VOLUNTEER
August 2019

Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
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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Photos: Alessandra Rella, unless otherwise stated

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Front Cover: Hydrangea macrophylla ‘Lanarth White’
A few weeks ago I visited the Philadelphia Museum of Art to go see the “Yoshitoshi: Spirit and Spectacle” exhibit, featuring the works of Yoshitoshi, the great master of Japanese traditional woodblock prints. I particularly love Japanese woodcuts for their contrasting, vibrant colors that always seem to work harmoniously together. As I walked into the exhibit, I was immediately drawn to the prints of women in their colorful, floral kimonos (which inspired my color scheme for this month’s newsletter!). But as I made my way from print to print, I also began to notice the exquisite detail that was given to the sky in each piece, and in particular to the moon.

The depictions of the moon in these prints were nuanced, representing the sometimes odd, not so perfectly round or crescent shapes that the moon takes. Each moon was depicted in a slightly different color, with shades of yellow, brown, white, and green, mixed carefully and originally into a blend that brought each sky to life. My meditation on the moons led me to reflect on how complex and beautiful the sky is, but also how often we forget to look up.

Our natural world is filled with details, colors, and constant changes, that are oftentimes easily missed as we move through our busy lives. I have been particularly enjoying my time here at the Arboretum because I’m given the chance daily to observe and notice how the world, too, is busily moving around us. Recently I’ve noticed those newly bloomed flowers that were not there yesterday, or the routines of the birds I can now recognize. So I invite you to look around often, wherever you are, and take in the subtleties of your surroundings. And if you find yourself out on a lovely (hopefully cool!) summer night, don’t forget to look up at the moon!

Happy August,

Alessandra Rella
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
The Elusive Tree

I was recently leading a cart tour for a few delightful visitors when I came upon a fellow guide, Jenny Godwin, gazing excitedly upon a tree with dramatic white, hanging flowers. Jenny proceeded to tell my group all about this tree, the dovetree (Davidia involucrata). By the time I arrived home, I had already received an email from Jenny with information about this lovely tree.

The story begins with famed plant collector and explorer, Ernest Henry Wilson. Wilson introduced a large range of roughly 2,000 Asian plant species to the western world – about 60 of these bear his name. He was born on February 15, 1876 in the Cotswold village of Chipping Camden, England, and from an early age he loved plants.

In 1897 Wilson began work at Kew Gardens and soon after gave thought to becoming a teacher of botany, but instead accepted a position with James Veitch and Sons as their plant collector in China. French missionaries had long been collecting plants in China and shipping dried herbarium specimens back to their fellow botanists in Paris. It was the knowledge of this treasure trove of exotic plants that inspired Sir Harry Veitch to hire Wilson as his collector in China.

Veitch was particularly anxious to retrieve a dove tree so Wilson was soon dispatched to China. While traveling west, Wilson stopped at Arnold Arboretum in Boston to meet Charles Sprague Sargent and learn techniques for shipping seeds and plants without damage to them. From Boston he continued across the US by train, sailed from San Francisco, reached Hong Kong in 1899 and headed straight to Simao. While there, he talked to Augustine Henry, who had seen the rare dove tree three years previously. Although the tree seen by Henry had been recently cut down by the time Wilson reached it, Wilson found specimens 360 miles away in Hubei province.

Wilson collected for two years in Hubei Province before returning to England in 1902. His determination and adventurous spirit made him legendary and he returned with seeds of 305 species of plants and 35 cases of bulbs, corms, rhizomes, tubers, and dried herbarium specimens. Wilson’s illustrious career as an explorer and collector continued until his tragic death in an automobile accident in 1930.

Davidia involucrata, the dovetree, is a medium-sized deciduous tree in the family Nyssaceae. The dovetree is native to South Central and Southwest China, but it is widely cultivated elsewhere. It is a moderately rapid growing tree with a height of 66-82 feet and it is best known for its flowers. Each of these has a pair of large, pure white bracts at the base that perform the function of petals. These petals hang in long rows beneath the level branches. Flowers are best in late May. On a windy day the bracts flutter in the breeze like white doves or pinched handkerchiefs – hence the common name.

Two dovetrees can be found at the Arboretum – check out the Collection Connection on the website for their exact locations and tune in next spring for a spectacular show!

