Volunteer
Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for Arboretum volunteers.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an historic public garden and educational institution. It promotes an understanding of the relationship between plants, people, and place through programs that integrate science, art, and the humanities. The Arboretum conducts four major activities: education, research, outreach, and horticultural display. As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania provides research and outreach services to state agencies, community institutions and to citizens of Pennsylvania and beyond.

Education: Liza Hawley, efhawley@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 128

Garden Railway: Pam Morris Olshefski, pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 188

Grist Mill: Bob Gutowski, gutowski@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext 132

Horticulture: Pam Morris Olshefski, pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 188

Archives & History: Leslie Morris-Smith, leslm@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 175

Physical Facilities: Tom Wilson, wilsonth@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 108

Information:
(215) 247-5777
www.morrisarboretum.org
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Volunteer
Pilar Rivera, Editor

Contributors: Jody Sprague, Elizabeth Gavula, Terry Cinque, Jim Kohler, Elise Smith, Jeff Clark, Larry Godley, Michelle Conners, Robert Gutowski

Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at edintern@morrisarboretum.org or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern

Photos: Pilar Rivera, unless otherwise stated

Cover photo: Melissa Maddonni Haims’ original sculptures will be on display from now through October, or until they succumb to the elements.

Contents

Letter from the Editor 1
Note from the Guides Chair 2
Lightning Protection System 3
Volunteer Opportunities 4
Notes to Volunteers 7
Continuing Education 8
Hort Committee Notes 9
Story from the Archives 10
Garden Highlights 11
Upcoming Events 12
Letter from the Editor

I’m sure you’ve noticed the colorful yarn installations popping up around the Arboretum this past week. I think it’s so fun and different! According to Morris Arboretum Director of Marketing, Susan Crane, “Our search [for an artist] began shortly after Morris Arboretum Director of Horticulture and Curator, Tony Aiello saw a yarnbombing exhibit at Kew Gardens in England. He was so intrigued with the display that Morris Arboretum set about to find our own, native yarnbomber. And we found her.”

The artist is Philadelphia-based Melissa Maddonni Haims, and the majority of her ‘graffiti knitting’ work is made using recycled, reclaimed, and reused textile materials.

Yarn bombing is said to have originated in Texas during the 1990’s and early 2000’s. It was initially a creative way for knitters to make use of their leftover yarn or abandoned projects. It is also meant to be a temporary installation, because the sculptures are left exposed to the elements and allowed to weather. Yarn bombing has become an international movement in which many artists participate.

Come see Wrapped Up: Yarb Bombing at Morris Arboretum from now through October.

Pilar Rivera
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Note from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

OK, I admit I have never been excited about grabbing a bloom in my garden, then popping it into my mouth. But then I read an article in Fine Gardening from December 2015. The title of the article was “You Can EAT That!” The following are suggested as tasty morsels:

Bee Balm: Use bee balm fresh or dried, as you would any herb; it works well alone or in dry rubs and marinades for meat and fish. It is also useful in herbal vinegars.

Rose: Use raw petals in salads or to decorate cakes and cookies. Rose petals are included in many Middle Eastern and Indian recipes.

Lilac: The flowers are best eaten raw. Toss them into salads, stir them into vanilla yogurt, sprinkle them on top of lemon sorbet, or use them to decorate cakes or cookies.

Rose of Sharon: Collect the flowers as soon as they are fully open. Remove the pistils and stamens, use the flowers as serving bowls or stuff flowers with herbed goat cheese, press the petals closed, dip in beaten egg and breadcrumbs and bake them.

Redbud: Unopened buds can be pickled and used instead of capers. Flowers and buds can be tossed raw in salads or used to decorate iced cakes and cupcakes.

Common Daylilies: Sauté the buds as a vegetable or use individual petals raw in salads. Dried petals can be powdered and added to risottos or pasta dishes for a pretty orange color.

Common Milkweed: Blanch them in boiling water for a minute or two, then sauté or roast them. Fully opened flowers are delicate and contain lots of sweet nectar. They make a natural pink simple syrup.

Magnolia: Petals can be chopped and raw in salads, but the most popular way to eat them is pickled in a mild rice wine vinegar.

I hope this has expanded your culinary horizons. I must admit I still have several reservations. If you do try one, please let me know and I will share your findings.

