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
Jennie Ciborowski, 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: Jennie Ciborowski, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: *Ginkgo biloba* and *Acer pseudosieboldianum* leaves scattered on the ground near Mercury Loggia.

*Ginkgo biloba* and *Acer pseudosieboldianum* leaves scattered on the ground near Mercury Loggia.

*Abies cephalonica* Greek fir
Letter from the Editor

While recently taking a walk in the woods I became fascinated by the varying patterns of tree bark. Leaves and blossoms may steal the show during the warmer months, but at this time of year bark takes the stage and provides texture throughout the forest. I was inspired during my stroll to think about the many interesting qualities of tree bark and have decided to share a few below.

- Tree bark has evolved to protect the tree despite drastic environmental conditions. Several species of trees such as Pinus sylvestris (Scots pine) and Eucalyptus tereticornis are resistant to fire due to tree bark adaptations.

- *Populus tremuloides* (aspen) photosynthesize through both their leaves and their tree bark.

- Both bark texture and chemical composition play a big role in what types of wildlife a tree can support. These qualities may vary as a tree matures making trees an ever-evolving host.

Make sure to take some time to observe the many varying textures of bark we have in our Arboretum landscape this winter and have a wonderful holiday season!

Warm wishes,
Jennie Ciborowski
*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*

1) *Liriodendron tulipifera* 2) *Acer griseum* 3) *Acer mono f. ambiguum*
Notes from the Guides Chair

Israeli Honeybees Have it Sweet

As many of you know, numbers of honeybees are on decline all over the world due to colony collapse disorder (CCD) for reasons that experts can’t completely explain. However, according to a 2016 article in the Jerusalem Post the honeybee population in Israel is not experiencing this same decline.

According to Israeli Honey Board CEO, Hertzel Avidor, “We try all kinds of things such as supporting Israeli research into all the biological and botanical angles on CCD, from boosting bees’ immune systems to developing nectar rich plants. Through these varied measures Israel’s goal is to ensure that its bee population declines no more than 10% each year compared to a 30% to 50% decline per year in the United States”.

Avidor explained that the first step in avoiding CCD is to follow Agriculture Ministry guidelines for getting rid of Varroa mites, a parasite considered a major cause of CCD. An even more significant strategy for maintaining healthier bees and tastier honey, however, is the practice of planting 80,000 to 100,000 new seedlings – especially eucalyptus trees – each year so that bees have a healthy and varied diet throughout the seasons. These seedlings are provided free to beekeepers by the nurseries of Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael-Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF). Aviv Eisenband, head of forestry and professional development at KKL-JNF’s Forest Service, explains that everyone benefits from this program as Israel has trees, the bees have flowers, and the keepers have honey!

Beekeepers are enthusiastic about the project for another reason. The introduction of winter flowering plant species by the KKL-JNF has prevented them from having to feed their bees with sugar water in cold months. This practice is expensive, not as beneficial to the bees and produces honey of a lower quality. Due to Israel’s interest in collaborating with other countries on the CCD problem, KKL-JNF recently released an English translation of its catalogue listing nectar-rich seedlings for beekeepers. The catalogue lists many varieties of eucalyptus as well as trees and shrubs such as tamarisk, broad-leaved bottle tree, Syrian ash, za’atar, rosewood and arroyo sweetwood. Most honey sold in Israel is flavored by a mixture of orange, plum, eucalyptus, avocado, carob, and thyme.

Hagay Yavlovich, director of KKL-JNF’s Seeds and Nurseries Division, trains both Israeli and foreign beekeepers on plant varieties and proper planting techniques so that honeybees are nourished throughout the year. He claims that one of the causes of CCD is a monotonous diet. We assume that honeybees in Israel are stronger and we have fewer problems with CCD than other countries because bees are given a wide variety of flowers to taste. And it doesn’t hurt that Israeli beekeepers receive nectar rich plants and trees for free!!

Hope your holidays are sweet,
Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Curious About Conifers?

