Garden Railway 2011 – Painted Ladies – Opening Saturday, May 28th

“Nobody seems to think of building a sober house!” a New York Times writer said of San Francisco in 1883. This summer, discover replicas of these glorious Victorian homes at the Morris Arboretum’s Garden Railway Display. Clothed in happy, vibrant colors, Painted Ladies will transport you to San Francisco or Cape May – all within the magical setting of a miniature garden made entirely of natural materials.
SACRED SPACES AT THE MORRIS ARBORETUM

An Undergraduate at Smith College, Morris Arboretum Intern Shea Zwerer, was inspired by a visiting professor, Randall Hester, and his research on people’s perceptions of “sacred spaces.” Sacred spaces may be different things to different people, but generally are places that are special or have significant personal meaning in a community or in one’s case, a garden. They may be considered especially beautiful, enlivening, or simply a quiet oasis. Perhaps, it may be the site of an important life event or a special childhood memory, or the place where one shared a last visit with a loved one.

Each of our nine interns is required to complete a special project during their tenure that advances the goals of the Morris Arboretum. For Shea’s work, she surveyed staff, volunteers and visitors about their personal sacred spaces at the Arboretum. She found that after a little explanation of “sacred places,” those responding had strong ideas and attitudes about their sacred spaces. These views can help guide us as we allocate resources and steward the Arboretum’s rich and varied landscapes.

Many of the responses were as we might predict. The Arboretum’s central feature, the rose garden was one favorite. A totally different and less prominent landscape, the wetland, was another. But many of those responding cited more obscure, smaller, quiet corners of the Arboretum as “their secret” sacred place. These included places well off the paved paths like the Japanese Hill and Water Garden, Lydia’s seat, tucked away overlooking the Rose Garden, and the rock outcrop which presides over the Wissahickon. Unusual responses included the fish pond behind Gates Hall, the rock ruins behind the Katsura tree, the Baxter Memorial, the weeping hemlock in the far corner of the parking lot, the now deceased swamp white oak, and the squirrel scramble on Out on a Limb. She reports, “These responses were so interesting because people were very specific, they would say things such as: ‘Sitting under the Katsura tree, or sitting on the stone bridge down in the sculpture garden.’” A few even expressed a reluctance to share their sacred place, because it is indeed so sacred to them that they want to keep it for themselves! You can read a sampling of visitor’s reflections on their sacred spaces on page 3.

Whatever the place, I have been struck by the intensity of the feelings evoked as people discuss their sacred space. It is clear that these spaces are a source of serenity, comfort or spiritual retreat for many. And it is a big part of why they love the Arboretum. For those of us who work at the Arboretum, both staff and volunteers, it is a validation of the importance of our work and mission.

Though Shea’s intern project is complete, I would like to encourage the continuation of this dialogue on sacred spaces. I invite you to visit http://morrissarboretum.blogspot.com/2011/05/sacred-spaces.html and share the story of your sacred place at the Arboretum and why it is important to you, your family and friends. We will all enjoy and learn from your experiences.

I give a big thanks to Shea for launching this project. It is one of many examples of how each year, each new class of interns brings a fresh crop of ideas to the Arboretum.
The Morris Arboretum's new Horticulture Center has been awarded Platinum Level LEED® Certification, the highest rating of the US Green Building Council (USGBC). LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is the nation’s preeminent program for the design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. It is the first LEED® Platinum certified building for the University of Pennsylvania, and only the second in the state of Pennsylvania.

This highest level distinction from the US Green Building Council signifies a great achievement for the Morris Arboretum. The complex utilizes modern sustainable energy and water management technologies, reflecting the stewardship and teaching intentions of Morris Arboretum's founders, John and Lydia Morris. The Horticulture Center is an exhibit of the best sustainable practices of our time.

"I have been anticipating this day for nearly 30 years. We are very grateful to all the many contributors to the Always Growing Campaign that made this project possible, led by Dodo Hamilton, The Haas Family, Ed Rendell, former Governor of The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the William Penn Foundation. A project like this happens only with the dedicated commitment of a huge team of individuals, planning and implementing the work. It is our hope that this exhibit of sustainability will be of special interest to all of our visitors, but especially to architects and planning design professionals," said Paul Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Director of Morris Arboretum.