Happy Gardening,
Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides

Magnolia stellata, star magnolia
Leading a group of children on a tour, you have probably been asked this question more than once when paused by one of the Arboretum's especially large trees. The thick, braided wire we see running up the trunk of many of the largest trees at the Arboretum is part of a lightning protection system. At a location high in the tree the wire is attached to a piece of metal that typically ends in a sharp point. At the bottom, the wire is connected to a long, thick metal rod buried deep in the ground.

Philadelphia's own Benjamin Franklin is credited with designing the first lightning rod. Today’s lighting protection systems, which we will refer to as simply lightning rods, operate on the same principle. The primary purpose of a lightning rod is to prevent lightning from striking the structure or tree to which the system is attached. In order to understand how a lightning rod works you should first understand a bit about how lightning occurs.

During a thunderstorm negative charges accumulate at the base of huge storm clouds. The negative charges induce strong positive charges which accumulate in the ground as well as, for example, in a tree rooted in the ground. Lightning is really an electrical discharge between the negatively charged cloud bottoms and the positively charged ground or tree. Meanwhile, the air between the clouds and ground becomes filled with charged particles including electrons, which are negatively charged particles.

The tip of the lightning rod collects electrons from the air, preventing a large buildup of positive charge in the tree, which would set the stage for a lightning strike. Thus, the primary purpose of the lightning rod is to prevent a lightning strike from occurring. A lightning rod does not attract lightning; it is designed to prevent a strike. If for any reason the charge in the air is not sufficiently reduced by the rod and lightning strikes anyway, the rod serves a second purpose. The lightning discharge will likely (hopefully!) strike the rod and be short-circuited to the ground, preventing the lightning from damaging the tree.

Over the years, trees at the Arboretum have been struck and damaged by lightning. Arboretum Director Paul Meyer tells a story about a fine, mature, tall Nordmann fir \( (Abies nordmanniana) \) that was growing across the road from the Bender oak. In July 1987 it was hit by lightning, damaged badly and eventually removed. But that is not the end of the story. Soon after the tree was removed, a young tree was noticed growing by the original tree. There continues to be debate about whether this was a rooted branch layer or a seedling, but today that young tree has matured into a beautiful Nordmann fir. Go out sometime and see it standing tall among the firs across the road from the Bender oak.

*Prunus takesimensis,* cherry
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer for Arbor Week
Share your love of trees with children during our annual Arbor Week Program. Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling plantings, the roots exhibit, and the tree trivia game show. Feel free to sign up via the Team Up calendar for multiple slots!

Tuesday, April 19th - Friday, April 22nd & Monday, April 25th

Special Arbor Day Volunteer Opportunity
This year we will be helping Girl Scout Juniors receive their Gardener Badge. Volunteers will explain some of our garden features such as the Orange Balustrade and Rock Wall, talk about what makes a plant hardy in our region, and help plant up seedlings. This program is open to all visitors. If you are interested and available to help, please contact Michelle Conners, mconners@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 x109.

Saturday, April 23rd | 11:00 am-3:00 pm

Volunteer for Plant Sale
Help make this year’s plant sale the best yet. Shifts are available Tuesday-Saturday. There is a job for everyone and plant sale volunteers earn a 20% discount coupon! Please click here to see the dates, times and available slots.

Questions? Contact Michelle Conners at mconners@upenn.edu or x109.

Tuesday, May 3rd - Saturday, May 7th
(Plant Sale runs Thursday - Saturday)
Volunteer Workshops

**Kibale National Forest Conservation Lecture**

The Kibale National Forest in western Uganda is a rainforest filled with five types of monkeys, one of the largest concentrations of chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa, and a wide array of other animals and beautiful flora. The forest was being devastated by wood harvesting for heat and cooking, and is now being saved through the education efforts of the New Nature Foundation. Becka Goldstone will join us to explain how the New Nature Foundation is building solar stoves, heat boxes, and planting fast-growing trees specifically for harvesting, involving local industry.

