‘Saturdays’ Series Covers Variety of Topics

For the 16th consecutive year, Monticello is conducting the “Saturdays in the Garden” series of gardening lectures, horticultural workshops, and natural history walks on the grounds of Jefferson’s home and adjacent properties.

The series was established in 1990, according to Director of Gardens and Grounds Peter Hatch, to give the public direct access to “the mountain, Thomas Jefferson, natural history, and horticultural activities that take place here.”

The list of subjects covered in the series, which began in March and will continue into November, ranges from vegetable gardening and basket weaving to flower arranging and cider making. Nominal fees are charged and reservations are required for most sessions.

Among the regularly offered “Saturdays” sessions, the Apple Tasting workshop has become one of the most popular. Conducted by orchardist Tom Burford, also known as “Professor Apple,” the program’s participants taste and judge numerous apple varieties seldom found in modern supermarkets, including fruit grown in Monticello’s orchards. Called by Burford the “oldest formal apple tasting in America,” the workshop, scheduled for Oct. 22, also covers the history and culture of the numerous varieties, and annually attracts a number of out-of-state visitors.