The newly-created Horticulture Center provides flexible work space for the Arboretum's horticulture, education, maintenance, and facilities staff, providing important infrastructure for staff and equipment. The 20,840-square-foot facility provides space for staff to manage their extensive responsibilities for the Morris Arboretum's 167-acre property in the most efficient and cost-effective manner possible. The complex features:

- 24 office spaces
- Two conference rooms
- Kitchen
- Break room
- Men’s and women’s locker rooms
- Carpentry shop
- Storage for Arboretum vehicles including trucks, garden carts, lawn mowers and other large equipment

The Horticulture Center was designed by architects from Overland Partners of San Antonio, TX, Muscoe Martin of Philadelphia’s M2 Architecture, and Andropogon Associates, Morris Arboretum's Philadelphia-based landscape planners for the Arboretum since 1977. The contractor for the project was W.S. Cumby. The mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineer was Bruce Brooks & Associates, and the site/civil engineers were Hunt Engineering.
A Summer Saunter

ANTHONY AIELLO, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator

Now that summer is here, we tend to think of annuals and perennials as the main seasonal interest in the garden. But a stroll through the Arboretum will lead you to a number of trees and shrubs that bloom from June through August and even into September, providing plenty of garden interest during the heat of the year.

Starting in the parking lot, you will come across two varieties of Amur maackia (Maackia amurensis), Summer Time and ‘Starbarb’, Amur maackia (left) is a tough Asian tree valued for its cold hardiness and tolerance of urban conditions. It has quietly interesting copper-colored bark and small creamy white flowers in mid-summer.

Outside the Widener Education Center is one of the old standards of the summer garden, Hibiscus syriacus. Look for ‘Diana’ with its bright white flowers (below left) and ‘Minerva’ with its lavender flowers and dark red centers. These National Arboretum selections are bred for an extended period of summer bloom; and dark red centers. These National Arboretum selections are bred for an extended period of summer bloom;

Another plant equally at home in sun and shade is Hydrangea arborescens (oakleaf hydrangea). It is also growing in the Teahouse Woods and by the steps above the Rose Garden. Likewise native to the southern US, oakleaf hydrangea (above) is an excellent garden plant, well suited to a variety of landscapes. There has been an explosion of varieties in recent years. Look for smaller forms such as ‘Pee Wee’, ‘Sikes Dwarf’, a double-flowered form (‘Snowflakes’), as well as a very upright variety with large flowers heads (‘Snow Queen’), and if you like this sort of thing, one with yellow leaves (‘Little Honey’).

At the entrance to the Long Fountain you will find Hypericum ‘Hidcote’. The bright yellow flowers of this St.-John’s-wort are two to three inches across, blooming in June and July, and are perfect for a bright location. These plants are great for attracting pollinators and given good drainage and full sun, are rewarding additions to the mixed border.

Flanking the entrance to the Garden Railway is bluebeard (Caryopteris x clandonensis ‘First Choice’ and ‘Intruder’ (Grand Blue)), which blooms in late summer with a profusion of small blue flowers (for more information see Seasons, Summer 2010*). Caryopteris (right) is a perfect plant for hot dry locations, and its rich blue flowers are a welcome sight at the end of a long hot August.

Along the back side of the Garden Railway is a small collection of clethra, or summersweet, aptly named for their heady flowers that bloom in July and August. Among these planted in this area is Clethra alnifolia (Japanese clethra), a large shrub that has the added bonus of beautiful exfoliating bark and bright yellow-orange fall color.

One of the best summer plantings at the Arboretum is the Russian sage (Perovskia atriplicifolia ‘Little Spire’ – shown at left) at the Step Fountain. The large masses of grey-blue flower spikes provide a great show all summer long. This is another plant that needs heat and dry conditions to flourish (also see Seasons, Summer 2010*).

