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

Photos: Lynn Weaver, unless otherwise stated  
Cover: *Adiantum tenerum* ‘Gloriosum Roseum’

Rosa ‘RADsunny’ - THE SUNNY KNOCK OUT rose

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Recently, some of the interns and I took to the Wissahickon for a hike. We walked slowly and stopped often—both unavoidable side effects of dropping four young plant professionals in the woods together. We watched maple leaves the size of our heads bend in the breeze, marveled at honeylocust thorns longer than our hands, and wowed over newly fallen trees. There was one plant, though, that held our attention above all others.

Wineberry (Rubus phoenicolasius) is a non-native shrub that shares its genus with native raspberries and blackberries. It forms dense, spiny thickets along trails in the Wissahickon, and can be differentiated from its native relatives by reddish stems, caused by a coat of red hairs and spines, and a silvery under-leaf. This time of year, the fruit is ripe and bright red.

Given it’s invasive status and the barbs, we probably should have loathed the wineberries along the trail. Instead, we reveled in them. Whole swaths of path where dotted with red, and in the heat of the day, they tasted like summer. We couldn’t have hated them if we tried, although truth be told we didn’t try that hard.

Here’s to summer berries and time spent outside,

Lynn Weaver  
*The McLean Contributionship*  
*Endowed Education Intern*
Thanks for the memories. I’ll see you in September.

The hundreds of volunteers I’ve shared experiences with and learned from made my 36 years at Morris possible and a pleasure. I can’t imagine or describe my career arc – or that of the Arboretum - without volunteers as major influences and characters in the story telling. Thank you all, and all who preceded you, for many more great memories than I can remember and more help than I can ever repay. Its not just about all the work we have done. It’s also about the good that the working has done by bringing together our individual skills and time to engage and serve the community. I am looking forward to the day after Labor Day when I can apply to be an Arboretum Volunteer.

Liza asked me to write a few words announcing my retirement - a.k.a., transition to volunteer eligibility – and my work history. I have been employed twice by Morris. The first was in 1979-80 as a Gardener Trainee in the CETA program, part of the War on Poverty. I was 30 years-old, odd-jobbing to make ends meet and about to be married. We received the minimum wage ($2.90/hr.) and, incredibly, tuition benefits at UPenn. I enrolled in Wharton’s night school. CETA participants shared some classes with the Intern program that had just started. the Upper Gallery was still the garage and occasional class space. The interns inspired me to pursue a college degree in horticulture (Wisconsin-Madison).
The overall experience laid the foundation for my public garden career at Morris. In 1985, following my Longwood Graduate Fellowship, I accepted a position to manage the Morris Arboretum’s 1987 Centennial programs, including the Philadelphia and Chelsea Flower Show exhibits. When the grant funds ran out, I was invited to continue contingent on my getting grants and consulting income to pay for my position. My responsibilities grew as Director of Urban Forestry, then Public Programs, then Education and Visitor Experience. There was a brief stint as Acting Executive Director. I have had the good fortune to work on many programs and projects with great colleagues, volunteers and partners. I lived in the Carriage House and the Miller’s Cottage for over 30 years. That was a daily dose of paradise. I hope I have been a good steward during my tenure.

It is time to move on and pursue other opportunities, including volunteering at Morris. I hear there are great people, amazing plants and wonderful places to get to know.

Bob Gutowski
Director of Education and Visitor Experience

1979 b&b transplanting class. We used ramps, lots of rope and lots pulleys to hand-dig and move this Parottia. Its still growing by the Loggia.
GARDENING IS ALIVE AND WELL DURING THE PANDEMIC

Hope you are all safe and well during these difficult times. I really miss you all, but at least the weather has been nice (but hot) so I’m sure you’ve been enjoying your gardens and other outdoor activities. According to a recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer one upside of the pandemic is the renewed interest in gardening. In fact, there are millions more home gardeners than in 2017 when a National Gardening Association survey found that roughly a third of U.S. households were growing food in either home or community gardens.

