-guided Tree Trunk or Treat activities are returning to our cart at the Education Center. A tree-mendous way to interact with the trees at Jenkins! After exploring the gardens and completing the challenge, show your activity sheet to our Visitor Services team and ask them “Tree trunk or treat?” Collect a (non-edible) prize to take home.

Free of charge

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music

2:30–3:30 PM

Save the date! Additional concert details will be announced soon. Presented in collaboration with Allegro Music Consultants.

Members: \$30 | Non-Members: \$35

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11 &
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

Winter Luminary Nights

5:00–6:30 PM & 6:30–8:00 PM

As the days grow shorter, we invite you to join us at Jenkins for an evening celebration of winter light. The gardens will be aglow with luminary-lined paths and the warmth of community. A family-friendly event, not to be missed!

Member Car: \$25 | Non-Member Car: \$35

Art Exhibitions

GALLERY OPEN DAILY

MARCH 28–SEPTEMBER 20

Jenkins Florilegium Exhibition

CLOSING RECEPTION:

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

6:00–7:30 PM

*Carol Ashton-Hergenhan, Deborah Dion,
and Susan L. Mintun*

Free of charge | Registration not required

SEPTEMBER 26–JANUARY 10, 2027

The Art of Identification: Photography by Chris Swisher

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

2:00–4:00 PM

Free of charge | Registration not required

2026 Arbo-READ-um Events

Join Jenkins and Tredyffrin Public Library for our 6th annual Arbo-READ-um Community Read Events. During Arbo-READ-um, we provide opportunities to promote literacy and community conversations in Tredyffrin Township.

June 22 through July 31, join us in reading *The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession* by Amy Stewart. Explore fifty vignettes of remarkable people whose lives have been transformed by their obsessive passion for trees—written and charmingly illustrated by the New York Times bestselling author of *The Drunken Botanist*. Slyly humorous, informative, and often poignant, this book is a stunning tribute to a devoted group of nature lovers making their lives—and the world—more beautiful, one tree at a time.

Arbo-READ-um includes programs and activities that count as challenges, and after completing a set number of challenges, you can enter the Arbo-READ-um raffle!



LEARN MORE

Scan to discover our 2026
Arbo-READ-um programs
and activities.

Member Exclusive Events

Enjoy the garden in new ways, connect with fellow Jenkins members, and experience the impact of your support firsthand. Member Exclusive events are free, and members will receive invitations via email. For more information, email membership@jenkinsarboretum.org.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 22

Bird Walk and Window Tour

9:00–10:30 AM

Start the morning with a guided bird walk through the gardens followed by a tour of Jenkins' John J. Willaman Education Center to learn about bird-safe windows.

Donor level and above (\$100+)

THURSDAY, AUGUST 27

Summer Sip 'n Stroll

4:00–6:00 PM

Enjoy refreshments on the Tree Canopy Deck along with staff-led tours, including golf cart tours and a special visit to the Jenkins House landscape to celebrate our 50th Anniversary.

Patron level and above (\$250+)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

Circle of Friends Reception

5:00–7:00 PM

Celebrate the impact of community while enjoying live music, hors d'oeuvres, and the company of fellow supporters. Reflect on a year of growth and look ahead at all that's still to come.

Circle of Friends level and above (\$1,000+)