Finally, tucked into a far corner of the English Park, near where the East Brook joins the Wissahickon Creek, are a group of deciduous native azaleas collected by Dr. Henry Skinner in the early 1950s. Most of these flower in early May, but two of them make a great addition to any garden for their summer flowers. These are roseshell azalea (Rhododendron prinophyllum) with its orange-red flowers in July and August and sweet azalea (below right) (R. arborescens) with its intensely fragrant and creamy-white flowers. Both of these are a little more exacting in their cultural requirements, needing a moist, well-drained acidic soil, with protection from strong winds or sun. But if you can provide those conditions, they will reward you amply.

So, if you need a break from the heat or summer, take a stroll through the Arboretum – you’ll be surprised what you might find!

Photo: Paul Meyer

East Brook joins the Wissahickon Creek, a group of deciduous native azaleas collected by Dr. Henry Skinner in the early 1950s. Most of these flower in early May, but two of them make a great addition to any garden for their summer flowers. These are roseshell azalea (Rhododendron prinophyllum) with its orange-red flowers in July and August and sweet azalea (below right) (R. arborescens) with its intensely fragrant and creamy-white flowers. Both of these are a little more exacting in their cultural requirements, needing a moist, well-drained acidic soil, with protection from strong winds or sun. But if you can provide those conditions, they will reward you amply.

So, if you need a break from the heat or summer, take a stroll through the Arboretum – you’ll be surprised what you might find!

(*)Available online at www.morrisarboretum.org

Go Out on a Limb
for Your Next Special Event!

Are you looking for an extraordinary, memorable setting for your next party? Host a sit-down dinner party for 20 or a cocktail party for 75 at the Arboretum’s award-winning Out on a Limb exhibit. Out on a Limb provides a dramatic, one-of-a-kind backdrop for a gathering like none other. Your guests will experience trees and each other in a whole new way – 50 feet up in the treetops.

Special rates are available for dates in July and August. Please note, rentals are available for evenings only. For pricing, availability or more information, email rentals@morrisarboretum.org or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 136. A party Out on a Limb is one you and your guests won’t soon forget!
You did it! Last fall, the Arboretum announced the Lenfest Challenge to help support the Annual Fund. This challenge was a pledge from Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest to match up to $50,000 given to the Arboretum’s Annual Fund through new and increased gifts. This resulted in an overwhelming response and strong support of the Annual Fund. Through the generosity of our donors, the Arboretum not only reached the goal of $50,000, but exceeded it, by raising a total of $100,000 in new and increased gifts! We wish to extend a special thanks to Marguerite and Gerry Lenfest for their generosity and support of the mission and goals of Morris Arboretum!

We have reached monumental milestones in growing the program, but we are not there yet...

2010-2011 GOAL - $425,000

$305,000 has been raised as of March 1, 2011!

We hope you have made plans to attend the gala of the year, Moonlight & Roses, on Friday, June 10. It promises to be an evening to celebrate the Arboretum’s history and 30 years of Moonlight & Roses. The evening will also honor Elizabeth and John Shofer for their many years of service and leadership that have helped the Arboretum blossom. Reservations are required and space is very limited. For more information, visit www.morrisarboretumgala.org or contact Miriam Pinsker at (215) 247-5777, ext. 281.

YOUR ANNUAL FUND QUESTIONS ANSWERED...

The Annual Fund is a yearly effort to raise unrestricted gifts specifically to help offset the Arboretum’s annual operating expenses. It is the Annual Fund that supports the budget for salaries and benefits for our staff with the remainder used to support equipment, maintenance and other operating costs. By supporting the Annual Fund, donors make the continuing growth at the Arboretum possible. Below are some commonly asked questions about the Annual Fund. Please feel free to contact Shannon Makhija with any additional questions at (215) 247-5777, ext. 161 or smakhija@upenn.edu.

Why doesn’t membership and admissions cover all the operating expenses?
Membership and admission dues only cover about 18% of our annual expenses. The Annual Fund represents 37% of the Arboretum’s contributed income within the annual operating budget.

