

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Heritage Harvest Festival with P. Allen Smith at Monticello

FEW SPEAKERS AT MONTICELLO'S ANNUAL HERITAGE HARVEST FESTIVAL have held the title of "Influential Tastemaker of the South" as graciously as this year's Festival keynote speaker, P. Allen Smith. Festivities kicked off with Smith's sold-out Friday night address, "Reflections on Jefferson: Gardening, Farming and Democracy," followed by a lively discussion and farm-to-fork dinner. Well-versed in the depths of Jefferson's love for horticulture, Smith's graduate work focused on the tour of English gardens that Jefferson and Adams took together in 1786.

P. Allen is an award-winning garden designer, regular contributor on NBC's *The Today Show* and host of the public television programs *P. Allen Smith's Garden Home* and *P. Allen Smith's Garden to Table*, and syndicated program *P. Allen Smith Gardens*.

In the few days prior to the opening of the Festival, Smith and his crew of four spent countless hours filming the gardens and grounds of Monticello, interviewing Monticello's knowledgeable staff members and even penciling a few new ideas for home. As Smith stated on his blog, "Although I am a few centuries too late to meet the man, I can still learn a lot from Thomas Jefferson by visiting his home Monticello. In fact, I

used many of the ideas gleaned there to design my Garden Home Retreat."

Visitors to Monticello who happened upon the shoot in progress were thrilled to catch a glimpse of the television series in the making. Known to his fans as more of a neighbor poring over what works in the garden and what doesn't, Smith takes the same approach to the land as Jefferson took to gardening in his day.

Inspired by a childhood spent raising 4-H chickens, showing livestock and gardening and since then by life of promoting good stewardship of the earth, Smith founded the Heritage Poultry Conservancy, an organization dedicated to the preservation and support of all threatened breeds of domestic poultry. Also a member of the Royal Horticultural Society, P. Allen Smith was an active participant in many of this year's Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello workshops, food events and activities, including the popular Old Timey Seed Swap. Smith is the author of the best-selling *Garden Home* series of books published by Clarkson Potter/Random House, including *Bringing the Garden Indoors: Containers, Crafts and Bouquets for Every Room* (2009).

More than 3,000 people attended



Gabriele Rausee, Assistant Director of Gardens and Grounds and P. Allen Smith discuss Jefferson and wine in the vineyard at Monticello. T.J.F.

this year's Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello, participating in various programs, lectures and tastings. The Festival is sponsored jointly by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation and Southern Exposure Seed Exchange.