



JENKINS



WINTER + SPRING 2024

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 and inside cover photos: Laura Ducceschi

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**BRANCHING OUT: PLANNING
A PATH FOR THE FUTURE**



**HAMILTON HORTICULTURE
APPRENTICESHIP PROJECT**



SPRING BLOOMS



Dear Jenkins family & friends,

Growing Together

Over the past two years, Jenkins has undergone extensive discussion, exploration, and goal setting, which will be expanded on the following pages. Before you see the results of these discussions, allow me to provide a bit of context as to the need and process.





Four years ago, we experienced a leadership transition when Dr. Harold Sweetman retired after an impressive 33-year career. Dr. Sweetman built and established Jenkins through a series of successful goal setting and achievement cycles. When I was hired, Jenkins was poised for a new cycle of goal setting to help the organization navigate the challenges and opportunities of the coming years.

Goal setting (or strategic planning) is an intensive process that is realized through the hard work and engagement of staff, Board, and the community. We partnered with Julep Consulting to undertake this process and benefited from their expertise in synthesizing and organizing complex information, as well as their keeping us on schedule and accountable throughout the process. The resulting goals and tactics will help our team focus on shared priorities and will give us clarity as we decide how to expend our limited resources.

One of the earliest realizations made clear through this process was that we need to expand the way we communicate the story of Jenkins. In the past, we have not always done a great job of sharing our expertise, articulating our role in the community, or celebrating our victories as an organization. To help us tell our story,

we first established a set of organizational values to go along with a new mission statement. Today, our staff feel empowered by these statements to further their work. I hope you do, too!

The most visible change resulting from our planning processes is our updated visual identity. As Jenkins settles into its next phase of organizational maturity, a new brand—including an updated logo—is necessary to communicate the vibrancy and momentum of our multifaceted space. Our refreshed brand, designed with our partner Untuck, provides visitors with a visual roadmap of the Arboretum, and helps our team deliver consistent and effective messaging.

Change is always delicate. It requires a careful balance between honoring our legacy and staying relevant for the future. I hope you will find all the work we share in these pages to be the right content and connection for you, our valued community. Plants and people are essential to Jenkins, and we are proud to inform you of the great work you are supporting and enjoying. Thank you!

Always growing,

Tom Smarr
Executive Director



Photo credit: Angelina Minger

*Change is always delicate.
It requires a careful
balance between honoring
our legacy and staying
relevant for the future.*

Branching Out: Planning a Path for the Future

SINCE 1976, JENKINS ARBORETUM & GARDENS HAS stewarded 48-acres of woodland and gardens for the enjoyment of the community and the health of our local wildlife and waterways. As we near our 50th anniversary, Jenkins is recommitting to our core reason for existing: to connect our community to plants, place, and each other.

To help us establish priorities and set goals for the next few years, Jenkins underwent a strategic planning process followed immediately by a rebranding process in 2022 and 2023. We are excited to share the outcomes of these plans and hope you will follow along as we work to realize these goals in the years ahead.

Our planning process for both the strategic plan and rebrand were highly collaborative with opportunities for thoughtful input from our community. Both projects incorporated surveys, interviews,

and workshops, all guided by a joint team of staff, board members, and outside consultants. Throughout both processes, we prioritized listening to and learning from the people who care for and enjoy Jenkins.

To kick things off, we revised our mission statement to better reflect our strategic direction and ambition for the future. We also established a set of organizational values that represent our collective core beliefs and direct how we approach our work and engage with the communities we seek to serve.





Strategic Plan 2023–2027

Building on our mission and values, our new strategic plan charts a course for the organization and sets the foundation for future decades' growth and relevancy. As an organization with limited resources, it is critical that we build consensus around our shared vision and goals for the future. Jenkins' operating budget is 100% reliant on charitable donations from community members, and we take seriously our commitment to steward those donations wisely. We have a responsibility to keep a keen eye on our goals and strive to make sure those goals are in line with the community's needs.

To that end, we are committed to accomplishing the following goals by 2027. In doing so, we will be responsible stewards of your generous donations, and will continue to serve the people, plants, and animals who thrive because of this special place.

GOAL 1:

Position Jenkins as a model of and leader in ecological horticulture and environmental stewardship.

Everything we do at Jenkins is in partnership with nature. This unique approach to horticulture is becoming increasingly important as our world experiences dramatic changes in temperature, rainfall, and other climate-related events. Over the next few years, we will work to share our unique expertise in ecological horticulture and environmental stewardship, using our site as a hub for learning and public education. At the same time, we will work to increase our own knowledge of how best to care for our landscape and resources.

GOAL 2:

Broaden Jenkins' local reach by inviting more, and more diverse, people into our garden and community.

We have worked hard to make Jenkins an approachable, accessible space for everyone who chooses to visit. With free admission and visitation hours every day of the year, some barriers to access are already removed. But there's still much more work to do! Through increased partnerships, improved communications, expanded amenities, staff learning, and upgrades to our physical site, we will strive to make Jenkins increasingly approachable for *all* visitors.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

VALUES

Inviting

Provide an enjoyable, inclusive, and welcoming refuge that offers respite to all who enter.

Inspiring

Connect and inspire through excellence, naturalistic beauty, and vibrancy as a distinct yet approachable destination.

Engaging

Engage and influence through education and example to promote ecological stewardship and environmental resiliency.

Leading

Offer our plant collections, programming, and knowledge as community resources.

Serving

Continue to serve our community, staff, volunteers, and partners, as well as the land, legacy, and resources we steward.



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GOAL 3:

Foster a deeper connection to place among Jenkins' visitors.

As a place-based organization, we are always looking to deepen the connection between our visitors and our physical site. To do this better in the coming years, we need to improve our physical facilities to handle increased visitation while preserving the tranquility of the garden that so refreshes our visitors. As we complete capital improvements, we will also create new and improved opportunities for visitors to form life-changing relationships with plants and place.

GOAL 4:

Increase Jenkins' fundraising capacity by deepening relationships with our existing donor pool and cultivating a new generation of donors.

The original gifts of land from the Jenkins and Browning families were generous, yet they were accompanied by insufficient funding to support the infant organization that would grow to become Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. Through donations of all sizes from individuals over many years, Jenkins has grown to serve our community while attaining financial stability. Looking to the future, we need to invest in the internal systems and capacities that will allow us to bolster support and attract increased donations. Additionally, we hope to deepen and develop relationships with community members who share our vision for the future. By strengthening our relationship with aligned donors, we will be strengthening Jenkins as an organization, allowing a wider audience to engage with this wonderful place.

