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

Front cover: *Quercus montana*

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Sarcococca orientalis
Something I have really enjoyed about my internship here at the Arboretum is having this page to share some of my thoughts and experiences with you all. Every month, I find myself actively looking for wonderful, fascinating, funny, or thought provoking things in my life to share in this space. Doing this has made me more aware of the wonderful little moments that happen on a daily basis.*

When I was home in Pittsburgh over the holidays, I attended a yoga class at a studio down the street from my mom’s house. At the end of the class, the instructor shared a poem with us, which I found very touching and thought you all might enjoy:

“When you go out into the woods, and you look at trees, you see all these different trees. And some of them are bent, and some of them are straight, and some of them are evergreens, and some of them are whatever. And you look at the tree and you allow it. You see why it is the way it is. You sort of understand that it didn’t get enough light, and so it turned that way. And you don’t get all emotional about it. You just allow it. You appreciate the tree.

The minute you get near humans, you lose all that. And you are constantly saying ‘You are too this, or I’m too this.’ That judgment mind comes in. And so I practice turning people into trees. Which means appreciating them just the way they are.” -Ram Dass

I hope you have many moments this month to appreciate the lovely trees and people around you.

Happy February,

Alessandra Rella
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

* You don’t have to be the editor of a newsletter to do this! Try going through a day actively looking for things to later share with a loved one or to write about in a journal. You’ll likely notice so much more in your day!
Notes from the Guides Chair

TO RECYCLE OR NOT RECYCLE

If you are like me, you are conscientious about recycling, so that blue bin gets filled up quickly. However, some recent articles on recycling contamination have given me pause. According to Waste Management, one out of every four items that end up in the recycling bin do not belong there. “Wishful recycling” happens when people mean well but end up putting the wrong items in recycling. Doing so can contaminate the entire pile, potentially the entire truckload, and result in a trip straight to a landfill. Recycling contamination can also break recycling equipment, slow down operations, create unsafe working conditions, and increase service costs.

Here is a list of commonly unknown non-recyclables to help you stop “wishful recycling”

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<td>These can clog machines and slow down operations. Bring your own reusable bags with you when you go shopping to eliminate the need for plastic bags.</td>
<td>While bits of metal like soda can tabs and aluminum candy wrappers are technically recyclable, their small size makes them hard to detect, so they often jam recycling machinery. Keep soda tabs attached to the can or drop them inside the can to prevent this problem.</td>
<td>Shredded documents and small bits of paper are too small to be of value to recyclers and fall through the cracks or can even clog equipment. Shredded paper can be collected in a paper bag that is stapled closed and then placed in the recycling bin.</td>
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<tr>
<th>2. Pizza Boxes</th>
<th>8. Coffee Cups</th>
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<td>Anything with grease or food stains does not belong in recycling. However, cardboard boxes and any other food soiled paper can be composted (if they’re not lined with plastic). Always check the bottom of take-out boxes to see if they are compostable. Napkins and paper towels can also be composted.</td>
<td>Most to-go coffee cups are lined with a plastic film that makes them liquid proof and non-recyclable. The plastic lid might be recyclable, but depends on what plastic your local municipality accepts. The paper heat sleeve is the only part of a to-go cup that is likely recyclable or compostable. An even better idea is to bring your own reusable cup with you when you are out and about.</td>
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<td>Shiny, metallic wrapping paper and decorative ribbons do not belong in recycling. Glittery cards are also non-recyclable. When wrapping a gift, choose unlaminated paper (e.g. newspaper, paper bags, or butcher paper).</td>
<td>Broken plates, ceramics, porcelain, mirrors, light bulbs, cups, wine glasses, and Pyrex have different melting points and chemical compositions than recyclable glass, and so they belong in the trash.</td>
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<th>4. Food Residue</th>
<th>10. Paperboard Boxes</th>
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<td>Cleaning food and beverage containers before you recycle them is important, as residue and liquids left can contaminate an entire truckload of recyclables. Containers do not have to be perfectly clean, but they should be rinsed and washed with soap if they are greasy.</td>
<td>Freezer food, food boxes, and ice cream cartons contain a plastic polymer to prevent freezer burn. This plastic coating prevents the box or carton from breaking down in the recycling process. Gable topped milk and juice cartons are made from a paper/plastic hybrid to prevent leaks, and shelf stable cartons contain additional plastic and aluminum layers. These items, therefore, are even more difficult to recycle.</td>
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Bear in mind that there can be huge variations in recycling policies between cities and towns even within a few miles of each other. Call your local public works department (or check their website) to find out local recycling policy.

