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: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: Viburnum plicatum

Holboellia grandiflora
Holboellia

Allium giganteum
giant allium
Letter from the Editor

It’s hard to believe that in just a few days I will be packing up my things and saying good-bye to my year at the Arboretum. It’s been a whirlwind for sure! From the long, hot, wet summer we had, to a quick fall, followed by a mild winter and sunny spring, it’s been wonderful to spend a year here.

What I’ll take away from this year is the ability to look closely. In the fall, someone pointed out to me that a strawberry is not actually a berry…it’s not technically a fruit at all, but rather the sweet flesh is a swollen receptacle holding the ovaries. If you look closely at a strawberry, you’ll see a tiny pistil by every seed. As someone who has eaten a lot of strawberries in their life, this nearly microscopic revelation blew my mind.

I’m very greatful to have gotten to get to know so many of you. Stay curious.

Until next time,
Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

1) Hydrangea 2) Ilex verticillata 3) Ilex opaca 4) Paeonia
Notes from the Guides Chair

State Champion Trees

In giving tours we often refer to many of our incredible trees as “state champions”. I don’t know about you, but I never knew exactly what this meant until a recent lecture on Stoneleigh Gardens (in which the speaker referenced all of the state champions at Stoneleigh) piqued my interest in the topic.

I soon discovered that a champion tree represents the largest of its species found in the state. The Champion Tree Program is administered by the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, a broad-based citizen’s organization that provides leadership and education in sound, science-based forest management. The organization also promotes stewardship to ensure the sustainability of all forest resources which results in benefits for all, today and into the future.

There are over 1,000 trees listed on the Pennsylvania Forestry Associates’ website that are either large locally or the largest in the state. Citizens are encouraged to submit trees for consideration by completing a nomination form. All trees submitted for “champion” status must first be measured using the following process as a point system is used:

- **Measurement of Circumference at Breast Height**: This measurement is made in inches at a point on the tree trunk that is 4 ½ feet above the ground. If the tree is growing on a slope, the 4 ½ feet is determined at mid-slope – or the point halfway between the high and low points where the trunk meets the soil. One point is given for each inch of circumference.

- **Height of the Tree**: The height of the tree is the distance from the ground line at mid-slope of the tree trunk to the tallest part of the tree. The Eastern Native Tree Society methodology uses a laser range finder and clinometer (an instrument used for measuring angles of slope, elevation or depression of an object with respect to gravity’s direction). There are, however, other less technical ways to get an estimate close to the actual height of the tree. One method requires only a straight stick or yardstick, a stake and a tape measure. Consult the PA Big Trees website for more information on this method. One point is given for each foot of height.

- **Average Crown Spread**: The last two measurements are for average crown spread – a horizontal measurement from leaf tip to leaf tip of the shortest spread and the longest spread of the tree. These two numbers are added together and divided by two to get the average crown spread. A quarter of a point is given for every inch of average spread.

Morris Arboretum’s state champions include our katsura, blue atlas cedar, Chinese elm, dawn redwood, lacebark pine, trident maple and tabletop Scotch elm. The title for largest tree in Pennsylvania has recently moved from a cottonwood in Dauphin County to a sycamore in Chester County. This tree was listed in the 1982 Penn’s Woods book, but it did not become official until the homeowner nominated the tree through the website. The circumference of the massive tree is 29’ 8”. The tree is 117’ tall with a crown spread of 124’. The tree is believed to be 400 years old.

In your travels through the state be on the lookout for massive trees. Who knows - one of your nominees could become a “state champion”!

Enjoy the end of spring on your tours – summer is coming soon so be ready to see campers around the Arboretum!

Joan Kober
New Executive Director Announced

Welcome Bill Cullina

After a comprehensive international search, Morris Arboretum is thrilled to announce that William (Bill) G. Cullina has been appointed as the F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum effective July 8, 2019. Mr. Cullina succeeds Paul W. Meyer who served the Arboretum for 43 outstanding years, 28 years as Executive Director.

