Public Programs

2026 Season

chanticleer
A PLEASURE GARDEN

786 Church Road, Wayne, PA 19087 · 610.687.4163 · chanticleergarden.org

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

Erin Doughtery, 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**

chanticleergarden.org/join-give

For more information, contact:
E. Yvette Weaver
Planning and Engagement Manager
giving@chanticleergarden.org
610.687.4163 ext. 122

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.

Instructors: 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 ↗

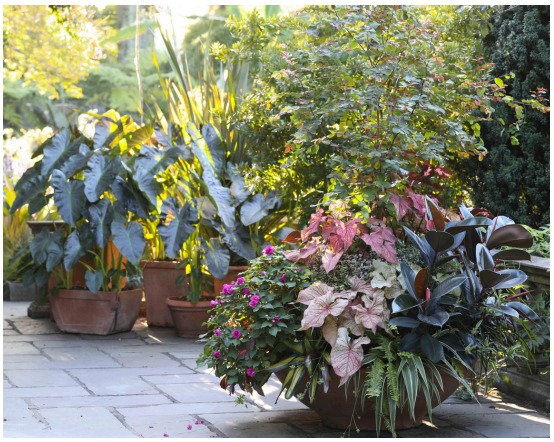
Demystifying Hardy Ferns

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

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 to take home

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 1

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

What makes a public garden a source of pleasure, sanctuary, and even art? In part one of this new series, we'll explore the Chanticleer House and Terraces and the Cutting Garden, meet the gardeners who care for them, and discuss how gardens shape emotion and experience. Through live conversation, short readings, and guided prompts, participants will reflect on why public gardens matter and create their own responses to these spaces.

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

Register ↗

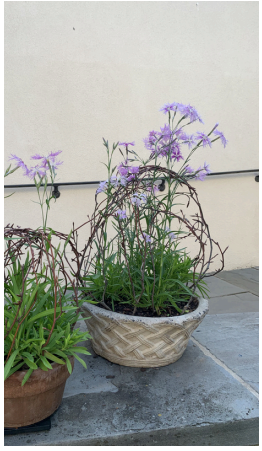
Staking Methods for the Garden

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

Master the essential garden skill of proper plant staking through hands-on practice and expert instruction. This technique-focused class combines a brief illustrated presentation with extensive practical application, teaching you how to support plants effectively while maintaining their natural beauty.

Instructor: David Mattern, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: $45

Register ↗



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

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.

RADNOR Memorial Library

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

Registration not required

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

Learn from a Legend: A Day with Dan Hinkley

Study Sessions

Monday, July 13 | 9:30 am & 2:00 pm

Join renowned plant explorer and garden designer Dan Hinkley for an intimate workshop exploring the fundamental principles that have guided his legendary work creating some of the world's most compelling gardens. Dan will share the essential design principles he's operated under throughout his career, revealing how to combine plants using color, shape, texture, repetition, and balance with confidence and artistry. *Choose from either the morning or afternoon session.*

Instructor: Dan Hinkley, Writer and Horticulturist
Fee: $199

Register ↗

Garden Reception

Monday, July 13 | 4:30 am - 6:30 pm

Following Dan Hinkley's morning and afternoon study sessions, join fellow garden enthusiasts for wine, light-bites, and conversation on the Chanticleer terrace as the day cools and the garden glows. A chance to mingle with one of horticulture's most celebrated voices and exclusive after-hours garden access. *Limited to the first 50 guests. Rain or shine.*

Fee: $99

Register ↗

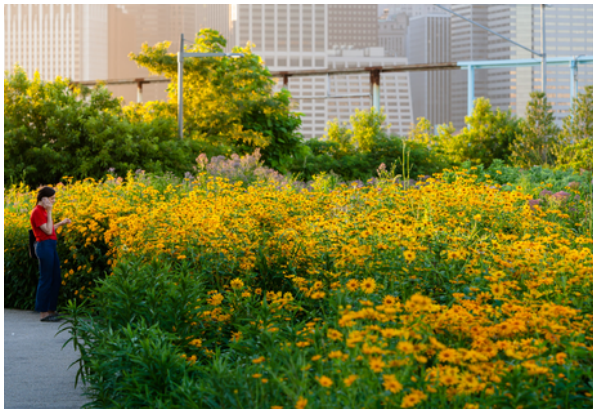
Dead Hedges: Talk, Walk & Demonstration

Saturday, July 18 | 1:00-4:00 pm

Dead hedges are constructed by stacking, compressing, and weaving together sticks, branches, and brush, creating a multitude of crevices, holes, and hollows that support remarkable biodiversity. The program includes a presentation on incorporating deadwood into garden design, followed by a live demonstration.

