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
Contributors: Joan Kober, Elizabeth Gavula, Liza Hawley, Deitra Arena, Jason Lubar, Lorraine Bucci, Pam Olshefski, and all of the Morris Arboretum interns.

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

Contents
Letter from the Editor 1
Notes from the Guides Chair 2
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities 3
Continuing Education 10
From the Archives 11
Garden Highlights 12
Upcoming Events 13

Cover Photo: A new day dawns at the Arboretum as a waning gibbous moon sets right before the sun fully illuminates the sky.

Cornus alba
Tatarian dogwood

Matteuccia struthiopteris
ostrich fern
Before working at the Morris Arboretum I taught Earth Science to ninth graders and no matter which class I taught there was always a common theme: no one liked meteorology. Predicting the weather is not a walk in the park and most of the time accurate predictions are more of a wish than a reality. This winter we have seen quite a lot of unpredictable weather and I certainly do not envy the jobs of our local meteorologists.

Recently we seem to have found ourselves in a temperamental weather situation. Blasts of arctic air chill the atmosphere followed by a warming phase and with that our icicles and snowbanks are quickly disappearing. While this weather has made our landscape alternate between a frozen tundra and a muddy mess, I have greatly enjoyed all aspects of incoming weather this winter.

As temperatures start to dip again I can not help but to be thankful for the few rainstorms we had in January. Walking through the Arboretum while the sun is glistening off of freshly fallen rain is an amazing sight. I look forward to seeing what weather awaits us in the coming winter months.

Best Wishes,
Jennie Ciborowski
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
WINTER TREE TALES

It is hard to get excited about deciduous trees this time of year with all the beautiful leaves gone until the spring. However, after taking a winter tree identification class with Dr. Tim Block a few years ago, I learned that there is much to be discovered about the life cycle of a tree from the twigs left behind.

A good place to start is at the top of the twig (or close to it) where the terminal bud is found. This bud marks the end of one summer’s growth and also contains the embryonic stages of the next season’s growth. This bud is protected by bud scales, which are modified leaves that protect the delicate growing point within from drying out or from injury. A narrow band of fine markings around the twig indicate the location of last year’s bud scales. The distance between these and the new terminal bud show the growth of the twig in one year. Characteristics of terminal buds can be key indicators of tree species. For example, oaks have a cluster of terminal buds while aspens have a small terminal bud.

Other features worth close examination are the lateral buds found on the sides of the twig – these may contain either flowers or leaves. The location of these buds in an opposite, alternate or whorled pattern is again very useful in species identification. Also, distinctive is the leaf scar or the mark left behind on the twig once the leaf falls off in the autumn. The shape of the leaf scar mimics the shape of the end of the petiole, or leaf stalk. Most trees have leaf scars that are oval, triangular or crescent shaped, but a few like sycamore and staghorn sumac trees have scars that are almost circular.

Finally, color and odor of twigs are also important in winter tree identification. For example, dogwood and maple twigs are red, while weeping willow twigs are golden yellow. Spicebush, sassafras, and tulip tree twigs have a very spicy odor, but black birch and yellow birch smell like wintergreen.

I hope I have piqued your interest in finding out more about your favorite trees in winter. If so, head outside with a great resource like William M. Harlow’s *Fruit Key & Twig Key to Trees and Shrubs*. You’ll be amazed at what you discover!

Happy Exploring
Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

**English Park Workshop**

*Thursday, February 8th | 10:30 a.m. | Upper Gallery*

Dating from 1912 and restored beginning in the 1970’s, English Park contains significant collections of maples, witchhazels, dogwoods, cherries, and stewartias. The plants in this section span a full century of collecting, starting with the Morrices and continuing to the present day. Join Kate Deregibus, English Park Horticulturist, Section Leader and Swankeeper, as she highlights the English Park in the 21st Century. Meet at the Upper Gallery and, if weather permits, we will walk to the English Park.

**Nature Play at Morris Arboretum**

Help children discover the wide world around them in our Nature Play areas this year. On the first Saturdays of May - October from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., volunteers are needed to manage a safe space, observe and map activities, and guide caregivers in the finer points of self-discovered knowledge.