**Wednesday, April 13th | 12:00-1:00 pm | Upper Gallery**

![Cornus officinalis, Japanese cornel dogwood](image)

**Trip to Jenkins Arboretum**

Be inspired by the lovely 20-acre public woodland garden, maintained by the Elisabeth Phillippe Jenkins Foundation in Devon. We will be treated to a talk by Steve Wright, Director of Horticulture, Curator and former Morris intern, in the LEED Gold John Willaman Education Center. Then, we’ll enjoy a guided walk through the garden to view spring ephemerals and early blooming azaleas. Steve will discuss issues affecting deer populations and offer some landscaping tricks you can use to create a beautiful home garden that deer won’t eat! Bring questions, a notepad, a brown-bag lunch, and leave with some inspiration for the season ahead. Meet at the kiosk for departure by van. Reserve your space on the van via the TeamUp calendar, or email Lisa Bailey, BaileyL@upenn.edu

**Tuesday, April 26th | Depart at 9:30 am | Meadow Parking**

![Cedrus atlantica ‘Glauca’, blue atlas cedar](image)
Volunteer Workshops

Understanding and Managing Trees

Joshua Best, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arboriculture Intern, will lead us on a walk to explore the management efforts that have been made to protect and preserve the arboretum’s outstanding trees. He will share about tree biology to help foster an understanding of why certain management practices are crucial to the establishment and preservation of healthy trees. This is an opportunity to learn how to explain Arboretum tree management practices to visitors.

**Thursday, May 12th | 1:00-2:30 pm | Meet in Upper Gallery**

Basics of Tree Identification

Join fellow guides for an introductory session on the basics of tree identification. Learn how to use leaves as a visual ‘key’ to aid in identifying trees at the Arboretum and at home. This session will follow directly after Josh’s program, Understanding and Managing Trees.

**Thursday, May 12th | 2:30-3:00 pm | Upper Gallery**
Volunteers, please stop at the kiosk every time you arrive after 10:00 am. Do not fly past our Visitor Experience staff, expecting them to recognize the side of your face or your car. Even if you’re running late - we know the traffic around here can be awful! Let our staff at the kiosk know you’re a volunteer. It’s the polite thing to do, and it makes a difference in our admission numbers. Thank you!

**Notes to Volunteers**

**Entrance Etiquette**

Most of us have certain tours that we are not so comfortable doing and therefore decline when we get asked by our day chair. This year we are going to ask, if you don’t want to do a certain tour on your day, that you come anyway, shadow another guide, and be prepared to lead one of the activities. This is a way to feel comfortable and familiar with those harder tours so that you can enjoy saying “Yes!” next time you get a call.

We are excited to announce that our great group of trainees will become apprentices this month. Instead of shadowing tours, as in the past, they are being asked to come observe your tours and also participate by teaching one of the activities. Please be prepared to accept a little help from new guides this spring!
Continuing Education

- Education Volunteer Workshop Hours -

We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for Education volunteer workshop hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses. To register online, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes, or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

- Magnolias: Tour with an Expert
  Tuesday, April 12, 1:00 p.m.

- Restoration Ecology
  Thursday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.

- Sustainability in the Garden
  Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

- Morris Moth Night:
  Celebrating National Moth Week
  Tuesday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.

Volunteers who have given a minimum of 30 hours over the past year may take these and any other courses at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet in the Education Office for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.
Horticulture Committee Notes

Horticulture Committee Meeting Notes
3/16/16, Larry Godley

Horticulture Department Update – Tony Aiello
The new enclosure fence for the Rose Garden project has been started with the installation of new perimeter deer fencing. The new upper and lower garden gates will be installed during the next few months.

Tree Care Program:
Arborist work is still being done by contract to supplement our staff. Crown reduction of some veteran trees is being done for safety reasons and to prolong the life of the trees.
Deer exclosure fencing is being installed around native tree restoration area in the woodland area along the Wissahickon Creek to preserve the plantings.
We will be utilizing goats to control the poison ivy and invasive weeds on the farm around the Quercetum area funded by a Green Fund grant from the University.
The Garden Railway will receive several new buildings including the Art Museum, Water Works, Penn Museum and new houses, trains and benches from a gift from a generous donor.

Maloney Garden Redesign – Paul Orpello
Paul presented his proposed design for the Maloney Garden, which incorporates the design features from the Morrises’ original plan from the Orange Balustrade to the present Pennock Garden. The Maloney Garden will feature a new style, incorporating structural boxwoods, grass planted in a matrix pattern, with various perennials also planted in a matrix pattern for color in all seasons. The Pennock Garden will be planted with similar colors.

Intern Presentations:
Self-Guided Arboriculture Tour – Josh Best, Arborist Intern
Josh has selected 19 trees to show location, description of each tree, and what has been done by pruning and arborcare. He is using Story Map software to create educational material visually for visitors and guides. The program will be available online on a smartphone or from the Arboretum website.

