



**For Immediate Release**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**TYLER ARBORETUM RECEIVES GRANT TO ENHANCE HORTICULTURAL  
COLLECTION**

MEDIA, PA (February 14, 2022) – Tyler Arboretum, one of the nation’s oldest arboreta and public gardens, today announced that it has been selected to receive a \$10,000 grant from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust.

The grant will be used to continue the Wister Rhododendron Collection restoration project, which includes the installation of additional plant materials to restore its historical and horticultural integrity in accordance with the garden design by renowned landscape architect W. Gary Smith.

The Wister Collection was established in the mid-20th century as a major permanent horticultural exhibit and now is one of the largest in the Mid-Atlantic region. The Wister Rhododendron Collection covers 13 acres which currently features 1,212 rhododendrons, representing 427 taxa, along with an additional 577 companion plants representing 322 different taxa. Once completed, the Wister Rhododendron Garden will feature native Rhododendrons as well as the most recent introductions and hybrids. Tyler will also highlight plants that are suitable for the home gardener, focusing on gardens that are limited in size and space, while showcasing some of the best historic plants that Dr. Wister introduced.

“We are absolutely thrilled to partner with the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to preserve the Wister Rhododendron Collection and simultaneously help visitors foster an interest in gardening, horticulture, and the natural world” states Mandy Santiago, Executive Director of Tyler Arboretum.

**About Tyler Arboretum**

Located west of the Borough of Media, in Middletown Township, John J. Tyler Arboretum traces its history as a Quaker family farm back to an original land grant by William Penn in 1681. Today, the arboretum comprises 650 acres featuring landscaped gardens, historical buildings and natural areas. Visitors of all ages can enjoy renowned horticultural collections,

seasonal exhibits such as our treehouses, Lucille's Garden, Pollinator Preserve, magnificent heritage trees, and 17 miles of hiking trails. The arboretum's website, [www.tylerarboretum.org/calendar](http://www.tylerarboretum.org/calendar), provides details on upcoming events, educational opportunities, volunteer activities, and membership opportunities.

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