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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
Pilar Rivera, 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: Pilar Rivera, unless otherwise stated

Cover photo: In the center of this photo is an egg sack, known as an ootheca, of a Chinese mantis (Tenodera sinensis). Oothecas are laid in the fall and allowed a period of cold weather dormancy, known as a diapause, before hatching hundreds of mantis nymphs in the spring.

Anemone virginiana, thimble weed

Cedrus atlantica var. glauca, blue atlas cedar
Letter from the Editor

The winter chill has finally made its debut, just in time for the new year! Over the past month I have been displaying the effects of the long winter nights by becoming tired, lazy, and less happy. I have been throwing myself a “pity party” while hearing people complain about gloomy winters and how the worst is yet to come. I am desperate to find the bright side of the season!

I recently read an article about how Norwegians mentally approach winter. In northern Norway, the sun never rises above the horizon during winter, and yet the people not only have a lower rate of seasonal depression than we do at 40° N latitude- they actually LOVE winter. What is their secret?!

The Norwegian word *koselig* loosely translates as “the warm and fuzzy”. The Norwegians have a love of *koselig*, which is what the winter season is all about. They light candles, sit by the fire, drink warm beverages, and cuddle up under cozy blankets. *Koselig* is also the warm feeling of community, and they take advantage of the cold weather to rendezvous with friends and family while enjoying the sense of *koselig* together.

Let’s enjoy the beauty of *koselig* this season!

Pilar Rivera  
*The McLean Contributionship*  
*Endowed Education Intern*

*Lindera obtusiloba*, Japanese spicebush
Hello Everyone,

As 2016 begins I am skipping any resolutions (never have kept one), and instead I want some new thoughts for the New Year. Several months ago I heard Bob Gutowski mention technology in the garden. Now I am not a total Luddite. I like my tablet, especially for Free Cell, but come on – technology in the garden? This calls for another informal, non-professional, casual survey on my part. I asked a few people while working the Welcome Cart what they thought about technology in the garden. The majority liked the idea, as they would like to be able to find out more information about a specific plant. Well, OK I can go with that one. But I chuckled over one gentleman’s comment, “I don’t want a gadget that follows me everywhere I go, but my grandchildren in Australia would love it.” The general consensus was being able to have more information was fine but no noise, no screens, no extra signage. They all love the way the Arboretum looks right now.

The next step was to meet with a delightful new employee, Stacey Kutish who hails from the Wilkes-Barre area. She moved to this area ten years ago to work at Swarthmore College, where she was also involved in the Scott Arboretum. She recently earned a MFA in Museum Studies from The University of the Arts. She is with us as a result of a grant from The Pew Center for Arts & Heritage.

Stacey is thinking about interpretation, which really means “What stories do you want to tell and how do you want to tell them?” She is exploring how we can employ technology in the garden to enhance the visitor experience without jeopardizing our collection in any way.

Before speaking with Stacey I did not realize that 84% of our visitors come to the Arboretum with a device. Stacey is looking for ways people can use their own devices to access more information about a plant or to take a self-guided tour that we may not be offering at that particular moment. I asked her about getting Wi-Fi into the garden, and she mentioned that the signals have difficulty traveling through water. We just happen to have hundreds, if not thousands, of very large columns full of water in the Arboretum – trees! I’ve never thought of trees in that way. This is one major challenge to overcome. But Stacey assures me we won’t have a giant cell tower in the middle of Bark Park or anywhere else.

We all wish to enhance our visitors’ experience but never at the sacrifice of the integrity of the arboretum. I am now OK with this. Do I understand geo-location? Maybe not; but I am sure my grandchildren know all about it.

Happy New Year, Happy 2016,
Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
Volunteer Opportunities

Tu B’Shevat - The New Year of Trees

Tu B’Shevat will be here in just a couple weeks, with many groups signed up to learn about trees! Just a couple of volunteer spots remain – call Lisa if you are able to assist with the Roots Exhibit activity during the week of January 24th.

Popular Plant Production

Did you ever wonder how new plants are discovered and end up on the cover of your favorite plant catalogue? Spend a delightful morning in the Upper Gallery as plant expert Rick Ray describes the various methods used by both amateur and professional plant enthusiasts to produce new plants for nurseries. During his talk, Rick will show examples of seedling variation, mutation, reversion, witches broom, nativar and cultivariant.

Rick Ray is a former horticulture professor at both Temple Ambler and Delaware Valley College. He has also taught at the Arboretum School of the Barnes Foundation for 29 years, and is currently the president of Marple Tree Commission.

Wednesday, January 20th | 10:00 am | Upper Gallery
**Volunteer Workshops**

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**Curious About Conifers?**

Bundle up and join your fellow guides for a wonderful winter workshop. The Great Plants Committee will present a special walking tour highlighting a selection of impressive trees at Morris Arboretum. These notable specimens provide multi-seasonal interest with an array of varying forms, foliage, bark and of course - cones!

Don’t miss out on this great opportunity to satisfy your curiosity about conifers and enhance your guiding repertoire.

**Friday, January 22nd | 1:30 pm | Widener Terrace**

**Snow Date: January 29th**

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**The History and Rebirth of the Morris Arboretum**

In this talk Paul W. Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania, will discuss the origins, development and recent restoration and adaptive reuse of the historic gardens at the Morris Arboretum.

This illustrated talk will focus on the planning and implementation efforts that have led to the revitalization of the Arboretum in recent years.

**February 11th | 10:00 am | Upper Gallery**

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*photo courtesy Paul Meyer*
Meeting Notes

Horticulture Committee Meeting Notes
Recorded by Larry Godley, 12/14/2015

Horticulture Department Update
Tony reported that the Horticulture staff participated in making wreaths and swags to give to donors and decorate the buildings and grounds in preparation for the holidays.