Happy Valentine’s Day. The longer days are giving me hope that spring is right around the corner! See all of you soon.

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides
### Announcements

Mark your Calendars for the Intern Project Presentations

**Wednesday, March 11 | 12:30 -2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery**

**Assessments and Recommendations for the Widener Wooded Path**  
Caitlyn Rodriguez, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

**Enhancing Invertebrate Habitat on the Intensive Green Roof**  
Nate Flicker, *The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern*

**Reinstalling the Lower Rose Garden Beds**  
Eloise Gayer, *The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

**Wednesday, March 25 | 12:30 -2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery**

**Floral Development of *Ripariosida Hermaphrodita* (L.) Weakley and D. B. Poindexter in Response to Recent Taxonomic Change**  
Dominique Groffman, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

**A Gap Analysis of the Morris Arboretum Hydrangea Collection**  
Emily Conn, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*

**What’s the Catch? Collateral Mortality of Spotted Lanternfly Trapping**  

**Wednesday, April 1 | 12:30 -2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery**

**Engaging with the Morris Arboretum’s Japanese Gardens**  
Alessandra Rella, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

**Protecting Tree Roots at the Morris Arboretum**  
Alex Gunstensen, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*

**Leaf Litter and Soil Nutrients on the University of Pennsylvania Main Campus**  
Eliza Nobles, *The Martha S. Miller & Rusty Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*
Announcements

A Celebration of Spring
(a.k.a. “The Plant Sale Re-Boot”)

On Sunday, May 17 from 11a.m. - 4 p.m. at Bloomfield Farm, A Celebration of Spring will take the place of the Plant Sale. Please save the date and plan to join the fun as a participant or as a volunteer as we gather with members, volunteers, staff, neighbors, and friends to celebrate the season and our community with this new event.

Talking points for all staff and volunteers

Why has the Plant Sale been discontinued?

• The traditional plant sale is being discontinued in 2020 because in recent years the sale has become less financially viable, particularly in competition with large and online garden retailers.
• The Plant Sale also stretched Arboretum resources very thin during a time period that is often characterized by peak visitation in the public garden. We do not want the public garden visitor experience to be diminished at the expense of a Plant Sale that is no longer profitable.

Is anything happening in its place?

• YES! In 2020, a new single-day event, A Celebration of Spring, will replace the traditional multi-day Plant Sale on Sunday, May 17 from 11 a.m.- 4 p.m.
• This public event is free for members or with garden admission (Farm only $5 admission for ages 3 & up). Rain or shine. Bring your family! Bring your friends!
• Other activities include:
  - Free tours of the Grist Mill.
  - The Compton Café will be selling food and drinks, and guests are welcome to picnic on the lawns
  - Live music by the Humbleman Band
  - Erdenheim Farm will have animal ambassadors (goats and/or sheep)
  - The American Rhododendron Society will have plants for sale.
  - Allens Lane Art Center will have original ceramics for sale.
  - The North American Rock Garden Society will have plants for sale.
  - More pop-up vendors and activities are anticipated.

I am a member. What about my member dividend plant (a.k.a. member bonus plant)? What about my 10% discount on plants?

• Member dividend plants will be distributed at A Celebration of Spring on Sunday, May 17 between 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
• Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Collectors Circle members will be able to pick up their dividend plant/s beginning at 11 a.m. to give premier members first access to the plants as was tradition at the plant sale.
• All members are welcome to pick up their plant/s from noon-4 p.m. Many more dividend plants propagated at the Arboretum will be available. Come planning to be surprised and perhaps take home something quite unusual.
• There are a variety of retail nurseries and other vendors who offer Morris Arboretum members discounts. There are some great plant vendors on the list! If you do not have web access, we also have printed brochures listing the retail partners in the membership office in Gates Hall. If you’d like a copy, contact members@morrisarboretum.org or 215-247-5777 ext. 205.

Will volunteers still be needed?

Yes! A call for volunteers will be sent in early April.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Conifers Tour

Saturday, February 1 | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

Explore the wide variety of conifers – both evergreen and deciduous – on display at Morris Arboretum. From cones to needles, weeping and upright, you’ll learn more about these tremendous trees from around the world.

Volunteer February Workshops

Wednesdays, February 5 & 19 | 8:30 a.m. | Widener Upper Gallery

Reconnect with volunteers and enjoy a full day of presenters! For questions, please e-mail Pam Morris Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu. Open to all volunteers!