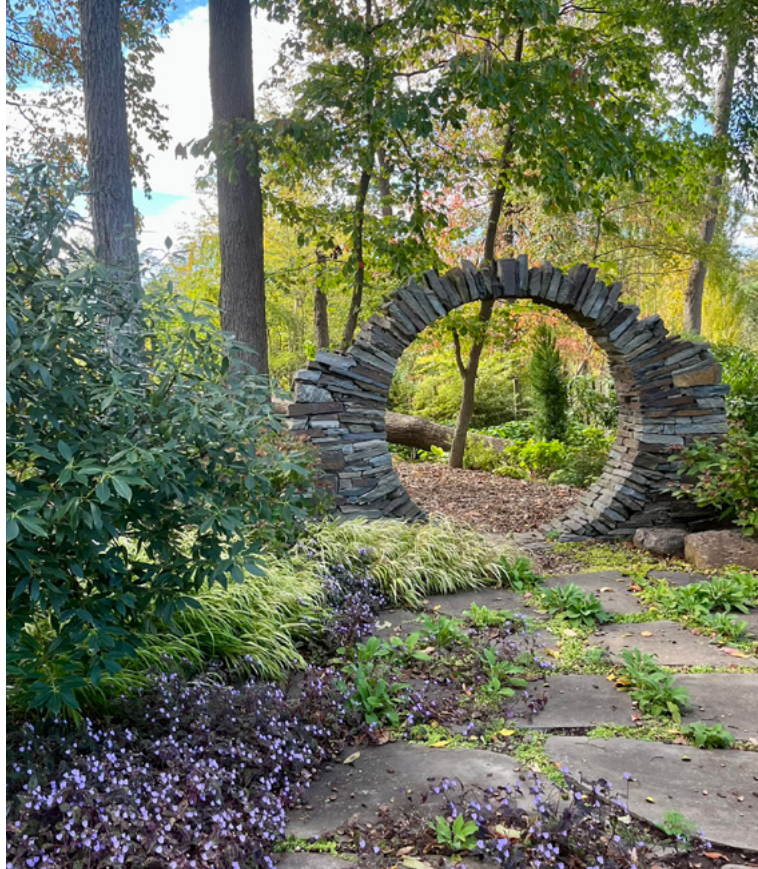
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Conservation Woodlands Hike

10:00–11:30 AM

Join Katie Chubbuck, Ecological Horticulturist, on a tour of the Conservation Woodlands, a 10-acre tract of forest that is the site of future garden expansions during this inspiring autumn walk through the woods.

Patron level and above (\$250+)



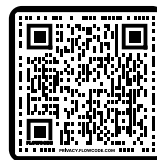
MEMBER EXCLUSIVE EVENT

Member Meander: Boulder Haven

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8 | 4:30–6:30 PM

Enjoy a special tour of Boulder Haven, the Berwyn garden of Carol Verhake, garden designer and owner of *Lasting Landscapes by Carol*. This behind-the-scenes visit offers a chance to explore the personal garden of a professional designer whose work emphasizes thoughtful design, strong plant combinations, and landscapes that evolve beautifully over time.

Sustaining level and above (\$500+)



**EXPLORE MORE
MEMBER BENEFITS**

GARDENING & NATURE

WEDNESDAYS, JULY 1–NOVEMBER 11

Wednesday Walkabouts

7/1–8/26 • 10:00–11:00 AM

9/2–11/11 • 1:00–2:00 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Get outside and discover Jenkins with us this summer and fall! Each walking tour will have a different focus depending on the staff leader and the seasonal landscape.

Free of charge

WEDNESDAY, JULY 8

How to “Read” A Tree: An Artistic Approach to Tree ID

6:00–8:00 PM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator & Founder, The Art of Ecology

Master tree identification with this tree-mendous workshop! Discover various methods for identifying tree species, explore anatomical structures, and investigate the subtle insights these features provide. Learn how to “read” and draw trees through a nature journaling tutorial, documenting tree identification notes in a quick, artistic way.

All materials provided for journaling. Workshop includes both indoor and outdoor time—please dress appropriately.

Members: \$45 | Non-Members: \$50

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19

Creating Safe Spaces for Birds

6:00–7:30 PM

Phil and Bonnie Witmer, Birders & Members, Delaware Valley Ornithological Club

Is your home safe for birds? Join an eye-opening conversation about the impact of window collisions on bird populations. Learn why birds fly into glass, where collisions are most likely to occur, and the simple, effective steps that can dramatically reduce these incidents. Then, get a behind-the-scenes look at how Jenkins staff identified the scope of the problem, rallied community support, and implemented bird-safe window treatments across the site.