Our survey gave us valuable insights into how our visitors feel when at Jenkins, particularly in the words they used to describe the gardens.

When asked “Which (if any) of the following traits do you associate with Jenkins?”, the terms *peaceful*, *inviting*, and *delightful* were frequently selected.



Brand Identity Project

OLD LOGO



REFRESHED LOGO



NEW LOGO



Visitors to Jenkins encounter a vibrancy and richness in the gardens that can be unforgettable. Hundreds of pink, purple, and white azaleas bloom in dramatic drifts under a fresh canopy of emerging oak leaves. A bright orange Baltimore oriole is glimpsed building a nest; a Green heron is spotted stalking its next meal down by the pond. Quiet morning fog lifts from the valley, its effect intensified by the steepness of the hillside overlook. Regular visitors to Jenkins arrive with the expectation of experiencing these intimate and impactful moments.

Through our brand identity project, we have sought to convey that same sense of wonder and celebration in all facets of our organization, from the words we use to talk about ourselves to the way our publications look. Even details such as our logo were carefully evaluated as part of visitors’ holistic experience.

To begin this project, we first requested feedback from visitors through a survey in spring 2023. This survey gave us valuable insights into how our visitors feel when they visit Jenkins, particularly in the words they used to describe the gardens. When asked “Which (if any) of the following traits do you associate with Jenkins?”, the terms *peaceful*, *inviting*, and *delightful* were frequently selected.

The visitor survey was followed by stakeholder interviews, staff and board workshops, and many collaborative meetings between Jenkins’ team and our design consultants. The resulting brand identity will distinguish Jenkins from similar destinations, attract visitors to experience the beauty of the gardens, empower internal teams, and inspire supporters to give. You will see the results of this process woven throughout this magazine and beyond. It is our hope that the language we use, the photos we post on social media, and the publications we print will mirror the vibrancy and richness of the gardens.

Thank you to our board, staff, volunteers, visitors, and members for their support and input throughout the strategic planning and brand identity processes, as well as to our partners Julep Consulting and Untuck.

For the Birds: Designing a Botanical Buffet

AT JENKINS, WE FOLLOW NATURE'S LEAD IN OUR approach to gardening. In 2023, our team designed and planted a garden bed to provide for the unique needs of granivorous (seed-eating) birds, including the American goldfinch, Northern cardinal, and Song sparrow. Granivores' preference for seeds lets many of them stay in Pennsylvania through the winter, happily foraging on seedheads after other food sources have disappeared.

Are you interested in planting a buffet for seed-eaters? Consider how the garden's diversity, structures, and maintenance will meet their needs.

Diversity: When selecting seed-producing plants for a bird garden, diversity is key. Varied plant species let feathered visitors find the right combinations of fats, proteins, and vitamins. Incorporate several species of perennials to offer seeds of different sizes and nutritional qualities.

Plant diversity also supports year-round foraging as different plants set seed at different times. Granivorous birds require seeds as adults in fall and winter, but a few—including the American goldfinch—also feed seeds to their chicks. Mingling plants that set seed in summer (such as red columbine, *Aquilegia canadensis*) with those that set seed in autumn creates a dependable food source.

Structures: Strong stems are an important trait to look for in all of the garden's food plants. If a plant provides seeds, consider whether it can support the weight of feathered foodies. Birds like

to perch while they eat, so each species' stalk should provide a stable, comfortable landing site.

Plants also provide shelter. Research in the 1990s discovered that birds will choose a less nutritious, but safer feeding option over a healthier, risky one.¹ Make the garden both healthy and safe by incorporating a hedge of intermixed shrubs and clumps of low-lying plants.

Maintenance: To feed granivorous birds, seed-bearing plants need proper maintenance (or, rather, un-maintenance). Many native plants set seed at just the right time to provide much-needed sustenance in fall and winter. After their flowers fade, species such as purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*) and scarlet beebalm (*Monarda didyma*) develop seeds rich in calories and nutrients. Leave stems and seedheads intact in the garden until all the seed has been picked off—don't compost the birds' dinner as soon as it's ready!

Use these tips to attract granivores and increase the ecological value of your garden. Do it *for the birds!*



LEARN MORE!

Check out page 18 for The Garden Shop opening info and page 19 for our upcoming Bird Walks and Gardening for Birds: Know, Sow, and Grow workshop.

A Menu of Native Perennials for Seed-Eating Birds

PLANT NAME	BENEFITS
ANISE HYSOP <i>Agastache foeniculum</i>	Anise hyssop forms a spire of many small purple flowers over licorice-scented foliage. As the stems brown, each flower individually develops into a thick offering of seeds.
WILD COLUMBINE <i>Aquilegia canadensis</i>	Delicate wild columbine, blooming in early spring, provides nectar for hummingbirds. Later, the lantern-like flowers leave behind upright seedpods for birds foraging in summer.
CONEFLOWER <i>Echinacea</i> spp.	The intriguing shape of coneflower's seedheads adds aesthetic interest to the garden and offers stable perches to foraging songbirds. Two of our favorites are <i>E. purpurea</i> and <i>E. pallida</i> .
MAXIMILLIAN SUNFLOWER <i>Helianthus maximiliani</i>	The native perennial Maximillian sunflower boasts up to 15 bright yellow blooms per stalk, which each supply a robust seed set.
MEADOW BLAZING STAR <i>Liatris ligulistylis</i>	Meadow blazing star upholds clustered purple flowers that form dense bunches of seeds. It doubles as a great pollinator plant and a monarch magnet.
SCARLET BEEBALM <i>Monarda didyma</i>	Another dual-purpose pollinator plant, scarlet beebalm attracts native insects to its brilliant flowers and songbirds to its seedheads.
BLACK-EYED SUSAN <i>Rudbeckia hirta</i>	A favorite for birds and pollinators alike, cheery black-eyed Susan is an adaptable garden staple. It is drought tolerant and prefers good drainage.
LITTLE BLUESTEM <i>Schizachyrium scoparium</i>	Little bluestem grass, named for its lower height and blue-tinted blades, both shelters and feeds ground-nesting granivores like the Dark-eyed junco.
PRAIRIE DROPSEED <i>Sporobolus heterolepis</i>	Prairie dropseed is a low-growing, clumping grass appreciated by ground-feeding birds, such as Mourning doves. Its mounding form offers excellent shelter.
ASTER <i>Symphiotrichum</i> spp.	All asters are prolific seed producers. We love <i>S. novae-angliae</i> 'Purple Dome' for its low mounds of purple flowers, which create stunning contrast against goldenrods (<i>Solidago</i> spp.).

