

New Winter Hours

After a short winter break, Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest will reopen for daily tours January 13.

Forest, VA: Thomas Jefferson was drawn to Poplar Forest by the beauty of Bedford County's natural landscape and the serenity he found here. The environment inspired him to write his only book, *Notes on the State of Virginia*, and it was here that he designed a very personal retreat, his Palladian-style octagonal villa. In a change from previous years, Poplar Forest will close for a short winter break on Sunday, December 31, 2023, and will reopen for daily tours on Saturday, January 13, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Visitors to Poplar Forest this winter are invited to experience the stark beauty of the winter landscape, just as Jefferson did more than 200 years ago. Explore Jefferson's private villa on an hour-long guided tour (as docents are available) or take the Poplar Forest app audio tour at any time. Hear true stories and anecdotes about the Founding Father's life at Poplar Forest and that of his enslaved workers, gleaned from his letters and diaries as well as archaeological evidence found on the plantation grounds. An exhibit at the Quarter Site introduces visitors to the men, women and children of the enslaved community; and a series of interpretive signs along the Poplar Forest Parkway provides insight into the work they performed.

Historic Woodworking Seminars

Austin Englund, Restoration Supervisor with Dan Hrinko, Boxmaker

Saturday, January 20, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The villa at Poplar Forest is a monument to Thomas Jefferson's architectural design prowess, while the decorative elements inside highlight the expertise and craftsmanship of enslaved artisans such as John Hemmings. Join Poplar Forest's restoration supervisor, Austin Englund, and special guest Daniel Hrinko, an expert box and furniture maker known for handcrafting bentwood boxes and furniture using 18th-century woodworking techniques, for an in-depth look at the craftsmanship required to bring Jefferson's furniture and millwork designs to life. Learn more about the processes and skillfulness needed to complete a fully furnished home like Poplar Forest through demonstrations and a Q&A. Admission is \$30 and includes admission to the property and self-guided exhibits; reservations are encouraged as spots for each seminar are limited.

Historic Photography Seminars with Greg Farley

Saturday, February 17, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Thomas Jefferson was fascinated by the latest advancements in technology such as the camera obscurer, which allows the photographer to project a reversed silhouette of an image onto a piece of paper. Join Poplar Forest and photographer Greg Farley to explore the history of the rudimentary form of photography that laid the foundation for generations of technological advancements in the field from its inception to today's digital methods. See how these cameras worked through demonstrations, and learn how they were used to preserve history in a way that words alone never could. Admission is \$30 and includes admission to the property and self-guided exhibits; reservations are encouraged as spots for each seminar are limited.

Admission to Poplar Forest includes a guided or app-guided house tour and self-guided exploration of exhibits in the lower level of the house, the Wing of Offices, the Quarter Site, ornamental grounds and hiking trails. Admission: \$23 for adults; \$20 for seniors (ages 65+) and military (must show ID); \$12 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.

Beginning January 13, 2024, Poplar Forest will be open seven days a week offering tours daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. To plan your visit, purchase tickets or find out more about Poplar Forest, visit poplarforest.org or call 434.534.8120.