Instructors: Kevin Philip Williams, Horticulturist and Tim Snyder, Chanticleer Assistant Horticulturist
Fee: $75

Register ↗



Adventures in Ecological Horticulture

Wednesday, July 15 | 6:30 - 7:45 pm

Join horticulturist and garden designer Rebecca McMackin for an inspiring lecture exploring an evolving vision for our landscapes, where gardens are no longer valued for ornament alone. We increasingly recognize the impact our land care practices have on surrounding ecosystems and the importance of fostering biodiversity. Drawing on her experience cultivating resilient, beautiful landscapes in some of the toughest environments, including urban parks, school playgrounds, and the sidewalks of New York City, Rebecca will share insights from her work at Brooklyn Bridge Park, the Brooklyn Museum, and decades of research.

This program will be held Haverford College in Haverford, PA.

Register ↗

Presented in parternship with

Haverford College Arboretum

Willistown Conservation Trust

GreenWeaver Landscapes
Inspired by Nature

July

Garden Design Workshop

Saturday, August 8 - Tuesday, August 11

Learn about designing gardens with highly acclaimed British designer, Annie Guilfoyle. This carefully crafted course will guide you through each stage of the design process, beginning with the fundamentals of surveying and site analysis. Followed by essential techniques of how to initiate the design, where to find inspiration, and how to develop a creative concept into a stunning garden.

Together with the Chanticleer staff, Annie will focus on ways of achieving imaginative ideas for hardscaping, along with how to perfect dazzling planting combinations and realize innovative designs for original furniture and sculpture.

This course is ideally suited to students of garden and landscape design and people working in the garden industry, or for those who simply want to redesign their own garden capturing the essence of Chanticleer under Annie's guidance. The course includes practical studio sessions, lectures and demonstrations, garden walks, and critical analysis. Annie will be including up-to-date information and inspiration about what is happening on the UK garden scene.

Schedule: Saturday, August 8 - Tuesday, August 11
9:00 am-5:00 pm each day

Fee: $1,399
Includes breakfast, lunch, and garden admission each day

Scholarships are available for garden professionals and those training in horticulture. To apply for a scholarship, please submit your resume, a cover letter that outlines what your financial needs are, what portion you can pay, and two professional references. Send application materials to Erin Dougherty, Public Programs Manager, at edougherty@chanticleergarden.org.

Register ↗

August

Moss Container

Wednesday, August 19 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Discover the ancient beauty of moss and learn to cultivate these miniature landscapes in your own home. Join Chanticleer Horticulturist Przemek Walczak to explore the fascinating world of moss—its ecology, growing requirements, and uses in garden design. Through hands-on instruction, you'll learn moss cultivation techniques including light, moisture, and substrate needs, then create your own moss container to take home. Perfect for those seeking low-maintenance, meditative plantings or wanting to bring a touch of woodland magic indoors.

Instructor: Przemek Walczak, Chanticleer Horticulturist
Fee: $75, includes moss container

Register ↗

Hedges at Chanticleer

Wednesday, August 26 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Transform your understanding of hedge maintenance with expert guidance from Chanticleer staff. Master the best practices that keep hedges dense, vigorous, and architecturally sound. You will learn plant selection and pruning tools and techniques for trees, conifers, shrubs, vines, and ground covers. Whether you're planning a new hedge or rescuing an existing one, leave with practical knowledge to create elegant, healthy hedges that define great gardens.

Instructors: Carla Hetzel, Chanticleer Horticulturist and Nate Pinelli, Chanticleer Groundskeeper
Fee: $45

Register ↗

The Way of Art Tea: A Tea Ceremony and Flower Arrangement Class

Saturday, August 22 | 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Enter the meditative world of Chado—the Way of Tea—in this intimate workshop that harmonizes ancient practice with the beauty of Chanticleer's gardens. Join tea practitioner Bin Wu for a hands-on exploration of the profound relationship between garden, flower, and tea. This workshop weaves together the contemplative art of Japanese tea ceremony with Chabana, the simple yet deeply intentional flower arrangements created for the tea setting. You'll begin by observing Chanticleer's gardens. Drawing inspiration from what surrounds you, you'll create your own Chabana arrangement and Bin will introduce the essential movements and mindful practices of Chado, preparing you for the heart of the experience: a shared tea ceremony amid the serene beauty of the gardens. In this moment of stillness and presence, discover how flower, tea, and human awareness converge.

Instructor: Bin Wu, Tea Practitioner
Fee: $95, includes all materials

Register ↗

September

Behind the Scenes Tour: Composting

Wednesday, September 16 | 5:00-7:00 pm

This exclusive tour reveals the compact, efficient system that transforms Chanitcleer's organic waste into valuable soil amendments. Gain expert insights into what makes a composting system work, the challenges of scale, and how professional gardens approach this essential practice.

Instructor: Nate Pinelli, Chanticleer Groundskeeper
Fee: $45

Register ↗

Inside the Garden: Creative Conversations at Chanticleer - Part 2

Wednesday, September 16 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Step into the Creek Garden and Bell's Woodland and enjoy a live interview with a Chanticleer gardener about this 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.

