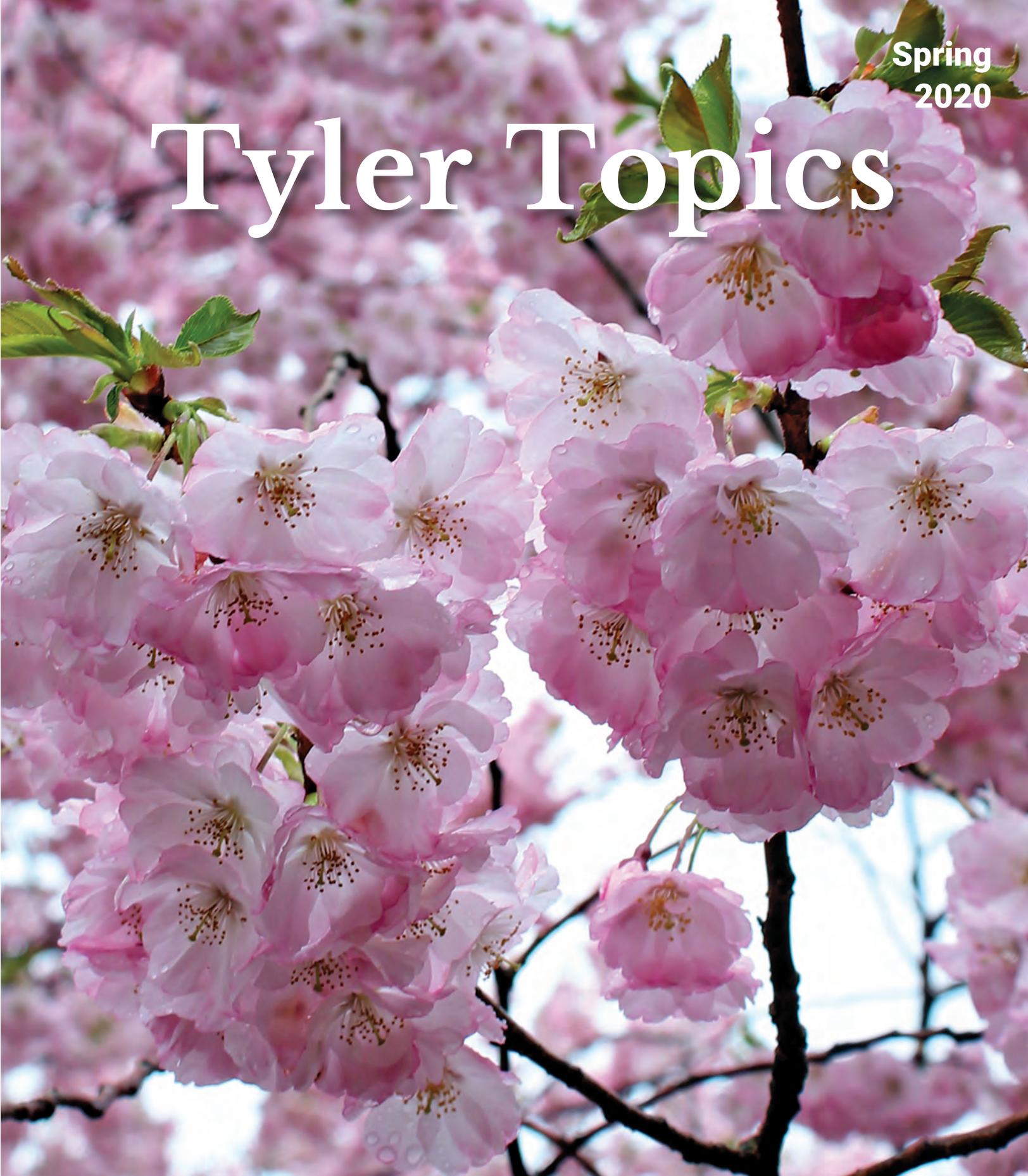


Spring
2020

Tyler Topics



NEWS, PROGRAMS AND EVENTS OF TYLER ARBORETUM

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Executive Director's Message

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Cover Photo: Japanese Cherry Tree. Photo courtesy of Dave M. Charlton.



Greetings! All of us at Tyler are looking forward to the arrival of spring, because it offers the perfect

opportunity to spend more time outdoors and enjoy nature's confetti. Brilliant pops of color will surround us—from the golden rays of sunshine and bright green leaves on the trees above to the bursts of white and yellow from spring ephemerals.

