

Public Programs

Spring 2026



chanticleer
A PLEASURE GARDEN

Welcome!

As we enter our 33rd season at Chanticleer, we're delighted to share a robust line-up of classes, workshops, and lectures designed to inspire gardeners and garden lovers. This year's programs span essential gardening techniques and hands-on practice; photography and writing; garden design and practical horticulture; creative arts and biodiversity. We are proud to welcome both Chanticleer staff and distinguished guest instructors, and to collaborate with regional and international partners who broaden the perspectives and possibilities we bring to you.

Through world-class horticultural practice, a spirit of experimentation, and programs that support emerging and established professionals, Chanticleer is both a place of joy and refuge for visitors and a living classroom for those shaping the future of horticulture.

Your participation, membership, and support make this work possible. Because of you, we are able to provide meaningful opportunities that educate and enrich the lives of garden enthusiasts, students, families, and professionals alike. We are deeply grateful to our instructors, donors, partners, and learners for sustaining this vibrant community.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chanticleer this season.

Warmly,



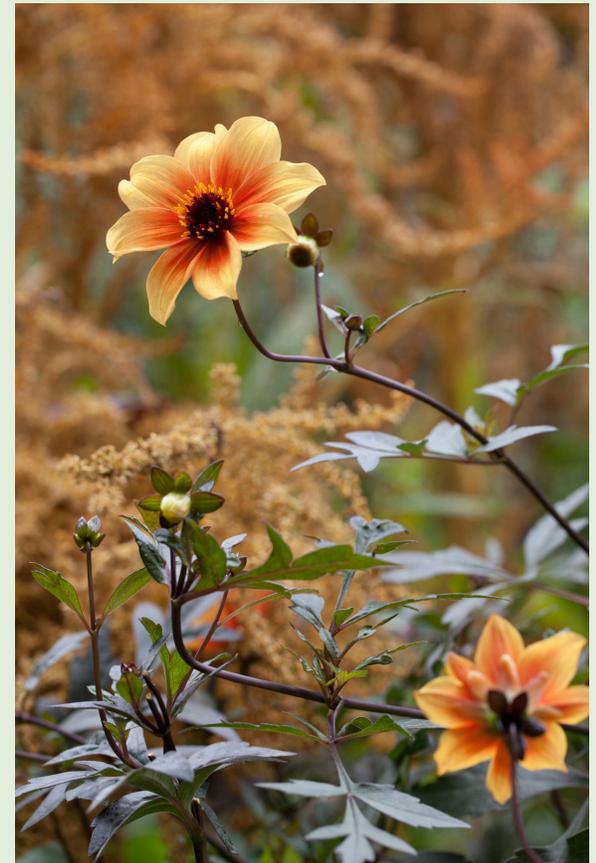
Erin Dougherty, Public Programs Manager

Ways to Register

VISIT www.chanticleergarden.org/programs

EMAIL chanticleer@chanticleergarden.org

CALL 610.687.4163



Dahlia [Mystic Spirit] = 'Best Bett' looks quite autumnal against a backdrop of *Amaranthus hypochondriacus* 'Chinese Giant Orange' in the Upper Border above the Teacup. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Ways to Give

- **Become a Member: Purchase a 2026 Season Pass Membership**
- **One-Time Donation or Annual Gift**
- **Donor Advised Funds**
- **Planned Giving**

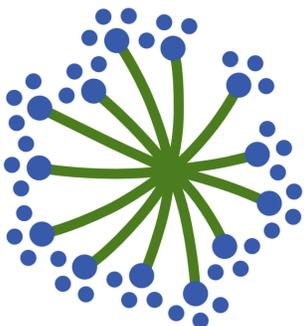
For more information, contact:

E. Yvette Weaver
Planning and Engagement Manager
giving@chanticleergarden.org
610.687.4163 ext. 122



chanticleergarden.org/join-give

April



Plant Propagation

Wednesday, April 15 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Discover how at-home propagation can fill your garden with abundant plants all season long. Grant Hughes, Chanticleer Assistant Horticulturist, will demonstrate techniques including cuttings, division, layering, and seed starting. Learn about selecting the best plant material, guidance on various soil mixes, and essential tools and techniques to set you up for success in your garden. Through hands-on practice, you'll gain the confidence to multiply your favorite plants and expand your garden economically and professionally.

Instructor: Grant Hughes, Chanticleer Assistant Horticulturist
Fee: \$45

[Register](#) ➤

Beyond One Season: Spring Bulbs for Lasting Displays

Wednesday, April 22 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Re-wild your spring display with naturalistic bulb plantings that return year after year. Join us for a guided walk through the garden to explore the difference between naturalizing and perennializing bulbs. Learn expert selection strategies, planting techniques for long-term success, and how to pair bulbs with companion perennials for extended seasonal interest.

