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
Emily Clark, Editor
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Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at emiclark@upenn.edu or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

Contents
Letter from the Editor 1
Notes from the Guides Chair 2
Volunteer Opportunities 3
Meadow Restoration 6
An Ode to Fifth Sundays 7
Volunteer Photos Events 8
Continuing Education 9
From the Archives 10
Garden Highlights 11
Upcoming Events 12

Cover Photo: Hosta ‘Twister,’ Twister plaintainlily, Lydia’s Seat

Magnolia grandiflora
‘Bracken’s Brown Beauty’

x Sinocalycalycanthus raulstonii ‘Hartlage Wine’
Hartlage Wine Raulston allspice
Letter from the Editor

As the summer’s heat and humidity have settled in over the past month, I have started to become adjusted to spending my days in the Arboretum with all of you. Even though it’s been a short time since I first arrived here, I’ve really been struck by the sense of community that exists within these gates. From the networks of native plants, birds and insects that call the Arboretum home, to the many guides and volunteers who help nurture young minds and new found passions, it’s all what makes the Morris Arboretum such a special place. Thank you for welcoming my fellow interns and I into this community.

As we enter August, summer’s last full month, I’m going to continue to soak in as much of this golden time of year as I can. I hope you do the same.

Sincerely,

Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

Echinacea purpurea
purple cornflower
Rose Garden
Notes from the Guides Chair

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER

I hope you are all enjoying my favorite season - summer. My spirits soar each morning as I view the flowers, vegetables, and beautiful trees in my very own yard. Even some of the extreme heat days that we have experienced haven’t dampened my mood, but instead got me thinking about where the phrase “dog days of summer” originated. The “dog days of summer” were historically the period following the rising of the star Sirius, which Greek and Roman astrology connected with heat, drought, sudden thunderstorms, lethargy, fever, mad dogs, and bad luck. I love the season anyway and recently asked my friend, Marie Higgins, a published author and poet, if she could write a poem about summer that I could share with all of you. Marie did just that so I hope you enjoy her poem, “Dog Days of Summer”.

In summer I like to walk my dog
Down a country road
On an early day with rains just done
Happily, we spy a toad

We watch which way it hops
And follow it along
To wetlands or the creek bed
While howling our own song

I never know which way I’ll go
Because you’re here with me
Your nose might spy some flowers
Where I’ll notice a honeybee

One time I let you dig a little
By a maple tree
Unfortunately, you disturbed a nest
Where yellow jackets went free

It’s good we learned the terrain so well
For we knew where to hide
Not far away a large pond pooled
From rains that poured inside

We jumped from a dock and splashed around
Til all the stinging was done
We swam to shore to rest and bask
In summer’s unending sun

I hate to see this season go
Because it’s the best of all
That is, until the landscape change
And you walk me into fall

-Enjoy every minute of this special season!!    Joan
Volunteer Opportunities

Save the Date

Sunshine & Roses
Annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening

Thursday, September 20 | 5-7pm
in the Rose Garden

Fall Guild Sign-Ups

It’s that time of the year again:
look out for an email from Lisa Bailey shortly to select your fall
guiding preferences (September through March).

Please hold your primary guiding day two weeks in advance, before setting other appointments
(vacations and illness excluded).

Thanks to every one of you for the wonderful experiences you provide to our student and adult groups.

Fall Refresher Training Workshops

Guides, save the date! Fall training workshops are just around the corner.

Sunday, September 26th
Tuesday, October 2nd

Be sure to check the September issue of Volunteer for more details.
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer Trip to Stoneleigh

Thursday, August 16th | 9:15 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
On August 16th, please join us for a guided tour of Stoneleigh in Villanova, previously the private home of the Haas family and opened to the public in Spring of 2018. This beautiful 42-acre property contains open vistas, towering trees, and exquisite historic hardscape elements. Our one and ½ hour tour will include both the gardens and interior of the main house. Following the tour, we will stop for lunch at nearby Paramour Restaurant. Arboretum van transportation will depart from the lower meadow at 9:15am, and we expect to arrive back at the Arboretum at approx. 2:15pm.

Please sign up via the TeamUp calendar, or by email: baileyL@upenn.edu

Saturday Morning Live Tours

Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace
Join an experienced guide for a different featured tour each month. Spread the word. Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

August 4th | Water Features Tour
We’ll visit some of the Arboretum’s natural and man-made water features, discuss their visual beauty and the evolution of the use of water in gardens, bringing the beauty of natural waterfalls and streams into our lives. Enjoy the visual impact and calming effect of these delightful garden features.

