

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2024



THE CHEEKWOOD GARDENING SCHOOL OPENS MARCH 2024

Expert horticulturalists to lead seasonal classes for gardeners of all abilities

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – The Cheekwood Gardening School, a new adult education initiative from Cheekwood Estate & Gardens, launches its first season of classes in March 2024. The team of instructors include Master Gardeners, local plant society leaders and Cheekwood’s own in-house experts who will lead a range of classes designed to help any at-home gardener, from novices to seasoned growers, find their greenest thumb.

“While Cheekwood already offers various educational workshops, we wanted to create a special community for horticulturalists of all backgrounds to come together and hone their skills year-round,” says Nathalie Lavine, Cheekwood vice president of education & outreach. “Our goal is to foster an environment that encourages lifelong learning and building deeper connections to nature and gardens.”

The Cheekwood Gardening School will change its offerings each season with classes focused on every aspect of the gardening process to provide students with the foundation to develop new skills and expand their planning abilities while equipping them to address the changes and needs of gardens in every growing season. A preview of the inaugural class lineup includes:

- Raised Bed Gardening, led by Cheekwood Garden Educator Natasha Gibbs
- Building Better Dirt, led by Cheekwood VP of Gardens & Facilities Peter Grimaldi
- Garden Pest Management, led by Paul Prill of Master Gardeners of Davidson County
- Rose Gardening 101, led by the Rose Society of Nashville’s Ron Daniels and John Wendler
- Masterclass: Abandon Yourself to Design, led by Cheekwood Designer-in-Residence Tres Fromme

The Cheekwood Gardening School is sponsored by Tractor Supply. Classes are available to members and the general public. Seats are limited and due to popular demand, classes are filling up fast. For more information on instructors, the full class schedule and how to enroll, visit <https://cheekwood.org/learn/adult-education-programs/cheekwood-gardening-school/>.

ABOUT CHEEKWOOD ESTATE & GARDENS

With its intact and picturesque vistas, Cheekwood is distinguished as one of the leading Country Place Era estates in the nation. Formerly the family home of Mabel and Leslie Cheek, the 1930s estate, with its 30,000-square-foot Mansion and 55-acres of gardens, today serves the public as a botanical garden, arboretum and art museum with furnished period rooms and permanent collection galleries devoted to American art from the 18th to mid-20th centuries. The property includes 13 distinct gardens including the Blevins Japanese Garden and the Bracken Foundation Children’s Garden, as well as a 1.5-mile woodland trail featuring outdoor monumental sculpture.

Each year, Cheekwood hosts seasonal festivals including Cheekwood in Bloom, Summertime at Cheekwood, Cheekwood Harvest and Holiday LIGHTS. Cheekwood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and nationally as a Level II Arboretum. It is a three-time voted USA Today Top 10 Botanical Garden and in 2021 was recognized by Fodor's as one of the 12 Most Beautiful Gardens in the American South. Cheekwood is located eight miles southwest of downtown Nashville at 1200 Forrest Park Drive. It is open Tuesday through Sunday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., with extended days and hours of operation depending on the season. Check cheekwood.org for current hours and to purchase advance tickets required for admission.

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