I need volunteers for 2 ½ hour shifts (10:30 a.m. -1 p.m. or 1-3:30 p.m.). There will be a training session in late March to introduce the concepts, the areas of the garden, and the evaluation pieces. Your role will be quite different from guiding, as Nature Play learning is self-directed, but should be gratifying and enlightening. If you are interested or have questions, please email me at efhawley@upenn.edu. –Liza Hawley
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

February Horticulture Workshops

Save these dates to reconnect with volunteers and enjoy a full day of presenters in the Upper Gallery! Please bring a brown bag lunch on the 14th and lunch will be provided on the 21st. For questions, please email Pam Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu.

**Wednesday, February 14th, 2018**

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<td>Acer griseum Project - Tony Aiello</td>
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<td>American Gardeners on tour: England to Sweden - Paul Orpello</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK - Brown Paper Bag</td>
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<td>Natural Lands Management - Some Observations - Grant Folin</td>
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<td>Becoming a Friend of the Wissahickon Trail Ambassador - Lisa Myers</td>
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<td>2:15 - 3:00</td>
<td>Sensational Succulents &amp; Raucous Raffle - Shelley Dillard &amp; Wayne Schmitt</td>
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**Wednesday, February 21st, 2018**

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<td>Welcome - Pam Olshefski</td>
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<td>9:00 - 10:00</td>
<td>Winterthur Gardens - Chris Strand</td>
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<td>Wolf Sanctuary - Michelle Mancini</td>
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<td>11:15 - 12:00</td>
<td>Arboretum Update Stourhead/Morris - Paul Meyer</td>
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<td>12:00 - 1:00</td>
<td>LUNCH BREAK - Lunch will be provided</td>
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<td>1:00 - 2:00</td>
<td>Beneficial Bugs - Samantha Nestory</td>
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<td>2:00 - 3:00</td>
<td>Plant Hunting in Azerbaijan - Vince Marrocco</td>
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Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Winter Witchhazel Walk

Saturdays, February 17th, 24th & March 3rd, 10th | 2:00 p.m. | Widener Terrace

The Winter Witchhazel tour is returning for another season! The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country. Join this wonderful tour to learn more about these fascinating winter-blooming shrubs that add surprising bursts of color and fragrance to the winter landscape. Enhance your guiding repertoire with some fun facts about different species and cultivars of varying blooming times, color, and fragrance.

Urban Forestry Workshop

Tuesday, February 28th | 10:30 a.m. | Upper Gallery

The Morris Arboretum is unique in that it offers urban forestry consulting services to landscape architecture firms, educational institutions, businesses, professional organizations, and federal, state, local governments, and other institutions. However, many Arboretum members and guests have no idea that this service is offered, or that the Morris Arboretum's Urban Forestry Consultants are an integral part of the Education and Visitor Experience Department. The fees generated by the consulting team directly support Morris Arboretum's mission of education, research, and outreach.

The Morris Arboretum’s Urban Forestry Consultants are recognized tree care experts experienced in providing tree-related consulting services, and are thoroughly educated in tree biology and stay on the forefront of tree care theory and technology. By combining state of the art diagnostic equipment with electronic information technologies, such as CAD and GIS, the Urban Forestry Consultants record, assess, and enumerate conditions to serve their clients’ natural resource needs. The Associate Director of Urban Forestry, Jason Lubar, will explain all about the Urban Forestry Consultants during his presentation.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Introducing a Volunteers’ Book Club:  
Lab Girl by Hope Jahren

Friday, March 2nd | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Join fellow volunteers for a Book Club discussion of national bestseller Lab Girl by Hope Jahren. Lab Girl is the 2018 Community Read book for Longwood Gardens. Please sign up via Team Up. (Snow date March 16)

This fascinating, well-written memoir will engage and invite you along on Hope's journey to become (and prosper as) a scientist. Her personal frankness in meeting challenges is inspirational, and she delivers the message with her own spirited voice and personality. Lab Girl is sure to spark thoughtful conversations throughout the community.

Geobiologist Hope Jahren has spent her life studying trees, flowers, seeds, and soil. Lab Girl is her revelatory treatise on plant life - but it is also a celebration of the lifelong curiosity, humility, and passion that drive every scientist. Warm, luminous, compulsively readable, Lab Girl vividly demonstrates the mountains that we can move when love and work come together.

For additional information, or if you are interested in a monthly volunteer’s book club, please contact Deitra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com or 610-716-9720.