Saturdays, December 9 & 23, January 13 & 27 | 2:00 pm | Widener Terrace

The Conifer Tour is returning for another season! Bundle up for a special tour highlighting a selection of impressive conifers at Morris Arboretum. These notable specimens provide multi-seasonal interest with an array of forms, foliage, bark, and of course, cones! Don’t miss this opportunity to satisfy your curiosity about conifers and enhance your guiding repertoire.

Wellness Walks Shout Out

Our very own Morris Arboretum Wellness Walks were featured in the October edition of UPDATE magazine. This publication for Independence Blue Cross members focuses on a variety of health and wellness topics. To see the online version for the article please click here. Thank you so much to all of the volunteer guides that lead our wellness walks and help improve our community each and every weekend.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Horticulture Volunteer Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 13th | 12:30 pm
Upper Gallery
Treat your fellow horticulture volunteers to your favorite dish or dessert and enjoy the celebration!

Education Volunteer Winter Potluck

Thursday, December 14th | Noon - 2:00 pm
Upper Gallery
Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a winter celebration with fellow education volunteers and staff! RSVP to Jennie at jmc5832@upenn.edu or via Team Up. Please write the name of your dish in the RSVP.

Volunteer Writers Wanted!

Are you an avid gardener, nature enthusiast, or traveler looking to share your expertise and adventures? We are currently seeking guest writers for future editions of Volunteer. Please email Jennie Ciborowski at jmc5832@upenn.edu if you are interested in contributing!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

How Trees Work

Thursday, January 11th | 1:00 p.m. | Upper Gallery

This workshop, for Morris Arboretum education volunteers, will explore the many occupations (ahem!) of trees, including building homes for squirrels and running a floral shop in the suburbs. Participants will be expected to playact being a branch, flower, and root system. Prizes for the best performance :) In reality, the workshop led by Charlie Mazza, will cover tree (as well as other plant) structure and some important biological reactions taking place inside the tree. In case of inclement weather this event will take place on Thursday, January 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Tu B’Shevat - The New Year of Trees

Help children celebrate Tu B’Shevat! It’s the Jewish New Year of Trees. In Israel, Tu B’Shevat is a national holiday and children don’t go to school. Instead, they go with their families or classmates to plant young trees in the countryside and learn about the importance of trees. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week at the following times. Feel free to volunteer for multiple slots! Sign up via Team Up.

- Sunday, January 28: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
- Monday, January 29: 10-11:15 am
- Tuesday, January 30: 10-11:15 am
- Wednesday, January 31: 10-11:15 am
- Thursday, February 1: 10-11:15 am
- Sunday, February 4: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
Guide’s Reflections: Day of Sharing
by Liza Hawley

In 2000 the National Docent Symposium was held in Philadelphia, prompting local attendees to create the Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium as a way to share best practices. The Consortium holds three meetings per year at different member venues and a larger, all-day gathering every other year. The Arboretum has been a member since its inception and one of 33 cultural institutions represented at October’s Crossroads event.

The six guides who attended reported the following. Deitra Arena said Dr. Baker, Chief Operating Officer of the Philadelphia Zoo, was inspiring and both she and Jim Kohler noted that he spoke about pioneering innovations at the Zoo that have enhanced the visitor experience, improved the well-being of animals, and have been adopted by other zoos worldwide. Bette Perlman and Joel Tumberello learned that when trying to change behaviors, it is important to assume your audience is already “on board” and avoid being preachy.

Next, seven to eight organizations at each table shared their thoughts on different topics. Jody Sprague moderated Does Your Organization Use the Principals of STEAM [Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math] in Your Tours? Bette was at the table and describes a very lively discussion that included the idea that technology encourages users to linger over objects, observing more closely.

The table session Joan Kober attended, See Less, Learn More, focused on the value of spending more time with fewer works of art or artifacts, resulting in deeper learning. One technique for honing observation skills involves having visitors carefully observe an object for 30 seconds and then turn around and describe what they have saw. The second was a guided-questioning approach, which inspired Joan to come up with more probing questions while pointing out garden features.

