



Kings Gap Environmental Education Center 500 Kings Gap Road Carlisle, PA 17015 (717) 486–3799 Office Hours 8 am–4 pm weekdays kingsgapsp@state.pa.us Garden open sunrise to sunset



Virginia creeper

# The MANSION GARDEN at Kings Gap



eastern redbud

Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks & Penn State Master Gardeners of Cumberland County

October, 2008

## The Cameron / Masland Mansion Garden

#### History

The garden was established in 1992 as a cooperative, educational project of the PA Bureau of State Parks and the Cumberland County Master Gardeners. This outdoor classroom inspires and teaches about the benefits of gardening, while demonstrating environmentally sound techniques and designs that can be used in home landscapes.

Surrounded by a stone wall, the garden is located between the Cameron / Masland Mansion and the Education Building. The mansion was built in 1908 on top of South Mountain overlooking the Cumberland Valley. The original garden, created from wagonloads of soil brought up the mountain from miles away, provided supplemental food for the mansion's first owners.

## The Herb Garden

A wide variety of different herbs in four thematic beds surround a sundial in a traditional symmetrical layout. Visitors can see edible and medicinal herbs, as well as herbs used to dye cloth and provide fragrance.

## The Native Habitat Garden

Learn how to attract wildlife to your home landscape. By creating a variety of homes for wildlife in our own backyards, we can help many species overcome the loss of habitat resulting from land development. Plants chosen for this garden are native to North America, mainly to the northeast. Native plants adapted to their local environment often require less water and are usually more disease resistant. These under-used plants can be beautiful additions to our yards and gardens.

## The Shade Garden

If a garden lacks the necessary exposure to sunlight, it may be difficult to grow certain plants. This area features species that can tolerate more shade than others.

## **Compost Demonstration Area**

This section of the garden features a variety of composting units showing how to convert organic wastes to compost. Composting provides gardeners with a rich organic soil conditioner that helps to reduce the amount of waste we contribute to landfills and incinerators.

## Kings Gap Environmental Education Center

Located in Cumberland County, Kings Gap is operated by the Pennsylvania Bureau of State Parks, part of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. The center offers a wide variety of environmental education and outdoor recreation opportunities. To receive more information on Kings Gap programs, call 717–486–3799 to request a program guide or check the web calendar at...

www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/parks/kingsgap.aspx









## The Penn State Master Gardener Program

The Master Gardener Program is a volunteer program sponsored by the Penn State Cooperative Extension. In exchange for training sessions in horticulture, Master Gardeners provide volunteer service each year, sharing their appreciation of gardening with each other and the community. For more information on this program, contact your local cooperative extension office. Cumberland County Cooperative Extension: (717) 240—6500.