Instructor: Eric Hsu, Chanticleer Plant Information Coordinator
Fee: \$45

[Register](#) ➤

Mindful Birding at Dusk

Wednesday, April 22 | 5:00-7:30 pm

Combine observing spring migrants with mindfulness techniques, creating a practice that fosters heightened awareness and personal wellbeing. Rather than rushing to identify species, you'll slow down and truly notice, deepening your connection with the natural world. Each participant receives a "Mindful Birding" journal to continue the practice at home. No birding experience necessary; binoculars provided if needed.

Instructor: Holly Merker, Bird Expert & Wellness Specialist
Fee: \$45

[Register](#) ➤



Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*), a native spring ephemeral, is growing near the Pond Garden. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Tea & Talk: Bulbs

Saturday, April 25 | 3:00-6:00 pm

Join Chanticleer gardeners David Mattern and Joe Henderson for a springtime celebration of bulbs—those underground treasures that return year after year. The afternoon begins with an illustrated talk on bulb selection, planting, and naturalization, followed by a walk through the gardens at peak bloom to see these ideas in action. Guests are invited to bring a picnic supper and stay for iced tea from the garden and conversation with fellow gardeners.

Instructor: Joe Henderson and David Mattern, Chanticleer Horticulturists
Fee: \$75

[Register](#) ➤

Spring Ephemerals

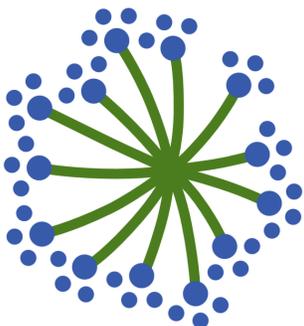
Wednesday, April 29 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Explore the magical world of spring ephemerals, wildflowers that bloom brilliantly before the trees leaf out, then gracefully disappear for the season. Join us for a guided walk through some of the garden's toughest sites to discover how spring ephemerals can transform problem areas into seasonal showstoppers. Learn identification, ecology, soil preparation, and design strategies for incorporating these treasures into your garden.

Instructor: Eric Hsu, Chanticleer Plant Information Coordinator
Fee: \$45

[Register](#) ➤

May



Editing Your Garden: Self-Sowing Plants

Wednesday, May 6 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Discover the art of working with self-sowing plants to create natural, dynamic garden layouts that feel effortless yet refined. Join us for a guided walk exploring how to combine nature's spontaneity with intentional design. Learn which plants reliably self-sow in our region, how to encourage desirable volunteers, and—most importantly—how to use your hand to guide their growth through thinning, moving seedlings, and selective weeding. You'll learn identification of common self-sowers, timing for intervention, and editing techniques.

Instructor: Lisa Roper, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)

Container Design

Wednesday, May 13 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Learn to design container gardens that work together as cohesive displays rather than individual showpieces. Move beyond the conventional thriller-filler-spiller formula to develop sophisticated approaches that echo the naturalistic plantings found throughout Chanticleer.

Instructor: Tim Erdmann, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)

Shade Perennials

Wednesday, May 20 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Join us for an exploration of choice shade perennials that bloom beautifully in spring. Through an indoor presentation and guided garden walk, learn which perennials thrive in different shade conditions, how to successfully integrate them into home landscapes, and receive nursery sources for hard-to-find treasures that will transform your challenging spaces into seasonal highlights.

Instructor: Eric Hsu, Chanticleer Plant Information Coordinator
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)

Demystifying Hardy Ferns

Wednesday, May 27 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Perplexed by ferns when shopping at garden centers? Discover how these much-loved woodland plants provide textural interest and flourish in shade where other plants struggle. Join us for an indoor presentation and guided walk that takes a detailed look at fern identification, cultivation basics, and growing conditions. Learn which species are attractive from spring to fall, the best choices for our region, when to divide and cut back, and how to incorporate ferns into your home garden.

Instructors: Przemek Walczak, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: \$65, includes fern

[Register](#)



The pink leaf of Caladium 'Desert Sunset' picks up on the magenta color of Rockapulco® Purple impatiens in a richly planted container on the Chanticleer Terrace. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Spring Bird Walk

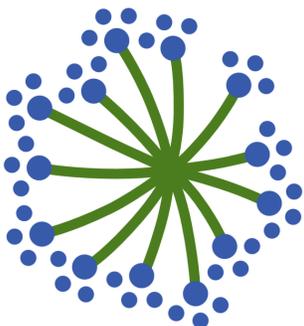
Saturday, May 30 | 8:00-9:30 am

Chanticleer is home to a remarkable diversity of plants, creating a vibrant ecosystem that provides essential food and nesting resources for migrating birds each spring. These varied species offer the perfect habitat for both birds that breed at Chanticleer and those passing through. Immerse yourself in the beauty, sights, and sounds of this seasonal migration.

