

Thomas Jefferson MONTICELLO

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Celebrate Spring With Monticello as the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants Enjoys Its 30th Anniversary

In 1809, Thomas Jefferson retired from the presidency to Monticello and focused on the "delightful" occupation of gardening. In April of that year, he wrote, "I am constantly in my garden or farm, as exclusively employed out of doors as I was within doors when at Washington, and I find myself infinitely happier in my new mode of life."

The Center for Historic Plants, Monticello's nursery and garden center, is dedicated to preserving Jefferson's enthusiasm for horticulture. 2016 marks the 30th anniversary of the center's efforts to honor that legacy through garden restorations, preservation of heirloom plant varieties and gardening workshops.

The center's home, Tufton Farm, was one of four quarter farms at Monticello. Today, visitors can shop an abundant collection of historical treasures, on display in a year-round preservation garden bursting with historical native and exotic perennials, roses, shrubs and trees.

Open Houses

The center sponsors open houses at Tufton Farm every April, May and October. The open houses are free for guests and include featured speakers, heirloom fruit and vegetable tastings, wine tastings, and garden tours. Visitors have the opportunity to interact with resident experts and purchase rare heirloom varieties directly from the nursery. New in 2016, the nursery will extend its open hours to include every Saturday in April and May, 10AM-2PM. For more information, visit monticello.org/CHP.

Bring the Garden Home!

The best chance for the historical plants grown at Monticello to intrigue, delight and teach future generations is to be planted in gardens across the country. Add a piece of history to your garden with heirloom plants and seeds available from The Shop at Monticello and online at MonticelloShop.org. The Shop also offers books, reproduction flowerpots and related items.

Read more: [Saving Monticello's Gardens](http://SavingMonticello'sGardens.org) on monticello.org/blog.



Snail Flower (*Vigna caracalla*)

In 1792, Thomas Jefferson wrote to Benjamin Hawkins, "The most beautiful bean in the world is the caracalla bean which, though in England a greenhouse plant, will grow in the open air in Virginia and Carolina." Imported from tropical South America, it was being grown in American gardens by the 1830s. Its heady scent is like jasmine, and its buds resemble a corkscrew or snail, blossoming into white and purple clusters flushed with creamy yellow.



Twinleaf (*Jeffersonia diphylla*)

This rare and desirable native woodland perennial is the Thomas Jefferson Center for Historic Plants' mascot. Named in 1792 in honor of Jefferson's knowledge of natural history, the Twinleaf often reveals its delicate, pure white flowers around Jefferson's birthday on April 13. Jefferson grew his namesake plant in an oval flowerbed at Monticello in 1807.



Blackberry Lily (*Belamcanda chinensis*)

Blackberry Lily is a hardy, robust perennial known to Jefferson as "Chinese Ixia." He planted this showy member of the Iris family in an oval flowerbed in 1807. It is naturalized at Monticello today, perhaps from an earlier Jefferson planting, and seeds are harvested from the Monticello gardens.

FEATURED in the
Wall Street Journal!

dig in! at the 10th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival

In celebration of Jefferson's legacy as gardener, viticulturist, foodie and epicure, the Thomas Jefferson Foundation – in collaboration with the Southern Exposure Seed Exchange – is pleased to present the 10th Annual Heritage Harvest Festival at Monticello on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Patrick O'Connell, chef and proprietor of The Inn at Little Washington, will be the keynote speaker. An all-star lineup of chefs, historians and gardening experts will lead a broad offering of workshops for festival guests. Visitors can learn about organic gardening and southern cooking, and taste heirloom fruits and vegetables at this family-friendly event.

Visit HeritageHarvestFestival.com



First Lady Dorothy McAuliffe - Honorary Chair of the 10th Annual HHF



Patrick O'Connell - Keynote presenter, chef and proprietor of The Inn at Little Washington



Ira Wallace - Worker/owner of the cooperatively managed South Exposure Seed Exchange



Gabriele Rausse - Renowned viticulturist and director of gardens and grounds at Monticello



Michael Twitty - Food writer, independent scholar, culinary historian and historical interpreter



Joel Salatin - American farmer, lecturer and author