We invite you to get outside, bring your family and friends, and enjoy the season at Tyler—whether it's a relaxing stroll to wander through the collections, basking in the beauty of Lucille's Garden or exploring the sights and sounds of the trails. We are here for you seven days a week, so check out our calendar of events and volunteer opportunities to plan your next adventure. And don't forget to share your favorite Tyler photos with us on social media using our hashtags (#tylerarboretum and #tylerspring)!

Annual Plant Sale: The Four Season Garden

MEMBERS
SAVE 5% OFF
PLANTS!

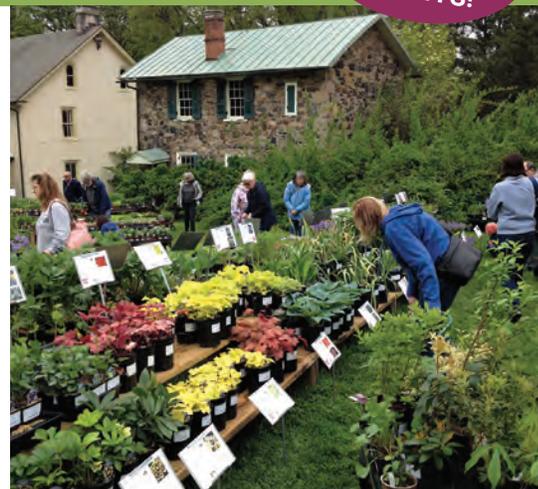
Members' Preview:

Friday, May 1, 11am – 7pm

Public Sale (2 days):

Saturday & Sunday, May 2 & 3,
9am – 3pm

Your garden should be a place you can enjoy every season. This year, Tyler's plant sale features an array of plants to help your garden delight throughout the year. You will also find a variety of trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals, vegetables and herbs for all your gardening interests.



— SAVE THE DATE — Tyler at Twilight Auction

Thursday, June 11, 6 – 9:30pm

Join us for our June garden party to put the FUN in FUNdraiser! Your support through tickets and auction items helps protect and share Tyler's precious 650 acres of gardens and natural lands. Enjoy an evening with fabulous friends, fine food, wonderful wine and an awesome auction. Celebrate our community with one of the region's premier parties. Mark your calendars now! To reserve your invitation, please call 610-566-9134, ext. 209 or visit TyleratTwilight.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

Caring for History

By Bess Trout, Tyler Gardener

The Tyler Arboretum Lilac Collection was planted between the years of 1946 and 1955 by our first director, Dr. John C. Wister, a renowned horticulturist with a deep passion for plants and plant science. The lilacs he chose for the garden were selected from a survey conducted by the American Association of Botanical Gardens as the very best lilacs for this region.

Many of these plants still grow in the collection today, more than sixty years later. Each year in April and May, they announce the coming of spring with a profusion of fragrant blooms that range from pure white to deep purple.



found that it needed some serious help! Following Penn State's recommendation, we put down more than two thousand pounds of fertilizer and more than four thousand pounds of limestone. The fertilizer replenished vital nutrients that were missing in the soil, and the lime helped take the pH from being too acidic to nice and neutral. Then each lilac got a layer of mulch to protect their roots and keep them moist in the hot summer months. But our work still wasn't done. In the fall of 2018 and again in 2019 we raked and removed the fallen leaves to prevent the spread of fungal and bacterial disease.

Maintaining such an old and venerable collection of plants takes work. In 2017 we undertook the massive project of implementing formative pruning to correct form and assist in plant health care. With the help of our tireless volunteers, the horticulture staff spent eight days

going through each plant to remove dead or dying canes. This is always a good practice with large, older shrubs as removing dead or diseased wood keeps decay from entering.

Then, in the spring of 2018, we tested the soil across the collection and

We all need a little extra care and attention sometimes, and we hope that with our support the Lilac Collection will continue to grow and bloom here at Tyler Arboretum for many years to come. Be sure to visit in the spring to see them blossom!

Summer Camp 2020

Fostering a Love of Nature in Your Kids!

Summer Camp registration is open—join us for a fun-filled summer!

Visit the website for our brochure:

TylerArboretum.org/camp



Membership Matters

Your Spring Bucket List

**As a member, there is so much for you to enjoy this spring at Tyler.
And your support makes it possible!**

At last, it's spring! And with a wave of your membership card, you have unlimited access to 650 acres of green space at Tyler this season and all year long. Check off the must-do activities on the list below to experience spring as only a Tyler member can. And remember, your membership dues help protect and share this special place. Thank you!