Members: \$20 | Non-Members: \$25

WEDNESDAYS, OCTOBER 14–NOVEMBER 4

Fall Golf Cart Garden Tours

11:00–11:45 AM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Enjoy Jenkins’ fall foliage from the comfort of a golf cart. This guided tour features autumn highlights, behind-the-scenes access, and property history. Limited spaces; must be able to get on/off the cart independently.

Members and Non-Members: \$5

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Breaking the Rules: Ecology-Based Landscape Design

10:00 AM–12:30 PM

Larry Weaner, FAPLD, Founder, Larry Weaner Landscape Associates

Using native plants requires more than simply expanding the conventional design palette. New design, implementation, and management techniques emerge from observing how native plants develop in nature; many of which are diametrically opposed to traditional horticultural practice. Examine how alternative approaches—from selecting, arranging, and spacing plants to the simple act of weeding—can yield more easily maintained landscapes that express the beauty and ecological richness of our native landscapes.

Workshop includes an indoor presentation and outdoor garden walk—please dress appropriately.

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

Seed Saving Workshop

1:00–2:30 PM

Max Dupont, Nursery Production Manager, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Have you always wanted to save seeds from your own garden, but you’re not sure where to start? Join us to learn how to tell when seed is viable, mature, and ready to be collected. The indoor presentation will end with hands-on practice, as participants test their knowledge by cleaning a variety of seeds and preparing them for storage. Techniques will focus mainly on native perennials and select trees and shrubs, but the skills are transferable to many other plant species. Participants will take home the seeds that they clean.

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

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

Bird Walk

8:00–9:00 AM

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

Enjoy early morning access to Jenkins during fall migration. Explore woodland, pond edge, and stream-side habitats. Discover the GISS method to recognize the general impression, size, and shape of birds. Learn to use your 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

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURES

THURSDAY, JULY 16

The Tree Collectors

7:00–8:00 PM

Amy Stewart, Author of The Tree Collectors: Tales of Arboreal Obsession

When Amy Stewart discovered a community of tree collectors, she expected to meet horticultural fanatics driven to plant every species of oak or maple. But she also discovered that the urge to collect trees springs from something deeper and more profound: a longing for community, a vision for the future, or a path to healing and reconciliation. Meet several of the remarkable people whose lives were transformed by their relationships to trees and be inspired to reconsider your own connections to trees—and maybe start a collection!

Arbo-READ-um partnership program—learn more on page 14.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, AUGUST 20

Gardening for Birds

7:00–8:00 PM

Blake Goll, Education Programs Manager, Willistown Conservation Trust

Transform your garden into a vibrant sanctuary for local birds! Explore how to select native plants, provide natural food sources, and create layered landscapes that offer shelter and nesting spaces year-round. Discover practical strategies to support local bird populations while enhancing the beauty and ecological health of your outdoor space. You'll leave with a clear plan to welcome more birds to your outdoor space.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Native Plants Spotlight

7:00–8:00 PM

Katie Fisk, Environmental Educator & Native Home Gardener

Give your landscape new purpose with native plants! Discover a selection of native all-star perennials (and vines!) to add to your garden, including ground covers, pollinator must-haves, and seed-producing standouts. Escape choice paralysis with practical guidance and inspiration just in time for fall planting.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

Ecological Restoration for Backyard Habitats: Lessons from Larger-Scale Projects

7:00–8:00 PM

Brook Gabel, Senior Project Manager, A.D. Marble
Brian Doyle, Senior Engineering Manager, A.D. Marble

Ecological restoration is often associated with expansive landscapes: wetlands, streams, forests, and transportation corridor reconstruction. Yet the core principles that guide these large projects can be scaled for homeowners, offering powerful tools to create healthier backyards. Learn how restoration practitioners tackle ecological challenges and how you can use similar techniques to improve soil health, manage water, support native plants, and create wildlife habitat. Leave with simple, effective strategies to become an active steward and build a more resilient, thriving landscape right outside your door.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Garden for Life