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<td>Welcome &amp; Volunteer Update</td>
<td>EHRS &amp; Why it Matters to You,</td>
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<td>Jim Stillhart</td>
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<td>History of Woman in Horticulture,</td>
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<td>Bill Cullina &amp; Tony Aiello</td>
<td>Martha Keen</td>
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<td>History of the Morris</td>
<td>Indigenous Plant Nursery in South Africa,</td>
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<td>Wetland, Pam Morris</td>
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<td>Olshefski &amp; Bob Gutowski</td>
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<td>Gardening for Beneficial</td>
<td>Kazakhstan and the Altai Mountains:</td>
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<td>Insects, Luke Hearon</td>
<td>A Botanical Paradise, Paul Meyer</td>
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<td>12:00-1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>LUNCH BREAK- LUNCH PROVIDED</td>
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<td>Plant Collecting in</td>
<td>In the Shadow of Zumba Mountain – Woody</td>
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<td>Romania, Vince Marrocco</td>
<td>Plant Preservation in Southern Malawi, Bob Wells</td>
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<td>2:00-2:45 p.m.</td>
<td>2:00-2:05 p.m.</td>
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<td>Life at SEA: Studying</td>
<td>BRIEF BREAK</td>
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<td>Abroad with the Sea</td>
<td>2:05-2:35 p.m.</td>
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<td>Education Association,</td>
<td>Cannabis Research Paper, Nate Flicker</td>
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<td>Alessandra Rella</td>
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Winter Witchhazel Walk

Saturdays, February 8 & 22 | 1:00 p.m. | Widener Terrace

The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country. Discover many varieties of these delightful winter beauties that add surprising bursts of color and fragrance to the winter landscape.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Bloomfield Farm Management
Thursday, February 20 | 1:00 p.m. | Horticulture Center
Join Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist, Louise Clarke, to learn about the many management practices at Bloomfield Farm. What are the topography challenges and stormwater management principles employed over at the Farm? What is involved in handling the Arboretum’s recycling and composting? Join us for these answers and more.
We’ll meet inside the Magnolia Room at the Horticulture Center briefly, then tour the Farm. No RSVP needed, please join if you can.

Book Club

What a Plant Knows: A Field Guide to the Senses
By Daniel Chamovitz
Friday, February 7 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall
How does a Venus flytrap know when to snap shut? Can an orchid get jet lag? And does your favorite fern care whether you play Bach or the Beatles? Combining cutting-edge research with lively storytelling, biologist Daniel Chamovitz explores how plants experience our shared Earth through sight, smell, touch, hearing, memory, and even awareness. Whether you are a green thumb, a science buff, a vegetarian, or simply a nature lover, this rare inside look at the life of plants will surprise and delight. What a Plant Knows offers us a greater understanding of botany, science, and our place in nature.

The Weather Makers
By Tim Flannery
Friday, March 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall
Over the past decade, the world has seen the most powerful El Nino ever recorded, the most devastating hurricane in 200 years, the hottest European summer on record, and one of the worst storm seasons ever experienced in Florida. We are reaching a global climatic tipping point. The Weather Makers is both an urgent warning and a call to arms, outlining the history of climate change, how it will unfold over the next century, and what we can do to prevent a cataclysmic future. Flannery offers specific suggestions for action for lawmakers and individuals, from investing in renewable power sources like wind, solar, and geothermal energy, to offering an action plan with steps each of us can take right now to reduce deadly CO2 emissions.

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.
Continuing Education

Our Spring Course Brochure is Here!

Be sure to check out the many great classes we have to offer this season.

Fire Cider for Health and Vitality
Dorothy Bauer, Weavers Way Co-op Neighborhood Nutrition Team and Raw Food Chef
Thursday, February 13 | 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Fire cider is an energizing herbal folk remedy. Come learn how to make your own tangy apple cider vinegar tonic that will be a perfect addition to your daily wellness routine. This simple yet effective brew will boost your immunity and keep you warm in the remaining cold winter months.

Fruit Tree Care
Dan Lurie, Erdenheim Farm Manager
Three Saturdays: February 15, May 30, September 12 | 1:00-2:30 p.m.
Are you a homeowner who has fruit trees or would be interested in growing them? Join us at Erdenheim Farm for a three-session class that will cover the concepts of pruning, thinning, and harvesting, as well as common pests and diseases. Cider pressing will be included at the last session!

