

# 2020 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

*New Ways to Explore and Experience Poplar Forest*

January 18 – March 14

## Winter Weekends: At Home with Mr. Jefferson

**Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., last admittance at 3:00 p.m.**

Following a brief winter break, Poplar Forest reopens to the public for Winter Weekends. Spend time the way Mr. Jefferson did when he was in residence at Poplar Forest, the home he designed as his personal retreat. Explore the historic house and grounds at your own pace, or read and relax in the parlor looking out over the south lawn. Enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee or tea before browsing the exhibits in the lower level of the house. And on Saturdays, sit in on a parlor talk led by an expert on subjects related to Jefferson's time.

March 14

## Opening Week Trail Hike

**1:00–4:00 p.m.**

Explore the natural landscape that captivated Thomas Jefferson. Join Dr. Eric Proebsting, the Director of Archaeology and Landscapes at Poplar Forest, for an afternoon trek through the woodlands and meadows and around the creeks on the plantation grounds. Admission is \$10 per person. Reservations are suggested, as participation is limited.

March 15

## Opening Day

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Poplar Forest reopens daily, offering hour-long guided tours of the president's private retreat. Hear true stories and anecdotes about Mr. Jefferson's lifestyle at Poplar Forest and that of his enslaved workers, gleaned from his correspondence and diaries as well as archaeological evidence. Find additional insight into the world and life of the enslaved residents on the Enslaved Community Talk offered regularly from April through October, at no extra cost. Admission to Poplar Forest includes a guided house tour and self-guided exploration of exhibits in the lower level of the house, the Wing of Offices, the ornamental grounds and slave quarter site.

April 13

## Naturalization Ceremony with Blue Ridge NSDAR

**11:00 a.m.**

Join Poplar Forest and the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in welcoming 30 new American citizens in honor of the Founding Father's 277th birthday.

April 21

## Lynchburg Garden Day Tour

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Tour Thomas Jefferson's octagonal villa and ornamental gardens, an official stop on the Lynchburg Garden Day itinerary, during the Garden Club of Virginia's Historic Garden Week. Discover how he incorporated popular European landscape features in his plans for Poplar Forest and more. Admission to Poplar Forest on Garden Day is included in the Lynchburg Garden Day tour ticket.

April 25

## Jefferson & Douglass, A Conversation

**7:00 p.m. | Academy Center of the Arts**

Experience a pivotal moment in American history as you witness an imagined conversation between Thomas Jefferson and Frederick Douglass, the 19th-century American abolitionist, author, editor and diplomat. The performance at the Academy Center of the Arts, 600 Main Street in Lynchburg, will be followed by a reception. Tickets are \$44 for adults (18+) and \$20 for youth (ages 17 and under) and college students (must show ID). Reservations are recommended.

**May 3 & May 9**

## **Architectural Restoration Behind-the-Scenes Tours**

**Tours at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day**

Explore the architectural design, history and restoration of Thomas Jefferson's Palladian-style villa. This hour-long, behind-the-scenes tour is guided by Travis McDonald, Poplar Forest's Director of Architectural Restoration, who has overseen restoration since it began in 1989.

You'll learn how the restoration architects, architectural historians and craftsmen are meticulously restoring Jefferson's vision for the "best dwelling house in the state." Admission is \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door; reservations are encouraged.

**May 10**

## **Mother's Day & Women of Poplar Forest Talks**

**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with talks at  
1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.**

Meet the mothers and daughters—both free and enslaved—who lived and worked on the property over the past 200 years. Get acquainted with the ladies of the house, from Martha Wayles Jefferson, who inherited the plantation from her father in 1773, to Sally Watts, who became the mistress of the house in the 1940s, to Cate and Hannah, an enslaved mother and daughter who lived and worked at Poplar Forest. Admission is free for mothers all day!

**May 16**

## ***The Day is Past & Gone: A Trilogy of Slave Life at Poplar Forest***

**6:30 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, May 17)**

Experience Poplar Forest history brought to life when Teresa Harris's original drama returns to Mr. Jefferson's retreat for one performance only! Drawn from real-life experiences, the trilogy of short vignettes explores the complexity of the lives of the enslaved African Americans and their struggles to survive. Each vignette takes place in a different area of the property, moving from the Wing of Offices to the carriage turnaround. Bring your friends and family for this unique event. Admission is \$15 per person.

**June 21**

## **Father's Day at Poplar Forest**

**11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Treat Dad to a tour of Thomas Jefferson's private retreat and plantation grounds. Enjoy the tranquility of the natural landscape and discover what life there may have been like for Jefferson and his family, and the enslaved fathers and sons who lived and toiled on the plantation. Admission is free for fathers all day!