This spring I will:

- 🌿 **Use** my unlimited free admission to see the cherry blossoms in bloom at Tyler.
- 🌿 **Visit** a garden I've never seen before using my reciprocal benefits.
- 🌿 **Join** the excitement of Tyler's Members' Preview of the Plant Sale on May 1.
- 🌿 **Take** a free guided tour with a Tyler docent to learn something I never knew (tours begin April 17).
- 🌿 **Use** my member discount to sign up for a Tyler program.
- 🌿 **Venture** outside the deer fence to take a hike on a Tyler trail I haven't tried before.
- 🌿 **Buy** my tickets for the Tyler at Twilight garden party fundraiser on June 11.
- 🌿 **See** the first sprouts pop up in Lucille's Garden – the newest addition at Tyler.

New Members' Talk & Tour

Saturday, March 28, 10am

New members—join us for an event designed exclusively for you! Meet Tyler staff and learn how to get the most out of your membership. Then discover the best of Tyler on a guided tour. FREE, for members only.

Pre-registration required; register online or call 610-566-9134, ext. 209.



Making Change

YOU Are Making Change to Protect our Natural World

Your gifts help children encounter nature to create delight and take away their fears.

You give children the chance to see, touch, hear, and feel the wonders of nature. Your gifts support scholarships and school field trips at Tyler and provide classes like *Nature's Adaptations*. For this lesson, children learn how plants and animals adapt to their surroundings to survive. A favorite example this fall was Tyler's prickly pear with its sharp barbs to ward off hungry animals. The children were very curious with their questions.

You help give fresh garden grown produce to your neighbors. Thanks to you and your gifts, local families in need will have access to fresh fruits and vegetables from our garden this year. Your Annual Fund donation makes a real difference in the lives of people like Nancy* and her children. Because of your generosity, Nancy and other Media Food Bank patrons can count on the fresh produce from Lucille's Garden at Tyler Arboretum.

You bring Lucille's Garden to life for its second season! Your gifts will support even more classes and gardening in the coming year to show children and adults how easy it is to prepare fresh tasty food. With classes on spring greens, lavender, and summer vegetables, there's much to learn about home gardening and healthy eating.

You help turn a child's fear into fascination. Because of you, a child's fear of bees can turn into fascination through our new bee outreach program. Your gifts will help children like Johnny change their mind about bees. Johnny, a bright and energetic 8-year-old boy, just so happened to be *horribly afraid of bees*. He struggled to stay calm while other children enjoyed the outdoors. But during Summer Camp at Tyler, Johnny learned a lot about bees and how important they are. He saw other children play near bees without fear or uneasiness. He began to let go of his fear and enjoy his time in nature. Your donations will help kids learn that bees are amazing insects that need our help. With this program and many others like it, Tyler is teaching young people to protect nature.



**You, and other Tyler supporters,
generously gave over
\$251,446 to Tyler's
Annual Fund in 2019.
THANK YOU!**

You are helping to **care** for our 650 acres of green space, **welcome** hundreds more children for field trips, and **share** the wonders of our natural world. **This can't happen without your inspiring generosity, thank you!**

*Name changed for privacy.

Lend-A-Hand

MEET • LEARN • ENJOY • HELP

Tyler Volunteers play an active role in all Arboretum operations. Are you wondering how you can join in the fun this spring? Contact Julia Lo Ehrhardt at 610-566-9134, ext. 305 or via email at jlo@tylerarboretum.org

Making a Comeback

By Louisa Romaine, Docent and Ambassador, Outreach

Everyone seems to love bluebirds. And why not? They are beautiful, non-aggressive, insect-eating signs of spring. The Eastern bluebird is even the state bird of New York and Missouri. The surprising thing is many people who say they love bluebirds have never seen one in the wild. I attribute this to what I'll call the Disney effect. If you were, like me, a child of the 50s, you probably saw "Bambi" and "Cinderella." Bluebirds are portrayed as friendly, cheerful friends of both title characters. The bluebirds wake Cinderella up, get her dressed, help make a ball gown, and, most importantly, help Cinderella get out of a locked room so she could try on the glass slipper. After watching this, who wouldn't love bluebirds?

In the late 1800s through early 1900s, Pennsylvania was a paradise for bluebirds. Large portions of the state's forests had been logged off and two-thirds of the state was farmland. The human population was half what it is now. Bluebirds thrived in the open spaces and found many tree cavities to raise their young. As the number of people grew, buildings began to replace farms. When non-native house (English) sparrows and European starlings were introduced to the U.S. in the 1800s, the bluebirds had to compete with the much more aggressive newcomers for nesting spots. Making matters worse was the widespread use of DDT beginning in the 1940s. The pesticide killed off insects and caterpillars, which are bluebirds' main



source of food, and affected the viability of the birds' eggs. Eventually, the forests also reclaimed much of the open space. Once as common as robins, bluebird populations were in sharp decline.