Why not just raise membership and admissions?
Although increases are inevitable, the Arboretum strives to balance the need for revenue generation with our desire to keep the Arboretum accessible to a wide audience.

Are there other fundraising activities besides the Annual Fund at the Arboretum?
Yes. While members of the community are asked to participate in the Annual Fund, the Arboretum also engages in other fundraising activities. The Arboretum also seeks capital gifts to meet the specific facilities needs and to increase endowment.

Who supports the Annual Fund?
Last year, hundreds of people, including current members, trustees, volunteers and staff, who all believed in the Arboretum’s mission and support its ideas contributed to the Annual Fund.

Do corporations support the Annual Fund?
Typically corporations contribute by matching their employee’s gifts. The Arboretum is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which means your gift is tax deductible. You may be able to double or even triple your gift by submitting the appropriate matching gift form (available from your employer) along with your contribution.

How much should I give?
Only you can determine the amount you can give, but please be as generous as possible, and consider joining or renewing your gift at one of the Annual Fund gift levels.

In what ways can I make my gift?
All gifts and pledges need to be fulfilled by June 30. The Arboretum accepts gifts of cash and marketable securities. Gifts of appreciated securities can be particularly advantageous to donors. For details, please inquire.

Thank you!!
New Penn Tree Program Commemorates Each Graduating Class With its own Tree, Planted on Penn’s Campus

SUSAN CRANE, Director of Marketing

Over the past two years, Bill and his wife, Katheie, have become ‘champions’ of the Arboretum, and continued their support, based on positive results initiated by Arboretum staff who planned new programming and initiatives to involve the Penn community.

As part of this effort, Hohns sponsored the Penn Tree Program and thinks that “the program is simple, both in its concept and execution; without significant staff cost to the University or Arboretum; and, through the placement of distinctive trees over time, can dramatically influence the appearance of the campus while building pride for each graduating class year.”

Each year, the Arboretum in consultation with the University Landscape Architect, will provide that year’s graduating class with a selection of 3-4 specimen trees, one of which would be selected by that class as their Penn Tree. By engaging Morris Arboretum for the choices, the Senior Class is assured that the urban and other requirements of the Penn campus are carefully considered. This year, the Class of 2011 voted on their class tree through an email voting system. Over the course of two days, 850 seniors voted, and selected the Legacy sugar maple (Acer saccharum ‘Legacy’) as their “Penn Tree.”

The second component of the Penn Tree Program is that, in addition to the tree planting on the Penn Campus each year, the Arboretum will either select an existing tree on its grounds, or where the selection of the campus Penn Tree conforms to the Arboretum’s environment and curatorial plans, may plant a companion tree on its grounds. The companion tree at the Arboretum will bear signage dedicating the tree to each graduating class.

And like the trees that will continue to grow, Bill Hohns ends his letter to the Gazette with the following sentiment, “And, like so many things, it all started with a ‘modest’ gift, even a ‘modest’ idea. This makes me believe that ‘modest’ gifts, especially those that bring alumni back to their beloved University and give of their time, collaborating with a staff that cares more than we realize, will continue to make the most difference of all and provide the ideas and seeds Penn so desperately needs to bloom ever more!”

The Lydia Morris Legacy Society
Creating Lasting Memories through Endowment

VICTORIA SICKS – Associate Director, Individual & Planned Gifts

To qualify, you must be at least 70½ and have assets in an IRA. Transfers must be made by your plan provider directly to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

In December 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 which includes an extension through 2011 of the IRA Charitable Rollover. This legislation allows donors to transfer up to $100,000 from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charity tax-free.

To learn more about the IRA Charitable Rollover, please contact Victoria Sicks, Associate Director of Development at (215) 247-5777, ext. 152 or via email at vsicks@upenn.edu.

To qualify, you must be at least 70½ and have assets in an IRA. Transfers must be made by your plan provider directly to the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania.

On December 16, 2010, President Barack Obama signed into law the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 which includes an extension through 2011 of the IRA Charitable Rollover. This legislation allows donors to transfer up to $100,000 from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a charity tax-free.