Redesign of Wisteria Walk Terminus – Maya Czulewicz, Rose & Flower Garden Intern
Maya proposed to redesign the terrace at the end of the Wisteria walk and the terminus of the axis beginning in the Rose garden, to provide a more visually appealing area and comfortable place for the visitors to rest. She will also incorporate a central feature to draw the visitor’s eye through the Wisteria Walk to the terminus.
Story From the Archives

Do you imagine Lydia Morris as a dignified Quaker lady, reserved at all times? Did you think Lydia would decline tea not served in bone china? Forget any staid Victorian image you might have. As the Morrices travelled the world, there are these image-changing diary entries recorded by Louisa Kellner:

April 7, 1890 – Kyoto
Mr. “Hyliotrop [sic] mustache”* got tattooed to-day; Miss Morris would like to have a snake on her arm, and I too would love to have something scratched on my skin, but Mr. Morris is very much opposed to it, and most likely we won't get his permission...

*Heliotrope is a pink-purple tint. Mr. Woodworth, a fellow traveler, used noticeable pomade on his mustache and Miss M and Miss K privately joked about its appearance.

Aug. 11th, 1890 - Banoff [Banff]
Miss Morris with some of her acquaintances in the Hotel went into the woods after breakfast to gather mushrooms, which were prepared in the Hotel Kitchen in quite a delicious way...

January 5, 1895 – Cairo
We took Luncheon at the Mena Hotel, and when we started to walk over to the Pyramids – to “walk” over, as I thought, - to my surprise I found three Camels ready, and quite cooly [sic] Mr. Morris ask me to mount one of them. I was under the impression that he was joking, and I simply laughed and said: “O no, not I!” He laughingly answered: “Yes, yes, but you must.” I still felt very happy in my mind, when to my horror I saw Miss Morris in her matter of fact, and quite deliberate way, make herself quite comfortable on the humpback of one of these huge creatures, just as if she had done so dozens of times.

February 5, 1895 – Luxor [This entry also shows that John Morris could be quite a tease.]
“Now, Miss Kellner, I want you to look! This tomb is noted for beautiful frescoes under the ceiling.” A match was struck – the illumination soon was in full blaze – I of course looked up and – beheld – the ceiling full of bats – nasty, horrible bats. I just gave two piercing yells – distressing enough to awaken the dead, I should think – but the living ones near me just laughed at me, and the bats certainly were very much disturbed by the light as well as by my shrieks – they all began to flutter, I felt myself getting hot and cold, truly I was in mortal terror – and I began to understand why Miss Morris had not come along. However, I was made to understand that I got off very easy, as I had not been taken into the worst of these bat-tombs! Back into the saddle again, and this time I surprised Miss Morris at the way in which I mounted on the poor donkey’s back that she went into perfect convulsions of laughter. I can't describe the manner in which I did it, but I was seriously advised by Miss Morris never to do it again – and the picture she made of it – was anything but commendable!
Garden Highlights

Prunus mume ‘Omoi No Mama’
Omoi No Mama Japanese apricot
Mercury Loggia

Magnolia stellata
star magnolia
Cafe

Pieris japonica ‘variegata’
variegated Japanese pieris
near Garden Railway

Abeliophyllum distichum
Korean abelialeaf
Cafe

Prunus ‘Okame’
Okame cherry
English Park
### Upcoming Events

**April 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cherry Walk Training 10:00 am</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td>Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival 10 am-3 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Retention Committee 1:30 pm</td>
<td>Kibale National Forest Conservation Lecture noon-1 pm Education Committee 1-2 pm</td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week Arbor Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td>Arbor Week Arbor Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arbor Week</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trip to Jenkins Arboretum 9 am- 3 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 pm  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2 pm - 3 pm  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11 am - 3 pm  
**2nd Saturday of the Month:** Mill Volunteer Workday 9am
# Upcoming Events

## May 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Guides Council 1:30 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tree ID Workshop- Josh Best 1-3 pm</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Save the Date** -

   Education Volunteer Award Dinner

   Wednesday, June 1st 6-8 pm

## Weekly Volunteer Events

- **Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2 pm - 3 pm
- **Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11 am - 3 pm
- **2nd Saturday of the Month:** Mill Volunteer Workday 9am