

Jon Carloftis Bio

Kentucky native Jon Carloftis is one of the nation's premier garden designers. He fell in love with gardening in the second grade, when his teacher, Mrs. Parsons, had the class fill pickle jars with dirt and grass seed. When the first blades began pushing through the soil ten days later, he was hooked.

Carloftis grew up near Livingston, Kentucky—his childhood home was in the Daniel Boone National Forest—and graduated from the University of Kentucky, where he studied horticulture. In 1988, he moved to New York and started a business designing rooftop gardens. Before long, he was growing pumpkins, tomatoes, beans, and even tobacco on the roofs of some of the fanciest addresses in Manhattan.

A proud Kentuckian, Carloftis made a point of returning home as often as he could to visit. Eventually, the pull of Kentucky became so great that he decided to split his time between there and the New York area. He now shuttles back and forth each month between his clients and homes in both places. He has created gardens for the actors Edward Norton, Julianne Moore, and Mike Myers, and his work has been featured in *Country Gardens*, *Country Home*, *Garden Design*, *House Beautiful*, *Martha Stewart Living*, and *Metropolitan Home*.

Carloftis is the recipient of a landscape design award for his overall body of work from the Museum of the City of New York and is the author of *First a Garden* (Rockcastle River Trading Company, 2005) and *Beyond the Windowsill* (Cool Springs Press, 2006). He served as the co-chair of the 2007 symposium, Growing Kentucky II: Land, Food and Culture—Creating sustainability Where You Live. In December 2009, Carloftis represented *Better Homes and Gardens* with his decorations in the courtyard of Blair House, the Presidential guest residence across the street from the White House, for the holidays.