Deitra’s table discussed Innovations That Enhance Visitor Experience. Though not always on topic, the exchange was interesting and informative. Technological innovations (such as wifi) may attract visitors, but some felt it disrupted the experience. A wide variety of events meant to attract visitors and enhance visitor experience were identified, including book clubs, contests, reenactments, special tours or classes that focus on a single subject, and holiday events. The idea of “docent on demand” [guides stationed within the museum to answer questions as they come up] was discussed, as well as timed tours, available every day. They also talked about Docents vs Guides: some thought the term “guide” sounds friendlier, but others felt “docent” reflects more accurately the intensive training they receive.

New Events, New Audiences, and Changing Roles for Docents was the topic at Jim’s table. Every organization is trying to attract younger adults by staging events with alcohol: beer gardens and wine tasting classes have proved successful. Some organizations are holding collaborative exhibits and events with other cultural institutions in the area; and many now offer two-day admission tickets. Docents are increasingly being asked to participate in fundraising events.

Jody is delighted that the Arboretum has had Consortium meetings here, always followed by tours. “[It] allows our members to meet docents/guides from other organizations and … always come away with a new appreciation of our role at Morris.”
Continuing Education

**Holiday Tabletop Tree with Lights**
Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location  
Saturday, December 9 | 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

In this workshop you will create a special centerpiece that is sure to put you into the holiday spirit. Create your own tree from long-lasting greens and choose your colors for bows and glass balls. This spectacular holiday centerpiece will be 22 to 24 inches tall and decorated with fresh flowers and lights.

**Volunteer price:** $55.00

**Create a Beautiful Holiday Arrangement for your Table or Mantle**
Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location  
Sunday, December 17 | 1:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Design a beautiful, long-lasting arrangement for your table centerpiece or fireplace mantle. You will have a wonderful assortment of greens, flowers, branches, candles, accessories and more to choose from to make your one-of-a-kind arrangement.

**Volunteer price:** $55.00

**Upcoming Classes**

Be on the lookout for new and exciting class offerings coming to the Morris Arboretum spring 2018. Expect to see your course brochure arrive mid-January!

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 Elizabeth Gavula

Archives Quiz

So you passed last month’s quiz on Morris history from the Arboretum’s estate era? See how you do with teasers about the University Era, 1932-1975.

1. What department of the University of Pennsylvania was charged with managing the Arboretum when Lydia Morris died in February, 1932?

2. Who served as the first arboretum director and for how long?

3. Plant exploration in what countries yielded hundreds of rhododendron, primula, meconopsis, lily and numerous other plants and seeds?

4. In 1933 the University looked to Frederick Law Olmstead’s firm for assistance on a comprehensive plan to transform the property from a private estate into what?

5. The first membership fee was set in 1935 for how much per year?

6. What caused great changes in the 1940’s including reduction of staff, lawns allowed to become hay, neighboring cattle grazing in Arboretum fields and a three-year break in the publication of the Arboretum Bulletin?

7. What caused the destruction of the Japanese Tea House in 1954?

8. With whom did Arboretum director John M. Fogg, Jr. correspond to in 1954 about receiving specimen boxwoods?

9. In what year was the Victorian mansion (built by John and Lydia in 1887) demolished by the University?

10. In what year was the Volunteer Guide group started by Susie Walker, Peggy Bowditch, and others to provide informal tours?

1) The Botany Department  2) Dr. H. P. Rodney True, 1932 - 1939  3) Plants were received from a famous plant explorer, Joseph Rock, from China and Tibet  4) A public garden  5) $10  6) World War II  7) Hurricane Hazel  8) President Dwight D. Eisenhower for the Eisenhower farm in Gettysburg  9) 1968  10) 1973
Garden Highlights

- **Hamamelis virginiana**
  - common witchhazel
  - English Park

- **Enkianthus perulatus 'J. L. Pennock'**
  - J. L. Pennock white enkianthus
  - Near the Garden Railway

- **Amsonia hubrichtii**
  - Arkansas amsonia
  - Azelea Meadow

- **Ilex aquifolium**
  - English holly
  - Near the Pennock Garden

- **Lindera salicifolia**
  - spicebush
  - Long Fountain

- **Hydrangea quercifolia 'Pee Wee'**
  - Pee Wee oakleaf hydrangea
  - English Park
## Upcoming Events

### December 2017

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30 am  
**Sundays:** Winter Wellness Walks 1:00 pm
## Upcoming Events

### January 2018

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