

## Montpelier 2005 Calendar of Events

### **March 16: James Madison Birthday Celebration**

Special ceremony at 1:00 p.m. with the United States Marine Corps at the Madison Family Cemetery. Free admission. For information: 540-672-2728.

### **March 27: Farmington-Keswick Hunt Club Point-to-Point**

Pony, flat track, and steeplechase races. Mule jumping competition. Gates open at 10:00 a.m., post time 12:00 noon. Fee. For information: 434-980-9926.

### **April 16: Public Opening of Gilmore Cabin and Farm**

Recently restored, this cabin and 16-acre farm was once home to George Gilmore, an enslaved African-American at Montpelier who settled here after his emancipation. At this site, you'll learn about the transition from slavery to freedom for African-Americans in this country. Events to be announced. For information: 540-672-2728, ext. 411.

### **April 16: Garden Week in Virginia**

Montpelier's horticulturist will provide guided tours of Montpelier's elegant formal garden. Tours offered at 11:00 a.m.; 12 noon; 1:00 p.m.; 2:00 p.m. For information: 540-672-2728 x104.

### **April 30 and May 1: Montpelier Wine Festival**

Sample Virginia wines and relax on the grounds of Montpelier. Enjoy music, specialty foods, kids' activities, kite contests and challenges, vendors and crafters, and more. Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Sunday: 12:00 noon to 5:00 p.m. Admission: \$12 advance/\$20 at gate; includes wine tasting. Under 21: \$5; under 12: free. For information and corporate packages: 540-672-5216.

### **May 17-June 16: James Madison University Archaeology Field School**

Witness archaeologists working at a late 18<sup>th</sup> century slave quarter, 9 am-4 pm. The excavation site is located down the hill from the visitor parking lot. For information: 540-672-2728 x160, or mreeves@montpelier.org.

### **May 20: Dolley Madison Birthday**

Enjoy the gracious hospitality of America's first First Lady on her birthday. Birthday cake for all, and free admission to Montpelier for anyone who shares this birth date with Dolley Madison. For information: 540-672-2728 x104.

### **May 22: Spring Evening at Montpelier**

Author Richard N. Côté will discuss his biography, *Strength and Honor: The Life of Dolley Madison*. Reception, open house and book signing at 5:00 p.m.; lecture at 6:00 p.m. This event is for Members of Montpelier. Admission for Friends level members and their guests is \$15 per person. Members at the Mount Pleasant Circle level and above receive complimentary admission for themselves and their guests. For information: 540-672-2728 x114.

### **June 20-24; June 27-July 1: Natural History Day Camp**

Environmental day camp, exploring Montpelier's natural resources. June 20-24 session for rising third- and fourth-graders; June 27-July 1 session for rising fifth- and sixth-graders. Fee. For information: 540-672-2728 x401.

### **July 5-29: State University of New York at Potsdam Archaeological Field School**

See archaeologists excavating a late 18<sup>th</sup> century slave quarter and in the yard of the mansion. For information: 540-672-2728 x160, or mreeves@montpelier.org.

**July 17: Summer Evening at Montpelier**

Historic Restoration Fair and Barbeque Dinner. 6:30-8:30 p.m. A fun learning experience for the whole family, this hands-on event will include demonstrations by restoration craftsmen and children's activities. This event is for Members of Montpelier. All members receive complimentary admission for themselves and two guests. Bring a picnic dinner or purchase a barbeque dinner for \$10. Members at the Mount Pleasant Circle and above also receive complimentary dinner tickets. For information: 540-672-2728 x114.

**July 6, 13, 20, 27 and August 3: Summer Fun**

Wednesday morning children's programs for ages 4 through 6 and ages 7 through 12. Fee. For program schedules and reservations, call 540-672-2728 x401.

**July 21-24: Orange County Fair**

Annual celebration of rural life in Piedmont Virginia. Hours: Thursday and Friday 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Saturday 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Orange County Fair Board and the 4-H Club. Fee. For information: 540-672-2271 or visit [www.orangecountyvafair.com](http://www.orangecountyvafair.com).

**September 17: Constitution Day**

Celebrate the birthday of our nation's charter at the home of James Madison, Father of the Constitution. Program includes United States Marine Corps re-enlistment ceremony. For information: 540-672-2728 x411.

**September 25: Autumn Evening at Montpelier**

Program to be announced. Reception and open house at 5:00 p.m.; event at 6:00 p.m. This event is for Members of Montpelier. Admission for Friends level members and their guests is \$15 per person. Members at the Mount Pleasant Circle level and above receive complimentary admission for themselves and their guests. For information: 540-672-2728 x114.

**October 1-2: Fall Fiber Festival & Montpelier Sheep Dog Trials**

Displays, demonstrations, and workshops focused on the fiber arts, organized by The Fall Fiber Festival of Virginia, Inc. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Fee. For information: 434-296-8533 (from Virginia) or 800-784-9285 (from outside of Virginia) or visit [www.fallfiberfestival.org](http://www.fallfiberfestival.org).

**October 3-8: Montpelier's Annual Work-Study Program**

The Montpelier work-study program will be excavating in the yard of the Montpelier mansion. For more information on volunteering for the work-study program: 540-672-2728 x160, or [mreeves@montpelier.org](mailto:mreeves@montpelier.org).

**November 5: Montpelier Hunt Races**

71<sup>st</sup> running. Jack Russell Terrier Races, flat track and steeplechase races, including the Noel Laing Stakes and the Madison Plate, make for a special day in the country. Gates open at 9:30 a.m., post time 1:00 p.m. For ticketing information and details on corporate and hospitality packages: 540-672-0027 or visit [www.montpelier.org/races.htm](http://www.montpelier.org/races.htm).

**November 11: Veterans' Day at Montpelier**

Free admission for those who have served, or are serving, in the Armed Forces of the United States. For information: 540-672-2728 x104.