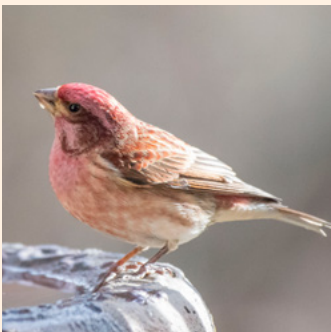


Photo credit: Liz Pettit

1 Houston, Alasdair Ian, et al. "General results concerning the trade-off between gaining energy and avoiding predation." *Biological Sciences*, 29 September 1993.



A Warmer Welcome at Jenkins

SINCE OPENING OUR GARDEN GATES IN 1976, JENKINS HAS BEEN PROUD to welcome all members of our community with no cost of admission. We strongly believe that the gardens should be a resource equally available to all community members, regardless of age, background, socioeconomic status, or ability.

Even with our “open gate” policy, we know there are significant barriers to the accessibility and approachability of Jenkins. Our new strategic plan (outlined on page 6) allows us to address these challenges with clarity and momentum as we seek to invite a wider audience. While there is still much work to be done, we are pleased to share our progress toward extending a warmer welcome.

AUTOMATIC DOOR UPGRADES

Our John J. Willaman Education Center serves as the main point of entry to the gardens and a hub for our gift shop, gallery, and educational programming. Through this building, we welcome 70,000+ visitors annually, host 1,000+ program participants, work alongside dozens of volunteers, and house workspace for our entire staff.

Unfortunately, despite the constant buzz of activity in this building, the original front

doors were inoperable by anyone using a wheelchair, pushing a stroller, experiencing limited mobility, or simply caught with their hands full. In 2023, we drafted an action plan to create a more accessible site, and our first priority was to replace our manual-entry doors with automatic doors. With generous funding from the Huston Foundation and the 25th Century Foundation, we installed new automatic doors operated by a three-foot tall push bar.

This simple upgrade has added a new and profound level of welcome to *all* our guests, offering the opportunity to independently enter and exit the building for meetings, programs, volunteering, and events.

GOLF CART TOURS

One of the landscape features that makes Jenkins unique is our steep terrain. While this incline offers beautiful vistas of the surrounding valley, including Valley Forge National Historic Park and its iconic

carillon tower, the change in elevation can be a challenge to navigate! In 2023, we found a simple solution to this issue by offering free, weekly golf cart tours. These 90-minute docent-led tours were an instant hit, with tours selling out months in advance.

Reviews of our golf cart tours have been glowing, with many participants remarking on how nice it is to return to the pond and surrounding wildflower beds after many years without visiting due to the sloping terrain. In addition to our regular weekly tours, we offer privately scheduled tours for a small fee. Schedule your private tour today by emailing tours@jenkinsarboretum.org.

These small upgrades and changes are the beginning of a much larger plan to extend a warmer welcome to Jenkins' visitors. Stay tuned in the months and years ahead to see our continued progress!

Hamilton Horticulture Apprenticeship Project: Pond Spur Renovation

The Hamilton Horticulture Apprenticeship, formerly known as the Hamilton Educational Fellowship, is an immersive two-year program aimed at equipping budding professionals with the practical skills required to excel in the field of public horticulture. Throughout their term at Jenkins, Apprentices complete an individual project to further the Arboretum's mission of promoting environmental horticulture and showcasing native plants. Since joining the horticulture team in May 2023, our current first year Apprentice, Nate Braddock, has been busy planning a garden makeover.

Across from the pond, beneath the dappled shade of a towering dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*), lies an unassuming swath of turf known to Jenkins' staff as the "pond spur." Channeling his interests in native flora and plant conservation, Nate has begun work to turn this area into Jenkins' newest garden space. In line with the Jenkins' ethos, this project is not just about upgrading the garden's aesthetic; it's about breathing new life into the space. Replacing this long-standing patch of grass with native plants will open new habitat and food sources for wildlife.

Before diving into plant selection and design, Nate conducted a suite of soil tests looking at nutrient availability, percolation (drainage), and soil texture. The tests revealed compacted soil with poor drainage and low organic matter, a common issue in areas covered in turf for long periods. Taking these results in stride, Nate set out to develop a plan to remediate the soil for optimal growth down the line. In addition to soil health, the design must

consider the effect of the existing canopy. As a piece of the site analysis process, Nate spent a day mapping the pond spur's light conditions to identify any sunny pockets in an otherwise shady area.

With the site analysis complete and a plan in place to restore the health of the soil, Nate has been combing through nursery catalogs and Jenkins' inventory to compile a list of plants suitable to the pond spur. While building this list, Nate must consider color, bloom time, size, growth habit, and ecological value so that he can select the perfect plants. Through this search, Nate hopes to uncover species that are new to Jenkins' collections. Each new species in the garden adds to the depth of biodiversity safeguarded at the Arboretum, ultimately leading to a happier, healthier ecosystem.

As the chill of winter gives way to the first blooms of spring, Nate will be hard at work translating his finalized list of plants into a formal design. The dream of a shady oasis by the pond motivates Nate as he explores public gardens and botanizes his way through the great outdoors in search of inspiration. Most of all, he is excited to apply everything he has been learning in an ecology-based landscaping course funded through the Apprenticeship program. Stay tuned as Nate and the Jenkins' horticulture staff transform the pond spur from a patch of grass into a thriving garden!



Soil percolation test



LEARN MORE!

Scan the code to find out more about the Hamilton Horticulture Apprenticeship.

Members Get More

IT'S NO SECRET THAT WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS HERE AT JENKINS! Made up of nearly 1,000 households, this dedicated group of supporters provides 37% of the funding needed to sustain Jenkins each year. Our members are native plant enthusiasts, shutterbugs, bird nerds, art-lovers, and question-askers...just like us! With their help, we can offer free admission to all visitors, maintain a world-class botanical garden, and provide engaging programs for people of all ages.

How do you say “thank you” to such an enthusiastic, dedicated, and fun group? We are always adding new benefits that fit with the interests of our members. Not only does your membership support the Arboretum, but you get to enjoy great perks and programs, too! Here are a few of our favorite member benefits—show your member card to start redeeming these perks and more:



Experience exclusive on-site events from behind-the-scenes tours at our Summer Sip 'n Stroll to an intimate evening of camaraderie and celebration at our annual Circle of Friends cocktail reception.



