

Saturdays *in the* 2009 Gardens

The Jefferson
MONTICELLO

A series of garden lectures, natural history walks, and horticultural workshops sponsored by Monticello, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc.

March

March 14

Apple Grafting Workshop

9:30 a.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Skill at grafting is the true mark of gardening expertise, but it's also easy to learn and fun to do. Tom Burford will lead this two-hour workshop designed for the novice propagator. Bring only your thin-bladed pocket knife and a pair of hand pruners. Leave with your own grafted apple tree. \$10.

March 21

Starting a Vineyard

9:30 a.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Gabriele Rausse will lead this two-hour workshop in the Monticello vineyards. He'll discuss the basic principles of grape growing – variety and site selection, trellis systems, soil preparation, planting, pruning, pest control, and harvesting – and provide beginning grape growers a foundation in serious viticulture. \$10.

April



April 4

Pruning and Propagating Historic Roses

9:30 a.m., Tufton Farm
Old roses possess a grace, charm, and beauty unique among garden plants. Join horticulturist Dennis Whetzel for a two-hour workshop devoted to the practical care of these plants, and the ways to start your own. Learn in the display gardens at Tufton Farm. Bring your hand pruners. \$10.

April 11, April 18, April 25

Spring Wildflower Walk

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
This three-hour hike through the woodlands of Monticello to the Rivanna River is a perennial favorite of native-plant enthusiasts. Enjoy the botanical treasures of early spring: trout lilies, Virginia bluebells, spring beauties, and more. Be prepared for a strenuous trek and uphill climbs. \$10.

April 18

Historic Garden Week Lectures "Thomas Jefferson, Gardener"

10 a.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
As part of Historic Garden Week, Peter Hatch will present an hour-long illustrated lecture discussing the themes that defined Thomas Jefferson's passion for horticulture. An hour-long tour of the Monticello gardens will follow. Free; no registration required.

"Monticello's Center for Historic Plants"

2 p.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Peggy Cornett will survey the historic horticultural collections of this unique program to preserve the plants of the past. Her illustrated lecture will be followed by a tour of the CHP's Tufton Farm nursery, where plants will be available for purchase. Free; no registration required.

April 19

An Evening on the West Lawn

6 p.m., Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
This special event, honoring Historic Garden Week, will feature an after-hours tour of the Monticello house and a lecture by Peter Hatch, "The Restoration of the Flower Gardens at Monticello." A reception with hors d'oeuvres will follow on the West Lawn. Celebrate the Garden Club of Virginia's restoration in the gentle light of a spring evening. \$40. Capacity is limited; to register call (434) 984-9880.

May

May 2

Montalto Trek

9:30 a.m., Thomas Jefferson Parkway Trailhead (Kemper Park)
Join Peter Hatch for a strenuous, 1,000-foot vertical hike up Montalto, Jefferson's "high mountain." Walk through a mature forest then break onto cleared pastureland with unobstructed views of Charlottesville, Albemarle County, the Blue Ridge mountains, and, of course, Monticello. A two-and-a-half-hour trek for the fittest. \$10.

May 9

Spring Bird Walk

6:30 a.m., Tufton Farm
Learn the basics of bird identification and explore a variety of habitats in this three-hour walk during the spring migratory season. Peggy Cornett will lead this trek from Tufton Farm to the Rivanna River. We recommend waterproof shoes, long pants, and binoculars. Note early starting time. \$10.



May 16

Edible Plants in the Ornamental Garden

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Many edible plants have striking ornamental qualities – whether a happy growth habit, contrasting foliage, curious texture, or colorful flowers. Maggie Stemann Thompson will discuss and illustrate her favorite edible plants and then lead a walk through Monticello's Vegetable Garden to reveal some of the beauties on site. \$10.

May 23

Lynn Richmond Memorial Lecture "Botany, Empire and the Birth of an Obsession"

10 a.m., Tufton Farm
British author Andrea Wulf will tell the tale of a small group of 18th-century naturalists who made England a nation of gardeners, a story that began in America. The lecture honors Lynn Richmond, Monticello's former vegetable gardener. A book signing will follow. Free; no registration required. Box lunches are available by calling (434) 984-9826.



May 23

CHP Open House

10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Tufton Farm
The 17th annual Center for Historic Plants Open House at Tufton Farm will feature the rose, iris, and Dianthus collections in full bloom, and informal tours of the CHP nursery. Dennis Whetzel will conduct a rose workshop; participants are encouraged to bring their mystery roses for the experts to identify. Refreshments will be served, gift plants will be distributed, and roses, iris, and selected perennials will be offered for sale. Free; no registration required. Call (434) 984-9816 for additional information.

May 30

The Native Orchids of Virginia

9:30 a.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Virginia has more species of native orchids than Hawaii. Lonnie Murray, a member of the Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee, will discuss the conservation and cultivation of orchids native to Virginia and efforts to protect their habitats. \$10.