Enjoy the rest of the summer – stay cool!

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides
Announcements

**Fall Guide Sign-Ups**

It’s that time of year again!

**Look out for an e-mail from Lisa Bailey, coming your way soon, 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 work you do!

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**Fall Refresher Training Workshops**

Hello Guides!

Mark your calendars to attend the Fall Guiding Refresher on your primary guiding day.

Attendance at any one session is required:

- **Monday, September 9**
- **Wednesday, September 11**
- **Friday, September 13**
- **Tuesday, September 17**
- **Thursday, September 19**

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Meet at Widener. We'll take a van to Bloomfield Farm when needed.*

We’ll be reviewing existing tours and activities, but also introducing a brand new activity: “What Tree Am I?” which will match student interests and hobbies to a particular tree at the Arboretum. It’s a lot of fun!

**Schedule:**
- 9:00am – Mill and Hort Center Tour refresher
- 10:40am – Water Cycle Tour refresher
- 11:45am – Individual Tour activity refreshers
  (Water Testing, Web of Life, Clear Cutting, What Tree Am I)
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Saturday Morning Live Tour: Water Features

Saturday, August 3 | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

Explore the beauty of fountains and waterfalls and discuss the evolution of the use of water in gardens. Enjoy the visual impact and calming effect of these delightful garden features.

First Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday, August 7th | 12:30 p.m. | Widener Terrace

This month’s workshop will be with Jess Slade, focusing on recent projects in the natural areas. Wear your walking shoes!

Q&A with Bill Cullina

Wednesday, August 14 | 12:30 p.m. | Upper Gallery, Widener Visitor Center

Please join us for an informal question and answer session with Bill Cullina, the Arboretum’s new F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Please bring your lunch and your questions. Bill is looking forward to meeting you.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Summer Evening Hidden Gems Tour

Wednesday, August 14th | 6:30 p.m. | Widener Terrace

This month’s summer evening tour features garden gems that are off the beaten path or hidden to most visitors, plus a few that are “hidden” in plain view.

Volunteer Bookclub: September

Friday, September 6th | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Every schoolchild learns about the mutually beneficial dance of honeybees and flowers: the bee collects nectar and pollen to make honey and, in the process, spreads the flowers’ genes far and wide. In The Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed a similarly reciprocal relationship. He masterfully links four fundamental human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato. In telling the stories of four familiar species, Pollan illustrates how the plants have evolved to satisfy humankind’s most basic yearnings. And just as we’ve benefited from these plants, we have also done well by them. So who is really domesticating whom?

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff and meets the first Friday of each month, through December. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month. Contact Dietra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com with any further questions.
Sunshine and Roses

Save the Date!
One of our annual volunteer appreciation events, Sunshine and Roses, is coming up:
Thursday, September 19th | 5-7 p.m. | Rose Garden

Here are some memories from years past!

Pictures taken mainly by Jennie Ciborowski, former Education Intern
The Fall 2019 Course Brochure is coming out soon! There are many great classes to look forward to. Here’s a sneak peak to what’s coming up:

**Wine, Cheese, and Spectacular Trees**  
Paul Meyer, Retired F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Morris Arboretum  
*Tuesday, September 10 | 4:30-6:30 p.m.*  
Take an early evening stroll through the Arboretum with our past executive director, Paul Meyer, and learn about ten specific outstanding plants. Afterwards, enjoy a glass of wine, snacks, and discussion on the Arboretum’s tree canopy, *Out on a Limb.*

**Birding at Bombay Hook in the Delaware Bay**  
Sharon Meeker, Birder and Trip Leader  
*Tuesday, September 17 | 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.*  
Join us for a trip to Bombay Hook National Wild Refuge, Delaware’s single best-known birding site. Songbird migration south takes place in September and October and waterfowl migration begins in early fall, so there will be lots to see! You may also spot a few bald eagles, which are known to nest at the refuge. Bring binoculars, lunch, and a drink, and dress for the weather.