Bring an Early Spring to your Garden
Paul Meyer, Retired F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Morris Arboretum
Saturday, February 22 | 1:00-3:30 p.m.
Join Paul Meyer to learn about how to liven up your late winter garden. In this lecture and walk in the Arboretum, Paul will inspire you to plan for early spring and give you a list of great plants to try, and some tips for selecting the best place to plant them.

Water Management Solutions for your Landscape
Valerie Solitrin, Landscape Designer
Saturday, February 22 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon
Heavier rains and dry periods can make water management in your landscape more challenging than ever. In this class, you will be introduced to a wide array of affordable water management solutions. We will consider local municipal codes, permeable hardscape options, rain gardens, and more.

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, or sign up online using the code “ELM” for discounted classes.
Discounted Spring Classes for Volunteers

*Get 50% off on these classes:*

### Behind the Scenes
- Mysteries of Compton, 4/8
- Spring Blooming Plants and Favorite Places, 9/28

### Botany
- Winter Tree Identification, 3/27

### Calling All Birders
- Birds and Wetlands: Beautiful and Critical Habitats, 3/14
- Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot Session 1, 4/1
- Birding at the Arboretum Session 2, 4/25
- Birding at Houston Meadows: A Unique Bird Habitat, 5/7
- Birding at the Arboretum Session 3, 5/16
- Birding at the Arboretum Session 4, 5/20
- Birding at Dixon Meadow, 5/27
- Nesting Birds at Houston Meadows, 6/5

### Creative Expressions
- Embroidery Sampler Workshop, 3/22
- Carve a Wooden Spoon, 5/2
- Natural Dyes: Painting and Printing Fabric Scarves, 5/23
- Air Plant (Tillandsia) Framing Workshop, 6/6
- The Art of Japanese Ink Painting, 6/6
- Floral Imagery in Copper Foil, 6/7
- Weave Your Own Macramé Creation, 11/9

### Culinary Adventures
- Taste of Tuscany: A Vegan Approach to Italian Cooking, 11/2
- Creating Delicious Summer Pizzas, 6/20

### Growing Minds
- Birds of Prey: Live Raptors Session, 4/23
- Night Animals Discovery and Live Demonstration, 5/26

### Health and Wellness
- Herbs for Chronic Conditions, 3/3
- Yoga in the Garden, 6/2-7/28

### Horticulture and Design
- Bring an Early Spring to your Garden, 2/22
- Rose Care Basics and Pruning Demonstration, 3/7
- Creating a Naturally Beautiful Water Garden, 10/16
- Native Plants for Native Birds, 4/4
- Spotted Lanternfly—What You Need to Know, 4/8
- Landscapes for People, 4/9
- Planting in Small Spaces: Inspiration from Woodlands’ Cradle Graves, 5/9
- Container Gardening, 5/14

### Lecture Series
- Building Philadelphia’s Science Capital, 3/18

### Sustainable Practices
- Water Management Solutions for Your Landscape, 2/27
- Edible Landscaping and Backyard Food Production, 3/21
- Tough Plants for Tricky Wet Sites, 4/16
In the Arboretum

Morris Arboretum Winter Bird Count Results

By Tony Geiger, Experienced Birder, Arboretum Staff Member

I have been to many birding spots in Philadelphia, but the Arboretum is fast becoming a new favorite spot of mine. Thanks to the many different habitats and plants that attract wildlife, the Arboretum always has great birding potential, even in winter. I recently had the privilege of participating in two bird counts that Morris Arboretum has participated in for the past several years.

On December 14th, Bob Gutowski, Peter Burns, and myself met at Morris Arboretum on a wet and unseasonably warm morning for the Audubon Christmas Bird Count. The nation-wide Christmas Bird Count is the oldest ongoing citizen science project in the country, dating back a staggering 120 years. For me, the fun part of the Christmas Bird Count, or any bird count, is the perspective we gain from actually putting a number to all the birds around us. In four hours, we found 36 species and roughly 1600 individual birds. This was all within the borders of the Arboretum and Bloomfield Farm (with the exception of some flyover Tundra Swans). Of note were birds such as Common Yellowthroat, which thrive in the Arboretum’s wetlands, and American Kestrel, a type of small falcon which relies on meadows and farm fields for hunting grounds.