At any time during 2011, you should consider an IRA Charitable Rollover as an effective way to support the mission of the Morris Arboretum if:

You do not need the IRA distribution that you are required to take, OR

You do not itemize deductions but make charitable gifts, OR

Your charitable gifts already equal 50% of your adjusted gross income.

Another great way to support Always Growing, the campaign for Morris Arboretum!
Spider Mites of Garden Conifers

TRACY BEERLEY – The John J. Willman & Martha Haas Valentine Plant Protection Intern

A summer color unfolds, our garden conifers provide us with beautiful contrasts and textures. Through the gray of winter, conifers continue to provide us with color and contribute greatly to the picturesque landscape of a winter wonderland. Unfortunately, unannounced and unwanted pests are lurking, waiting for spring, when they may cause unsightly damage and possibly death to your favorite garden conifer. Spider mites are common garden pests. They are also very tiny and often go undetected until damage is severe.

What are spider mites? These pests are in the eight-legged arachnid class with spiders and daddy-longlegs. Spider mites have flexible, needle-like mouth parts that they use to pierce the surface of plant tissue so they can feed on the released fluids. This piercing behavior destroys the plant’s chlorophyll-bearing cells, creating a flecked or stippled appearance. Symptoms appear first on the needle base, close to the trunk. Like most spiders, the mites exude silk to aid in their dispersal to neighboring trees. The webbing also traps dirt and debris, further exacerbating the appearance. Symptoms vary depending on time since the last molt.

Scouring for pests and disease before they cause damage is essential in successful gardening. To care for your conifers you should inspect trees for mite damage throughout the year, especially during egg hatch in spring and fall. A simple method to check for adult mite activity is to shake a branch over a white piece of paper. Mites will appear as small, moving dark specks on the paper. A hand lens is also helpful for identification. If a few mites are observed there is no need to panic, natural insect and mite predators should help to keep the population at manageable levels.

If you happen upon dozens of mites, you may want to consider initiating an appropriate control before serious damage occurs. Verified methods include spraying the affected plant with water at high pressure or applying a horticultural soap. Use of water or horticultural soap allows you to reduce mite population without harming beneficial insects that are important allies.

Conifer-feeding mites commonly become serious landscape pests on planted conifers that have received chemical herbicides and pesticides. Pesticides are non-specific, resulting in the death of targeted and non-targeted insects – an unwanted result we need to avoid. With attentive garden eyes and cautious management you will be able to identify and control mite populations properly.

We would like to thank the following businesses and non-profit organizations for their membership support. To learn more about Corporate and Non-Profit Membership, please contact Alison Thornton at (215) 247-5777, ext.105 or via email at alisonth@upenn.edu.

CORPORATE MEMBERS
Rose Garden ($2,500) The Sinikis Companies
Azalea Meadow ($1,000) Land Concepts
Enormous Pond ($500) Bowman Properties, Ltd.
Magnolia Slope ($250) Andropogon Associates
Arctotis Sales Corporation Organic Gardening
Raymond J. Tielow Company

NON-PROFIT MEMBERS
Cottage Garden ($500) The Hill at Whitetarn
Herb Garden ($250) American Society of Landscape Architects
Garden Club of Philadelphia
Meadow Garden ($150) Norristown Garden Club
Sisters of St. Joseph – Assumption Hall

Hardy Fern Garden ($100) Exclusively designed for libraries and healthcare organizations.
Friends of East Cheltenham Free Library
Friends of Elkins Park Free Library
Friends of Huntingdon Valley Free Library
Friends of the Glenside Library
Horcham Township Library
Jeffkinton Library Norberth Community Library
Free Library of Springfield Township
Friends of the Upper Dublin Public Library
Uporer Moreland Free Public Library
Friends of William Jeanes Memorial Library
Wissahickon Charter School Library
Wissahickon Valley Public Library – Main Library
Wissahickon Valley Public Library – Ambler Branch