Instructors: Pat and Tony Nastase, Valley Forge Audubon Society
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)

June



Inside the Garden: Creative Conversations at Chanticleer - Part I

Wednesday, June 10 | 5:30-7:30 pm

What makes a public garden a source of pleasure, a sanctuary, and even a work of art? In this new series, we'll step into specific garden spaces, meet the people who design and care for them, and discuss their unique power to change our emotions. Each session features a live interview with a Chanticleer gardener about their area—its plants, design choices, history, and the feelings their garden evokes. We'll pair these insights with short readings about public gardens and why they matter and then use prompts to create our own responses to the spaces. Join us again on Wednesday, September 16 for the next Inside the Garden conversation.

Instructor: Timothy Erdmann, Chanticleer Horticulturist and Margo Rabb, Author and Educator
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)



Agastache blooms in The Gravel Garden, with spiky *Yucca rostrata* in the background. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Make Something Beautiful: A Four-Hour Artist in Residency

Saturday, June 27 | 10:00 am-2:00 pm

Join us for an exploration of choice shade perennials that bloom beautifully in spring. Through an indoor presentation and guided garden walk, learn which perennials thrive in different shade conditions, how to successfully integrate them into home landscapes, and receive nursery sources for hard-to-find treasures that will transform your challenging spaces into seasonal highlights.

Instructor: Margo Rabb, Author and Educator
Fee: \$95

[Register](#)

Staking Methods for the Garden

Wednesday, June 24 | 5:30-7:30 pm

This text is a placeholder. Discover how these much-loved woodland plants provide textural interest and flourish in shade where other plants struggle. Join us for an indoor presentation and guided walk that takes a detailed look at fern identification, cultivation basics, and growing conditions. Learn which species are attractive from spring to fall, the best choices for our region, when to divide and cut back, and how to incorporate ferns into your home garden.

Instructor: David Mattern, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: \$45

[Register](#)

Chanticleer Annual Lecture with Jeff Epping

Sunday, June 14 | 2:00 - 3:30 pm

Join "Gravel Guru" Jeff Epping for a lecture celebrating his new book, *The Gravel Garden*, and the growing movement toward water-wise, climate-resilient design. This naturalistic approach, featured at Chanticleer, pairs drought-tolerant perennials with gravel mulch to create dynamic, low-maintenance landscapes. With insights from a 35-year career in horticulture and design, Jeff will share practical techniques and inspiring examples from the U.S. and Europe.



This free program will be held at Radnor Memorial Library in Wayne, PA.

Registration coming soon.



Inside the Garden

Creative Conversations at Chanticleer



You have walked these paths.
You have lingered in these spaces.
You have wondered how they came to be.

Inside the Garden is a new conversation series that brings you into specific garden spaces and into dialogue with the horticulturists who design and care for them. Through live, in-depth interviews moderated by author and educator Margo Rabb, we'll explore not only how these spaces are designed and maintained, but why they move us — how texture, structure, light, and season combine to create places of reflection, pleasure, and surprise. See June and September events for more details.

2026 Featured Horticulturists & Garden Areas



Timothy Erdmann

Chanticleer House & Terraces and Cutting Garden
June 10 | 5:30 - 7:30 pm



Przemek Walczak

Creek Garden and Bell's Woodland
September 16 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Public Program Policies

Non-Discrimination

Chanticleer welcomes all participants, staff, volunteers, and guests regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, or any other protected characteristic. We are committed to equitable access for all.

Photography and Recording

Personal, non-commercial photography is generally permitted unless instructors indicate otherwise. Audio or video recording requires prior written authorization from Chanticleer and approved recordings may not be distributed or used commercially without additional consent. Chanticleer may photograph or record programs for promotional, educational, or archival purposes.

Assumption of Risk & Release

Participation is voluntary. By registering, participants accept all associated risks and agree to hold Chanticleer, its staff, instructors, and volunteers harmless from liability for injuries, losses, or damages except where prohibited by law. Instructor views do not necessarily reflect those of Chanticleer.

Weather & Emergency Closures

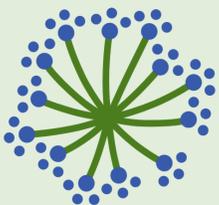
Program updates due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances will be posted on Chanticleer's website and social media, and available by calling 610.687.4163. Registered participants will be notified by email of any changes.

Program Cancellation

Chanticleer reserves the right to cancel or modify programs as needed. Cancellations by Chanticleer result in a full refund. registered participants will receive a full refund. If a program is postponed due to weather or circumstances beyond our control, we will make reasonable efforts to reschedule or offer alternatives.



A rooster statue is bathed in morning light as it sits among a sea of tulips *Tulipa* 'Hakuun' and daffodils (*Narcissus* 'Golden Echo') at Chanticleer House. Photo by Chris Felhaber.



Questions?

Contact us at 610.687.4163 or chanticleer@chanticleergarden.org