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.

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Volunteer
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Contributors: Jody Sprague and Elizabeth Gavula
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Photos: Alex Correia-Sareyka, unless otherwise stated

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Cover photo: Chionodoxa lucilliae at the Ha-Ha Wall.
Letter from the Editor

Despite being America’s Garden Capital, living in the city can present a variety of challenges for the gardener or nature-lover. I love the culture and vitality of Philadelphia, but I find myself frustrated by the lack of space I have to do things like compost or keep a garden. Instead, I pay a monthly fee for someone to pick up organic waste from my stoop, and for a share of local produce to be delivered to my neighborhood.

This season, however, I look forward to creatively gardening the tiny space around the rowhome I recently moved into. I’ve amassed a collection of salvaged and homemade containers that will soon be brimming with foliage and flowers. My husband and I also spent a Saturday hauling fill and many years worth of buried trash out of our tiny backyard, in preparation for the construction of a raised bed. With only concrete or junky fill material around our house, all soil must be purchased and carried into the yard. Despite all the work going into such a modest garden, I love the challenge of trying to turn our 12 x 12 foot urban plot into a green oasis.

Alex Correia-Sareyka
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Hello Everyone,

My grandmother, Anna Palmer, would feel right at home with our mantra of reduce, reuse, recycle. She wasted nothing, and when she passed away I inherited a box of buttons she had removed from worn out clothing, not to mention a bunch of old zippers. I didn’t realize at the time how hip Anna was, but she was way ahead of her time. I read in the March 2016 publication of National Geographic about organizations that are trying to save food from being wasted. The article, written by Elizabeth Royte and found here, presented the following statistics.

Every year 2.9 trillion pounds of food – about a third of all that the world produces – never gets consumed. So how does this food get wasted?

- 20% -- lost during picking and sorting
- 3% -- lost during storage and shipping
- 2% -- lost during juice production, canning, or baking
- 9% -- discarded at wholesalers and supermarkets
- 19% -- uneaten and discarded in homes

Have you noticed when you go to the supermarket how beautifully arrayed are all the fruits and vegetables? I admit that display appeals to me, I love the symmetry of it, it makes me want to take home some of that lovely produce. But, “Mother Nature” does not grow perfect-looking produce. The imperfect is rejected, usually tossed by the farmer, who bears the financial loss. There is an environmental toll as well. Producing food that no one eats squanders the water, fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, fuel, and land needed to grow it. According to Royte, if food waste were a country, it would be the third largest producer of greenhouse gases in the world, after China and the U.S.

One of the leading activists in the war on food waste is Tristram Stuart, author of Waste. A native of England, he travels the world encouraging farmers to donate “ugly” produce. He also works to have standards relaxed towards grading of fruits and vegetables. Another activist is Doug Rauch, former president of Trader Joe’s, who opened a nonprofit supermarket called Daily Table in Dorchester, MA. They sell discounted fruits and vegetables that are about to be discarded, as well as inexpensive surplus goods and healthy to-go meals.

This is an issue that we must be concerned about, not only now, but also in the future. The population of the world is estimated to reach nine billion by 2050, which will greatly increase food production. However, agriculture is already responsible for 70% of the planet’s fresh water withdrawal, 80% of the world’s tropical and subtropical deforestation, and 30 to 35% of human-caused greenhouse gas emissions.

The article recommended several common sense solutions to the looming crisis – slash waste, change our diets to eat less meat and dairy, divert fewer food crops to biofuels, and boost yields on under-performing acres. Are we willing to make these changes?

Happy Gardening,

Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
Continuing Education

Volunteers who have worked over 30 hours during the past year may take classes at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet in the Education Office for a complete list of volunteer class pricing. To sign up for a class please call 215-247-5777 ext. 125.

Native Plants: Getting Started
Marc Radell, Penn State Master Gardener
April 13 at 7:00 p.m.
Learn why native plants are better suited for their local ecosystems, how they support desirable wildlife, and how they can help reduce your maintenance efforts.
Volunteer price: $13

Introduction to Aquaponics
Nicholas Renner, Founder, Integrated Symbiotics
April 22 at 10:00 a.m.
Learn about a novel approach to agriculture that combines aquaculture (raising freshwater fish) with hydroponics (soilless agriculture) in a symbiotic environment. Volunteer price: $27

- Education Volunteer Class Hours -
Some classes are eligible for Education Volunteer class hours. Below are upcoming approved courses. To register, call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot (Session 2)
Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader
April 20 at 8:00 a.m.
Join Ruth and explore some of the hotspots for birds at the Morris Arboretum, including wetlands, meadows, and the woodlands along the Wissahickon Creek.
Volunteer price: $13

Rain Gardens: Beautiful and Sustainable Design
Bess Trout, Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern
April 22 at 10:00 a.m.
Learn how rain gardens can be a beautiful addition to the landscape, while managing stormwater. See examples of rain gardens at the Arboretum, and see suitable native plants. Volunteer price: $13
Volunteer Opportunities

Arbor Week Sign-Ups

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!

