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: Alex Correia-Sareyka unless otherwise stated

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Cover photo: View of the swan pond on a foggy morning
Letter from the Editor

Though it was a particularly warm January, we enjoyed a couple beautiful days of snow at the Arboretum. I arrived at my work station at the Horticulture Center on a Friday morning after a night of snow, and I had a spectacular view of the snow-covered landscape from my desk. The white backdrop made wildlife easy to spot, and we were able to observe a flurry of activity from a variety of birds and even a fox. I was amazed at the stunning photos I was able to capture while inside and at my desk, through the large windows of the Horticulture Center. Below are some of my favorite photos from that wintry day.

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

Hidden along the Thames in London is a marvelous, quiet retreat known as The Chelsea Physic Garden. The garden was founded in 1673 as the Apothecaries’ Garden, with the purpose of training apprentices in the identification and use of medicinal plants. It was no accident it was located on the river. This allowed the apothecaries to moor their barge, collect plants in the surrounding area, and take advantage of the river’s warm air currents, which created the garden’s unique micro-climate. River access also allowed plants arriving from around the world to be introduced to the British Isles via the garden.

During the 1680’s, trainee physician Hans Sloane studied at the Chelsea Physic Garden. He later purchased the Manor of Chelsea and leased the garden to the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London for five pounds per year in perpetuity. That is correct, to this day the garden delivers a crisp five-pound note to the current land owner. Now that is a bargain. However, the apothecaries decided by the end of the 19th century, they could no longer retain the garden. Today it is a registered charity and its gates were opened to the public for the first time in 1983.

The Chelsea Physic Garden is just four acres, but it contains 5,000 different edible, useful, medicinal, and historical plants. The Historical Walk, laid out along the western side of the garden in the 1980’s, has been planted to show the work of some of the best known people associated with the garden’s history. The first part of The Historical Walk showcases plants introduced in cultivation in Britain before the establishment of the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1673. For example, *Rosmarinus officinalis* and *Jasminum officinale* had been in cultivation for several centuries. The next section has plants in memory of the following well-known plantsmen: Phillip Miller, William Hudson, Sir Joseph Banks, William Forsyth, William Curtis, Robert Fortune, Thomas Moore, and John Lindley.

Yes, the history is fascinating, but this is also a fabulous garden in the middle of a bustling city. It is not a stagnant place, but is full of energy and creativeness. All one needs to do is look at upcoming programs to get just a glimpse of the garden today. There are workshops on photographing or painting snowdrops, behind-the-scenes tours, The Wiggley Wild Show (introduction to African land snails, corn snakes, geckos, giant millipedes, hermit crabs, and more), and Evening Taster: Twine & Wine (a brief history of flax & linen with the opportunity to create your own twine – and a bit of wine tasting as well). These programs are all offered in just the next few weeks. Not to mention, the Garden has over 5,000 school children visit each year.

If you visit London, try to schedule a morning or afternoon at The Chelsea Physic Garden. It truly is an oasis in the heart of the capital. Did I mention the Garden has a lovely gift shop and yummy café called Tangerine Dream?

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.

Floral Design in Vases: Techniques for Arranging Loose Flowers: Section I
Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist and Owner of Flowers on Location
March 4 at 10:30 a.m.
This class will show you the tricks of the trade for arranging flowers in vases. Learn floral techniques and elements of design, and bring home a beautiful vase of flowers! Volunteer price: $60

Approaching Sustainability
Dr. John Francis
National Geographic Explorer & Environmental Educator
Sunday, March 5 at 2 p.m.
Beginning with his journey on foot across the Americas, Dr. Francis will speak about his transformation from an environmental activist to environmental practitioner and how his and our own journeys might lead us closer to sustainability. Due to strong interest in the program, it will be held at the Temple Ambler campus. Volunteer price: $7.50