Summer is here and it’s not too late to start planning and planting a garden. It’s also the best time to teach your kids the joys of gardening. In fact, research has found that children are more than twice as likely to eat fruits and vegetables when they are grown in their own backyard! Find everything you need for your family’s garden at The Shop. You’ll find kid-sized tools, gloves and gardening books. There is also an array of seed kits to help you plant a bird garden, a butterfly garden or even a storybook garden with Princess and the Pea “peas” and Jack in the Beanstalk’s “beans.” Stop by soon and start planning for your best garden yet!
New Zealand

Twenty members of the Morris Arboretum joined Paul Meyer and his wife Debbie Rodgers on a three-week tour of New Zealand last January. Expertly led by Richard Lyon, a Landscape Architect who was born and raised in New Zealand but now lives with his family in Kennett Square, the group experienced wonderful hospitality in private gardens as well as the scenic natural wonders of New Zealand. Plans are being made for a Morris Arboretum return visit to New Zealand in 2013.

Costa Rica

RUTH PFIEFFER, Expert Birder

In February 2011, the Arboretum led an 11-day birding trip to Costa Rica. I was joined by Morris Arboretum Education Coordinator Jan McFadden and fellow Expert Birder Rudy Zamora, on a trip to discover the diverse bird habitats of Costa Rica – a country with more species of birds than the United States and Canada combined. Some of the most memorable stops included the Lankester Botanical Gardens with its world class collection of nearly 1,000 orchids, the Los Esquinas Rainforest Lodge Gardens located deep in the Costa Rican rainforest, and the Wilson Botanical Garden home to an amazing collection of colorful bromeliads. Whether the group was enjoying a river boat ride through the mangroves, taking in the view at Rancho Naturalista, or visiting the gardens of Savoie Lodge, there was always an abundance of avian friends to be seen. Of the almost 900 species of birds found in Costa Rica, 200 are migrants from North America, and many of them migrate through or nest in the wetlands, meadows, and wooded areas found at the Arboretum. It was a great experience to see some of these species in Costa Rica knowing that they would return to the Arboretum’s beautiful gardens in the spring. To learn more about this trip check out http://morrisarboretum.blogspot.com/2011/05/costa-rica-birding.html.

A “GREEN” GREEN LAWN – Sustainable Lawns for a Better Future

KIM FRISBIE – Freelance Writer

Okay, now that spring has sprung, many of us are thinking about getting our lawns back into top notch, pristine condition. Call the lawn care service, load up on bags of fertilizer and herbicides, get the mower in running order….WHOAH! Let’s stop a second and reconsider. First of all, the majority of fertilizer and herbicide runoff that is polluting our public water supplies comes from home gardeners, not large scale farming operations. Second, a certain amount of “weeds” are not necessarily a bad thing. For example, evry lawn should have some percentage of clover – the nitrogen fixing bacteria they produce is essential for the well-being of the entire lawn. Clover is highly drought-resistant, and its tiny white flowers provide nectar for bees, which they in turn make into clover honey.

The smartest thing you can do for your family, the environment, and your lawn is to rework your lawn care program into a simpler regimen. There are several basic steps you can follow to ensure a sustainable, “green” lawn, without incorporating any toxic pollutants. First of all, water your lawn less frequently, but at a greater depth. This will encourage grass roots to search deeper into the soil for water, making them stronger and less likely to dry out during dry periods. Weed roots tend to be shallow. Lightly watering your lawn every other day simply encourages your weeds. If the top few inches of soil are bone dry, the weed seedlings up there will die while the more deeply rooted grass will still find moisture further down. Don’t water on a schedule – that won’t help in the war on weeds. Watch your grass – it will start to curl before it turns brown – that’s the best time to water. The next step is to aerate your lawn. Soil compaction is often confused with improper watering or lack of fertilizer, but it is caused when the top four inches of soil become compressed, impeding the movement of air, water, and nutrients to the grass roots. This can lead to insect, pathogen, and nematode damage. The grass plants are stressed, they are less able to compete with weeds and slow to recuperate from injury. Aerating your lawn in the spring and fall will reduce compaction, promote root development, and enable better absorption of nutrients and water, thereby diminishing runoff into neighboring streams.

