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: This Hydrangea arborescens ssp. radiata was received as a seedling from the Arnold Arboretum in 2012.

Contents

Letter from the Editor 1
Note from the Guides Chair 2
Volunteer Workshops 3
Volunteer Opportunities 5
Continuing Education 8
Intern Presentations 9
Story from the Archives 11
Garden Highlights 12
Upcoming Events 13
The witchhazels are in full bloom here at the Arboretum, a welcome burst of color on the gray backdrop of winter. Their scent is hard to describe, but witch hazel flowers are best appreciated when smelled with an open mouth—trust me, it works!

Robert Frost mentions witchhazels in the following poem, “Reluctance”. It is written from the perspective of a man returning home after a long journey to find everything immersed in the winter season, “the last lone aster…gone”. Yet, the final stanza of the poem provides hope for new life in the spring.

The poem parallels Frost’s own life experience of initially being rejected by his future wife, Elinor. She later accepted his proposal after Frost refused “to bow and accept the end of a love or a season”.

Pilar Rivera
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

“Reluctance”
Robert Frost, 1913

Out through the fields and the woods
And over the walls I have wended;
I have climbed the hills of view
And looked at the world, and descended;
I have come by the highway home,
And lo, it is ended.

The leaves are all dead on the ground,
Save those that the oak is keeping
To ravel them one by one
And let them go scraping and creeping
Out over the crusted snow,
When others are sleeping.

And the dead leaves lie huddled and still,
No longer blown hither and thither;
The last lone aster is gone;
The flowers of the witch hazel wither;
The heart is still aching to seek,
But the feet question ‘Whither?’

Ah, when to the heart of man
Was it ever less than a treason
To go with the drift of things,
To yield with a grace to reason,
And bow and accept the end
Of a love or a season?
Note from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

Perhaps I have had my head in the sand or I have been too preoccupied with insects that are known in our area, but I was totally unaware of a lethal insect attacking pine trees by the millions. The mountain pine beetle, unlike Asian carp or kudzu, isn’t an immigrant. It is native to western pine forests, especially lodgepole and ponderosa forests, where it normally lives in relatively small numbers. According to National Geographic, it has been normal for the mountain pine beetle to boom every now and then, and to kill large swaths of forest. But it mainly booms in a single region – not across half a continent.

Since the 1990’s more than 60 million acres of forest, from northern New Mexico through British Columbia, has suffered die-offs. By the time the outbreak in BC peters out, some 60 percent of the mature pines in the province may be dead. That’s one billion cubic meters of wood.

Across western North America, in millions of acres of pine forest, the story is the same. Drive through parts of Colorado and you’ll encounter entire mountainsides painted with rust. From valley bottoms all the way to the tree line, nearly every single pine has been killed by an enemy smaller than a thumbtack.

Unfortunately, the mountain pine beetle can thank us. We’ve spent the past century eliminating forest fires – thereby turning the woods into beetle buffets. Not to mention rising temperatures and drought have stressed trees, leaving them unable to fight an invasion. The range of the beetle is expanding farther north and at higher elevations. In Yellowstone National Park three-quarters of whitebark pines are now dead, a blow to grizzly bears, who eat the seeds in autumn, and to Clark’s nutcrackers, which cache the seeds for winter.

When University of British Columbia insect ecologist Allan Carroll was asked, “will the beetle move across the continent?” he answered, “yes.” According to the article, if Dr. Carroll is meeting with your local officials, it’s a good sign your forests are toast. Prevention is now the key to saving a forest. Many trees have to be cut, with the hope of stopping the beetle from spreading.

If you are interested in learning more about the mountain pine beetle, the article was printed in the April 2015 issue of National Geographic.

Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides

Pinus pumila ‘Yes-Alpina’, Yes-Alpina Japanese stone pine
Volunteer Workshops

Wrapped Up: Yarnbombing at the Morris Arboretum

Do you crochet or knit? If so, consider contributing your handiwork as a part of this year’s exhibit, Wrapped Up: Yarnbombing at the Morris Arboretum. Please join us and fiber artist Melissa Haims, the creator of Wrapped Up as we create knitted or crocheted squares. These squares will become a community piece assembled by Melissa to cover the bridge near the Log Cabin. Bring your favorite needles and leftover yarn. Questions? Contact Michelle Conners at mconners@upenn.edu or at x109.

