

REIMAGING THE PRIESTLEY GARDENS

The site of Joseph and Mary Priestley's home in Northumberland originally covered an 11-acre plot of land fronting the Susquehanna River. Although the present day museum site, which includes the 10,000 square foot house, a Visitors Center on the footprint of the original Priestley barn, and the Pond Building added to the property in 1926, no longer boasts eleven acres of land, the property is once again beginning to reflect Priestley's interest in landscaping and carefully manicured gardens.



Forecourt Garden

There is no written plan of the Priestley House Gardens, at least not one which has as yet been uncovered, but Priestley's own written references to his garden, including the employment of William Blackwell as his gardener, and the shipment of ornamental trees and fruit trees from England to enhance his Northumberland property, suggests the importance of a formal garden to the Priestleys. Today the museum grounds boast an herb garden, a three sisters garden, a dye garden, and an ornamental forecourt garden, which includes a sundial.

During 2024 the next phase of the garden project will make its debut, a pollinator garden, which will eventually be joined by a Science, History, and Nature Center.



JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE
P.O. Box 226
NORTHUMBERLAND, PA. 17857

ART AND POETRY CONTEST UNDERWAY

The Art and Poetry Contests that are part of the 2024 Celebration of Priestley's 250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Oxygen are underway. The first round of winners will be announced on or before June 1. Additional winners will be announced July 1 and August 1, and prize winners will have their creations on display at the Joseph Priestley House Museum during the Grand Gala Celebration Weekend August 2-4.

Submission forms are available in several area schools as well as on Facebook at Joseph Priestley House Museum or by contacting the museum's Visitors Center during regular museum hours. Young artists are being invited to draw and submit a caricature of Joseph Priestley, and aspiring young poets are asked to write a poem about Joseph Priestley and his Discovery of Oxygen.

Submissions will be judged monthly, with prizes being awarded in four age groups: grades K-2 (Primary), grades 3-5 (Intermediate), grades 6-8 (Middle School), and 9-12 (High School).



Postings from Priestley House

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF JOSEPH PRIESTLEY HOUSE

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www.joseph-priestley-house.org

570-473-9474

SPECIAL DATES

2024 SEASON

250th Anniversary of the Discovery of Oxygen

April 20

EARTH DAY EVENT
1-3 pm

May 18

2nd ANNUAL PLANT & HERB FAIRE
9 am - 4 pm

June 10, 11 & 12

HISTORY CAMP
9 am-Noon
Joseph Priestley, Scientist
Open to children
1st-6th Grade

June 29 & July 6

Acting Workshop
Recreate Historical Figures with Laurie McCants of BTE
2 pm-4 pm
Open to Middle School Students

July 18 to August 2

England Trip
Visit Priestley related sites, including Bowood House where Priestley discovered Oxygen

Check local papers, Facebook, or joseph-priestley-house.org for additional details as event days draw closer.

FIND US ON



In addition to our webpage you can Like us on Facebook (Joseph Priestley House Museum) to keep abreast of special Joseph Priestley House Museum events or follow us on Instagram (jphmuseum). Also, you can donate to the Priestley House via Amazon Smile! Go to www.smile.amazon.com and select "Friends of Joseph Priestley" as your charity. Everytime you shop at Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase will be donated to the Priestley House!

2ND ANNUAL HERB & PLANT FAIRE

May 18, 2024 from 9 am to 4 pm

Plant & Gardening Vendors ♦ Plant Related Items on Display and for Sale ♦ Museum Tours ♦ Gardening Tips from Master Gardeners
♦ Native Plants Available for Purchase

The newest garden addition to the Priestley House Museum grounds will be under construction and the Forecourt Garden, Herb Garden, Dye Garden, and Medicinal Gardens will all be displaying their Spring glory. The Friends of Joseph Priestley House will also be selling a wide selection of native plants just in time for the Spring planting season. And the Visitors Center and Museum Store will be open as well.

Come for an hour! Come for the Day!