7:00–8:00 PM

Rhonda Fleming Hayes, Author of Garden for Life: Easier, Greener, More Joyful Gardening as We Age

Explore how to evaluate, redesign, and right-size your garden space as you age—to make gardening easier, more sustainable, and perennially fun. Discover techniques and tools to make gardening less strenuous and learn about plants that “multitask” to make a garden more sustainable for both the gardener and the environment. Get advice on how and when to ask for help to lighten the load so you can focus on the life-enhancing aspects of spending time in the garden.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17

Colors of Nature

7:00–8:00 PM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator & Founder, The Art of Ecology

Take a closer look at nature's palette and investigate the purpose, pigments, and functions of the colors found in the natural world. Learn why flowers are so vibrant (or white if they attract bat or ant pollinators), what black and orange mean when seen on insects like Monarch and Viceroy butterflies, and how animals can change their coloration to suit their needs! Explore the colors of nature and so much more through Marissa Jacob's award-winning nature photography.

Free of charge | Virtual event

ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5

Pressed Flower & Resin Jewelry

6:30–7:30 PM

Carrie Barron, Nature-based Art Instructor

Create your own wearable art. Choose from hundreds of real flowers and botanicals to craft two stunning pieces—pick from earrings, a necklace, or a bracelet. Customize your design with gold, silver, or bronze hardware and bring home jewelry that's uniquely you.

All materials provided—bring your creativity!

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

SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 19, OCTOBER 17,
NOVEMBER 21

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

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

Wool Art Painting Workshop

1:00–3:30 PM

Maria Gio, Artist & Owner, 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 with fall landscape and pumpkin themes, 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, OCTOBER 24

Storytelling Through Nature Photography

1:00–3:00 PM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator & Founder, The Art of Ecology

Explore the art of visual storytelling during this immersive workshop. An indoor presentation will highlight the National Geographic Society's standards and principles of narrative, documentation, and observation, as well as how we can protect and conserve both wildlife and wild spaces through art. Participants will then put these techniques and ideas into practice during an outdoor guided photo walk.

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Autumn Harvest Centerpiece

1:00–3:00 PM

Peicha Chang, Floral Designer

Add a touch of autumn magic to your home in this hands-on workshop. Play with autumnal colors and textures as you arrange flowers, foliage, and dried elements into a one-of-a-kind seasonal centerpiece.

All materials provided—bring your creativity!

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

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5 &
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6

Holiday Greens Wreath Workshop

12/5 • 10:00 AM–12:00 PM OR 1:00–3:00 PM

12/6 • 1:00–3:00 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Bring natural beauty to the holiday season by creating your own festive wreath. Jenkins staff will lead you through the process, from wire frame to finished wreath using fresh greens.

All materials provided, including a wreath frame, greens, natural accents, and ribbon.

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

WELLNESS

MONDAY & THURSDAY SERIES

Mindful Yoga

MONDAYS • 6:00–7:15 PM • HYBRID

7-week series: 7/6–8/17, 9/14–10/26

3-week series: 11/2–11/16, 11/30–12/14

THURSDAYS • 9:30–10:45 AM • VIRTUAL

7-week series: 7/9–8/20, 9/17–10/29

3-week series: 11/5–11/19, 12/3–12/17

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: \$36/3-week series, \$84/7-week series

Non-Members: \$52/3-week series, \$120/7-week series

**SATURDAYS, SEPTEMBER 12, OCTOBER 10,
NOVEMBER 14**

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

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Forest Bathing

1:00–3:30 PM

Stacey Vinci, Certified Forest Therapy Guide

Join us for a sensory walk rooted in the practice of Shinrin-yoku (“Forest Bathing”). This special forest bathing experience 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 | Non-Members: \$40



WELLNESS

Restorative Nature Writing: Wisdom of Trees

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 | 6:00–8:00 PM

Stacey Vinci, Certified Forest Therapy Guide

Discover what the forest can teach us through creative writing, storytelling, and nature exploration. Inspired by the strength and resilience of Jenkins' majestic trees, this class blends elements of narrative therapy, somatic practices, and forest bathing to nurture wellness and a deeper connection to the natural world.