Saturday, March 5th | 1:00 - 4:00 pm | Upper Gallery

Witchhazel Tours

Just when you may have finally accepted the grayness of winter, there may be some surprising bursts of color down the garden paths. Come join fellow guides for the wonderful witchhazel watch tours starting at Widener on each of the following Saturdays. If blooming witchhazels come your way, can spring be far behind?

Two Saturdays: March 12th & 26th | 2:00 pm | Visitor Center
Volunteer Workshops

Spring Refresher- Sustainable Practices Tour

The Education Committee will present a refresher session on the ‘Sustainable Practices’ tour. This new tour is geared toward middle school students to raise awareness of how sustainable practices benefit current and future generations. The goal is to get students thinking about what they can do to help protect the earth’s resources. Don’t miss out on this special opportunity to add another tour to your guiding repertoire.

Thursday, March 31st | 1:00 pm | Lower Classroom

Guiding “Tips & Techniques” Session

Join your fellow guides for a short discussion on tour management techniques. Seasoned guides will share their favorite tips for turning guiding challenges into successful experiences for you and your tour group. All current guides are invited to attend.

Thursday, March 31st | 3:00 pm
Upper Gallery

New Guide “Kick-off” Celebration

The Training Committee will host a “kick-off” celebration to congratulate the Education Guide Class of 2016 as they complete the first phase of training and begin their apprenticeship at Morris Arboretum. All current guides are welcome to meet the trainees and join in the celebration.

Thursday, March 31st | 3:30 pm
Upper Gallery
Volunteer Opportunities

Kibale National Forest Conservation Lecture

The Kibale National Forest in western Uganda is a rainforest filled with five types of monkeys, one of the largest concentrations of chimpanzees in sub-Saharan Africa, and a wide array of other animals and beautiful flora. The forest was being devastated by wood harvesting for heat and cooking, and is now being saved through the education efforts of the New Nature Foundation. They are building solar stoves, heat boxes, and planting fast-growing trees specifically for harvesting, involving local industry.

Sunday, April 13th | 12:00-1:00 pm | Upper Gallery

Spring Guiding Sign-Up

You should have received your sign-up sheet in the mail. Select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season. Please hold your primary day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course). Once selected, return the sheet by mail or email to Lisa Bailey, BaileyL@upenn.edu.

Sign Up to Volunteer for Arbor Week

Share your love of trees with children during our annual Arbor Week Program. Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling plantings, the roots exhibit, and the tree trivia game show. Feel free to sign up via the Team Up calendar for more than one slot!

Tuesday, April 19th - Friday, April 22nd
Volunteer Opportunities

Trip to Jenkins Arboretum

Be inspired by the lovely 20-acre public woodland garden, maintained by the Elisabeth Phillippe Jenkins Foundation in Devon. We will be treated to a talk by Steve Wright, Director of Horticulture, Curator and former Morris intern, in the LEED Gold John Willaman Education Center. Then, we’ll enjoy a guided walk through the garden to view spring ephemerals and early blooming azaleas. In his presentation, Steve will discuss some issues affecting deer populations and offer some landscaping tricks and plant species that you could use to create a beautiful home garden that deer won’t eat! Bring questions, a notepad, and a brown-bag lunch and leave with some inspiration for the season ahead. Meet at the kiosk for departure by van. Be sure to reserve your space on the van via the Team Up calendar, or email Lisa Bailey, baileyl@upenn.edu

Tuesday, April 26th | Depart at 9:30 am | Meadow Parking

- The Discovery Series -

The Discovery Series is an interactive, informal table staffed by four fun and crafty Education volunteers!