June

June 6

Painting and Sketching in the Garden

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Join Debbie Donley for this painting workshop in the flower gardens of Monticello. She will demonstrate both line drawing with pen and ink and basic watercolor techniques. All materials will be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own for this morning-long workshop. \$10.

June 13

Pruning Practices for Woody Ornamentals

9:30 a.m., Tufton Farm
Few horticultural practices are as misunderstood as pruning, particularly for shrubs. One needs to know, first of all, how to make a proper pruning cut, but also how to enhance the natural growth habit of the plant itself. Join Marc McVicker in the Tufton Farm gardens for this two-hour workshop to learn how to stop butchering your bushes. \$10.

June 14-26

13th Annual Historic Landscape Institute "Preserving Jefferson's Gardens and Landscapes"

This two-week course will use the gardens and landscapes of Monticello and the University of Virginia as an outdoor classroom for the study of historic landscape preservation. Lectures, workshops, field trips, and practical working experiences will provide an introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture. Fee charged; registration required. Call (434) 984-9836 or visit Monticello's Web site, www.monticello.org, for additional information.

June 27

Ancient Herbs

9:30 a.m., Tufton Farm
Culinary, medicinal, and fragrant herbs have been important in everyday life for thousands of years. Join Dennis Whetzel for a look at the many herbs used in American kitchen and dooryard gardens during the 17th and 18th centuries. \$10.

July

July 11

The Natural History of Trees

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Trees were among Thomas Jefferson's favorite plants. This two-hour walking tour explores the natural history of Monticello's native trees. Learn to identify about 50 species through an understanding of their ornamental, cultural, and historical character. Peter Hatch will lead this relaxed ramble through the forest. \$10.



July 18

Rain Barrel Workshop

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
Garnett Mellen will lead this two-hour workshop on the benefits of collecting rooftop water with rain barrels. Easy to do, and such a positive step in preserving our water supply, no landscape should be without them. \$10. For \$45, participants may build their own barrel to bring home with them.

July 25

Woody Plant Propagation

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
Propagating trees and shrubs from seeds, cuttings, or layers is one of the most gratifying of the horticultural arts. Marc McVicker will lead this two-and-a-half-hour workshop at the propagating facilities at Tufon Farm. He'll discuss the principles of seed sowing—timing, stratification, and soil mediums—and review the fundamentals of asexual propagation. Bring pruning shears. \$10.

August

Aug. 1

Winemaking Workshop

9:30 a.m., Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Join Gabriele Rausse for this two-hour session on wine production. Learn how to make your own, from harvest through fermentation to bottling, in this participatory workshop in Monticello's restored vineyards. \$10.

Aug. 8

Tomato Tasting

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Heirloom tomatoes are now at the height of fashion, and one can only marvel at the genetic diversity found in everyone's homegrown favorite. This two-hour participatory workshop led by Maggie Thompson will examine and rate a sample of varieties now available to gardeners. Participants are encouraged to bring their favorite garden varieties. \$10.



Aug. 15

Summer Fruit Tasting

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Enjoy the harvests of summer, what Thomas Jefferson referred to as "precious refreshment." On site in Monticello's Orchard, Tom Burford, Peter Hatch, Gabriele Rausse, and Kerry Gilmer will entertain participants with the fruits of summer: early apples, peaches, figs, grapes, nectarines, and others. Short talks on the history of fruit growing in Virginia will vary the menu in this two-hour feast. \$10.

Aug. 22

Creating an Herbal Potpourri

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
Dennis Whetzel will demonstrate an 18th-century recipe for making potpourri from old garden roses, fragrant heirloom flowers and herbs, and exotic spices. This two-and-a-half-hour workshop will include a discussion on the use of essential oils and fixatives for long-lasting fragrance. \$10.

September

Friday, Sept. 11

Center for Historic Plants Workshops

Noon-3:30 p.m., Tufon Farm
This afternoon of workshops and tours will highlight the work of the Center for Historic Plants at Tufon Farm, and will include tours of the display gardens and nursery, a workshop on herbs and roses, and a program on sustainable gardening practices. Free; no registration required. Call (434) 984-9816 for additional information.

Friday, Sept. 11

The Heirloom Tomato: From Garden to Table

4 p.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
This special event will combine a seed-saving tour in the gardens of Monticello with an illustrated lecture by author and heirloom vegetable authority Amy Goldman. She will celebrate the world's most beautiful fruit in all its glorious diversity. \$35. Capacity is limited; to register call (434) 984-9880.

