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

Contents
Letter from the Editor 1
Notes from the Guides Chair 2
Continuing Education 3
Connections Lectures 4
Volunteer Opportunities 5
Volunteer Workshops 6
From the Archives 7
Garden Highlights 9
Upcoming Events 10

Cover photo: A male northern cardinal perches in a maple tree in the wooded area surrounding Out On A Limb.
Letter from the Editor

Just before our holiday break, the interns enjoyed a trip to Longwood Gardens. Nothing puts you in the holiday spirit quite like the arrangements and displays in the Conservatory. Because we were there in the daytime, we missed the evening light displays. However, we received a behind-the-scenes look at their integrated pest management lab, the propagation area, and the greenhouses.

Our favorite part of the day was almost unanimously a tour of the Meadow Garden. This carefully managed natural area is complete with walking and hiking trails, native wildflower plantings, and learning pavilions. In its winter form, it is a patchwork of brown and gold that allowed for easy sightings of brightly colored bluebirds, as well as a resident northern harrier that we observed soaring over the meadow. I plan to return in the summer to see the Meadow Garden in full bloom.

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

Last October my husband and I took a trip to the UK. We spent the first 3 days in London being true tourists. We had one day at Kew Gardens, beginning with a walking trip from the Tube station at Richmond. Landmarks were listed in our travel book to be used from the station, eventually bringing us to the River Thames. The book said it was a 90 minute walk, but I knew that couldn’t be right because it was such a short distance on the map. This is why I don’t write instructions for travel books, as the time estimate was right. We arrived at the backside of Kew Gardens but the day was sunny, the river gleaming, and we enjoyed all 90 minutes of the walk.

The history of Kew Gardens is quite old. It is known to have been the site of a former courtier of Elizabeth I, perhaps that of her favorite courtier, Robert Dudley. In 1631, a Flemish merchant living in London named Samuel Fortrey built himself a fashionable, new brick mansion on the south bank of the Thames. It was a status symbol for a gentleman of the city to have a home in the country. The house remained in Fortrey’s family for another generation and then passed through a succession of wealthy tenants, including the Mayor of London in 1699. George II and his Queen, Caroline, were the first royal family to live at Kew Palace. Remember the movie, The Madness of King George? That would have been King George III who was sequestered at Kew during his illness. Kew Gardens continued in royal hands for many years until Queen Victoria gave it to the public to commemorate her Diamond Jubilee.

You can still see many of the buildings that were erected on the grounds for the pleasure of the royal family. These buildings include: The Queen’s Cottage, The Great Pagoda, Kew Palace, The Palm House, The Orangery, Nash Conservatory, Temperate House, and The Water Lily House. Today there are many new exhibits and buildings to explore, as well as 14,000 trees and spectacular gardens. Right now the big buzz at Kew is The Hive.

Rising to 17 metres, The Hive was commissioned by the UK Government and created by artist Wolfgang Buttress. This multi-sensory installation formed the centerpiece at the UK Pavilion at the 2015 Milan Expo. The Hive is a unique structure, inspired by scientific research into the health of bees. To enter The Hive, you must walk up a hill then enter into a lattice structure, made from thousands of pieces of aluminum and fitted with hundreds of LED lights that glow and fade as a unique soundtrack hums and buzzes around you. Immediately, upon entering you hear the hum and buzz of bees. This sound is actually coming from the bee hives at Kew. Sensors have been placed in the hives which then transmit the activity of the bees to The Hive. Similar to many of our installations in The Sculpture Garden, The Hive is a temporary exhibit running from June 2016 to November 2017. It will be dismantled and moved to another location.

If you ever have the chance to visit Kew Gardens, allow at least a full day. It is an extraordinary place that is difficult to encompass with just one visit. Next month we will visit Chelsea Physic Garden.

Happy New Year,
Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
Continuing Education

Look for your Spring 2017 Class Brochure in the mail!

We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for Education Volunteer workshop hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses. Registration opens in mid-January.

**Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot**
*(Session 1 or 2)*
*Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader*
March 25 or April 20

**Winter Tree Identification**
*Dr. Tim Block, The John J. Willaman Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum*
March 30

**Magnificent Magnolias**
*Jehane Samaha, The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*
April 5

**Great Plants and Places: Staff Favorites**
*Kate Deregibus, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum*
April 23

**Butterfly Walk**
*Kris Soffa, Pennsylvania Master Naturalist*
June 20

Volunteers who have given a minimum of 30 hours over the past year may take these and any other courses at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.
Connections Beyond Our Garden

Don’t miss these upcoming lectures in our series. All lectures cost $7.50 for volunteers with a minimum of 30 hours over the past year. To register, please call 215-247-5777 ext. 125.