Explore private gardens throughout the region during biannual Member Meander excursions for members at the Sustaining level+. Save the date for our next one on June 13 as we explore Donald Pell Gardens.



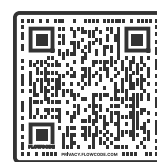
Shop local with perks from our 20+ retail partners. Whether you're stocking up for a garden overhaul or eating out with friends, our members enjoy special discounts and support local businesses at the same time.



Follow your curiosity with pop-up events and discounted programs and workshops. Join us virtually on January 10 for our Member Exclusive: Year in Review with Steve Wright (see page 18 for more details).



Tour new gardens across the country with special admission privileges and discounts to over 340 gardens through the American Horticultural Society's reciprocal admissions program.



**TIME TO RENEW YOUR
MEMBERSHIP?**

Scan the QR code to join, renew, or purchase a gift membership.



Vernal witchhazel
(*Hamamelis vernalis*)

Vernal witchhazel
(*Hamamelis vernalis*
'Quasimodo')

Winter is for Witchhazels

WITCHHAZELS (*HAMAMELIS* spp.) HAVE LONG BEEN A FAVORITE OF THE WINTER landscape, adding splashes of color and fragrance to an otherwise quiet season. Within the genus, the differences displayed among species and selections of this multifaceted shrub offer diverse ways to enjoy it in the garden.

The most common witchhazel in the landscape trade is the Chinese witchhazel (*Hamamelis mollis*) and its many selections and hybrids. *Hamamelis mollis* is a large shrub, reaching 10' tall or more, with relatively large, intensely fragrant, spider-like flowers. These flowers range from soft yellow to red depending on the variety and feature a distinctive fragrance that is both pungent and sweet with hints of citrus.

The eastern United States boasts three native species of witchhazel: *Hamamelis virginiana*, *Hamamelis vernalis*, and *Hamamelis ovalis*. Here in the northeast, *Hamamelis virginiana*, or American witchhazel, is the most common. This large, multi-stemmed shrub can reach heights of 30' and blooms in late fall, although its yellow flowers are often masked by its matching fall color and persistent leaves.

Further south, the notably fragrant *Hamamelis vernalis*, or vernal witchhazel, is more common. This species tends to be a bit smaller than *Hamamelis virginiana* and blooms in late winter, often after most of the leaves have fallen. This means their orange flowers are easier to see and

especially easier to smell, even at a distance.

Hamamelis ovalis, commonly called the big-leaf witchhazel, is a rare species that was only recently discovered and described in the early 2000s. It is currently found only in Alabama and Mississippi. Though there is still some debate among botanists as to whether it should be considered its own species or not, there is no doubt the big-leaf witchhazel looks distinct. As its common name implies, this species of witchhazel boasts leaves two to three times the size of the typical *Hamamelis virginiana* and features flowers that are more orange-red than yellow.

Although the Arboretum lost all its *Hamamelis mollis* specimens to heavy rains and saturated soils a few years back, there are several giant *Hamamelis virginiana* specimens growing wild on the property and we have added many more. In total, Jenkins displays ten named selections of either *Hamamelis vernalis* or *Hamamelis virginiana*. These plants were selected for their unusual or noteworthy traits and include a dwarf called 'Quasimodo' that grows to only 4' tall; a low sprawler

called 'Lombart's Weeping'; upright, narrow selections called 'Upchurch' and 'Sunglow'; extremely fragrant selections called 'Sandra' and 'Golden Eclipse'; one with outstanding fall color called 'Autumn Embers'; and the unusually dark-flowered 'Purpurea' and 'Amethyst'.

With so much variety, it seems there is a witchhazel for just about any spot in the garden! Be sure to provide the moist, well-drained soils in which witchhazels thrive, and consider planting in part sun for a better bloom and display of fall color. Find our witchhazel collection at Jenkins along Jenkins Road and Stream Walk.

MEMBER PERK

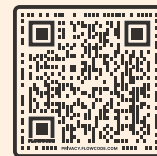
Calling all Donor level members and above! Stay tuned for a pop-up guided witchhazel tour during peak *Hamamelis vernalis* season in late winter.

Programs at a Glance

- GARDENING & NATURE
- WELLNESS
- ART & PHOTOGRAPHY

- SPECIAL EVENT
- THIRD THURSDAY LECTURE
- YOUTH PROGRAM

1/8	Mindful Yoga (1/8 – 2/12) 6-WEEK SERIES 6:00 – 7:15 PM	1/26	Art & Mindfulness Series (1/26 – 2/9) 3-WEEK SERIES 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	2/29	Winter Wonder (All Ages) 10:00 – 10:45 AM
1/10	Member Exclusive: A Year in Review 7:00 – 8:00 PM	1/27	Gardening for Birds: Know, Sow, and Grow 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM	3/2	Backyard Bogs 10:00 – 11:30 AM
1/11	Mindful Yoga (1/11 – 2/15) 6-WEEK SERIES 9:30 – 10:45 AM	2/1	Winter Wonder (All Ages) 10:00 – 10:45 AM	3/9	Hesitation: Paintings by Valerie Craig (3/9 – 6/16) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
1/13	13th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition (1/13 – 3/3) 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM	2/10	Tea—A Story Steeped in History 2:00 – 3:30 PM	3/10	Opening Reception for Hesitation: Paintings by Valerie Craig 2:00 – 4:00 PM
1/14	Opening Reception for 13th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition 2:00 – 4:00 PM	2/14	Tai Chi (2/14 – 2/28) 3-WEEK SERIES 9:30 – 10:30 AM	3/14	Winter Wonder (All Ages) 10:00 – 10:45 AM
1/17	Tai Chi (1/17 – 1/31) 3-WEEK SERIES 9:30 – 10:30 AM	2/15	Winter Wonder (All Ages) 10:00 – 10:45 AM	3/17	Evergreen Exploration (All Ages) 10:00 – 11:00 AM
1/18	Unlawning Suburbia: Lessons in the Design and Management of Nature-Inspired Landscapes 7:00 – 8:30 PM		Solitary Bee Hotels 7:00 – 8:30 PM		Ecological All-Stars 2:00 – 3:30 PM
1/21	Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music 2:30 – 3:30 PM	2/18	Delightful Dish Gardens (Ages 4+) 10:00 – 11:00 AM	3/20	Tai Chi (3/20 – 4/3) 3-WEEK SERIES 9:30 – 10:30 AM
1/22	Bird Walk 8:30 – 9:30 AM		Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music 2:30 – 3:30 PM	3/21	The Amphibians and Reptiles of the Mid-Atlantic 7:00 – 8:30 PM
1/23	Botanical Observations: Winter Objects of Field and Forest (1/23 – 3/12) 8-WEEK VIRTUAL SERIES 6:30 – 8:30 PM	2/19	Mindful Yoga (2/19 – 3/25) 6-WEEK SERIES 6:00 – 7:15 PM	3/23	Houseplant Repotting Clinic 10:00 – 11:30 AM
		2/22	Mindful Yoga (2/22 – 3/28) 6-WEEK SERIES 9:30 – 10:45 AM	3/24	Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music 2:30 – 3:30 PM
		2/24	From Drawing to Painting: Botanical Art as a Process 10:00 AM – 3:30 PM		