We would love your help on the first Saturday of every month from April to October. We have two shifts available between 11am and 3pm. Sign up on the Team Up calendar or email Tiffany Stahl, tifstahl@upenn.edu, for dates and details!
Volunteer Opportunities

- The Philadelphia Antiques & Art Show -
A Benefit for Penn Medicine
A SPECIAL OFFER TO GROUPS, CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Choose Your Day: Friday, April 15 - Saturday, April 16 - Sunday, April 17

$15.00 Admission for guided Show tour and lecture

10:00 am - Tour
Enjoy an exclusive private tour of the Show with Philadelphia’s Park House Guides as they highlight notable objects and art offered by the Show’s outstanding exhibitors and the Loan Exhibit, Secret Treasures: The Passion of Collecting as Seen Through Dealers and Their Collections

11:00 am - Explore & Refresh
Leisurely visit the entire Show floor and take the opportunity to explore all 58 of the dealers’ booths, and enjoy the most outstanding examples of fine and decorative arts available in the country. Visit the Show Café and purchase a gourmet lunch chosen from an appetizing selection.

1:00 pm - Friday, April 15
Decorating with Art and Antiques, Ellie Cullman & Stacey Bewkes
Ellie is a renowned, award winning Interior designer and one of Architectural Digests top 100 interior designers in the country. She will speak with Stacey on integrating your home with the fine and decorative arts. Stacey created Quintessence, a lifestyle blog and trusted source for well-researched and original content. Followed by Ellie’s book signing.

1:00 pm - Saturday, April 16
Museum Curator as Collector: Value vs. Aesthetics, Alexandra Kirtley
The Montgomery Garvan Associate Curator of American Decorative Arts from The Philadelphia Museum of Art will give a personal view of the Show and its varied offerings. Once again, Alexandra returns to our lecture series and is back by popular demand!

1:00 pm - Sunday, April 17
Stolen, Smuggled, Sold: On the Hunt for Cultural Treasures, Nancy Moses
Prominent author, consultant to museums, other cultural institutions and communities will speak on iconic cultural treasures that were stolen, smuggled or sold and eventually returned to their original owners. Followed by a book signing.

*Minimum of 10 people necessary to receive this special 40% discounted rate. Advanced purchase required by April 1, 2016.
Continuing Education

- Volunteer Workshop Hours -

We offer a variety of classes that are eligible for volunteer workshop hours. Below is a list of upcoming approved courses. To register online, visit https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes, or call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125.

100 Years of Collecting: Conifers at the Morris Arboretum
Thursday, March 10, 10:00 a.m.

Understanding Trees from the Inside, Out
Friday, March 18, 9:00 a.m.

Lose the Lilacs: Native Woodies with Four-Season Interest
Tuesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m.

Magnolias: Tour with an Expert
Tuesday, April 12, 1:00 p.m.

Restoration Ecology
Thursday, April 14, 9:00 a.m.

Sustainability in the Garden
Tuesday, April 26, 7:00 p.m.

Morris Moth Night: Celebrating National Moth Week
Tuesday, July 26, 8:00 p.m.

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 in the Education Office for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.
Intern Project Presentations

This March, the 2015-16 Intern class will present their projects to the public. Come listen to what they have been working on this year! Thursday, March 17 & 31 from 10am-3pm in the Upper Gallery.

Thursday, March 17th

Fostering Family Engagement at the Arboretum
Pilar Rivera, 2015-16 McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern
Pilar wants to encourage families to connect with their natural surroundings and one another through sensory engagement. She has been designing content for a digital app that will lead families around the Arboretum with guided questions and activities that promote open discussion.

Garden Redesign of Mezzanine/Terrace Lawn
Maya Czulewicz, 2015-16 Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern
This highly trafficked, underplanted passageway garden has great potential. Maya plans on using plants to increase the elegance of the space, clarify pathway options, and invite visitors to linger and enjoy the westward vista of the Sculpture Garden.

To Speak for the Trees: A Self-Guided Tour Exploring Arboriculture Practices at the Morris Arboretum
Josh Best, 2015-16 Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern
Josh’s goal is to create an online resource allowing Arboretum visitors to explore and discover some Arboretum trees and the management efforts that have been made to protect and preserve them. Topics will also include tree biology and function to help foster an understanding of why certain techniques and practices are crucial to the establishment and preservation of healthy trees.