Fortunately, people started to notice. Among them was Larry Zeleny who wrote articles and gave speeches describing the dangers to the plummeting bluebird population. He was also instrumental in promoting the use of man-made bluebird houses to replace the declining availability of tree cavities. In 1978 he founded the North American Bluebird Society. Its mission is to "promote the recovery of bluebirds and other native cavity-nesting bird species in North America." Subsequently, other more local organizations were formed, such as the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania.

Tyler Arboretum was an early supporter in the preservation of the Eastern bluebird. In the early 1970s, we were the first place in Delaware County to put up nest boxes. Some of these nest boxes are still in use. At the present time, there are 40 nest boxes scattered throughout the Arboretum.

Nest boxes are monitored once a week. Records are kept listing how many boxes are in use, how many eggs are laid and how many birds fledged. These statistics are relayed to the Delaware County Bluebird Society and the Pennsylvania Bluebird Society. As an example, in 2017 Delaware County reported 309 nest boxes, 619 eggs and 462 bluebirds fledged. At Tyler the number fledged has ranged from 53-124 successful fledglings with an average of over 73. Success is often dependent on the weather. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers at Tyler, the bluebird population is making a comeback.

This year we will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of Earth Day and also our Bluebird Monitoring Program. To date, we have fledged over 3,400 bluebirds and each year, a small group of volunteers lovingly complete the tasks.

Ready to join one or more of the many groups who are dedicated to Tyler's mission? Go to our website and read all that we offer. You can also call Julia Lo Ehrhardt at 610-566-9134 ext. 305 to talk about what may interest you.

Tyler Calendar

Spring
2020

These walks are
**ALWAYS FREE
FOR MEMBERS!**

Weekday Bird Walks* Every Wednesday, 8:15 – 10:15am

Saturday Bird Walks* March 14, 9 – 11am, April 11 and May 9, 8 – 10am

Weekday Wildflower Walks* Every Wednesday, 11:15am – 1:15pm

Saturday Wildflower Walks* March 21, April 18 and May 16, 1:30 – 3:30pm

Harbingers of Spring Tours* Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, April 17 – May 17, drop-in 12 – 3pm

Programs marked with asterisk* are FREE for Tyler Members

Adult Programs

- Sun. Mar. 8 Managing the Winter Blues Workshop
- Sat. Mar. 14 Saturday Bird Walk*
- Sat. Mar. 21 Saturday Wildflower Walk*
- Sat. Mar. 21 Night Hike
- Tues. Mar. 24 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 1
- Sat. Mar. 28 **Spring Trails Day***
- Sat. Mar. 28 Add Fall & Winter Interest to Your Garden
- Sat. Mar. 28 **New Members' Talk & Tour***
- Tues. Mar. 31 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 1
- Sat. Apr. 4 **Tyler Arboretum 10K Trail Run (Delco RRC)**
- Sat. Apr. 4 Great Greens for Your Garden
- Tues. Apr. 7 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 1
- Sat. Apr. 11 Saturday Bird Walk*
- Tues. Apr. 14 Birding Trip: Bombay Hook
- Tues. Apr. 14 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 1
- Sat. Apr. 18 Natural Armature Bouquets
- Sat. Apr. 18 De-Stress your Spring
- Sat. Apr. 18 Saturday Wildflower Walk*
- Tues. Apr. 21 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2
- Wed. Apr. 22 Night Hike
- Sat. Apr. 25 How NOT to Kill Your Tree
- Sat. Apr. 25 Spring Tree Identification Walk*
- Tues. Apr. 28 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2
- Fri. May 1 **Members' Preview: Plant Sale**
- Sat. May 2 **Plant Sale**
- Sun. May 3 **Plant Sale**
- Tues. May 5 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2
- Sat. May 9 Springtime in the Native Woodland Walk
- Sat. May 9 Saturday Bird Walk*
- Sat. May 9 Night Hike
- Sun. May 10 Lovely Lavender
- Tues. & Wed. May 12 & 13 Birding Trip: Cape May
- Tues. May 12 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2
- Sat. May 16 Ready, Set, Grow!
- Sat. May 16 De-Stress your Spring

- Sat. May 16 Saturday Wildflower Walk*
- Tues. May 19 Garden Trip: Wharton Esherick Museum and Jenkins Arboretum
- Tues. May 19 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2
- Tues. May 26 Yoga at the Arboretum: Session 2

UPCYCLED ART IN THE ARB CONTEST

On display April 18 through May 2

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, we are harnessing the power of art and displaying it in Tyler Arboretum to heighten awareness and illuminate the pathway to change for our planet and hope for the future. We are giving high school and university student teams the opportunity to promote upcycling as a way to stimulate stewardship and an understanding of our living world.