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

- 4/1** **Mindful Yoga (4/1 – 5/6)**
6-WEEK SERIES
6:00 – 7:15 PM
- 4/4** **Mindful Yoga (4/4 – 5/9)**
6-WEEK SERIES
9:30 – 10:45 AM
- 4/13** **Native Spring Ephemerals**
10:00 – 11:30 AM

Springtime Floral Centerpiece
1:00 – 2:30 PM
- 4/14** **Creativi-Tree (All Ages)**
10:00 – 11:00 AM

Designing a Spring Sketchbook
1:00 – 3:30 PM
- 4/16** **Jenkins Juniors (4/16 – 5/7)**
4-WEEK SERIES | AGES 2 – 5
10:00 – 11:00 AM
- 4/18** **Little Garden, Big Impact:
Native Plants for Small Spaces**
7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 4/19** **The Garden Shop at Jenkins
OUTDOOR NURSERY OPENING**
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 4/20** **Photo Walk**
9:00 – 11:00 AM
- 4/22** **Bird Walk**
7:45 – 8:45 AM
- 4/24** **Tai Chi (4/24 – 5/29)**
6-WEEK SERIES
9:30 – 10:30 AM

- 4/26** **Peak Bloom Photography
(4/26 & 4/27)**
4/26 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM
4/27 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM
- 4/29** **Children’s Yoga at the Garden
(4/29 – 5/20)**
4-WEEK SERIES | AGES 2 – 5
10:00 – 10:45 AM
- 5/14** **Jenkins Juniors (5/14 – 6/4)**
4-WEEK SERIES | AGES 2 – 5
10:00 – 11:00 AM
- 5/16** **Wild Philly: The Extraordinary
Nature of Our Backyard**
7:00 – 8:30 PM
- 5/18** **Photo Walk**
9:00 – 11:00 AM

Spring Blooms
5:00 – 8:00 PM
- 6/3** **Mindful Yoga (6/3 – 6/24)**
4-WEEK SERIES
6:00 – 7:15 PM
- 6/6** **Mindful Yoga (6/6 – 6/27)**
4-WEEK SERIES
9:30 – 10:45 AM
- 6/15** **Photo Walk**
9:00 – 11:00 AM
- 6/17** **National Pollinator Week
(6/17 – 6/23)**
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
- 6/20** **Native Predatory Wasps:
Their Role as Pollinators
and Beneficial Insects**
7:00 – 8:30 PM



Golf Cart Garden Tours

WEDNESDAYS, 4/10 – 6/26
11:00 – 11:45 AM



Wednesday Walkabouts

WEDNESDAYS, 4/10 – 6/26
1:00 – 2:00 PM



SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10

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 presentation 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

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Tea—A Story Steeped in History

2:00 – 3:30 PM

Brenda R. Sullivan, Horticulturist, Lovedirt

Learn the complex history and controversies surrounding one of our most important plants, tea (*Camellia sinensis*). Steeped to produce the world's most consumed man-made beverage, tea is an integral part of most world cultures, used for healing, meditation, and ceremonies. But while its caffeine helped inspire the Age of Enlightenment, tea has a dark cultural side, including slavery, indentured servitude, and revolts like the Boston Tea Party—a fascinating plant indeed! Before the talk, enjoy teatime refreshments from A Taste of Britain including mini scones, sweets, sandwiches, and, of course, tea!

Members: \$35 | Non-Members: \$45

FRIDAY, APRIL 19

The Garden Shop at Jenkins

OUTDOOR NURSERY OPENING

9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Come shop with us and add a piece of our garden to yours! Peruse a diverse collection of specialty azaleas and native plant species, including trees, shrubs, and herbaceous perennials for sun and shade. Our selections are chosen for ecological value, resiliency, and beauty. The outdoor nursery is open daily from April 19 through mid-October. Members receive 10% off on all purchases!

MONDAY, JUNE 17 – SUNDAY, JUNE 23

National Pollinator Week

Celebrate the importance of pollinators with on-site education, activities, a virtual lecture, and much more. We will also be highlighting cool facts about winged wonders and how you can help on Jenkins' social media (@jagardens).

Art Exhibitions

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens displays several exhibitions of artwork each year in the John J. Willaman Education Center. Our exhibitions complement the natural beauty of the gardens and offer a platform to celebrate the work of regional artists.

GALLERY OPEN DAILY 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

JANUARY 13 – MARCH 3

13th Annual Visitors' Photography Exhibition

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, JANUARY 14
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Enter your photography in our show! Submissions due January 8–9. Full entry submission details at jenkinsarboretum.org/photography.

Free of charge | Registration not required

MARCH 9 – JUNE 16

Hesitation: Paintings by Valerie Craig

OPENING RECEPTION: SUNDAY, MARCH 10
2:00 – 4:00 PM

Free of charge | Registration not required

Views of the Forest Through the Lens of Music

Join us for a three-part chamber music series that will immerse you in classical music with the forest as a visual inspiration. Each performance features a different musical group with a musician meet-and-greet following. This series is a collaboration between Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens and Allegro Music Consultants.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Valentin Kovalev (saxophone), Aiwen Zhang (saxophone), and Hanchien Lee (keyboard)

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

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Beomjae Kim (flute) and Jordan Dodson (guitar)

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

2:30 – 3:30 PM

Eric Huckins (French horn), Gergana Haralampieva (cello), and Zhenni Li-Cohen (piano/keyboard)

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

MONDAYS, JANUARY 22 & APRIL 22

Bird Walks

1/22 | 8:30 – 9:30 AM

4/22 | 7:45 – 8:45 AM

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

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, JANUARY 27

Gardening for Birds: Know, Sow, and Grow

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

*Helen Standen, Nursery & Greenhouse Manager,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

*Liesl Barkman, Hamilton Horticulture Apprentice,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Discover impactful ways to garden for birds! Join us for a presentation on how to support birds with the plants that you choose for your garden. Learn maintenance tips for a healthy habitat and get hands-on experience with various seed starting techniques. Sow and take home seeds from a special selection of bird-friendly native plants to jump-start your own backyard bird garden.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 2

Backyard Bogs

10:00 – 11:30 AM

*Nate Braddock, Hamilton Horticulture Apprentice,
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens*

Dive into the ecology of our native wetlands. Discover how you can incorporate a palette of strange and eye-catching plants including carnivorous pitcher plants and native orchids into your home garden. Through a presentation and interactive demonstration, learn how you can build and maintain a bog garden in a container or your own backyard.