Lab Girl photo credit: Penguin Random House
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Intern Presentations
Wednesday, March 14th | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Upper Gallery

Trees for the Future: Horticulture and Forestry in a Changing Climate
Max Paschall, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern
Climate change threatens to wreak environmental havoc in the coming years, but there are ways to proactively mitigate its effects in our own backyards. Max will explore the idea of assisted migration and provide practical tools that anyone can use to increase biodiversity and create resilient plantings, especially in the context of Morris Arboretum and Philadelphia’s urban forest.

The Historical Phytogeography of Cirsium arvense, an Invasive Species in Pennsylvania
Janet Mansaray, The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern
There is limited research on the distribution Cirsium arvense (Canada thistle) in Pennsylvania. It is important to study the spread of C. arvense throughout time to gain better insight on habitat preference and feasibility of eradication. Using herbarium records from as early as the mid-1800s, Janet has generated distribution maps to see if there are shifts in habitat preference. In addition, the data will provide an overview of the expansion of the species from its relative introduction into Pennsylvania to its current localities.

Index of Invasiveness on Cultivars of Acer palmatum
Wayne is looking at different cultivars of Acer palmatum, the Japanese maple, to see if any of them have tendencies to be more invasive than others. Japanese maple seedlings have been found throughout the natural areas of the Arboretum as well as naturalized individuals in the Wissahickon Valley Park and the woodlands around the United States National Arboretum in D.C.. Wayne is working to produce a list of recommendations to limit the spread of seedlings by identifying cultivars with lower seed production and/or viability.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Intern Presentations
Wednesday, March 28th | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Upper Gallery

What is a Tree Worth? An Appraisal of the University of Pennsylvania’s Campus Tree Population
Eric Moore, The Martha S. Miller and Rusty Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern
For this project, Eric will be assigning a monetary value to the University of Pennsylvania’s population of approximately 6,700 campus trees. Using methods employed by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, Eric will determine replacement costs for trees among various size classes. Collectively, this information will serve to: reduce loss of campus trees through preservation and maintenance, establish and enforce rigorous tree protection protocols, and educate and inform parties involved in construction about the value of trees.

Evaluation and Interpretation of Roses in the Rose Garden
Erin Conley, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern
This project aims to add rose qualities to the existing database for use by future employees and rosarians to better be able to evaluate roses. The historical significance of specific roses will also be interpreted with the end result of the information being available to the public. This will allow the evaluation of the roses to be determined based on both performance and historical significance.

Fernery Interpretation Redesign: Highlighting Morris Arboretum’s Collection
Jennie Ciborowski, The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern
Jennie is updating the outdated signs that currently reside in the Fernery Plaza. New panels with updated design, content, and graphics will be installed. These interpretive panels will discuss the highlights of the Morris Arboretum Collection and follow a plant’s journey at the Morris Arboretum through acquisition, propagation, production, and distribution.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Intern Presentations
Wednesday, April 11th | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Upper Gallery

Insect Community Study of the Intensive Green Roof
Samantha Nestory, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern
Green roofs can be important habitat in urban ecosystems, especially for small wildlife like insects. Sam is evaluating the insect biodiversity on Bloomfield Farm’s intensive green roof, focusing on a few important groups. Based on her findings, she will make planting and management suggestions to improve the function and diversity of the insect community.

Developing a Treatment Protocol for Greenhouse Thrips (Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis) for the Morris Arboretum’s Greenhouse Complex
Amanda Quadrel, The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern
At the Morris Arboretum, the greenhouse thrips (Heliothrips haemorrhoidalis) have been one of the most serious pests to plague the greenhouse complex. If left unchecked, the thrips can cause an entire plant to die. Therefore, for this project, the goal is to establish an effective treatment of these thrips to prevent further damage of greenhouse plants.