Horticultural companies nationwide have seen their seed inventories diminished or wiped out. Burpee’s George Ball reported that their business typically spikes in the spring, but the length and size of this year’s spike was unfathomable. Ball continued by saying, “We underestimated the reaction of non-gardeners to being suddenly pent-up indoors.”

When the Penn State Extension offered a 10-week spring webinar designed for all levels of gardeners, they expected a few hundred participants. Instead, they got 3,000 all over North America. Some enrollees wanted to produce their own food as they were concerned about the quality and safety of food. For others it was strictly recreational or as Nancy Kanuss, a Master Gardener coordinator at Penn State observed, “they just needed to get outside for their physical and mental well-being.”

The surge in pandemic gardening is not limited to a specific demographic. The Penn State webinar participants were from cities plus suburban and rural areas. They came from 34 states and a few Canadian provinces. Ball explained that vegetables and salad greens were the most popular items, but new gardeners were trying everything in the Burpee catalogue. Experienced gardeners mainly stuck with familiar items that they bought in larger quantities to expand their gardens.

Gardening’s psychological benefits were apparent long before Covid-19 struck. A 2005 study by Jeannette Haviland Jones, a Rutgers psychology professor, determined that flowers produced both immediate and long-term impacts on happiness. In fact, one of the first things my 97-year-old mother mentions in our conversations is how beautiful the flowers I planted for her are. Since the mid-1990’s, Rutgers has offered a certificate program in horticultural therapy. Students are trained to use plants and plant-based activities to help injured or ailing individuals and those with disabilities achieve specific goals.

When the pandemic finally ebbs, some of the new gardeners will surely return to other interests. Ball does not expect a repeat of this spring’s gardening mania. However, he says, “if this thing lingers – and we’re seeing it – this will transform American gardening. People will continue to learn that as a hobby, gardening is way up there.”

Looking forward to seeing many of you at the Arboretum in upcoming weeks either volunteering or enjoying the magnificence of our home away from home. Also, I am currently reading a fictional book that I think you might enjoy called The Heirloom Garden by Viola Shipman – it is an intriguing story interwoven with lots of information about flowers and gardening.

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides

Source: Green Thumbs Galore by Frank Fitzpatrick, Philadelphia Inquirer, July 13, 2020
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

--- Nature Art Showcase ---

Calling all artists, artisans, and crafters!

September’s issue of Volunteer is celebrating the very best of creativity and nature, featuring a spread of nature-inspired artwork by you.

To be featured, submit a photo of your nature artwork to edintern@morrisarboretum.org, along with your name and the title of the work.

Artwork could include:
- drawing, painting, sculpture, embroidery, knitting,
- plant presses, or woodworking.

The sky is the limit!

Last day for submissions: August 15th

--- September Book Club ---

The Triumph of Seeds by Thor Hanson
(Longwood Gardens Community Read 2019)

Sept 11 | 1:00 PM | Zoom

We live in a world of seeds. From our morning toast to the cotton in our clothes, they are quite literally the stuff and staff of life: supporting diets, economies, and civilizations around the globe. Yet, despite their importance, seeds are often seen as commonplace, their extraordinary natural and human histories overlooked. Thanks to this stunning new book, they can be overlooked no more. This is a book of knowledge, adventure, and wonder, spun by an award-winning writer with the charm of a fireside story-teller and the expertise of a field biologist. A fascinating scientific adventure, it is essential reading for anyone who loves to see a plant grow.

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month.

If you would like to participate, please contact Deitra Arena in advance at deitraarena@gmail.com
A Look Back: The July Garden Stroll

Below are some photos from last month’s Volunteer Garden Stroll.

Thank you again to our garden hosts, Laura Axel, Lynne Dunn, Donna Hecker and Elise Smith, for sharing their time and backyards with us!

Lynne Dunn’s Garden

Elise Smith’s Garden

Garden photos by Conne Broderick unless otherwise stated
Laura Axel’s Garden

Donna Hecker’s Garden

Photos courtesy of Donna Hecker
Learn from Home

Below are some freshly scheduled classes to look forward to.