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



Special Event Spring Blooms

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 18

5:00 – 8:00 PM

Save the date for our annual garden fête! Celebrate the emergence of spring by enjoying seasonal fare, delicious desserts, good conversation, and lively music.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Ecological All-Stars

2:00 – 3:30 PM

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

Go green with an all-star team! Through this on-site presentation, explore the various traits that make plants ecologically valuable and then learn about top native plant players. Steve's 9-species all-star team is comprised of native woody plants that combine several of these traits for enormous ecological and environmental impact.

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

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Houseplant Repotting Clinic

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Jeri Deyo McCue, Visitor Services Associate & Houseplant Manager, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Take your houseplants out of the house for a plant pick-me-up. Join us to revive your potted pals by pruning, cleaning, and re-potting with fresh soil mix. Jenkins will supply soils specific for tropicals, succulents, and *Phalaenopsis* orchids. Our Houseplant Manager will share tips and tricks that she has learned working with houseplants in The Garden Shop at Jenkins and in her own home.

- ▶ *Each participant can bring up to three plants.*
- ▶ *Plants should be in a two-gallon pot or smaller.*
- ▶ *Plants must be healthy—this is not a pest and/or disease diagnostic workshop.*
- ▶ *Participants need to be able to carry their own plants to and from the clinic and be ready to get their hands dirty.*
- ▶ *In most cases, the containers plants arrive in will work fine; however, participants will need to supply a larger container if plants require one.*

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

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 10 – JUNE 26

Golf Cart Garden Tours

11:00 – 11:45 AM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Explore Jenkins in a new way! Golf cart tours are a great option for those who want to enjoy the beauty of the gardens while avoiding the challenges of our sloping terrain. This guided tour will feature seasonal garden highlights, a behind-the-scenes visit to the apiary and research nursery, and history of the property, including 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.

Free of charge

WEDNESDAYS, APRIL 10 – JUNE 26

Wednesday Walkabouts

1:00 – 2:00 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Join us on Wednesday afternoons this spring for walking tours through our beautiful gardens. Each week's tour will have a different focus depending on the seasonal landscape and staff leader. Topics may include spring wildflowers, flowering trees, or our nationally accredited collections of rhododendrons, azaleas, and mountain laurels. Get outside and discover Jenkins with us!

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

Free of charge

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Native Spring Ephemerals

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Karen Miller, Head Horticulturist, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

The woodland floor comes to life each spring with a diversity of diminutive native plants—spring ephemerals! Learn about these fleeting flowers, where they like to grow, and how to establish them in your own garden. An outdoor walk will follow the presentation.

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

THIRD THURSDAY LECTURES

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18

Unlawning Suburbia: Lessons in the Design and Management of Nature-Inspired Landscapes

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Benjamin Vogt, Author and Owner, Monarch Gardens, LLC

Two of the greatest challenges in creating a naturalistic garden are demonstrating that the space is intentional and appeasing HOAs, city ordinances, and finicky neighbors. The solution to these closely related issues is to choose the right native plants based on plant behavior and arrange these plants with purpose. This lecture will cover core design principles that bring visual order to naturalized gardens and can be adapted to your local native plants.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Solitary Bee Hotels

7:00 – 8:30 PM

*Grace Gutierrez, López-Urbe Lab Member,
The Pennsylvania State University*

Bee hotels are a great way to support pollinator diversity in home gardens. They provide suitable nesting sites for solitary cavity-nesting bee species, which make up 30% of the 437 bee species in Pennsylvania. Learn how you can build and manage a solitary bee hotel with science-based instructions using pre-cut wood, hollow reeds, and drilled wood blocks.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, MARCH 21

Amphibians and Reptiles of the Mid-Atlantic

7:00 – 8:30 PM

*Jim White, Biologist and Co-Author,
Amphibians and Reptiles of Delmarva*

The wide diversity of freshwater and terrestrial habitats in the Mid-Atlantic region are home to a large variety of amphibians and reptiles. Common species like the American bullfrog and Eastern red-backed salamander live beside rare and spectacular amphibians like the barking treefrog and Eastern tiger salamander. Get a glimpse into the secretive world of these fascinating animals with an emphasis on species that are found in southeastern Pennsylvania and northern Delaware.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

Little Garden, Big Impact: Native Plants for Small Spaces

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Laura Cruz, Garden Designer and Horticulturist

Small spaces can have a big impact! Discover how tiny spaces such as containers, pocket meadows, and mini woodlands can provide ecological benefits with native plants. From petite trees and shrubs to well-behaved perennials, learn what to select for your garden just in time for spring planting!

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, MAY 16

Wild Philly: The Extraordinary Nature of Our Backyard

7:00 – 8:30 PM

*Mike Weilbacher, Naturalist, Environmental Educator,
and Author of Wild Philly*

America's sixth largest city is home to an amazing abundance of surprising wildlife: the peregrine falcon, the fastest animal on earth; the coyote, a recent immigrant to Wild Philly; the beaver, once vanished and now making an astonishing comeback; and more. Meet some of the region's featured creatures and the places you can go to see the diversity of wildlife. Learn the largest threats to nature and the ways you can help.

Free of charge | Virtual event

THURSDAY, JUNE 20

Native Predatory Wasps: Their Role as Pollinators and Beneficial Insects

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Heather Holm, Pollinator Conservationist and Author

Diverse, flower-rich landscapes provide critical habitat for predatory wasps to consume flower nectar and hunt for insects (and spiders) to feed their offspring. Discover the amazing natural history and biology of native wasps. Learn about their nesting habitat, prey specificity, and the ecosystem services—including pest insect population control and pollination—they provide.