2024 SEASON OPENS AT PRIESTLEY HOUSE

Regular museum hours resumed on March 10th with the museum's annual celebration of Dr. Joseph Priestley's birthday. The year 2024 marks Dr. Priestley's 291st birthday, the 250th anniversary of Dr. Priestley's discovery of oxygen, and the 343rd anniversary of the granting of Pennsylvania's Charter to William Penn, an event commemorated annually by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC).

Even though Mother Nature put a damper on the day, supplying cooler than expected temperatures and rain along with some sleet and a few snow flurries before producing some much needed sunshine, the smaller than expected turnout of visitors enjoyed their time at the museum.



Dr. Priestley



Happy Birthday!



Season Opening Refreshments

Dr. Priestley (Ron Blatchley) conducted experiments in the Pond Building at 1:30 and 2:30 pm, while visitors took advantage of the day's free admission to interact with docents in the house and enjoy birthday cake and refreshments in the Visitors Center. The event was especially gratifying for the staff and volunteers, because nearly all those who ventured out in the less than Spring-like

weather were first-time visitors to the site. "As wonderful as it is to have a base of visitors who return to Priestley House for every special event, it is especially rewarding to draw in first-time visitors to the museum. This year's Opening Event was particularly exciting because such a large portion of the turnout was experiencing the museum and the science demonstrations for the first time," observed Operations Manager Murrie Zlotz-iver.

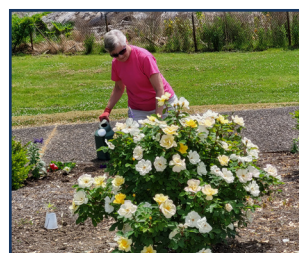
PRIESTLEY HOUSE VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR CELEBRATED BY PHMC

Annually the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) invites each historic site and museum on the Pennsylvania Trail of History to designate a Volunteer of the Year based on service to the site during the preceding year. The Joseph Priestley House Museum designated husband and wife duo Brehon Odronic and Jo Mueller for this honor.

On April 20 Brehon and Jo, along with representatives from the Priestley House traveled to The State Museum of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, where the couple was recognized for their contributions of time, talent, and expertise to the growth and development of the grounds surrounding the Joseph Priestley House.



Brehon Odronic



Jo Mueller

Both Brehon and Jo serve as members of Friends of Joseph Priestley House Museum Landscape and Garden Committee. They have taken the lead in designing, developing, and maintaining various gardens at the site, including the dye, herb, medicinal, and three sisters gardens. Brehon, a retired landscape architect, and Jo have also been instrumental in adding the Forecourt Garden to the museum landscape and planning the pollinator garden, which will be part of the Joseph Priestley House Science, History, and Nature Center.

In addition to their work on the gardens Jo and Brehon have been actively maintaining the existing garden areas and placed the new 6-panel outdoor exhibit recently added to the museum grounds.

SENSHU STUDENTS VISIT THE PRIESTLEY HOUSE

March 20 was a special day for the Priestley House Museum and seven Japanese students and their chaperones. That was the day these students and their teacher chaperones paid a visit to the Joseph Priestley House Museum. It was the first such visit included in the exchange program's itinerary since its inception. Beginning in 2002 Selinsgrove Area High School has partnered with Senshu University High School in Tokyo, Japan, to co-sponsor an exchange program.

In the Fall of every school year students and chaperones from Selinsgrove Area High School travel to Tokyo for 10 days to experience the culture of a Japanese school and visit locations such as Kamakura, Tokyo Disney, and Mt. Fuji. In the Spring students from Senshu come to Selinsgrove Area High School to experience



Senshu Tour Group

an American high school, visit locations in the Central Susquehanna Valley, and make a trip to Washington, D.C.

Because 2024 marks the 250th anniversary of Priestley's discovery of oxygen, the Priestley House Museum was added to this year's program itinerary. The Japanese students and two teachers from each of the schools spent an afternoon touring the house and museum grounds under the direction of Docent Jo Ann Long and Museum Operations Manager Murrie Zlotziver.