We will continue to offer online classes through the fall, with sign-up for classes online as usual. Be sure to regularly check morrisarb.org/onlineclasses for updates on classes to be offered.

Benefits Bugs In Your Garden

Samantha Nestory, Horticulturist, Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden
Wednesday, August 19 | 10:00am - 11:00am

Did you know that less than 1% of insect species are considered pests? That leaves a lot of room for insects that we can learn to love, like the beneficial bugs in your garden! In this class, we will learn about the benefits of some key insect groups, how to identify them, and how you can attract them to your yard. Feel free to come with questions about your own mystery insects and let’s learn just how cool bugs can be!

members: $10 | non-members: $15

Planting in Small Spaces: Inspiration from Woodland’s Cradle Graves

Robin Rick, Facilities and Landscape Manager, The Woodlands
Friday, September 4 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

In this class, offered by The Woodlands in West Philadelphia, we will focus on creating colorful gardens in small spaces. We will use the cemetery’s cradle graves, which are similar to raised garden beds, as our inspiration. Robin will begin with a history of The Woodlands’ nationally recognized volunteer Grave Gardener program, including the 18th and 19th century horticultural history of the site as context. We will then look at the specific plants and plant combinations that do well in the Grave Gardens, providing blooms and interest from late winter through fall.

members: $10 | non-members: $15

Container Gardening

Eloise Gayer, Horticulturalist, Morris Arboretum
Friday, September 11 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

This class will discuss a few of the endless container gardening possibilities including herbs and vegetables, succulents, and ornamental containers for all seasons (especially fall!). You will learn all aspects of caring for a container garden including choosing a container and soil mixture according to your growing goals, planting, watering, dead-heading, fertilizing, and any other maintenance tasks. We will also explore potential plant palettes for thriving containers, and methods of overwintering container plants for reuse year after year.

members: $10 | non-members: $15
A Picture Worth 300 Words

by Joyce H. Munro

This nature-inspired metal fountain was installed at Compton around 1913 in the center of a shallow concrete pool in English Park. Water sprayed from the tips of the cattails and from a circle of lotus blossoms, creating a multi-tiered cascade.

With few clues to go on, we’re unsure who designed the fountain or when the Morrises bought it. The designer could have been a student at the School of Industrial Arts of the Pennsylvania Museum, where John served on the Board of Trustees. In those days, trustees and donors sponsored student competitions in several areas of study, including sculpture, drawing, painting and metalwork.

During the early 1900s, Charles J. Cohen, a fellow Museum trustee with John, sponsored the competition for fountain design and in 1912, the winner was Lillian May Daiss. No examples of Lillian’s work have been located, but plenty of work exists for the student who received Honorable Mention that year—John Ray Sinnock. A decade after graduating, Sinnock was appointed Chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint and is best known for designing the Roosevelt dime and Franklin half dollar.

I would give a stack of Roosevelt dimes to see the fountain designs of both Daiss and Sinnock, on the chance that one design features cattails, lotus blossoms and a giant ruffled-edge lotus leaf for the basin. It’s also unlikely the cattail fountain was designed by Janet Scudder, whose playful “water baby” fountains were in high demand—she dubbed fountains of dogs and stags, storks and cattails “equally dreary.”

At some point after Compton came under the custodianship of the University of Pennsylvania, the cattail fountain was moved to the center of the Rose Garden, where its graceful waters splashed a while longer. Today, the fountain resides indoors at Bloomfield Farm.
Garden Highlights

Milkweed Beetle photo by Delainey Williams

Agastache ‘Black Adder’
Giant hyssop
Pennock Walk

Tetraopes tetrophthalmus
Red Milkweed Beetle
Wetland

Rosa ‘AUSmum’
PAT AUSTIN Rose
Rose Garden

Lantana camara ‘Lucious Citrus Blend’
Lucious Citrus Blend lantana
Pennock Walk

Rosa ‘Sweet Pea’
Sweet Pea rose
Rose Garden