Groff Memorial Park Meadow Design and Management Plan
Trish Kemper, 2015-16 Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern
Trish is creating an environmentally sensitive design for a 2-acre meadow addition to a 4-acre public woodland park in New Holland, Pennsylvania. The meadow will consist of warm season grasses and perennials native to Lancaster. The project also includes the creation of an organic management plan, since a municipal well is in the middle of the park.
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Thursday, March 31st

Assessment of the Floristic Diversity of Crossways Preserve, Blue Bell, Pennsylvania
Emily Milbauer, 2015-16 John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern
Over the course of six months, Emily collected plant specimens at the preserve to create a flora inventory of the 57-acre property. She identified 262 plant species, 67% of which are native and 33% are introduced. Her project is a discussion of the findings and the diversity of the preserve.

A Proactive Pest Control Calendar and Rearing Beneficial Insects
Victoria Bolden, 2015-16 Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern
Victoria and the greenhouse staff are working to proactively control some greenhouse pests with biological control methods. Releasing beneficial insects is not enough to control pests- timing and methods of release matter! Victoria is also exploring how beneficial insects can be used on a small scale to control some common greenhouse pests.

Matrix Planting Redesign
Paige is redesigning the herbaceous level of vegetation in the Arboretum parking lot based on matrix plantings. Phase I design has been planted, and the implementation of other designs will follow.

Groundcover Restoration in the Michaux Quercetum
Willa Rowan, 2015-16 Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern
Willa is testing different methods of removal for poison ivy and other invasive species. The removal will make space available to reseed the area with a diverse mix of native groundcover and herbaceous plants.
John Morris may have been thousands of miles away from Compton but he always dreamed of its landscape potential. Purchases for Compton’s garden were made all over the world, as Louisa Kellner’s diary entries indicate from John and Lydia’s 1889-1890 trip around the world.

February 13, 1890- Kandy, Sri Lanka
“…we drove to the Botanical garden, the most beautiful garden I have ever been in, and ever shall be in, with its stately palm-trees of all kinds, the lovely orchid house, and those magnificent ferns. Bamboos we saw of 20 yards in circumference – the loveliest tropical flowers one can imagine, and all kinds of spices. This has been a very pleasant afternoon, and an eventful one at that, because there are not many people who can say with us: ‘We have seen the tea grow, coffee, cocoa, amons [sic], mace, nutmeg, olives, cinnamon, allspice, cocaine’, and O, the garden was so fragrant with all these plants that it was most delicious to breath [sic] it all in – not homeopathic perhaps, but it was delicious anyway. Handsome specimens of Indian Rubber trees this garden has also, and O, such lovely flowers! Mr. Morris bought five Rupees worth of different seeds, and if he will have good luck with them in his greenhouse at Compton, he will have the handsomest & rarest flowers in the United States.”

March 6, 1890- Macao, China
“Mr. M. was made a present of the seed of the most beautiful Chinese aster, which, so he hopes, will be in bloom by the time he returns to Compton.”

April 1, 1890- Kyoto, Japan
“After breakfast we started out for a silk-and-crepe-shop, and on our way down there we passed a ‘festival place’, where Mr. Morris bought two lovely little cherry-trees in full bloom, which are now beautifying their rooms...And their dear little gardens are like a fairy tale; hardly any flowers in them, nothing but small trees, kreepers [sic] grass, big stones & moss, and some water, or a well, and all sorts of figures, but the whole is the most wonderful arrangement, walled gardens, to look at, and many a pretty and suggestive idea will perhaps be transplanted in Compton’s grounds.”

August 11, 1890- Banff, Canada
“…Mr. Morris was out getting slips of different trees & shrubberies to be sent to and planted in the woods of Compton.”
Garden Highlights

Cornus officinalis
Japanese Cornel dogwood
Log Cabin

Cercis chinensis
Chinese redbud
near Swan Pond

Rhododendron cv. Alice Poore
Alice Poore rhododendron
near Swan Pond

Illicium floridanum
Florida anise-tree
Log Cabin

Hydrangea arborescens ssp. radiata
silverleaf hydrangea
near Cafe
## Upcoming Events

### March 2016

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am - 12pm

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00pm - 3:00pm

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11am - 3pm

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**Volunteer**

March 2016
Upcoming Events
April 2016

Weekly Volunteer Events

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am-12pm
Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm
Saturdays and Sundays: Welcome Cart 11am-3pm