Garden Railway Foyer Redesign
Jen is creating a new design for the area across from the entrance to the garden railway. This is a highly trafficked area, so one of the goals is to increase the grass area for visitors to step off or pull strollers off the road. Additionally, the planting scheme will aim to be cohesive and low maintenance with four seasons of interest.
Continuing Education

**Garden Design For Homeowners 101**
Valerie Solitrin, Landscape Designer  
*Four Tuesdays, February 20, 27, & March 6, 13 | 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.*  
*Saturday, March 17 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

This comprehensive overview will help you plan your outdoor living expenditures strategically. Plan your garden for privacy, year-round beauty, storm water management and family-friendly functionality.  
**Volunteer price: $68.00**

**Water Management Solutions for your Landscape**
Valerie Solitrin, Landscape Designer  
*Saturday, February 24 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.*

Heavier rains and dry periods are making water management in your landscape more challenging. Whether you must comply with your township’s impermeable surface code or just want to be more earth-friendly, this lecture will introduce you to a wide array of affordable solutions. Valerie will also discuss rain gardens and what to consider when installing.  
**Volunteer price: $13.00**

**Birding at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area**
Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader  
*Thursday, March 1 | 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area encompasses 6,200 acres and is a great place for early spring birding. During the winter abundant rodent populations in the fields attract hawks, owls, and eagles. Other species at this site include wood duck, blue-winged teal, northern shoveler, hooded merganser, bufflehead, ruddy duck, gadwall, coot, and wigeon.  
**Volunteer price: $45.00**

**Designing, Planning, and Planting your Vegetable Garden Organically**
Paul D. Orpello, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum  
*Saturday, March 3 | 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.*

Do you love the idea of growing your own fresh organic produce? Join Paul as he discusses the triumphs and pitfalls to avoid when growing your own vegetables. There is no better way than to grow vegetables yourself!  
**Volunteer price: $27.00**

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

Assorted newspaper articles from 1932-1936 enrich our understanding of Lydia’s Morris’ desires for Compton’s future as well as the circumstances of her passing. The *New York Times* reported that her death on January 24, 1932 was due to pneumonia. The *Morning Ledger* noted that she died in her home, Compton, at Germantown and Hillcrest Avenue, Chestnut Hill.

Have you been to the Morris family plot at Laurel Hill Cemetery? There is no date of birth on Lydia’s grave. She maintained this secret posthumously, reducing the *Times* to “She was about 80 years old”. Various newspapers report her ancestry and memberships. “Miss Lydia Thompson Morris, descendant of the Philadelphia Colonial Family of that name” said the *Evening Ledger*. [There was a *Philadelphia Public Ledger* that began in 1836. The *Inquirer* absorbed the *Public Ledger* in April 1934.] This Acorn, Sedgeley and Philadelphia Cricket Club member was also an active Colonial Dame and Daughter of the American Revolution member. Six years before her death the National Association of Gardeners announced, according to the *New York Times*, “that the 170 acre Morris estate would be set aside by Miss Morris for use as a school of horticulture after her death”. Valued at $4,000,000 at the time of her death [before liquidation which set the value closer to $1.6 million, and $1.25 million after distributions and taxes], The University of Pennsylvania became the trustee of Morris Arboretum. The *Evening Ledger* described Compton as “a horticultural showplace with a national reputation among garden lovers”. Lydia being the last of her father’s line in the pre-Revolutionary family, the remainder of the Morris fortune went to numerous charities. Among the long list of bequests were generous gifts to Compton’s household staff and her maternal cousins.

The *Record* [a.k.a. *Philadelphia Record*, which survived until bought by the *Evening Bulletin* in 1947] quotes Thomas S. Gates, president of the University of Pennsylvania: “In her useful and gracious life Miss Morris has frequently given evidence of her desire to benefit a city in which her family had occupied an important part for many years. The provision for the establishment of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is doubtless due to her desire to associate her family tradition with an institution historically of Philadelphia… The foundation will be a living memorial of the wisdom shown by her brother and herself in preserving for the use of the city and its institutions an invaluable creation of beauty and imagination…. We regard the bequest as an outstanding example of far-sighted and generous philanthropy conceived by a wise and splendid woman.”

When you pass Lydia’s statue in the Azalea Meadow, whisper a word of thanks.

Source: Morris Arboretum Archives clippings 2006.1.16.
Garden Highlights

Picea maximowiczii
Maximowicz spruce
Hillcrest Pavilion

Pieris japonica
Japanese pieris
Japanese Overlook

Vernonia noveboracensis
New York ironweed
Wetland

Hibiscus moscheutos
common rosemallow
Wetland

Hamamelis vernalis
vernal witchhazel
Near Mercury Loggia

Typha latifolia
broadleaf cattail
Wetland
### Upcoming Events

**February 2018**

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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

#### March 2018

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