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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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
Letter from the Editor

Each January we welcome in a new year and with it a change in season. Winter seems to have finally arrived as a chill whips through the air and ice crystals sparkle in the morning sun. While some find this a bleak time I welcome the change and look forward to the cold winter mornings.

To me the sight of freshly lain snow or frost on a window pane is calming and reminds me of the many opportunities to come in the new year. This all started Christmas morning of 1997 when my dad gave me the book “A Drop of Water” by Walter Wick. This book was probably a bit advanced for a six year old, but I couldn’t take my eyes off the photographs of snowflakes and frost.

Ever since I have found myself mesmerized by the visual patterns that frost forms, and snowflakes’ unique, fractal designs. I encourage you this winter to take a moment to appreciate nature’s work of art. Marvel at the frost patterns on your car windshield and take the time to look at an individual snowflake before shoveling it away. I know snow can be a nuisance, but it can also be a delight so take the time to be a kid at heart and catch a snowflake on your tongue.

Happy New Year,
Jennie Ciborowski
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Happy 2018 to all of you! The new year is typically a time for making resolutions and hoping that you can keep at least some of them. For me it is also a time to reflect on highlights from the past year. A highlight for me was delighting at the insightful and funny comments made by kids. Thanks to many of you who shared your personal gems. I hope you enjoy reading them!

Jody Sprague: Jody: “Did you enjoy today’s tour?” Young Boy: “Yeah, it was a lot better than I thought it would be!”

Eileen O’Rourke: About halfway through a tour a little 5-year old came up to me, took my hand while skipping and said, “You’re a genius!”

Joan Hanby: One of the children on a tour wanted to know why we had credit cards on all of our trees.

Bette Perlman: A first grader passed a weeping conifer and asked if it was sleeping.

Rick Stover: While at the Lydia and John statues, one kid asked if Lydia was pregnant. When I asked why he asked that question, the boy responded, “Because her stomach feels hot”.

Jim Kohler (along the same lines): One kid wanted to know if Lydia was inside the statue.

Jenny Godwin: Once I was talking about ages of trees – redwoods about 70, another tree 50. One boy suddenly yelled out, “My Dad is 45” and the rest of the kids then yelled out their Dads’ ages.

Jane Alavi: After talking to the kids about the Blue Atlas Cedar and the fact that it was native to the Atlas Mountains in Africa, one of the kids asked how they got it here.

Phyllis Girard: One little one said, “Smell the air!”

Happy and healthy New Year to all,

Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

How Trees Work

Thursday, January 11th | 1:00 p.m. | Upper Gallery

This workshop, for Morris Arboretum volunteers, will explore the many occupations (ahem!) of trees, including building homes for squirrels and running a floral shop in the suburbs. Participants will be expected to playact being a branch, flower, and root system. Prizes for the best performance :) In reality, the workshop led by Charlie Mazza, will cover tree (as well as other plant) structure and some important biological reactions taking place inside the tree. In case of inclement weather this event will take place on Thursday, January 18th at 1:00 p.m.

Curious About Conifers?

Saturdays, January 13 & 27 | 2:00 pm | Widener Terrace

The Conifer Tour is returning for another season! Bundle up for a special tour highlighting a selection of impressive conifers at Morris Arboretum. These notable specimens provide multi-seasonal interest with an array of forms, foliage, bark, and of course, cones! Don’t miss this opportunity to satisfy your curiosity about conifers and enhance your guiding repertoire.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

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! We are in need of volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week and there are still plenty of spots open. Feel free to volunteer for multiple slots! Sign up via Team Up.

- Sunday, January 28: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm
- Monday, January 29: 10-11:15 am
- Tuesday, January 30: 10-11:15 am
- Thursday, February 1: 10-11:15 am
- Sunday, February 4: 10-11:15 am, 11:30 am-12:45 pm

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 Morrises 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.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

February Horticulture Workshops

Wednesdays, February 14th & 21st | 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. | Upper Gallery

Save these dates to reconnect with volunteers and enjoy a full day of presenters! More details to come in next month’s issue. For questions, please email Pam Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu.

Nature Play is coming to Morris Arboretum!

In place of the Discovery Series this spring, there will be small areas of the Arboretum designated for kids to turn over logs, jump on stumps, make branch shelters and fairy houses, and generally take a deep dive into nature. The success of the program depends on caregivers taking a step back, so children can discover on their own. There also will be an evaluative component in this inaugural year. For both of these aspects, I need your help.

The program will be on the first Saturdays of May-October from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. I will 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
Guide's Reflections: Roundtable Discussion
by Lisa Bailey

Last month, Education Volunteers participated in the second Guides Roundtable Discussion, to share strategies and best practices for engaging students and teachers during tours of the Arboretum. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn from each other and also build camaraderie. Listed below are some of the highlights from this lively brainstorming session.

HOW TO BEST ADDRESS INATTENTIVE, DISTRACTED OR WANDERING CHILDREN

1) Give students tasks/jobs.
2) Learn student’s names.
3) Get the teacher/chaperone involved from the beginning.
4) Have students focus on something specific, ex. use magnifying glass to look at pine cones
5) Use the senses - touch bark and listen for animal sounds.
6) Stop movement - have students sit down.
7) Use a word that means stop and listen, i.e. ‘Arboretum’. Ask teacher/students to select the specific word.
8) Take inattentive students by hand.
9) Use the phrase: “1, 2, 3 Eyes on me.” Teach students to respond: “1, 2 Eyes on you.”
10) Find out what is distracting them and consider adding that to the tour.