GMOs: The Science, the Hope, and the Real World
Dr. Andrew Binns
Biology Professor, University of Pennsylvania
Sunday, January 22 at 2 p.m.
Dr. Andrew Binns will provide a brief summary of the science behind GMO production and ‘conventional’ plant breeding; discuss the conceivable positives and negatives from these two approaches based on the science behind them; and examine how political/economic discourse affects decision making in relation to utilization of these technologies.

The Critical Role of Plants in the Urban Landscape
Dr. Ari Novy
Executive Director, U.S. Botanic Garden
Wednesday, February 1 at 2 p.m.
Engaging urban populations in important environmental issues is critical for creating beautiful, healthy cities. Learn more about what Dr. Ari Novy and the staff at the U.S. Botanic Garden have done to teach the public about the aesthetic, cultural, economic, therapeutic, and ecological importance of plants to the well-being of humankind.

Approaching Sustainability
Dr. John Francis
National Geographic Explorer and 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 may be moved to a larger, nearby venue.
Volunteer Opportunities & Announcements

Tu B’Shevat - The New Year of Trees

Tu B’Shevat will be here in just a few weeks, with many groups signed up to learn about trees! There are still plenty of volunteer spots open. Please use TeamUp or contact Lisa at baileyl@upenn.edu if you are able to assist with an activity on February 5-9 or February 12.

Arboretum Adventure

Explore the Arboretum using our newest digital tour! Hop, squirm, buzz, flap, and scamper your way around the Arboretum with charming animal guides. Learn how plants and animals support one another along the way! Check it out at home on your computer, or via your smartphone during your next visit.

We encourage volunteers and staff to share this activity with visitors. Arboretum Adventure can be found on the “Family Activities” page of the Morris Arboretum website, or by clicking here.
Volunteer Workshops

Curious About Conifers?

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

Saturdays, January 14 and 28
2:00 pm | Widener Terrace

Pollinator Garden Presentation

Join Penn State Master Gardener & Morris Arboretum Education Guide, Howard Goldstein, for a morning power point presentation on the award winning Pollinator Garden located at W. Fairmount Park’s Horticulture Center. The photos on this presentation are from the Pollinator Garden and document the flowering shrubs, perennials, annuals, and insects from the last three years that we see from early spring to late fall. There will be handouts and samples of books pertinent to pollinator gardens and insects.

Tuesday, January 10 | 10:30 am | Upper Gallery
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
From the Archives

Archives Quiz

Did you know that some of our Archives collections are available for viewing on the Morris Arboretum website? To enhance your Arboretum knowledge, see if you can answer these questions about the estate years at the Morris Arboretum using the online collection. Hint: From the homepage at morrisarboretum.org, hover over the “About” tab and select “Archives.” Answers will be published in the February issue.

1 & 2. Lydia compiled a handwritten ________ over three decades, beginning in 1883. The first entry is ______.

3. What wording in John Morris’s will reflects his respect for and the strong influence of his sister Lydia?

4. What source, handwritten by John Morris, tells us that he owned a Book of Psalms bound in tortoise shell?

5. In 1921 a George Whillier finished 38 hours of work on the farm. How much was he paid?

6. On what committee did John Morris serve where expanding the acreage of Fairmount Park was the major topic?

7. What was the price of a pair of trimmer snips in 1927?

8. What did it cost in 1927 to place an ad for a gardener in The Evening Bulletin?

Read All About It

Ever wonder who traveled around the world with John and Lydia Morris or who put out the fire in the Palm House or who had a baby at Compton or who took Miss Morris’s little gold clock? Click here to find out in the monthly series, Untold Stories of Compton on the Morris Arboretum blog.

In order to tell these stories, author Joyce H. Munro scours the archives in Gates Hall, then continues the search at archives of institutions like the Philadelphia Museum of Art, University of Pennsylvania, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Haverford College, Hagley Library, and National Museum of American History. After the holidays, she’s off to the Mertz Library at the New York Botanical Gardens to track down another untold story.
Garden Highlights

Chamaecyparis obtusa ‘Nana’
dwarf hinoki falsecypress
below greenhouses

Sinocalycanthus chinensis
sinocalycanthus
near Log Cabin

Chimonanthus praecox
wintersweet
Oak Allée

Corylus fargesii
filbert
near Swan Pond

Platycarya strobilacea
platycarya
near Log Cabin

Tsuga canadensis
Canada hemlock
near Pennock Garden
# Upcoming Events

## January 2017

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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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