The Garden Railway attracted over 3,000 visitors the first weekend it was opened and over 2,000 visitors on the second weekend.

The new enclosure fence for the Rose Garden project will begin with the installation of new perimeter deer fencing. The new upper and lower garden gates will be installed during the winter months. The phase of the project that includes more extensive stone walls will be scheduled once funding is secured.

Tree Care Program
Tony reviewed the Tree Care Program, which enhances the Arboretum’s mission of preserving and caring for our tree collection, proposes to restore the Chief Arborist position. Continued financial support will be needed.

Intern Presentations
Parking Lot Planting – Paige Ida presented her design for replanting of parking lot gardens based on a European matrix design to improve planting in difficult soil conditions selecting hardy plants and bulbs.

Poison Ivy Control – Willa Rowan presented her plan for control of poison ivy and other invasive plants in the Quercetum area of Bloomfield Farm and restoration of native plants and grasses. The plan included manual removal, utilization of herbicides and possibly bringing goats for intensive grazing.

Greenhouse Integrated Pest Management – Victoria Bolden presented her program and analysis of timing the release of predatory insects into the greenhouse before and during the growing season to control pests such as aphids, mites and mealy bugs.

Acer griseum, paperbark maple
Tony Aiello participated in a three-week tour of China with two other arboreta that are studying native populations of Acer griseum. Since the tree produces many seeds that do not germinate the tree is in decline in its natural habitat. The group had collected 64 plant specimens; of those specimens, only two had viable seeds. The plant is listed as endangered list of being extinct in the wild.
Continuing Education

Look for your Spring course brochure in the mail this month!

Exciting New Classes for Spring 2016!

- Sake, Sushi, and Sakura
- Snowdrop Propagation
- Macro and Close-Up Photography
- Spring Pizza Class
- Fairy and Gnome Gardening (for kids!)
- Family Overnight at Bloomfield Farm
- Drones for the Landscape Professional
- Visit Two New Jersey Estates

100 Years of Collecting: Conifers at the Morris Arboretum

Thursday, March 10, 10 a.m. - noon
(Rain date: Friday, March 11)
Speaker: Anthony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum

Join Tony Aiello for a trip through time, exploring the many periods of collecting that have contributed to our current landscape. We will visit plants that date to the Morris era, ones that were planted after World War II, and more modern additions to the landscape. In the process you will gain an appreciation of how the landscape develops over time and insight into this interesting and diverse group of plants.
Throughout the world travels of John and Lydia Morris, diarist and companion Louisa Kellner recorded many more anecdotes about Lydia than she did about John. Fortunately there is no record of Lydia asking to review diary entries like John did. She might have censored some tidbits!

April 18, 1890 – Overnight in a teahouse in Japan

...We had arranged in the evening before that I was to wash first at 7 o’clock, Mr. Morris next, and then Miss Morris, who in this one particular case did not like to play the first fiddle, which would have cheated her out of her little morning indulgence of turning over in bed after awakening. Well, we all had marched through the not private passage way to the bathroom, meeting all the maidens on the way gazing & giggling at us, and we got washed without wasting much water and time, and then I used Miss Morris’s handglass first for my toilet, after which she put it on the little lampstand, sat down on the floor, and did her hair up in this way – and hard work though it was and most inconvenient, she laughed through it all.

July 6, 1890 – Agra, India

Right after breakfast came a man with beautiful paintings on ivory, of which Mr. & Miss Morris made some selections, a thing that is not done easily and takes a good deal of time. After that we went again to Ganeshi Lall [Indian dealer in art and jewelry] and for two hours and a half were deeply involved in making the choicest [sic] selections of his beautiful stock, and Mr. M. began to tease and said that he would have to draw $2000 to pay for the extravagance of his sister. And she did buy lovely dresses, and trimmings, and a handsome embroidered peacock front for a state dress etc., and I am dwelling on the exquisite result and satisfaction she will get in return for her money, and how her graceful figure and manners will set off these costly glittering things, and the other women will rave and rage over them as warwolves [sic] in continual havoc, and nearly die of envy.

January 2, 1895 – Cairo, Egypt

In the mean time [sic] he [Mustapha] wished to be our guide here in Cairo, take Miss Morris and me to visit upon Princess “Somebody” – a sister of the deceased Khedive – and on the 4th of Jan. he wished to take all of us to a native wedding. I saw the invitations for both of these favors in Cairo, but as long as it was of more importance to send the Dragoman with his boat, we cheerfully gave up these prospects, and we will not have a chance to smoke a cigarette at the native wedding, which we surely would have been obliged to do, and even Mr. Morris had made up his mind to accept one and make believe he smoked it, while I think that Miss Morris and myself really would have taken a whiff.
**Garden Highlights**

- **Malus ‘Indian Magic’**
  - ‘Indian Magic’ crabapple near Pennock Garden

- **Lindera salicifolia**
  - spicebush near Rose Garden

- **Chimonanthus praecox**
  - wintersweet Oak Allée

- **Spiraea thunbergii ‘Ogon’**
  - MELLOW YELLOW Thunberg spirea behind greenhouses

- **Magnolia x soulangeana ‘Brozzonii’**
  - Brozzoni saucer magnolia near Garden Railway
### Upcoming Events

**January 2016**

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

Saturdays, 10:30am: Wellness Walks
Saturdays and Sundays, 2-3pm: Regular Tour
Wednesday morning Horticulture Volunteer schedule will resume in March 2016
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**February 2016**

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