All materials provided, including notebooks, pencils, and an herbal tea tasting. Class will be held outdoors with indoor or covered options available for inclement weather. Please dress appropriately with sturdy footwear.

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



YOUTH PROGRAMS

TUESDAYS, JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, AUGUST 4, 11

Sidewalk Chalk Walks (All Ages)

9:30 AM–12:00 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Draw your way through Jenkins! Use sidewalk chalk to create beautiful nature-related art from the Education Center down the main path through the garden. Don't miss these special mornings of family fun and endless doodling.

All ages welcome. Chalk will be provided—just bring your creativity! Children must be accompanied by an adult. Shine only.

Free of charge

TUESDAYS, JULY 7, 14, 21, 28, AUGUST 4, 11

Summer Storytime (All Ages)

10:00–10:30 AM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Join us for a nature-themed read aloud in Jenkins' very own secret garden—the Explorer Garden. Enjoy a morning out and learn something new while listening to engaging stories.

All ages welcome; most suitable for ages 3–6. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Free of charge

TUESDAYS, 4-WEEK SERIES

Jenkins Juniors (Ages 2–5)

9/8–9/29 • 10:00–11:00 AM OR 11:00 AM–12:00 PM

10/6–10/27 • 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 fall! 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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

Discover Native Turtles (All Ages)

THURSDAY, JULY 23 | 10:00–11:00 AM

*Upper Main Line YMCA Environmental & STEM
Education Naturalists*

Explore the fascinating world of Pennsylvania's native turtles! Meet live turtle ambassadors and learn about their natural habitats, unique adaptations, behaviors, and the important role these reptiles play in local ecosystems. After the indoor program, head outdoors for a guided walk to look for turtles and their habitats in the garden.

Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Indoor/outdoor program, dress accordingly.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Wild, Crawly & Cool (All Ages)

11:00 AM–12:00 PM

*Upper Main Line YMCA Environmental & STEM
Education Naturalists*

Get ready for a spook-tacular journey into the world of creatures that crawl, slither, and flutter! Meet live animal ambassadors—including gentle snakes, curious lizards, and incredible insects—and discover how these often-misunderstood animals help keep ecosystems healthy and balanced. Learn why snakes are shy but important neighbors, and how many “creepy crawlies” play a vital role in our gardens and forests. After the indoor program, head outdoors for a guided nature walk to look for insects, reptiles, and their habitats in the garden.

Suitable for all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Indoor/outdoor program, dress accordingly.

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

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

The Colors of Trees (Ages 4+)

10:00–11:00 AM

Marissa Jacobs, Educator & Founder, The Art of Ecology

Have you ever wondered how the lovely green hues of spring and summer give way to the rich earth tones of fall? Dive into the science of plant colors through hands-on observation and scientific exploration. Uncover the secrets behind why tree leaves are colorful in fall and engage with plant pigments in an interactive flower and tree leaf pounding take-home activity.

Suitable for ages 4+. All materials will be provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Outdoor/indoor program, dress accordingly.

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

TUESDAYS, NOVEMBER 17 & DECEMBER 8

Celebrate the Season (All Ages)

10:00–11:00 AM

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

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

11/17 | Learn about Wild Turkeys and what animals are doing in late fall.

12/8 | Get cozy as we get ready to welcome winter and explore evergreens.

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

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.

Keeping the Peace

ELECTRIC EQUIPMENT IN GARDEN MAINTENANCE

When you imagine a visit to a garden, words like “peaceful” and “tranquil” come to mind. Yet that sense of calm can be quickly disrupted by the very tools used to maintain it: the hum of a lawn mower or the fumes of a leaf blower cutting through the stillness. Recognizing this disconnect, and in keeping with our commitment to environmental stewardship, we are transitioning our garden equipment from gas-powered to electric, aligning the sounds and sensations of the garden with the serenity it inspires.