TIPS FOR DEALING WITH DIFFICULT PARTS OF CHILDREN’S TOURS

1) Assess student knowledge before a tricky activity and consider alternate activities ahead of time.
2) Recruit another guide to work with you for activity intensive tours, like Sustainability.
3) During Wetland tour observation segment, give students direction on what to look for.
4) Be confident and enthusiastic.
5) For Web of Life activity, explain that interdependence can be both “what needs you” OR “what you need”.
6) Interdependence tour: use the Grab Bag as a wrap-up or review activity.
7) Sustainability tour: Give Tree Cards out during the Clear Cutting activity. Have eliminated trees/students tell the group what products their tree makes.
8) Adapt the tour up or down to suit the age group.
9) Tree Adventure tour: Put containers on the ground for the compaction activity.

HOW TO ENCOURAGE TEACHER/CHAPERONE TO REMAIN INVOLVED

1) Introduce yourself to the chaperone; create a rapport; discuss expectations/where we’re going next, etc.
2) Ask the chaperone to hold the sticky palette.
3) Ask for help with props/tour activities nicely, but directly.
4) Clarify rules for both students and adults in the beginning (i.e. no cell phone calls).
5) Discuss the tour goals and objectives with the chaperone.
6) Find out who the adults are in your group – a teacher? Parent? Special needs aide?
7) Tell chaperone the students did well and thank them for their help.
Continuing Education

Be on the lookout for your Spring 2018 Brochure!

We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for Education Volunteer workshop hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses. Course registration is open January 11th on our website.

Discover the Birds and Animals of the Morris Arboretum Wetland | Ruth Pfeffer
March 18

Winter Tree Identification | Dr. Tim Block
March 27

Getting to Know Lydia Morris - Through the Women in her Life | Joyce Munro
April 5

Sake, Sushi, Sakura: Cherry Blossom Appreciation | Anthony Aiello
April 12

Wine, Cheese, and Spectacular Trees | Paul Meyer
May 15

Springtime Sunset Stroll | Bob Gutowski
May 16

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 Joyce Munro

Reading to Warm You Up

More *Untold Stories of Compton* are ready for winter reading on the Morris Arboretum blog:

- Learn who helped John Morris shape his vision for a botanical school at Bloomfield Farm in “The Consultant”

- Find out why Lydia’s secretary went well beyond the call of duty in “The Secretary”

- There’s a connection between the law firm Saul Ewing and Lydia Morris and it’s told in “The Attorney”

- Lydia’s doctor went all the way to Lake Placid to meet with her, but not because she was ill. Learn why in “The Doctor”

- Think spring with a story about John Morris’s love of Fairmount Park in the *Broad Street Review*

Research for these stories takes archives volunteer Joyce H. Munro to historical societies and museums in the Philadelphia area and better yet to descendants of the people who worked for the Morris siblings at Compton. After the holidays, she’s off to Boathouse Row to track down another untold story.
Is current history going to be your forte? After quizzes on history from the Arboretum’s Estate Era and the University Era, here is your test on the Renewal Era.

1. The Renewal Era began around what year?

2. The grounds of the Arboretum are divided into six sections, Natural Areas, Bloomfield Farm, Compton, Rose Garden, ________________ and ________________?

3. Who became Curator of the Living Collection in 1976?

4. In December 1978, Compton and Bloomfield (Morris Arboretum) of 9414 Meadowbrook Ave., Philadelphia, attained what prestigious distinction?

5. In 1981 what notable feature was added to the magnolia slope?

6. On June 8, 1987 The Philadelphia Inquirer reported: “tonight...at 7 p.m. a small ceremony in the [Morris Arboretum] rose garden will rededicate the grounds, commemorating ________________.”

7. On April 29, 1988 Governor Robert Casey signed into law House Bill 1071, designating the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania as the ________________.

8. Who, in 1991, was on duty every night in the Rose Garden to keep the deer from eating the roses?

9. What opened in 1998, contributing to a remarkable spike in Arboretum visitors and 850 new memberships?

10. Springfield Mills, the Arboretum’s historic grist mill at Bloomfield Farm, is the pride of the Run of the Mill Volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring the mill to operating condition. In 2012 the millstones began again to do what?
Garden Highlights

Sarcococca orientalis  
sarcococca  
Orange Balustrade

Tsuga diversifolia  
Japanese hemlock  
Near the Fernery

Camellia japonica  ‘Spring’s Promise’  
Spring’s Promise common camellia  
Rose Garden

Ilex x koehneana  ‘Lassie’  
Lassie Koehne holly  
Hillcrest Pavilion

Chimonanthus praecox var. concolor  
wintersweet variety  
Children’s Eating Area

Pinus densiflora  
Japanese red pine  
Widener Parking Lot
## Upcoming Events

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

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**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30 am  
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Upcoming Events

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