Sept. 12

Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello



10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Montalto
Co-sponsored with the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange, the third annual Heritage Harvest Festival will be held on Montalto, Jefferson's "high mountain" that rises 400 feet above Monticello. The festival is a family-oriented, educational event designed to promote sustainable gardening and heirloom plants. It will highlight the efforts of nonprofit organizations promoting organic gardening, the preservation of traditional agriculture, and regional food; and will provide an array of food vendors and free samples. The festival also will include tastings, informative workshops, and talks by authorities such as Tom Burford and William Woys Weaver. \$5 per car. Visit the Web site www.HeritageHarvestFestival.com for additional information.

Sept. 19

Virginia Cider Making

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
It was a significant event when Americans began eating their fruit rather than drinking it. Kerry Gilmer and Tom Burford will review the Virginia cider-making tradition then demonstrate the process itself. Although you will need to help turn the crank, the cider made from the Hughes' Crab will be your just reward. \$10.

Sept. 26

Seed Saving Workshop

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
The historic tradition of seed saving in America provides a model for modern gardeners eager to get the most from their gardens. Many special garden plants are unavailable commercially and need to be preserved from year to year. Learn the dynamics of seed production, and then visit the gardens for a collecting demonstration. Debbie Donley will lead this two-and-a-half-hour workshop. \$10.

October

Oct. 3

Thomas Jefferson and Natural History Walk

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Thomas Jefferson's passion for gardening arose from his wide-eyed curiosity about the "tranquil pursuits" of science. Peggy Cornett will lead this two-hour trek through the forests of Monticello mountain. Participants will examine autumn wildflowers, seedpods and nuts, trees, mammals, birds, and geology with a historical perspective. Sturdy shoes recommended. \$10.

Oct. 10

Tufon Fern Walk

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
Ferns will be the excuse for this ramble through the forests of Tufon Farm. Peggy Cornett and Peter Hatch will lead this two-hour walk through a uniquely pristine, relatively undisturbed, and isolated natural woodland. Be prepared for briar scratches, spider webs, and uneven terrain. \$10.

Oct. 17

Apple Tasting

9:30 a.m., Tufon Farm
This annual event, truly a unique opportunity to explore the essence of the apple, has been among our most popular programs. Tom Burford will provide numerous apple varieties, each introduced with a discussion of their history and culture. Participants will taste, savor, and, most importantly, rate each apple in this two-and-a-half-hour program. \$10.

Oct. 24

History of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway Hike

9:30 a.m., Garden Center, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
The development of the Thomas Jefferson Parkway—the creation of Kemper Park, Saunders-Monticello Trail, and Saunders Bridge—is an intriguing story full of drama, creative design, and clever construction. Join Peter Hatch for a two-hour hike that will focus on the evolution of the project. \$10.

Oct. 31

Cooking Unusual Vegetables

9:30 a.m., Smith Woodland Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Visitors to Monticello's Vegetable Garden are curious about how to prepare many of the odd and rare vegetables found there. Gabriele Rausse will introduce participants to surprising curiosities such as sea kale, cardoon, and Caracalla bean flowers, as well as underappreciated gourmet vegetables from Florence fennel to fava beans. \$10.



November

Nov. 14

Vinegar Making Workshop

9:30 a.m., Smith Woodland Pavilion, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
Vinegar was an integral ingredient in various Jefferson-family recipes, and there's more to vinegar, translated literally as "sour wine," than salad dressing. Most people are unaware of the rich traditions of using vinegar in cooking, as a food preservative, and even as a wholesome beverage. Join Gabriele Rausse in reviewing the basic principles of making vinegar then learn how to use it in creative ways. \$10.

December

Dec. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12

Holiday Wreath Workshops

Times TBA, Jordan Classroom, Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center
These ever-popular workshops, now in their 23rd year and in a new and improved venue, produce a gratifying and tangible end-product: a beautiful holiday wreath. Janet Miller, Lou Hatch, and Maggie Stemann Thompson will lead participants through the process in these three-hour workshops. All materials (straw wreath forms, pins, wire, etc.) will be provided, including a cornucopia of natural materials. Bring hand pruners. \$45. Reserved tickets are required and can be purchased beginning Nov. 9 through the Web site www.monticello.org or by calling (434) 984-9880.



Saturdays in the Garden sessions convene at:

- The Garden Center, Jordan Classroom, and Smith Woodland Pavilion at the Thomas Jefferson Visitor Center on the grounds of Monticello.
- Tufon Farm on Route 732 (Milton Road), approximately 1.5 miles east of the Route 53 entrance to Monticello.
- The Thomas Jefferson Parkway Trailhead (Kemper Park) on Route 53 (Thomas Jefferson Parkway), 0.2 miles east of its intersection with Route 20.

Call (434) 984-9822 for detailed directions and additional information. Enrollment in Saturdays in the Garden sessions is limited and prepayment is required.

Reservations can be made by calling (434) 984-9880; advance tickets can be purchased online at www.monticello.org

Mr. Jefferson
MONTICELLO