Bill Cullina comes to Morris Arboretum from the Coastal Maine Botanical Garden where he has served as its President and CEO since 2011, and is well known as an author and lecturer. He possesses extensive experience in public garden leadership, fundraising, education, and horticulture. During his tenure at Coastal Maine Botanical Garden, he led the development of a comprehensive 20-year master plan and launched a $50 million capital campaign to develop the first phase of the Master Plan. He completed a new $4.2 million net-zero energy LEED platinum Education Center and grew annual attendance by 250% (206,000 visitors in 2018, and membership by 50% (6,300 member households).

Previously, Mr. Cullina was the Nursery Director and Head Propagator at New England Wildflower Society in Massachusetts. He is a recognized authority on North American native plants and lectures on a variety of subjects to garden and professional groups and writes for popular and technical journals. His books include *Wildflowers; Native Trees, Shrubs, and Vines; Understanding Orchids; Native Ferns, Mosses, and Grasses; Understanding Perennials*, and he co-authored *Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens: A People’s Garden* in 2011.

Ellen Hass, chair of Morris Arboretum’s Board of Advisors and chair of the search committee said of Bill Cullina, “We have found a well-respected leader from the garden world with a proven record of success. He is an ideal choice to lead the Morris Arboretum in its next phase of growth.”

Bill Cullina expounded on his new role, “I am thrilled and honored to be joining the Morris Arboretum as its executive director. It is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity, and I am deeply grateful to the Board and University for selecting me as the next leader of this great institution. I cannot wait to get started!”

**Volunteer**   **June 2019**
**New Tour: MORE Hidden Gems!**

Saturdays, June 8th & 22nd | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

The original Hidden Gems tour was so popular that it has returned this season with MORE! Go off the beaten path to see less frequently visited garden gems and add some new fun facts to your guiding repertoire.

**Saturday Morning Live Tour: Small Trees for Small Spaces**

Saturdays, June 1st | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

Learn more about some of the Arboretum’s smaller specimen trees that make a big impact. Ranging in height from 15 to 30 feet, these trees, literally and figuratively, have been over-shadowed by the Arboretum’s big trees, but are now getting a much deserved moment in the spotlight.

**Summer Evening Sculpture Tour**

Wednesday, June 12th | 6:30 p.m. | Widener Terrace

New this season - summer evening tours, featuring a different tour the second Wednesday of each month! This month, explore fine examples of public art that complement the Arboretum’s landscape.
Extracurriculars

Book Club

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff and meets the first Friday of each month. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month.

June 7th | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall Conference Room

*The Pine Island Paradox* by

Kathleen Dean Moore

In this stimulating brew of personal stories, acclaimed author Kathleen Dean Moore uses the metaphor of an island to challenge the cynicism inherent in the Western worldview. A gifted storyteller with a sly sense of humor, Moore explores three separations brought to us by Enlightenment philosophers: the separation of humans from nature, of things near and far away, and of the sacred from the mundane. Moore disguises her philosophical explorations in stories about vacationing on a tiny island in Alaska, visiting her father in the hospital, and watching grouse perform their mating dance in the desert. She shows that the world is full of opportunities to find hidden connections.

Arboretum Then and Now with Tony Aiello

Saturday, June 27th | 10:30 a.m. | Upper Gallery

Please plan to join us on June 27th at 10:30 a.m when Anthony Aiello, the Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, takes us on a time traveling journey through the Arboretum with images from the 1960’s alongside contemporary comparisons.
Continuing Education

Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot
Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader
Wednesday, June 5 | 8:00 - 11:00 a.m.

Explore some of the nesting bird hotspots at Morris Arboretum. We will visit the Arboretum's natural areas including wetlands, meadows, and the woodlands along the Wissahickon Creek. We will see resident birds as well as migrating raptors, sparrows, and warblers. This session is for beginning and experienced bird watchers alike.

Register here.

Painting with Watercolor and Colored Pencil
Eileen Rosen, Art Teacher and Illustrator
Three Saturdays, June 8, 15, 22 | 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

What happens when you combine two very different mediums to paint a flower, fruit, or vegetable? First, a flat, one-color, simple shape becomes the underpainting. Then layering and blending with wax-based colored pencils adds realistic depth to the painting. Step-by-step demonstrations will explain the process.