According to Selinsgrove Area High School Chaperone Brittany Bunting-Specht, the Japanese students were "particularly intrigued by [Dr. Priestley's] laboratory and scientific equipment" during their visit.

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Walk-in Visitors or visitors with reservations are welcome during museum hours. For tour reservations go to our web site <https://joseph-priestley-house.org>

The reservations link is available on both the home page and tour page. Reservations will be confirmed by e-mail.

Tours will begin at 1pm, 2pm, 3pm.

Admission prices are listed on the tour page.

Special Assistance

Individuals who need special assistance or accommodation to visit The Joseph Priestley House should contact us in advance to discuss their needs.

To join the Friends of Priestley House call 570-473-9497 or visit www.joseph-priestley-house.org

MUSEUM HOSTS SUMMER CHILDREN'S EVENTS

History Is Fun at Priestley House, Especially in the Summer

By popular demand History Camp and the Middle School Acting Workshop, which debuted last summer, are returning to the Priestley House Museum in 2024.

History Camp, coordinated by Priestley Volunteer Jo Ann Long, is designed for children grades 1-6 and offers a rotating list of themes and events, encouraging children to repeat their camp experience. This year's camp will be held on the grounds of the museum between 9 am and Noon on June 10th, 11th, and 12th. In keeping with the museum's yearlong celebration of Dr. Priestley's discovery of oxygen, this year's camp theme is "Dr. Priestley, Scientist". Registration is open, but limited to 20. There is no cost for camp, but advanced registration is required. Registration forms are available at the website (joseph-priestley-house.org)

by clicking on the History Camp icon under Events. Additional information is also available by contacting jenlong@ptd.net.

The Middle School Acting Camp is designed for middle school age students and allows participants to re-create historical figures. This year's camp, also held on the grounds of the museum, is from 2 -4 pm on Saturdays, June 29 and July 6, and is limited to 12 participants. Like History Camp the Middle School Acting Camp is being offered to participants at **no cost**, but **advanced registration is required**. Registration forms are available at the website (joseph-priestley-house.org) by clicking on the Middle School Acting Workshop icon under Events. Additional information is also available by contacting Operations Manager Murrie Zlotziver at jphopsmanager@gmail.com.

TEA WITH THE PRIESTLEYS AT FRONT STREET STATION

On Sunday, February 4th, the Friends of Joseph Priestley House sponsored an Afternoon Tea in honor of the 250th Anniversary of Dr. Priestley's Discovery of Oxygen. Held at Front Street Station in Northumberland, the event featured a variety of sweets, scones, and savories provided by Gable House Bakery, Mifflinburg (www.gablehousebakery.com).



David and Colleen Ruths



Raffle Basket

Intended as a fundraiser to jumpstart the Priestley House Museum's 2024 Season, the event also provided guests an opportunity to interact with Priestley House docents in period costume, learn about the history of the traditional English High Tea, listen to music performed by Fred Hooper and Broderick Leshner, and take pictures seated in a specially designed photo area complete with a tea service and a portrait of Dr. Joseph Priestley.

Laurie McCants provided a brief history of Afternoon Tea and English High Tea as the event coordinators served guests their choice of teas and edibles. Even though drinking tea was popularized in the 1660s by Charles II and his wife Infanta Catherine de Braganza, the introduction of Afternoon Tea didn't occur until 1840. Therefore, although the Priestleys were indeed tea drinkers, a formal Afternoon Tea would not have been part of their daily schedule. The more than 80 guests attending the Priestley Tea did not, however, seem to be bothered by this anachronism.

Guests attending Afternoon Tea also had an opportunity to participate in both a silent auction and a raffle, in addition to receiving a take-home favor of vanilla, spiced orange cardamom, and chocolate peppermint cookies specially designed by Sugar Grove Sweets of Paxinos to commemorate the tea and the Priestley House Museum's year-long celebration of Priestley's discovery of oxygen.



Laurie McCants