Monday, April 24th - Friday, April 28th

Session 1: 10-11:30 a.m.
Session 2: 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.

Volunteer for the Plant Sale

Please join us to help make the 2017 Morris Arboretum Plant Sale at Bloomfield Farm another successful year of connecting people with plants. Volunteers will receive a 20% coupon good for one-time use on May 12th or 13th. Please click here to see dates, times, and available slots.

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

Tuesday, May 9th - Sunday, May 13th
(Plant sale runs Thursday-Saturday)
Volunteer Opportunities

Happy Wanderers

The Welcome Cart has been retired, and now we are looking for more “Happy Wanderers” to be helpful guides in the garden. Happy Wanderers can volunteer anytime we are open to visitors, but are most needed on weekends. If the weather looks beautiful, then we are probably busy and could use your help!

To volunteer, just come to Education Office and grab a green volunteer apron. Place yourself at high-traffic areas in the garden, such as at the Visitor Center or near the Log Cabin. Be prepared the engage visitors and answer their questions. If you have questions about this program, contact Liza at efhawley@upenn.edu.

Updated Guiding Checklist

There is an updated version of The Guiding Checklist on Team Up. Please remember that it is helpful to go through this after tours are completed.
Gardens in England

Join us for a wonderful slideshow and presentation as Patrice Sutton, assistant to Paul Meyer, shares highlights of a recent trip to the United Kingdom, where she visited a variety of gardens and enjoyed wonderful interactions with our public garden colleagues across the Atlantic.

Thursday, April 13
10:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Twilight & Peonies

A special spring evening of delicious food and awards for volunteers

Wednesday, May 24th | 6 - 8:00 pm | Tent Behind Widener Visitor Center

Please join us at the annual Education Volunteer recognition event, Twilight and Peonies. Circle the date on your calendar, bring your spouse or significant other, and enjoy this gala event being held in the tent behind Widener.

Our delicious potluck dinner is always a highlight of the evening, so please contribute by signing up via the Team Up Calendar for one of the following: an appetizer, main dish, vegetable, salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided for your enjoyment.

We hope you will also participate in our annual plant exchange. All you need to do to participate is place a favorite plant from your garden in a pot, attach a label with growing requirements/bloom time, and place your plant on the back wall of the tent when you arrive. Then at the end of the evening you can take home another plant of your choice. This is a great and free way to add diversity to your garden. The evening will also feature the presentation of volunteer awards. Don’t forget to wear your name tags!

Please RSVP on the Team Up Calendar. Don’t forget to sign up to bring a dish to the potluck! If you have any questions, contact Alex at acorreia@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext. 159

photo courtesy of Paul Meyer
Guides: It’s time to dig, dig dig! But not in your garden yet. Time to dig into Morris Arboretum’s online archives for those interesting tidbits to plant into your usual spiel and give it new life. Explore the archives and enrich your trove of information with facts of all description – quirky, educational, charming, and historic, like those below! Click here to browse the online archives, or click the articles referenced below to view them.

Otto Haas, co-founder of Rohm and Haas, is often considered to be the second founder of the Morris Arboretum. For 17 years he chaired the board of advisors and, by recruiting major donors to his vision of the Arboretum’s potential, he initiated the transformation of the Morris Arboretum from “a sleepy spot” to the showplace it is today. His family remembers how he challenged his children to see who could grow the largest tomato – and he always won.

(Arboretum Voices – The oral history series about the Morris Arboretum: Janet and John Haas: Remembering Otto)

In August of 1928 Charles F. Starke, V.M.D., 703 Bethlehem Pike, Erdenheim, sent to John Morris a bill for $5.00 to cover obstetrical services for livestock John had on the farm.

(Collections: Estate Years – Invoices of the 1920’s)

In a meticulously documented catalogue of his valuable possessions, many of which were later donated to museums, John Morris wrote this about Article No. 467 Vase of “Red Jade”: “After my 65 birthday had dawned, 12 day, 7th mo, 1912, my good sister handed me a little box and from it I withdrew this beautiful little Vase which Vantine & Co. called Red Jade. New to me. It is an exquisite piece of workmanship. Chinese.” The catalogue entry includes John’s detailed sketch of this item, an example of his impressive artistic talent.

(Catalogue No. 2 of Articles belonging to John T. and Lydia T. Morris)
Garden Highlights

Mertensia virginica
Virginia bluebells
Out On A Limb

Chionodoxa lucilliae
glory-of-the-snow
Out On A Limb

Helleborus ‘Blue Lady’
Lenten Rose
Out On A Limb

Prunus ‘Snofozam’
SNOW FOUNTAINS weeping cherry
Swan Pond

Pieris japonica
Japanese pieris
Japanese Overlook
# Upcoming Events

## April 2017

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## Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers  8:30am-12pm  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm
### Upcoming Events

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