It is also important to test your soil before getting started to determine the pH. Your local extension office will probably do it for free. Your lawn is only going to be as good as the soil in which it grows, so knowing if it is acidic or alkaline will enable you to add the proper soil amendments to correct imbalances, deficiencies or toxicities (acidic soils need lime, alkaline soils need sulphur, etc.). As an example, dandelions love a pH of about 7.5, while grass loves a pH of 6.5. So if your pH is 7.5 or higher, you’re giving the home field advantage to the dandelions, and your grass won’t really have a chance!

Next, when mowing, keep your lawn a little on the high side. Never take off more than 1/3 of the grass blade. A longer grass helps convert sunshine into sugar which helps feed the lawn and encourages a stronger root system and thicker turf. Longer grass also shades out the weeds, puts help cool the roots of your grass, meaning less watering! Also, don’t take up your customary grass clippings act as valuable mulch, adding nutrients to the soil while preventing water evaporation on really hot days.

Finally, we have to take a hard look at the chemicals in lawn care products – these are toxic to birds and beneficial insects, not to mention children and pets. Exposure to lawn and garden pesticides has been linked to leukemia, cancer, kidney damage, genetic defects, asthma, and developmental and behavioral disorders. With this information in mind, we should all learn to tolerate a few weeds in our lawns. Managing and lessening our irrigation helps avoid unnecessary runoff into our streams and rivers, and ultimately our drinking water. As environmental stewards, we must take responsibility for our individual actions as they affect others – and understand that doing the least harm to the environment or other individuals is always the best policy.
Summer Concerts Series – Groovin’ in the Garden and XPN Kids Corner

Join us this summer for more music in the garden! Pack a picnic and a blanket or chair and relax in the beauty of the Arboretum’s Azalea Meadow while enjoying some great musical entertainment.

Groovin’ in the Garden with Plan B Jazz Band – Thursday, July 28, 7:30 pm

“Innovative” is the word that best describes Plan B—a contemporary smooth jazz band made up of five talented musicians who were born and raised in Philadelphia. Plan B incorporates new dynamics and energetic expressions into their songs—whether they are performing a popular cover tune, or some of their highly requested originals. Free beer tastings sponsored by Foundry Beverage from 6-7pm. Concert begins at 7pm. Blankets or chairs are recommended.

XPN Kids Corner Presents Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band – Thursday, August 4, 6:30pm

With 14 national awards for excellence in children’s entertainment, Alex & the Kaleidoscope Band uplift and engage audiences of all ages with their lively, interactive, and world-music infused performances.

XPN Kids Corner Presents Yosi & The Superdads – Thursday, August 11, 6:30pm


SUMMER CONCERT INFORMATION

Please note, on summer concert evenings, ALL CARS ENTERING AFTER 4 PM will be charged a per-car parking fee instead of a per-person admission in order to encourage carpooling and accommodate more visitors with the Arboretum’s limited parking.

Bench, Chester, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Katsura members are offered free parking for concerts as a benefit of membership. A valid membership (Bench and above) card and photo ID must be shown at kiosk to park for free.

Individual, Dual, Family, and Far-Away Friend members and Penn Card Holders – Present a valid membership or Penn card at the entrance kiosk to receive a discounted parking rate of $10 per carload. Please note: if you purchase a membership the night of the concert, and have already paid the non-member admissions fee, you will be reimbursed in full. Simply present your receipt when you sign up for membership. This is applicable only on concert nights.

General Concert Parking Fee Information

A single member in a car qualifies it as a member car and will qualify it for the $10 fee. Per person admission fees will not be collected from non-members in the vehicle. Cars with no members will be charged a $30 parking fee in lieu of per person admission fees.

Walk/Bus/SEPTA Fees

Non-member fees for concert nights: $5 per individual, 3 years of age and up. (after 4 pm) No other coupons or discounts apply. Members who walk, bike or take SEPTA will not be charged a fee.