September 1st | More Hidden Gems Tour
This new tour includes a combination of structures, sculptures, trees, and vistas. See these garden gems that are off the beaten path or hidden to most visitors, plus a few that are “hidden” in plain view.

October 6th | Sculpture Tour
November 3rd | Native Tree Tour
December 1st | Conifers Tour
Volunteer Opportunities

Book Club: Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Will Kimmerer

September 7 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, mother, and woman, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we’ve forgotten how to hear their voices. Bringing together memoir, history, and science, she examines the botanical world, from pecans to sweetgrass to lichens to the three sisters (corn, beans, and squash). She shares her efforts to reclaim her culture through studying indigenous language and learning to weave baskets. Intertwined throughout is the history of the injustices perpetrated against indigenous people and the land. A trained scientist who never loses sight of her Native heritage, she speaks of approaching nature with gratitude and giving back in return for what we receive.

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff. We meet the first Friday of each month for a fun and engaging discussion of a book about plants, nature, and the environment. You are invited to attend for any session and do not have to attend every month.

Sign up via Teamup is suggested but not required.

For additional information, contact Deitra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com.

Reminder: Volunteer as a Happy Wanderer

Looking to deepen your involvement with the Arboretum? Volunteer as a Happy Wanderer!

Happy Wanderers help guests get the most out of their visit to the Arboretum by welcoming guests and answering questions throughout the Arboretum. Just grab an apron from the Education Office and share your knowledge with guests. No need to sign up in advance.

Wanderers are welcome any day, but particularly encouraged during holidays, special events, when the weather is nice, or any other day when guest traffic is expected to be high.
Meadow Restoration
by Jess Slade and Emily Clark

On your way into the Arboretum over the past few months, you may have noticed some big changes in the meadow to the right of the driveway. Many of these changes are thanks to the natural lands team and the work they are doing to promote native plants at the Arboretum.

Our team is in the process of re-imagining one of the Arboretum’s several meadows as an ecological sanctuary for pollinators, birds, insects and other wildlife. In years past, this one-acre meadow has largely been occupied by noxious weeds and resource-hungry plants like Canada thistle, black swallow-wort, and poison hemlock. An undesirable ground cover of poison ivy formerly carpeted the area.

As part of the meadow restoration process, the Arboretum has contracted out a succession of herbicide treatments in this area in order to control the invasive species before replanting. Following the third and final treatment late this spring, our team seeded the area with a mix of native grasses, forbs, and a cover crop of oats. The oats, the first to germinate and grow in the area, will help prevent erosion and protect delicate perennial seedlings during germination and establishment. Since many of the species in our mix will not begin to germinate until next spring, much of what will be seen in the area this season are the oats and fast-growing annual weeds that we will routinely mow in order to prevent seed from setting. “This is all a process,” Jess Slade, McCausland Natural Lands Horticulturist, emphasizes. The end goal is to establish a community of native grasses and wildflowers including plants like milkweed, boneset, asters and goldenrods, sedges, and warm season grasses. These plants will provide nectar for pollinators and seed and cover for birds.

“You may not see much color for a couple of years,” Jess says, but rest assured for coming seasons the meadow is well on its way to becoming a haven for native plants and animals. Things may look different now, but in the next few years you’re sure to be able to appreciate a new landscape of wildflowers and butterflies on your way into the garden. In the meantime, if you see Jess or Mike Cranney, 2018-2019 Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern, in the meadow, be sure to thank them for the work they’ve been doing.
An Ode to Fifth Sundays—A Poem

by Jenny Godwin

A little doggerel for the dog days of August
Fifth Saturdays. There’s only four
A special day to give a tour.
December is the first for me
To guide on the Fifth Saturday.

I’m ready in my hat and coat
My badge, my watch, my smile, my notes.
But weather sometimes interferes
And will it happen, what I fear?
Yes, snow brings chaos to the roads
Oh dear. The Arboretum’s closed.

March comes around, it’s nearly Spring
With all the promise that it brings
But life’s a bit unkind today
And puts a curbstone in my way
My toe is broken. I can’t walk.
Another leads the walk n’talk.

And now it’s June. Fair flaming June.
A sunny day. At night, full moon
It’s very hot. A humid day
It’s 95°! Please stay away!
It’s 2, and just then three arrive
And we have fun and we survive!

September seems so far away. A quarter
Of a year. It oughtta
Be real nice, I think.
I’ll wait and see what Autumn brings
To those who dream of tours and things.