**Lecture: Public Gardens in Today’s World**  
William Cullina, F. Otto Haas Executive Director of Morris Arboretum  
*Wednesday, October 23 | 2:00 pm | Ambler Theater: 108 E. Butler Avenue, Ambler, Pennsylvania*  
In this lecture and public reception, Bill Cullina will discuss the increasingly critical role that public gardens play in American society. He will consider biophilia: the affinity of human beings for other life forms, and reflect on the ways that gardens provide accessibility, improve physical and mental health, engage in critical research, and provide space for quiet joy and transcendence.

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.
In the Arboretum

Seen this around?

It’s a Spotted Lanternfly!

By Luke Hearon
The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern

Five years ago, an American would be hard-pressed to find information on the exotic planthopper Lycorma delicatula, known as the spotted lanternfly. This voracious pest has since become a familiar fiend to many. Spotted lanternfly hails originally from Asia and is currently established in 14 counties in southeastern Pennsylvania as well as smaller portions of New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, and a single county in Virginia (see map here). Its native host tree is the tree of heaven (Ailanthus altissima), but spotted lanternfly egg masses have also been found on a variety of smooth-barked trees and manmade structures. The lanternfly is particularly notable for its gregarious feeding habit, with juveniles often seen feeding by the dozens and adults by the hundreds, carpeting the surface of the trees on which they feed. Spotted lanternflies are currently known to feed on more than seventy plants and have a particular fondness for fruit trees and grapevine sap. While the adults primarily feed on woody plants, the juveniles may also be found on a variety of herbaceous plants.

Extensive feeding of spotted lanternfly on trees will cause stunting and general health decline and indeed may be fatal to the tree. The loss of vigor caused by lanternfly feeding increases the vulnerability of the afflicted plant to infection and infestation by other pathogens and pests. Additionally, spotted lanternfly excretions attract sooty mold and ants, wasps, and other unfavorable pests to the homeowner’s backyard.

The easiest methods to control spotted lanternfly are by physical means. Spotted lanternfly egg masses are present from late September to May. They should be thoroughly smashed or scraped from their surface and destroyed in rubbing alcohol or hand sanitizer. Juveniles and adults should also be smashed if seen around, but to control spotted lanternfly, trees should be “sticky banded.” Learn more about this process here. In the case of particularly vulnerable trees, high spotted lanternfly pressure, or protection of plants without a central trunk, there are insecticides available that have proven efficacious against spotted lanternfly.
From the Archives

Five Things You Might Not Know About…
John and Lydia Morris’s Vacation Destinations

by Joyce H. Munro

Every August, siblings John and Lydia left their Philadelphia townhouse on Pine Street to go on summer vacation—but their destination was not Compton or Cedar Grove. Here are some of the places they went through the years:

1. Saratoga Springs, New York (1887 & 1894). People flocked to Saratoga Springs to “take the waters” and go to America’s oldest race track. When the Morrises vacationed here the second time, the resort town held its first floral parade and “Grand Floral Ball,” which became annual events until 1905.

2. Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island (1889, 1891 & 1892). In the 1890s, the Gladstone Hotel was the “centre of gayety” for Philadelphians. The highlight each week was the Saturday night hop at the Casino Ballroom. Read about the Narragansett Pier here.

3. Banff National Park, Alberta, Canada (1890 & 1899). Banff Springs Hotel, the “castle in the Rockies,” was a luxury hotel in a dramatic setting made accessible by the Canadian Pacific Railway. John and Lydia first stayed here on the way home from their “trip around the world” with Louise Kellner.

4. Lake Louise, Laggan, Alberta, Canada (1905). August weather can be iffy at Lake Louise, as John and Lydia found out when they were caught off guard by a snow storm while taking a walk around the lake.


As you head off for vacation, you may want to consider one of the picturesque places the Morrises went. Wherever you’re going, have a wonderful time!
Garden Highlights

**Rosa canina**  
*dog rose*  
*Rose Garden*

**Hibiscus syriacus**  
*‘Diana’*  
*Diana rose-of-Sharon*  
*Visitor Center*

**Bromeliaceae**  
*bromeliad*  
*Outside Fernery*

**Perovskia atriplicifolia**  
*Russian sage*  
*Around the “After B.K.S. Iyengar” sculpture*
### Upcoming Events

**August 2019**

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon, Garden stays open until 8 p.m.

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Garden opens at 8 a.m.
## Upcoming Events

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