Free of charge | Virtual event

TUESDAYS, JANUARY 23 – MARCH 12

Botanical Observations: Winter Objects of Field and Forest

6:30 – 8:30 PM

8-week virtual series

Margaret Saylor, Botanical Artist and Illustrator

Let's take a closer look at some of the wonderful natural elements that make up our winter landscape! Join Margaret Saylor virtually to draw (or paint) a new specimen each week. Not only will you learn about botanical objects like branches, mosses, lichens, fungi, and leaves, but you'll see how these subjects fit into the broader realm of contemporary botanical art. All levels welcome; some drawing experience helpful but not necessary.

Members: \$175/series | Non-Members: \$200/series

FRIDAYS, JANUARY 26 – FEBRUARY 9

Art & Mindfulness Series

10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

3-week series

Nicola Loughlin, Owner and Artist, Entwined-Action

Embark on a journey of well-being and balance through calming art forms such as watercolor, charcoal, pastels, and ink. Make art part of your mindfulness routine with guidance by a professional artist. No prior art experience required. All materials provided.

1/26 | THE POWER OF WORDS (WATERCOLOR)

2/2 | MAKE YOUR MARK (CHARCOAL, PASTELS)

2/9 | NATURAL STATE OF FLOW (INK)

Members: \$90/series | Non-Members: \$100/series

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

From Drawing to Painting: Botanical Art as a Process

10:00 AM – 3:30 PM

Margaret Saylor, Botanical Artist and Illustrator

Create botanical art in guided steps—capture a botanical subject in a simple line drawing then transfer it to watercolor paper and create a painting. Learn how to correct a drawing, select watercolors to build a palette, and explore painting techniques that suit your style and subject. All levels welcome; some drawing experience helpful but not necessary. Bring your own lunch.

Members: \$100 | Non-Members: \$115

SATURDAY, APRIL 13

Springtime Floral Centerpiece

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Staff

Bring beautiful blooms indoors this spring with a hands-on workshop! Perfect as your dinner table focal point, a gift for a friend, or “just because,” these centerpieces will be a peppy celebration of the season. All materials provided—bring your creativity!

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Designing a Spring Sketchbook

1:00 – 3:30 PM

Margaret Saylor, Botanical Artist and Illustrator

Botanical art draws together art and science. What better way to become familiar with our Pennsylvania plants than by beginning a sketchbook? Explore basic botanical art techniques and review different approaches to making a sketchbook. Take a walk around the garden, then reconvene to share observations and work. A great way to start that sketchbook you have always wanted to create! All levels welcome.

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

SATURDAYS, APRIL 20, MAY 18, JUNE 15

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.

Rain dates: Sundays, 4/21, 5/19, and 6/16.

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

MONDAY & THURSDAY SERIES

Mindful Yoga

MONDAYS | 6:00 – 7:15 PM | HYBRID

6-week series: 1/8 – 2/12, 2/19 – 3/25, 4/1 – 5/6

4-week series: 6/3 – 6/24

THURSDAYS | 9:30 – 10:45 AM | VIRTUAL

6-week series: 1/11 – 2/15, 2/22 – 3/28, 4/4 – 5/9

4-week series: 6/6 – 6/27

Janet Muti, Yoga Instructor

In our busy and stressful lives, it is important to prioritize mental and physical wellbeing. Our Mindful Yoga practice will consist of gentle stretching and strengthening exercises done slowly with awareness of breath and sensations that arise as we move from pose to pose.

All levels welcome; modifications and variations will be offered. Participants must have yoga blocks and straps available to take advantage of the variety of modifications. The locations of Mindful Yoga classes will be determined before the start of each series—virtual and/or indoor in-person options.

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

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

WEDNESDAY SERIES

Tai Chi

WEDNESDAYS | 9:30 – 10:30 AM | IN-PERSON

3-week series: 1/17 – 1/31, 2/14 – 2/28, 3/20 – 4/3

6-week series: 4/24 – 5/29

Aimée Alegria 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. 3-week series will be held indoors. 6-week series will be held outdoors with an indoor option available for inclement weather.

Members: \$36/3-week series, \$72/6-week series

Non-Members: \$52/3-week series, \$102/6-week series



Art & Photography

Peak Bloom Photography

FRIDAY, APRIL 26 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

SATURDAY, APRIL 27 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Laura Ducceschi, Fine Art Photographer

Spring at Jenkins is the perfect time to photograph blooms with azaleas, rhododendrons, and flowering trees galore! Award-winning photographer Laura Ducceschi will illustrate some of the challenges and solutions to creating impactful floral photographs, including equipment, camera settings, lighting, and composition. Friday evening's indoor instruction will prepare you for photographing out in the gardens on Saturday morning. After spending time in the gardens, the group will reconvene indoors for supportive sharing.

Participants will need to bring a camera, a fully charged battery, and a camera card with space to shoot freely. Photographers with any kind of camera can benefit, but DSLRs are recommended.

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



Youth Programs

Delightful Dish Gardens (Ages 4+)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

10:00 – 11:00 AM

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

Brighten up your winter with your very own dish garden. Create a whimsical mini garden with fun accents and learn how to care for your new plants. Don't forget to bring your imagination! All materials included.

Suitable for ages 4+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only.

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

YOUTH PROGRAMS

THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 1, 15, 29, MARCH 14

Winter Wonder (All Ages)

10:00 – 10:45 AM

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

Winter is wonder-full! Enjoy a nature-themed read aloud followed by an activity and craft. Learn what plants and animals do during the winter season and celebrate our love for nature. Classes are scheduled close to special days like Groundhog's Day, Valentine's Day, Leap Day, and St. Patrick's Day.

All ages welcome; most suitable for ages 2–5. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only. Classes will take place indoors.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

Evergreen Exploration (All Ages)

10:00 – 11:00 AM

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

There's so much green in our gardens during the winter! Explore the evergreen plants at Jenkins by learning their names and looking closely at their unique leaves. Our outdoor green scavenger hunt will end with an indoor craft.

All ages welcome; most suitable for ages 3+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only.

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 14

Creativi-Tree (All Ages)

10:00 – 11:00 AM

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

Discover the hidden treasures of trees through nature and art. Go on an outdoor walk to observe the seasonal traits of trees—from bark to blooms. Turn nature's inspiration into a masterpiece with an indoor art activity to follow.

All ages welcome; most suitable for ages 3+. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Registration required for children only.

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

TUESDAYS, 4-WEEK SERIES

Jenkins Juniors (Ages 2–5)

4/16 – 5/7 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

5/14 – 6/4 | 10:00 – 11:00 AM

*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, 4-WEEK SERIES

**Children's Yoga at the Garden
(Ages 2–5)**

4/29 – 5/20 | 10:00 – 10:45 AM

*Lisa Schwarcz, Yoga Instructor and Pediatric
Physical Therapist*

Introduce your little one to yoga and its many benefits. We will use stories, imagination, props, and music to engage children in moving their bodies, exploring their breath, and calming their minds.