In the garden’s earliest years, maintenance was largely performed by hand. Jenkins’ first Executive Director, Leonard Sweetman, often referred to himself as the gardens’ “labor force.” For twelve years, Leonard worked tirelessly to establish the gardens, planting more than 5,000 azaleas, rhododendrons, and mountain laurels by hand.

Many tasks are still performed by hand today. However, as the landscape matured and our vision expanded, Jenkins’ horticulture team began utilizing gas-powered equipment to improve efficiency. One example comes each spring as staff cut back perennial beds. What was once a multi-day task accomplished by hand is now completed in a fraction of the time using hedge trimmers. Hedge and string trimmers play a critical role throughout the year, helping manage invasive plants, roadside growth, and meadow edges.

As Jenkins’ staff expanded, so too did the reach of their work. In addition to cultivating 16 acres of gardens open to the public daily, we now more intensely manage the Conservation Woodlands, Browning Hillside, Browning Brook floodplains, and woodlands along Devon State Road. Managing these diverse landscapes requires not only horticultural expertise, but also equipment capable of transporting plants, tools, and materials across the gardens’ varied terrain.

For many years, work in the garden and natural areas relied on gas-powered equipment. One such iconic fleet-member, a gas-powered golf cart affectionately nicknamed “Blanche,” has faithfully served the gardens for more than two decades. Today, Blanche’s successors reflect a new chapter in the garden’s evolution. In 2025, with generous funding from the Virginia Cretella Mars Foundation, two electric-powered LandMaster ATVs joined the horticulture fleet, allowing staff to perform garden maintenance, while leaving behind a reduced carbon footprint.

This replacement marks an important shift from gas-powered equipment to quieter, battery-powered alternatives. This past winter, Jenkins traded in our most frequently used tools, including blowers, hedge trimmers, string trimmers,



lawn mowers, and chainsaws, for electric models.

Electric equipment lowers the gardens’ carbon footprint, eliminates daily exposure to gasoline fumes, and significantly reduces noise levels for staff and visitors, helping to preserve the sense of tranquility that defines the gardens. The new tools also require less maintenance than their gas-powered predecessors, allowing staff to spend less time on equipment upkeep and more time caring for the gardens.

Our entire team echoes the sentiments of Max Dupont, Jenkins’ Nursery Production Manager, when they say, “I’m excited to use environmentally friendly equipment that reduces noise pollution in the gardens, contributing to an enhanced experience for both visitors and wildlife.” The next time you visit Jenkins, be sure to pause and appreciate our renewed commitment to sustainability...and tranquility.



50 Ways to Celebrate Nature at Jenkins

We've got 50 ways to celebrate Jenkins turning 50! We hope you enjoyed the first list of our 25 favorite things to do in our gardens in winter and spring. Get ready to explore more with 25 ways to discover, observe, and connect during the summer and fall seasons.



Listen for and identify bird calls

Count the scurrying chipmunks

Sign up for an upcoming program

Look for spider webs

Enjoy a summer evening stroll

Search for seed heads and fallen acorns

Follow the scent of fragrant summer blooms

Be a fall foliage aficionado

Stay cool in the shade of our tree canopy

Study tree trunk textures

Notice dragonflies darting across the water

Find plants that have fruits and berries

Spot summer-blooming azaleas

Take a crisp, leaf-crunching walk

Look for turtles basking at the pond

Watch wildlife forage for winter

Slow down and try cloudwatching

Join us for Winter Luminary Nights

Explore the plants in bloom around the pond

Spot winter birds among the bare trees

Observe bees and butterflies on flowers

Look for ice forming on the pond

Find golden flowers in our gardens

Donate to support our next 50 years!

Plant something new from The Garden Shop



Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

631 Berwyn Baptist Road
Devon, PA 19333
610.647.8870

jenkinsarboretum.org



**Jenkins
Arboretum
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