Instructors: Przemek Walczak, Chanticleer Horticulturist and Margo Rabb, Author and Educator
Fee: $45

Register ↗

Mindful Birding at Dusk

Wednesday, September 23 | 4:30-7:00 pm

Mindful Birding combines observing southbound migrants with mindfulness techniques, creating a practice that fosters heightened awareness and personal wellbeing. Rather than rushing to identify species, we'll slow down and truly notice, using sparrows, raptors, warblers, and more as our guides to deeper connection with the natural world. No birding experience necessary; binoculars provided if needed.

Instructor: Holly Merker, Author and Wellness Specialist
Fee: $45

Register ↗

Habitat Piles, Dead Hedges & Yard Waste

Saturday, September 26 | 1:30-3:00 pm

Turn everyday yard waste into a thriving backyard habitat the whole family can create together. In this hands-on, creative workshop, you'll learn practical ways to build habitat piles and dead hedges using sticks, branches, and garden clippings—right at home. Discover how these structures provide shelter and nesting spaces for birds, pollinators, and other beneficial wildlife, while adding natural beauty and purpose to your landscape.

Instructors: Tim Snyder, Chanticleer Assistant Horticulturist and Bekka Schultz Thorpe, Chanticleer Assitant Public Programs Manager
Fee: $45 per family

Register ↗

Garden Photography

Saturday, September 26 | 4:30-8:30 pm

Capture Chanticleer's late-season beauty during the garden's most magical hours. Blending technical instruction with creative exploration, you'll learn to work with natural light, refine composition, and translate the garden's textures, colors, and forms into compelling images as daylight fades into golden hour and dusk. Open to photographers of all levels. Camera (DSLR, mirrorless, or advanced smartphone) and laptop or tablet recommended.

Instructor: Lisa Roper, Chanticleer Horticulturist and Photographer
Fee: $100

Register ↗

More English Than England

Tuesday, September 29 | 5:30-7:30 pm

A British visitor to Philadelphia's Main Line in the 1930s commented that it seemed more English than England itself. Explore how the area evolved from 1865 to the 1930s, copying British style in its houses and gardens, clubs, buildings, and sporting pastimes. Wealthy industrialists and manufacturers created an idealized life emulating English country gentlemen that is still reflected in the appearance of the Main Line today.

Instructor: Jeff Groff, Former Estate Historian
Fee: $45

Register ↗

October

Make Something Beautiful: A Four-Hour Artist in Residency

Saturday, October 3 | 10:00 am-2:00 pm

A mini artist's residency at Chanticleer. All creative practices welcome—writing, drawing, painting, photography, sketching. Contemplative garden walk, readings, generous independent creative time, BYO picnic lunch, prompts, and optional sharing. No experience necessary. Bring your materials, lunch, and willingness to see with fresh eyes. Leave renewed.

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

Register ↗

Tea & Talk: Native Seed Propagation and Dividing Bulbs

Saturday, October 10 | 3:00-6:00 pm

Join Chanticleer gardeners for an afternoon of learning and community connection. Through two short presentations, learn how to collect, clean, and sow native seeds for next season's garden, along with proper bulb division techniques for spring-blooming species. Hands-on demonstrations and a garden walk with horticulturists bring these practices to life in the landscape.
The program concludes with a casual community picnic (bring your own or purchase light refreshments) and time to connect with staff and fellow gardeners.

Instructors: Joe Henderson and Przemek Walczak, Chanticleer Horticulturists
Fee: $75

Register ↗

Horticulturist Joe Henderson demonstrates how to divide autumn colchicum

Dahlia 'Pennhill Watermelon,' a dinner plate-type with peach and pink tones, blooms in the Winter Shrub Border. Photo by Lisa Roper.

Fall Tender Plants

Wednesday, October 14 | 5:30-7:30 pm

Don't let frost claim your favorite tropical and subtropical plants. As winter approaches, learn which plants are worth saving, when to bring them indoors, and how to provide proper overwintering conditions. Practice propagation techniques, assess plant health, and explore care methods that help ensure your warm-season plants return next year. Gain the confidence to successfully overwinter favorites like cannas, coleus, dahlias, and begonias season after season.

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

Register ↗

November

Chanticleer Volunteer Bernie Miller teaches peony division.

Peony Division

Saturday, November 7 | 9:00 am-12:00 pm

Fall is the critical window for dividing peonies, and this hands-on workshop puts you right in the soil, practicing the techniques that ensure these beloved perennials thrive for generations. You'll learn when and how to divide, how to properly dig and assess roots, how to make clean cuts that preserve growth points, proper depth and spacing, and aftercare that establishes healthy plants.
This is learning by doing—muddy knees, dirt under fingernails, and the satisfaction of hands-on horticultural skill-building.

Instructor: Bernie Miller, Chanticleer Volunteer and Peony Expert
Fee: $65, includes peony cuttings

Register ↗

Our 2026 season concludes on November 8.

Season Pass Memberships for 2027 are available starting October 1.

Join or Renew Here

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