Suitable for ages 2–5. Child-sized yoga mats will be provided. Adults must accompany their children and are encouraged to bring a yoga mat and participate during the classes. Registration required for children only. Rain or shine; indoor space for inclement weather.

Members: \$48/series | Non-Members: \$56/series

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

Gardening with Spring Ephemerals

AS WINTER'S FROZEN SOIL BEGINS to thaw, our horticulture team teeters at the edges of paths and hops on rocks to avoid stepping on bursts of fresh green in the gardens. This first flush of herbaceous plants is comprised of our native spring ephemerals, whose name *ephemeral* refers to a unique lifecycle. Emerging in spring, ephemerals produce flowers and seeds, absorb sunlight to store for energy next year, and go dormant as the canopy unfurls its dense layer of leaves. Despite their similarly brief growth periods, these plants vary greatly, adding early interest to the garden and resources for wildlife.

Jenkins nurtures a diverse collection of native spring ephemerals. Some of the earliest appearances include Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), a member of the poppy family. A study by the Xerces Society highlights the early blossoms of Dutchman's breeches as an important resource for our native bumblebees (*Bombus* spp.), whose larger size enables them to push open the flowers' fused petals and feed.¹

Other ephemerals, growing in large, naturalized sweeps, create waves of color and abundant pollen and nectar. Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), trout lilies (*Erythronium americanum* and *Erythronium rostratum*), and spring beauties (*Claytonia virginica*) flood the bases of dormant trees in blue, yellow, and white. Several types of trilliums (*Trillium* spp.) dapple the woodland gardens, providing interest with a variety of leaf and flower colors and sizes. Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*) opens its dazzling white blossoms that offer pollen to native mining bees. In the few brief weeks of their presence, these ephemerals have a big impact on the garden's aesthetic and environmental value.

The horticulture team at Jenkins maintains the woodland habitat in which

these plants evolved. Here they receive the proper balance of lighting, high organic matter, and moist, well-drained soil. Some ephemerals are compromised by excessive herbivory from deer and rabbits, as well as competition from invasive plants, such as lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*) and garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*). Their growth is restricted when they are exposed to high soil alkalinity from concrete structures and road salts, a lack of organic matter, or soil compaction from foot traffic. With their unique habitat specifications, ephemerals can be an intimidating plant group to add to a garden. We tackle challenges one by one to successfully incorporate these native beauties.

We begin by identifying key factors to amend in the planting area. Plants can be added only after all parts of the "ephemeral equation"—shade, soil, and stressors—have been addressed. Their first requirement is dappled shade from woody companion plants. Good companions include oaks (*Quercus* spp.), hickories (*Carya* spp.), and maples (*Acer* spp.). If a site lacks canopy trees, understory trees like redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) or quick-growing shrubs like spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) can provide the necessary dappled shade. The long stems and upheld branches of these woody plants frame unobstructed views of the dainty ephemerals below.

Next, we ensure the area's soil is suitable. Maintenance of the proper soil conditions limits many stressors, including poor drainage, compaction, and high alkalinity. Our primary strategy is adding layers of organic material, including woodchips and chopped leaves, to amend the soil over time. Reducing foot traffic by marking paths or placing stepping stones prevents compaction. In newer beds, soil tests check drainage, texture, and acidity to determine whether further amendments are necessary.

Combating stress from herbivory and invasive plants is an ongoing project. Practical solutions vary based on each garden's situation. Jenkins is fortunate to have fencing that lessens the pressure from deer. When deer fencing is not an option, start small. Only plant a section that is feasible to protect with garden fencing or scented repellants. Starting small also simplifies invasive plant removal. Completely remove all invasives from a site before planting ephemerals.

Once a site is ready, we add ephemerals when we can see our other plants growing, which ensures that the new additions have enough space. Marking freshly-planted ephemerals is critical; it prevents accidentally digging them up or planting on top of them later in the season. Remember that they lie dormant and invisible for much of the year!

The re-emergence of Jenkins' ephemerals each spring greets us with a sense of accomplishment and wonder. Visits from appreciative community members in April further reward our efforts to maintain a healthy woodland habitat where these species can thrive. We strive to send native spring ephemerals into more gardens by propagating them for The Garden Shop, sharing them with members, and holding pop-up walks and educational spring programs. Check our calendar for upcoming ephemeral-focused events!

LEARN MORE!

Check out page 18 for The Garden Shop opening info and page 20 for our upcoming Native Spring Ephemerals program.

¹ Hatfield, Rich, et al. "Conserving Bumble Bees: Guidelines for Creating and Managing Habitat for America's Declining Pollinators." Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation. 2012.



Trout lily

(*Erythronium americanum*)



Red trillium

(*Trillium erectum*)



Spring beauty

(*Claytonia virginica*)



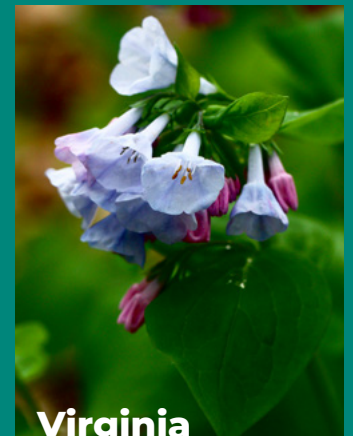
Dutchman's breeches

(*Dicentra cucullaria*)



Bloodroot

(*Sanguinaria canadensis*)



Virginia bluebells

(*Mertensia virginica*)

Fun Flower Facts about Spring Ephemerals

1

Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*)

Playfully nicknamed “Stinking Benjamin,” red trillium entices flies to pollinate it by giving off a stinky smell.

2

Spring beauty (*Claytonia virginica*)

The pink lines on the petals of spring beauty are nectar guides that direct pollinators to their nectar reward.

3

Virginia bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*)

Its bell-shaped flowers shift from pink to blue to signal their readiness for pollination.

4

Bloodroot (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)

Each bloodroot blossom lasts for only 1–3 days!

5

Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*)

These pantaloon-shaped flowers are actually made up of four petals—two outer inflated petals and two inner petals.

6

Trout lily (*Erythronium americanum*)

Pick a sunny day to photograph golden sweeps of trout lilies—its flowers stay closed in cloudy weather.

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