



HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INSTITUTE

Preserving Jefferson's Gardens and Landscapes

June
14-19

2026
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For a week in June, the gardens and grounds of Monticello and the University of Virginia will serve as the setting for a unique educational experience in the theory and practice of historic landscape preservation.

The Historic Landscape Institute will offer students an introduction to the fields of landscape history, garden restoration, and historical horticulture, using the landscapes designed by Thomas Jefferson at Monticello and the University of Virginia as case studies and outdoor classrooms. Participants will engage in a forty-hour week of instruction, with the bulk of that time spent on site. Occasional, moderately strenuous activity may be required in the gardens.



Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden at Monticello

SETTING

Monticello is the only American home, and the University of Virginia the only educational institution, on the elite UNESCO World Heritage List. Owned and operated by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Monticello's dual mission of preservation and education has been expressed in the garden world of Thomas Jefferson. Today the University of Virginia landscape represents many layers of history, retaining much of the integrity of the Founder's design while adapting to the changing demands of each new generation of scholars.

Cost Per Participant

Tuition for the week-long 2026 Historic Landscape Institute is \$600, and includes three lunches and a dinner reception in addition to all scheduled programming.

Lodging on UVA Grounds is included in the tuition.

FACULTY

Programming for the Institute involves a combination of lectures, walking tours, workshops, field trips, and hands-on experience in the gardens. Instruction will be provided by the staff of Monticello and the University, including HLI Co-Directors Peggy Cornett, Monticello's Curator of Plants, and Rachel Lloyd, Senior Landscape Architect for the University of Virginia's Office of the Architect. Other eminent scholars will also lecture: Peter Hatch, Director Emeritus of Monticello's Gardens and Grounds; Charles Pepper, Deputy Director Emeritus at the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation; Eric Proebsting, Director of Archaeology and Landscapes at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest; and Roger Gettig, Monticello Director of Horticulture.

For additional information and to access the official application, visit monticello.org/hli

SELECTION PROCESS

The number of participants for the 2025 Institute is limited. Applicants will be selected upon submission of the application form, resume, and personal statement. This one-week program is designed to fit a variety of interests and educational backgrounds ranging from amateur to professional in the fields of horticulture, history, and landscape architecture.

Applications must be received by March 1, 2026.

SAMPLE EVENTS

Lectures:

- Thomas Jefferson's Revolutionary Garden
- The Preservation of Cultural Landscapes
- Understanding Landscapes through Historic Maps & Surveys
- Introduction to Landscape Archaeology

Tours:

- Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia
- Monticello: House, Gardens, and Plantation
- Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest
- Morven Sustainability Lab
- Anne Spencer House & Garden Museum

In recognition of generous support from the Harrison Foundation, graduates will be named Harrison Fellows of the Historic Landscape Institute.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Successful applicants will have the opportunity to stay on grounds at the University of Virginia. Students are responsible for their own breakfasts and dinners. University food services and local restaurants are available within walking distance. Transportation to and from Monticello will be provided.



Top: 2025 HLI class in Monticello's Dome Room
Bottom: 2025 HLI class members working in the Monticello gardens

HOW TO APPLY

The official Application Form can be found at monticello.org/hli. In addition to the completed form, please include a one-page resume and a personal statement on why you'd like to participate in the Institute. All materials should be submitted to:

The Historic Landscape Institute
Monticello, P.O. Box 316
Charlottesville, VA 22902
or

E-mail: pcornett@monticello.org | rwe3e@virginia.edu | hhaliniewski@monticello.org

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"I am entirely a farmer, soul and body, never scarcely admitting a sentiment on any other subject."

- Thomas Jefferson, 1795