**June 25, June 26 & June 27**

## ***1776, The Musical***

**7:30 p.m. each evening**

**(Rain date Sunday, June 28)**

Revel in the revolutionary spirit of America's Founding Fathers at Poplar Forest's 7th-annual presentation of *1776*—the Tony Award-winning musical comedy by Sherman Edwards and Peter Stone based on the events leading up to the drafting and signing of the Declaration of Independence. Experience the story through the eyes of Ben (Franklin), Richard Henry (Lee), John (Adams) and Tom (Jefferson). Bring a picnic dinner, a blanket or chairs, and friends and family for an evening of theatre under the stars. Tickets are \$17.76 for adults (ages 18+); \$13 for students (ages 6–17) and college students (must show ID); and \$4 for children (ages 5 and under).

**July 4**

## **Independence Day Celebration**

**10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Celebrate the birth of America and the 244th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence with some good early-American-style fun at Thomas Jefferson's Bedford County retreat. Enjoy demonstrations by colonial artisans and craftspeople, colonial militia recruiting, archaeological displays, old-fashioned children's activities, pony rides, a dramatic reading of the Declaration of Independence and more! Admission to the Independence Day festivities is \$10 for adults (ages 16+); \$3 for youth (ages 7–15); and free for children (ages 6 and under). House tours are available for a discounted rate.

**August 15**

## **Face the Forest 5K Obstacle Course Run**

**7:30 a.m.**

Join the Jamerson YMCA and Poplar Forest at the 9th annual Face the Forest 5K Obstacle Course Run and take on climbing walls, balancing teeter-totters, flipping tires and trenching through mud. Registration available by July 1.

**September 17**

## **Naturalization Ceremony with the Blue Ridge NSDAR**

**11:00 a.m.**

Join Poplar Forest and the Blue Ridge Chapter of the National Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) to witness a Naturalization Ceremony welcoming 30 new American citizens in honor of Constitution Day.

**September 19**

## **African American Family History Day**

**10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. |**

**Jubilee Family Development Center**

Join genealogists and the Poplar Forest African American Advisory Group at the Jubilee Family Development Center, located at 1512 Florida Avenue in Lynchburg, for an interactive experience designed to help you navigate historical records in search of your African American family tree. Hear stories about exploring ancestry and learn about research methods, tools, ideas and strategies for tracing your ancestors. Children's activities and games will be offered throughout the day. A catered lunch is included with admission. \$5 per person; children ages 10 and under free. Due to catering considerations, reservations are required.

## September 19

### Stargazing

**7:00 p.m.**

Join Dr. Neal Sumerlin, former director of the Belk Astronomical Observatory at the Claytor Nature Study Center at University of Lynchburg, on Jefferson's south lawn for an illuminating look at the night sky. Reservations are required. Admission is \$15 per person.

## October 9 & 10

### Archaeology Behind-the-Scenes Tours

**Tours at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. each day**

Join Poplar Forest's archaeologists for a 90-minute walking tour focused on the latest archaeological dig sites and discoveries on the plantation. Included is a visit to the Poplar Forest archaeology lab, which is typically closed to visitors. Admission is \$20 per person in advance, \$25 at the door; reservations are encouraged. House tours are available at a discounted rate.

## November 14

### Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival

**11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Eat, drink, shop and explore a gem of American history when the 12th annual Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival returns to Poplar Forest. Advance tickets recommended and will be available by September 1. House tours are available at a discounted rate.

## November 29

### Museum Store Sunday

**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Join Poplar Forest for a day of wreath-making demonstrations, tastings, colonial Christmas crafts for kids and a special display of archaeological artifacts found on the plantation. Shop for remarkable stocking stuffers and special gifts, save 20 percent on all full-price merchandise and help support Poplar Forest in the process.

## December 3–5, 10–12 & 17–18

### Holiday Candlelight Tours

**Thursdays & Fridays at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.  
Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.**

Tour the president's cherished hideaway decorated for the holidays on these hour-long tours. Enjoy Christmas tunes performed by local musicians throughout the tour and experience how holiday meals would have been prepared with cooking demonstrations in the restored Jefferson-era kitchen. Admission is \$25 per person. Reservations required.

## December 19

### Holiday Candlelight Tour and Wine Dinner

**6:00 p.m.**

Enjoy a candlelit tour of the octagonal villa decorated for the holidays, then retire to Mr. Jefferson's candlelit dining room and parlor for a multicourse dinner with wine pairings. Reservations required.

Admission fees: \$18 for adults; \$16 for seniors (ages 65+) and military (must show ID); \$10 for college students (must show ID) and teens (ages 12–18); \$6 for youth (ages 6–11); and free for children under age 6 and Poplar Forest members

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**MEMBERS GET 10% OFF  
ALL EVENT ADMISSIONS!**

Learn more at  
[poplarforest.org/membership](http://poplarforest.org/membership).

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Visit [poplarforest.org/events](http://poplarforest.org/events) or call  
434.525.1806 for more information  
about the events listed here.