To expedite service at the gate on concert nights:

• There will be a cash and members-only lane. Cash is much faster to process than credit cards.

• Membership cards will be required to receive discounted rates or free entrance.

• Gate attendants will not be able to look up your name if you do not have your membership card on hand for concerts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

S E A S O N S  S U M M E R  2 0 1 1  |  16
Train Enthusiasts’ Night
Thursday, June 16, 5-8pm
Join us in the Upper Gallery of the Widener Visitor Center to celebrate everything trains!
Watch train club members, artists, and train manufacturers take over the Arboretum. Catch the enthusiasm and come visit these wonderful displays.

Annual Beeches, Butterflies and Bugs Summer Evening
Thursday, June 30, 5:30-7:30pm
Beech ($115) members and above are invited to an exclusive evening of family fun. Author of Just About a Year: All About Seasons Leslie Ehrin, will be on hand to teach children the beauty of the arboretum’s plants and trees from her book About a Year: All About Seasons. Preschoolers are invited to our Children’s Outdoor Classroom to listen to fabulous stories as told by a William Jeanes librarian. Take a walk after story time and then have lunch in our café! In case of bad weather we will gather inside.

Knowledgeable guides will point out champions and discuss their history and merits.

Storytime at the Morris Arboretum
Tuesday, July 12, 10:30-11am
Join us as we partner with the William Jeanes Library on this new event. Toddlers and preschoolers are invited to our Children’s Outdoor Classroom to listen to fabulous stories as told by a William Jeanes librarian. Take a walk after story time and then have lunch in our café! In case of bad weather we will gather inside.

Member’s Only Bring a Friend for Free Night
Thursday, July 14, 5-8pm
Members of all levels are invited to pack a picnic dinner or dine at the café. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend, family or neighbor to the Morris Arboretum for free on one special evening. Members are welcome to bring more than one guest, but are asked to accompany their guests to the Arboretum. Registration is NOT required.

Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Weekend at the Garden Railway
Saturday and Sunday, July 16 at 11 am Come visit the Garden Railway and see Thomas & Friends take over the tracks.

Summer Concert Series – Plan B Jazz Band
Thursday, July 28, 7pm
Bring a picnic dinner and sir back and relax to the sounds of jazz in the summer garden. Free beer tastings, sponsored by Flourtown Beverage, from 6-7pm. Concert begins at 7pm. Blankets or chairs are recommended. For more information see p. 15.

Great trees at Morris Arboretum
Sundays in July at 1pm
Meet in front of the Widener Visitor Center and take a guided tour of the Great Trees at the Morris Arboretum.

Circus Week at the Garden Railway
June 25 - July 4, daily 10am-4pm
The first circus was held in Philadelphia in 1793. Come see the Big Top and the circus trains, learn the history of the circus and watch for a few surprises. Free with regular admission.

“Teemendous Twos” – Morris Arboretum Celebrates Out On A Limb’s 2nd Birthday!
Saturday, July 2, 11am-1pm
Join us Saturday morning as we celebrate the 2nd anniversary of Out On A Limb with kid’s crafts and complimentary birthday cake at noon, while supplies last.

XPN Kids Corner Concert – Yosi and the Superdads
Thursday, August 11, 6:30pm
Grab the kids and pack a picnic for an evening of fun and entertainment in the garden. Blankets or chairs are recommended. For more information see p. 15.

Grandparents Day
Sunday, September 11
BYOG (bring your own grandparent) to Morris Arboretum on National Grandparents Day. Kids who bring a grandparent get $2 off admission, making Youth admission $5.

Don’t miss these Fall events coming in October!
1 The Scarecrow Walk returns October 1 through October 16! Thirty original design scarecrows from the silly to the spooky, will be displayed within the beauty of the Arboretum’s fall garden.
2 Fall Festival Sunday, October 2, 11am-3pm Don’t miss this afternoon of autumn fun that has become an annual tradition for many families. Make your own scarecrow, paint a pumpkin, sample different varieties of apples. Some activities have an additional fee.