A Journey into the Microscopic World of Mosses
Dr. Keith Bowman, Moss Ecologist
Friday, March 10 at 10 a.m.
Learn about the unique biology and ecology of mosses. You will learn the basics of identifying common mosses, as well as distinguishing them from the closely allied liverworts and hornworts. Volunteer price: $20

Rose Pruning: How and When to Prune
Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum
Saturday, March 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Participants will get an overview of spring rose care including pruning, planting, transplanting, fertilizing, and disease prevention. Volunteer price: $18
Volunteer Opportunities

The Discovery Series

Spring is just around the corner, which means it’s time to prepare for the Discovery Series. These hands-on educational activities are created to engage families and curious children. They are held on the first Saturday of every month from April through October. Please sign up to volunteer using the TeamUp calendar for a morning or afternoon shift.

This Year’s Themes

Pinwheel Power
Saturday, April 1, 11am to 3pm
Create your very own personal pinwheel and discover how and why they twirl, spin, and dance in the wind. (Location: OOAL)

Science of Flight at the Seven Arches
Saturday, May 6, 11am to 3pm
Explore the science of aerodynamics as we design sleek paper airplanes that will glide high above the Seven Arches Bridge. (Location: Seven Arches)

Wind Sock Science
Saturday, June 3, 11am to 3pm
Create and decorate your very own wind sock, and discover how your artistic creation can reveal the direction and speed of wind currents. (Location: OOAL)

Fireflies in July
Saturday, July 1, 11am to 3pm
Explore fascinating facts about why these special summer insects light up our summer nights, while creating your own artistic firefly masterpiece. (Location: OOAL)

Sink or Float Science
Saturday, August 5, 11am to 3pm
What makes an object sink? What makes it float? Get a little wet and wild as we make buoyancy predictions. (Location: By the Bronze Bell)

Monarch Metamorphosis
Saturday, September 2, 11am to 3pm
Discover the life cycle, migration patterns, and life history of the beloved monarch butterfly. (Location: OOAL)

Feathers, Flight, and Fun
Saturday, October 7, 11am to 3pm
Have you ever wondered what a feather looks like under a microscope? Visit the Discovery table and learn why they work so well. (Location: OOAL)
Volunteer Workshops

Italy: The Rest of the Story

Beyond the Scott Arboretum’s Tuscany Garden Tour last September, Charles Cresson and Sharee Solow extended their trip by another 14 days, absorbing Italian culture and a few gardens along the way. Charles Cresson is a consulting horticulturist, avid gardener, and author of three gardening books. Sharee Solow, with degrees in landscape architecture and horticulture plus a Masters degree in marketing, has a highly developed eye for historical as well as contemporary landscape design. Come hear about their adventures in Venice, Sorrento, Amalfi, and all around Rome.

Friday, February 17 | 10:30 am | Upper Gallery

Basics of Winter Tree Identification

Join fellow guides for an introductory workshop on the basics of winter tree identification. Learn how to use bark, buds, branching patterns and other visual clues to aid in identifying deciduous trees at the Arboretum and at home. A brief indoor lecture will be followed by an outdoor walk to practice your new ID skills.

Thursday, February 23 | 1-2:30 pm
Widener Classroom
(Snow date: Monday, February 27, 2017)

Winter Witchhazel Walk

The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country. Come join fellow guides on a wonderful witchhazel tour to learn more about these fascinating winter blooming shrubs that add surprising bursts of color to the winter garden.

4 Saturdays: Feb. 18th & 25th, March 4th & 11th | 2:00 pm
Visitor Center
Outline of February Horticulture Workshops

Volunteer Workshops are back this February! All volunteers welcome.

Save these dates to reconnect with volunteers and enjoy a full day of presenters! Brown Bag Lunch on the 15th. Lunch will be provided on the 22nd. Workshops begin at 8:50am in the Upper Gallery with presentations from 9am - 3pm. For questions, email Pam Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu.