Register here.

Crepe Paper Icelandic Poppies
Kelly Grace Gibbons, Owner of CraftingSpace with Kelly Grace, Paper Florist
Sunday, June 9 | 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Learn how to make beautiful crepe paper Icelandic poppies in this workshop. You will choose from a range of high-quality crepe paper colors and be guided through the sculpting and assembly techniques of paper floristry. You'll get to make your very own realistic, lasting Icelandic poppies and learn the skills to make them again or apply them to other paper flowers.

Register here.

BioEYES: Your Watershed, Your Backyard (Ages 7-12)
Ent Natale, Biology and Environmental Educator
Saturday, July 27 | 10:30 - 12:30 a.m.

Come learn about your local watershed and the basic principles of environmental science in the Arboretum. In this two-part class, kids will participate in a citizen science study of water quality via water chemistry testing and observations of zebrafish embryos, a model organism used in current research.

Register here.

Volunteers who have worked over 30 hours during the past year may take Morris Arboretum classes at a discounted price. To sign up for a class please register online or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.
From the Archives
by Joyce H. Munro

Five Things You Might Not Know About … Horticultural Books in John Morris’s Library

1. Among the oldest books in the library of Compton were the twenty volumes of *The Botanical Cabinet, Consisting of Coloured Delineations of Plants from All Countries*. The author, a nursery owner in Britain named George Loddiges, took on the mission of introducing over 2000 rare plants to the public between 1817 and 1826. See Volume I [here](#).

2. If John Morris was interested in the etymology of a plant name, he could look it up in Benjamin Maund’s 13-volume series, *The Botanic Garden*. Composed between 1825 and 1851, the series was not just a scientific compendium but a literary tour de force, with poetry, observations and illustrations by his daughters. A similar first-edition set can be purchased today for $6500 at a rare books dealer.

3. John Morris owned sixty ‘botanical’ books that went unnamed in the final inventory of his library, a likely indication that they were contemporary and of less value.

4. Perhaps the most unusual (and earliest) horticultural book in John’s library was *Fragments on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening* by Humphry Repton, which incorporated small slips of hinged paper pasted over selected engravings (overslips) showing “before and after” improvements to prominent estates. It was, and still is, an entertaining pastiche of renovations to mistakes others had made and went well beyond landscaping into symmetry, color, proportions.

5. Humphry Repton pulled no punches in naming less-than-perfect estates, like historic Wingerworth Hall in Derbyshire, an estate he claimed had been “unfortunately treated.” What Wingerworth needed, according to Repton, was a more dignified entry gate, a lake, and mass plantings rather than the “dots and clumps with which modern gardening is apt to disfigure an open lawn.” See Repton’s overslips in action [here](#).
**Garden Highlights**

- **Spiraea x vanhouttei**
  - vanhouttei spirea
  - Orange Balustrade

- **Chionanthus virginicus**
  - whitefring tree
  - Outside Rose Garden

- **Prunus 'Gyoiko'**
  - Gyoiko Japanese flowering cherry
  - Japanese Hill Garden

- **Aquilegia columbine**
  - Woodland Walk

- **Weigela florida 'Rumba'**
  - Rumba old-fashioned weigela
  - Outside Rose Garden
### Upcoming Events

#### June 2019

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<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Louise Clarke</td>
<td>Guide Council 1:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Moonlight &amp; Roses 6 p.m.</td>
<td>MORE Hidden Gems Tour</td>
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<td>Grist Mill Demonstration 1 p.m.</td>
<td>New Interns Arrive</td>
<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Jess Slade</td>
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<td>MORE Hidden Gems Tour</td>
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#### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon  
**Wednesdays:** Garden stays open until 8 p.m. (June - August)  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.  
**Sundays:** Early Bird Weekends, Arboretum opens at 8:00 a.m. Regular Tour 11:00 a.m. -12 noon
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<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Erin Conley</td>
<td>Founders’ Summer Ice Cream Social</td>
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