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Press Release

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Cumberland County Libraries Join Longwood Gardens' 2025 Community Read

Mechanicsburg, PA – Cumberland County book lovers and garden enthusiasts are encouraged to participate in Longwood Gardens' 2025 Community Read — a program designed to encourage reading for pleasure and to start a conversation surrounding gardens, plants, and nature.

To celebrate the twelfth year of the Community Read, we are exploring the powerful impact gardening can have on our lives. Join us in reading *Paradise Under Glass: The Education of an Indoor Gardener* by Ruth Kassinger, a witty and absorbing memoir about one woman's unlikely desire to build, stock, and tend a small conservatory in her suburban Maryland home. For young readers, *The Extraordinary Gardener* by Sam Boughton is a beautifully illustrated story about a young boy seeking color in a dreary world.

"Cumberland County's public libraries enjoy a strong partnership with Longwood Gardens through the Community Read," said Carolyn Blatchley, Library System Executive Director. "This year's books focus on the ways which individuals, both adults and children, connect to the world through gardening."

Visit your local Cumberland County Library and check out and read one, or both books! Share with your family and friends. Start a discussion. Attend the author program on Saturday, March 29 at Longwood Gardens or online. And visit www.CumberlandCountyLibraries.org for a complete list of Longwood Gardens' Community Read special programs taking place at libraries throughout Cumberland County in the Spring of 2025. To engage on a regional level, visit longwoodgardens.org/community-read-2025. Share your thoughts about the books on social media using #CommunityRead.

The Cumberland County Library System (CCLS) has seven local libraries, one branch facility, a system administrative office, and a non-profit foundation. The library system provides service to more than 262,000 people in Cumberland County and a small portion of Franklin County.

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The Cumberland County Library System is a federated library system consisting of seven member libraries, one branch facility, an administrative headquarters, and a non-profit foundation. Member libraries include Amelia S. Givin Free Library in Mt. Holly Springs, Bosler Memorial Library in Carlisle, Coy Public Library of Shippensburg, East Pennsboro Branch Library in Enola, Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill, John Graham Library in Newville, New Cumberland Public Library, and Simpson Library in Mechanicsburg.