### Wednesday, February 15

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<td>8:30-8:50</td>
<td>Arrival</td>
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<td>8:50-9:00</td>
<td>Welcome &amp; Volunteer Update- Pam Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant</td>
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| 9:00-10:00 | An Evolving Landscape: Using the Past to Understand the Present and \  

Plan for the Future- Tony Aiello, Director of Horticulture |
| 10:00-10:30| BREAK                                                        |
| 10:30-11:15| Ecuador- Bess Trout, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern |
| 11:15-12:00| A Story of Food- Alex Correia-Sareyka, The McLean Contributionship \ Endowed Education Intern |
| 12:00-1:00 | LUNCH BREAK - Brown bag lunch                                   |
| 1:00-1:45  | Tree Spotters Program at the Arnold- Jehane Samaha, The Martha J. \  

Wallace Plant Propagation Intern |
| 1:45-2:45  | Cuba- Louise Clark, Horticulturist                                |

### Wednesday, February 22

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<td>8:30-8:50</td>
<td>Arrival</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:50-9:00</td>
<td>Welcome- Pam Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00-10:00</td>
<td>Republic of Georgia- Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist/Rosarian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00-10:30</td>
<td>BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30-11:15</td>
<td>Austin, Texas Trip and Gardens- Lucy Dinsmore, Horticulturist</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:15-12:00</td>
<td>Gardens in England- Patrice Sutton</td>
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<tr>
<td>12:00-1:00</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK - Lunch will be provided</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00</td>
<td>Native Plant Restoration in Iowa- Rob Fleming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00-3:00</td>
<td>Meet the Gardeners of Compton- Joyce Munro</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Intern Project Presentations

This March, the 2016-17 Intern class will present their projects to the public. Come listen to what they have been working on this year! Wednesday, March 15, 22 & 29 from 12:30-2:30 in the Upper Gallery.

Wednesday, March 15

**Evaluation and Assessment of Rose Health in the Rose Garden**
*Tess Adgie, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*
Tess will give an evaluation and assessment of rose health in the Rose Garden. She hopes to identify and potentially replace sub-par rose cultivars, and to create a short-term action plan to help manage prominent pests and diseases in the Rose Garden.

**Biology and Management of Viburnum Leaf Beetle**
*Anna Giesmann, The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*
The viburnum leaf beetle (*Pyrrhalta viburni*) has already devastated populations of viburnum across New York State, and has started to move into our region. This project will summarize the pest's behavior and life cycle, describe its current distribution, and suggest a management plan for VLB at the Morris Arboretum.

**Review of the Morris Arboretum Magnolia Collection**
*Jehane Samaha, The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*
Jehane is evaluating the Morris Arboretum magnolia collection. She will provide an assessment of the collection’s health and a report on which magnolia species and cultivars may be valuable future additions to the collection.
Intern Project Presentations

Wednesday, March 22

Paper Mill Run Riparian Zone Management Plan and Partial Restoration
Kevin Brown, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern
Kevin is working on a riparian zone restoration of a portion of Paper Mill Run that is severely lacking in riparian buffer zone. He will begin restoring it with new plantings, and will develop a management plan for the entire area to be carried out in stages over the coming years. This will increase the riparian buffer and make the area more appealing to the public with the inclusion of better walking paths, benches, and intentional views.

Interpretation in the Natural Areas: Enhancing the Visitor Experience
Alex Correia-Sareyka, The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern
Alex is updating the weathered signs in the wetland with new, beautifully designed panels. Additionally, she will be creating signs for the newly installed deer fencing that tell visitors how to use the gates and the purpose of deer exclosures.

Evaluation and Recommendations for a Portion of the East Brook
From the Log Cabin bridge to the Wissahickon, Erin is identifying specific areas along the East Brook for future erosion management. Additionally, areas along the brook are being improved by removal of invasive species and weeds, with hopes to add native plantings.