If you have something you would like featured in Volunteer, please send it to emiclark@upenn.edu.

Photos: Bees enjoy Magnolia grandiflora, Azalea Meadow
Volunteer Photos

The Arboretum is lucky to have such stellar volunteers.

Here are a few of our favorite moments from the past month.

To have your photos featured in the next issue of Volunteer, please email them to:

Emily Clark, emiclark@upenn.edu
Continuing Education

Be on the lookout for your Fall 2018 Brochure!

The Arboretum offers a variety of classes that are eligible for Education Volunteer hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses.

Keep an eye out for the complete Fall 2018 Class Brochure to be mailed the first week of August.

Eligible Courses

- **Twilight Garden Stroll | Bob Gutowski**  
  September 12

- **Birding at the Arboretum | Ruth Pfeffer**  
  September 22, 26 and October 18

- **Woody Plant Propagation | Shelley Dillard**  
  September 29

- **Hops and History: A Tour of Bloomfelid Farm | Bob Gutowski**  
  October 4

- **Autumn Dawn Ramble | Jess Slade and Bob Gutowski**  
  October 14

- **The Architecture and Landscape of Chestnut Hill Tour | Barry Jeffries**  
  October 13

- **The School of John Morris’ Dream | Joyce Munro**  
  October 17

Volunteers who have worked over 30 hours during the past year may take Morris Arboretum 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.
From the Archives
by Joyce H. Munro

In 1927, Lydia T. Morris’s secretary submitted registration papers to an exclusive association for a specimen newly produced at Compton. Lydia wanted to call it Compton’s Rosebud. Unfortunately, that name was in use so she had to rename it. Through the years, John and Lydia registered many specimens and they always chose quixotic names like Compton’s Jonquil Liphie, Compton’s Buttercup Liphie and Compton’s Myrtle Mystic. Each was tenderly cultivated over many months and eagerly awaited. And like anything well-bred, they were worth the effort—long-lasting, low maintenance and very attractive. But there was a downside to this species—due to certain regulations at the time, their color range was severely limited.

Rebecca Thompson Morris, John and Lydia’s mother, once imported a rare specimen from England. We don’t know the name she chose for hers. An even rarer specimen was raised by their father, Isaac Paschall Morris—an unusual two-color variety that deserved a name like Cedar Grove’s Primrose Mystic. Alas, its moniker was simply Betsey Baker.

Like her parents and brother, Lydia invested money in these beauties. In fact, she once paid $550 for a fine pair at an event so notable it made the newspapers in 1920. What’s more, she was one of only two women who bought that day at the Linden Grove pavilion. They say buyers came from all over the U.S., even Canada. The fanciest stock was purchased by buyers from Toronto and Lydia’s neighbor George Widener—at exorbitant prices. The reporter gushed that it would go down in history as one of the greatest sales ever held of . . . wait for it . . . Jersey cattle.

Of all the Compton heifers registered with the American Jersey Cattle Club during the 1900s, my favorite names are Compton’s Lily Liphie and Compton’s Mystic Expectation. But charming names and pedigrees aside, these cows had work to do—producing lots of milk rich in butterfat.

Take a look at Compton’s cattle here.

Read more about the Linden Grove cattle auction here.
Garden Highlights

Hibiscus ‘Lohengrin’
Lohengrin hibiscus
Garden Railway

Asclepias tuberosa
butterfly weed
Swan Pond

Albizia julibrissin
silktree albizia
Azalea Meadow

Rosa ‘MEIdomonac’
BONICA rose
Rose Garden

Eryngium yuccifolium
rattlesnake master
Haha Wall
### Upcoming Events

**August 2018**

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<td>1 Wed. Talks - Vince Hort. Volunteers with Jess Slade</td>
<td>2 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3pm</td>
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<td>4 Nature Play 11:00 am, Saturday Morning Live 11:00 am</td>
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<td>Hort. Volunteers with Vince Marrocco</td>
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<td>15 Hort. Volunteers at Compton</td>
<td>16 Stoneleigh Trip</td>
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<td>19 Grist Mill Demonstration 1:00 pm</td>
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**Weekly Volunteer Events**

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

### September 2018

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<td>Labor Day Gardens Open Office Closed</td>
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<td>Hort. Volunteers with Lucy Dinsmore</td>
<td>Sunshine and Roses</td>
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<td>Hort. Volunteers with Vince Marracco, Guide Refresher</td>
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