Next up was the annual Philadelphia Mid-winter Bird Census, a count organized by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club for the past 33 years. Bob Gutowski, Jim Best, and myself met at the Arboretum on January 12th for another unseasonably warm day of birding. We identified 33 species and over 700 individuals within the confines of the Arboretum (note - this count does not include the Bloomfield Farm side, as this falls outside of Philadelphia County limits). Of note were a flyover Bald Eagle, Winter Wrens, and a Swamp Sparrow - all of which are attracted to the Arboretum’s wetlands and streams. We also observed tiny and colorful Ruby Crowned Kinglets and Golden-Crowned Kinglets, which spend the winter feeding on seeds in the various conifers around the Arboretum.

Thanks to volunteer counters and resources like eBird, we know that an amazing 168 different species of birds have been seen at the Arboretum, and that number could easily grow. If you’re interested in birding at the Arboretum, check out our online resources, including a list of birds that can be seen through the different seasons. And please join us for some of our upcoming programs. Happy Birding!

Read more by Tony on the Arboretum Blog.

Witchhazel is your Favorite?

Saturday, February 15 | 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Bring your family to Morris Arboretum for a day of outdoor fun and garden exploration. Follow the prepared scavenger hunt map to discover more than 70 varieties of colorful and fragrant witchhazels growing in the garden. Children may create a witchhazel related craft in the Upper Gallery. An Arboretum expert will be available there to answer questions on the variety and cultivation of witchhazels. The 1 p.m. guided tour will focus on the Arboretum’s witchhazel collection.
From the Archives

A Picture Worth 300 Words

by Joyce H. Munro

This distinctive piece of furniture, originally called a “high chest of drawers,” was crafted in Philadelphia and never left the city. It was constructed primarily of walnut and adorned with brass escutcheons in the shop of carpenter John Head at 3rd and Mulberry (Arch) Streets. Head’s customer was Caspar Wistar, a prosperous brass button manufacturer, recently engaged to Catherine Jansen. He paid 10 pounds for this two-part chest, matching dressing table and an oval table, for their new home on High Street.

After three decades of use by the Wistar family, the chest was moved to South Second Street, to the home of Wistar's daughter Rebecca, on her marriage to Captain Samuel Morris. Eventually, the piece made its way to the Harrowgate section of Philadelphia, to Cedar Grove, the summer home of Isaac Paschall Morris, Rebecca's grandson. Imagine movers carrying the upper chest, then the lower, up the narrow winding stairs of Cedar Grove! For many years, the chest stood in the second floor bedroom, full of the belongings of Mr. and Mrs. Morris and their four children, James, Isaac, John and Lydia.

Years later, when John and Lydia inherited Cedar Grove, they loaned the house to a relative and moved the important pieces of furniture, including the chest, to their summer home, Compton, in Chestnut Hill.

Then—two hundred years after Head created this masterpiece—Lydia Morris returned it to Cedar Grove (which had been dismantled and rebuilt in Fairmount Park as a house museum). There, it became an object of admiration. Today, it’s housed at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, alongside the dressing table.

Read more about Wistar’s high chest and dressing table here. Incidentally, a design feature of the chest has stumped furniture historians for years. Christopher Storb attempts to clear things up in his blog post here.
Garden Highlights

**Chimonanthus praecox**  
*Wintersweet*  
*Oak Allée*

**Hamamelis**  
*‘Lansing’*  
*Lansing* *witchhazel*  
*near Log Cabin*

**Tsuga sieboldii**  
*Siebold hemlock*  
*near Swan Pond*

**Acer griseum**  
*Paperbark maple*  
*Overlook Garden*

**Calocedrus decurrens**  
*California incense-cedar*  
*English Park*

**Mahonia × media**  
*‘Lionel Fortescue’*  
*Lionel Fortescue mahonia*  
*Orange Balustrade*
## Upcoming Events

### February 2020

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Recruiting / Retention Committee Meeting 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer February Workshops 8:30 a.m.</td>
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<td>Book Club 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Winter Witchhazel Walk 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Great Plants Guide Committee Meeting 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Witchhazel is your Favorite? 1-3 p.m.</td>
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<td>Volunteer February Workshops 8:30 a.m.</td>
<td>Volunteer Workshop at Bloomfield Farm 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>Winter Witchhazel Walk 1 p.m.</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Saturdays:** Wellness Walks 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Regular Tour 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**Sundays:** Regular Tour 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Wellness Walks 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
### Upcoming Events

#### March 2020

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<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>Recruiting / Retention Committee Meeting 1:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Book Club 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Signs of Spring Public Tour 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Great Plants Guide Committee Meeting 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Intern Project Presentations 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Education Guide Committee Meeting 2 p.m.</td>
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