*Join us to be part of the
People's Choice voting!
Learn more at tylerarboretum.org*



Youth & Family Programs

- Tues. Mar. 3 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Thurs. Mar. 5 Tiny Trackers
- Tues. Mar. 10 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Thurs. Mar. 12 Tiny Trackers
- Sat. Mar. 14 Food Adventures: Sweet and Green
- Tues. Mar. 17 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Thurs. Mar. 19 Tiny Trackers
- Tues. Mar. 24 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Thurs. Mar. 26 Tiny Trackers
- Sat. Mar. 28 **New Members' Talk & Tour***
- Tues. Mar. 31 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Thurs. Apr. 2 Tiny Trackers
- Fri. Apr. 3 Arboretum After Dark
- Sun. Apr. 5 **Eggstravaganza**
- Tues. Apr. 7 Toddlers in Nature: Session 1
- Tues. Apr. 7 School Day-Off Camp: Fantastic Froggies
- Thurs. Apr. 9 School Day-Off Camp: Dirt Made My Lunch
- Thurs. Apr. 9 Tiny Trackers
- Tues. Apr. 21 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. Apr. 23 Garden Sprouts
- Sat. Apr. 25 Potato Party!
- Tues. Apr. 28 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. Apr. 30 Garden Sprouts
- Tues. May 5 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. May 7 Garden Sprouts
- Sat. May 9 Teatime in the Garden
- Tues. May 12 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. May 14 Garden Sprouts
- Fri. May 15 Picnic Party
- Tues. May 19 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. May 21 Garden Sprouts
- Tues. May 26 Toddlers in Nature: Session 2
- Thurs. May 28 Garden Sprouts
- Fri. & Sat. May 29 & 30 Girl Scout Camping

Visit the Learn section of our website to download the full Spring Programs & Events Catalog PDF
Register online via our Calendar page: tylerarboretum.org/calendar
or call Joanne Landau at 610-566-9134, ext. 303 or e-mail: jlandau@tylerarboretum.org.

Community Partners Bringing Nature to You

Do you know how maple syrup is made? Do you love pancakes and sausage?

Then join us for **Tyler's Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration on Saturday, February 29 from 8am-1pm**. Special thanks to our corporate partners for sponsoring this fun and fascinating event!



Special thanks to Iron Hill Brewery for selecting Tyler Arboretum as the recipient of its Give20 event on January 28!

Wawa and Republic Bank give children the chance to learn from nature.

With their awards of EITC funding, Republic Bank and Wawa are funding scholarships for Title 1 schools, so children can experience school field trips at Tyler. When children arrived for field trips this fall, they were already so



excited to be outside and immediately began pointing out things that were new to them. They noticed so many details – from the fallen needles of a white pine to the sounds of the birds. And their excitement was contagious! It was a wonderful feeling to see the arboretum through their eyes.

Calling all Whole Foods Market shoppers who donated their nickels to Tyler...

Thank you for donating your nickel refunds from shopping at Whole Foods! Over the last 6 months, Tyler Arboretum has been the recipient of the Nickels for Nonprofits donations from shoppers using their own bags. Five stores participated,



Devon, Newtown Square, Wynnewood, Exton, and Glen Mills, from July through December.

In total, your gifts raised \$13,681.75. Wow, that's generous! Amazing how those nickels add up. Tyler is all about connecting children to nature. With 650 acres to explore, your nickels help families enjoy playing and learning outside. Think of how many more opportunities that will give families, children and adults, to discover the wonders of nature. Thank you!

Many thanks to these corporate and community partners for their most generous support!

- 3M Foundation, Community Vibrancy Grant
- American Rhododendron Society, Greater Philadelphia and Valley Forge Chapters
- Arader Tree Services, Inc.
- Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden
- Herb Society of America, Philadelphia Unit
- Iron Hill Brewery – Media, Give20 program
- Nathan Speare Foundation
- REI
- The Community's Foundation
- Visit Delco PA
- William Penn Foundation Special Gifts Program

TYLER ARBORETUM MISSION:

To preserve, enhance, and share our heritage, collections, and landscapes, to create and inspire stewards of the natural world.

Hours

March – October
Mon – Fri 9am – 5pm
Sat & Sun 9am – 6pm

November – February
Mon – Fri 9am – 4pm
Sat & Sun 9am – 5pm

*Closed on Thanksgiving Day,
Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day*

Information

610-566-9134
TylerArboretum.org
info@tylerarboretum.org