Wednesday, March 29

Rain Garden Redesign
Bess Trout, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern
Bess is redesigning two of the rain gardens on the Bloomfield Farm property. Her intention is to create functional, low maintenance, and beautiful gardens that collect and filter rain water during storm events.

Using a Reference Plastome to Determine Chloroplast and Gene Structure in the Wax Plants and Near Relatives (Marsdenieae, Apocynaceae)
Trista Crook, The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern
The goal of Trista’s project is to determine the structure of the chloroplast genome of plants in a tribe of the dogbane (aka milkweed) family. This information provides the baseline data for determining evolutionary relationships among these species. Ultimately, these relationships can help scientists classify these plants, thereby guiding conservation decisions.
Quiz Answers

Thanks for participating in last month’s Archives quiz! Below are the answers to the January quiz. If you would like to view the quiz, click here for last month’s issue. To continue exploring the Archives section of the Morris Arboretum website, click here.

1. Cookbook of her recipes
2. A recipe for milk biscuits
3. His wish that the property would become “a place where young men and possibly young women may be taught practical gardening and horticulture.” (Found in the Biography of Lydia Morris)
4. Catalogue Index Volume I
5. $13.30 Can be found either in the 1921-22 Tonkin Journal or in A Year in the Life of the Compton Head Gardener.
7. $2.10
8. $3.00. [This requires scrolling down on the same page as the answer to #7, (1927 A –B invoices) to find The Evening Bulletin invoice.]

A Gardener’s Diary

Was winter a dead time “in the old days” when head gardener John Tonkin worked for Lydia Morris? His daily log assured her that he and other employees were earning their pay. Here’s what he recorded for the month of February in 1926.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>February 1, 1926</th>
<th>Wet Day. 3 men on Farm cleaning mill &amp; picking over beets. 2 men on Compton cutting wood Killed first pig</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 2, 1926</td>
<td>Fine day. Gang of men on Farm sawing wood (5) Truck went to city House for load of coal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 3, 1926</td>
<td>Fine morning. Snow in afternoon Gang cutting wood in meadow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 4, 1926</td>
<td>Snow Gang shoveled snow all day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 5, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day. Gang cleared the roads &amp; carried plants to the porch Fetched manure from C.H. [Chestnut Hill]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>February 6, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day. Gang sawing wood in meadows</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>February 7, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>February 8, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day. Gang carried coal &amp; ashes all Day from big house [Compton]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>February 9, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day. Team &amp; gang hauled wood from meadows</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>February 10, 1926</td>
<td>Snow all day. Gang shoveled snow</td>
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<td>Thursday</td>
<td>February 11, 1926</td>
<td>11 inches of snow. Gang Shoveled snow</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>February 12, 1926</td>
<td>Fine Day. Gang shoveled snow</td>
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Click here to read more from John Tonkin’s journal.
Garden Highlights

Enkianthus perulatus ‘J.L. Pennock’
J. L. Pennock white enkianthus near Swan Pond

Hamamelis x intermediata ‘Luna’
Luna witchhazel near Mercury Loggia

Asplenium nidus
bird’s-nest fern
Fernery

Mahonia x media ‘Lionel Fortescue’
Lionel Fortescue mahonia
Orange Balustrade

Hamamelis vernalis
vernal witchhazel
near Mercury Loggia

Magnolia sprengeri var. elongata
Sprenger magnolia variety near Pennock Garden
## Upcoming Events

### February 2017

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<td>Hort Workshops 9am-3pm</td>
<td>Winter Tree ID Workshop 1-2:30pm</td>
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<td>Witchhazel Walk 2-3pm</td>
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<td>Recruiting Committee 1:30pm Mentors 2:30pm</td>
<td>Hort Workshops 9am-3pm</td>
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<td>Witchhazel Walk 2-3pm</td>
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<td>Winter Tree ID Workshop 1-2:30pm (snow date)</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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<td>Training Committee Meeting 12pm</td>
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