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: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: Eranthis hyemalis, winter aconite.

Early signs of spring

Hamamelis x intermedia ‘Luna’
Luna witchhazel
The risk of wildfire is a constant threat for much of southern California and chaparral environments (just a few weeks ago was the first “snow day” I’d ever experienced, but growing up in southern California I had my fair share of “fire days.”) While fire can devastate a neighborhood, it’s actually essential for many plant communities.

If you grew up in the Western United States, you probably know Smokey Bear. You know his Stratton hat, his disapproving finger wag, and you know what he’s going to tell you: “Only YOU can prevent wildfires.” Despite Smokey’s watchful eye, however, in recent years, American wildfires have taken on a life of their own. In 2018 alone, 51,898 individual wildfires consumed over 8.51 million acres. Climate change and increased aridity are only expected to fuel those figures in years to come.

According to the Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy, however, the dilemma currently facing wildfire management “is not of finding new solutions to an old problem, but of implementing known solutions.” Decades of fire suppression have left our forests burdened by unprecedented levels of fuel loading, altering the way forests and fires behave.

Throughout most of the twentieth century, agencies promoted fairly passive community involvement. Although Smokey the Bear champions individual responsibility while in nature, he does little to encourage citizens to focus beyond themselves; Smokey does not ask the citizen to participate in any sort of stewardship, rather he only tells citizens not to set their own fires. Worse still, antiquated management techniques such as the Forest Service’s 10 AM Policy and the heroic image of the ‘Smokejumper,’ men who literally jumped from planes to attack forest fires, have taught the public to expect nothing less than aggressive fire suppression. The effect of such forceful suppression techniques did little to improve forest health, rather its only accomplishment was to cement fire as the enemy in the minds of the public.

Today, however, leading wildfire preparedness strategy moves well beyond the call to put out fires immediately. Instead, most scientists agree that healthy forests are safe and manageable forests.

I first got to see this in action in action in 2009 after the Jesusita Fire, burned 8,750 acres in just under two weeks’ time in Santa Barbara County. Two nights into the fire the community was devastated to hear that much of Santa Barbara Botanic Gardens had gone up flames. Thankfully fire fighters were able to save the structures on the property and much of the garden’s core collection, but the outer trails were not so lucky. While Santa Barbara Botanic Garden feared they had lost parts of their collection, just a few years later the garden is looking healthier than ever.

If you go to the garden today, you may still notice evidence of fire but it’s important to remember that those fire scares are an essential cycle for chaparral environments.
Notes from the Guides Chair

As I look out on another group of enthusiastic tots celebrating Tu B’Shevat at the Arboretum and learning about trees, I am reminded of the famous words of poet, Joyce Kilmer. Kilmer wrote:

I think I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree that may in Summer wear
A nest of robins in her hair;
Upon whose bosom snow has lain;
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree*

*abridged version of Kilmer’s 1914 poem entitled “Trees”

According to an October 3rd, 2018 editorial in the Philadelphia Inquirer, the city of Philadelphia is taking these words to heart by expanding the city’s Tree Philly program. In fact, the city wants to increase the number of trees by 30% in all neighborhoods, especially those that become heat islands in the summer. Neighborhoods lacking in trees such as Hunting Park, Point Breeze and Cobbs Creek can be 20 °F warmer than heavily shaded Chestnut Hill, Mount Airy and Somerton.

TD Bank’s pledge of $1 million over three years for this program nicely complements the more than $7 million that the city, state and Fairmount Park Conservancy have already earmarked towards strategically planting more trees along city streets and in city parks where deer have destroyed plant life.

In addition, Philadelphia will continue a slightly modified version of its yard tree program. Since 2012, the city has given residents 21,500 trees to plant in their yards. Future plans are to make available an additional 9,000 trees through community groups. Featured trees that should nicely adapt to city conditions include willow oaks, crabapples and witch hazels. The city also intends to plant 3,000 street trees and nearly 400 trees at parks and recreation centers in neighborhoods with yards too small to hold trees.

Philadelphia’s efforts should be applauded as keeping the city green with trees is not always easy. Developers promise street and landscaping trees in their architectural drawings in order to gain city approvals, but they often renege on their promises. The city requires developers to pay $700 per tree deposit. If trees are not planted within 2 years, the deposits are used by the city to plant these trees itself. Sadly, however, there is a backlog of more than 1,000 trees, which shows how difficult it is for Philadelphia to keep up with the pressing need for trees.

We are fortunate that Lydia and John were such visionaries when it came to creating the little slice of heaven we now enjoy as Morris Arboretum – brimming with such a varied palette of magnificent trees!

See you all at our March training sessions where you will be introduced to our new Water Cycle Tour. Spring is right around the corner!!

Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Spring Guiding Sign-Up

Lisa Bailey has e-mailed guides to sign up for Spring guiding. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season. Remember to hold your primary day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course).

Lisa can be reached at BaileyL@upenn.edu.

Thanks to every one of you for the wonderful experiences you provide to our student and adult groups!

Arbor Week Sign-Ups

Share your love and knowledge of trees with children during our annual Arbor Week Program. We are in need of volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week of April 29th - May 3rd. Sign up via the Team Up calendar, and feel free to volunteer for more than one time slot!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Save the Date - Guide Training

Tuesday, March 19th, Thursday, March 21st, Monday, March 25th, Wednesday, March 27th, Friday, March 29th | 9:00 am | Upper Gallery

Attention! Come learn the new Water Cycle tour. It is lots of fun, with great props, and the pilot tours were a big hit!

The workshops are scheduled on: Tuesday, March 19th, Thursday, March 21st, Monday, March 25th, Wednesday, March 27th, and Friday, March 29th. All workshops run from 9:00 am to noon.

No RSVP required. Volunteers need only attend one of these sessions.

Volunteer Trip: Jenny Rose Carey’s Garden

Monday, April 15th | 10:00 am -1:00 pm | Upper Gallery

Take a trip to Jenny Rose Carey’s home garden in Ambler, Pennsylvania. This visit is timed to highlight the spring ephemerals in the shade garden, and tie in with Jenny’s recent book *Glorious Shade*, which will be available for purchase ($25 cash or check) and signing.

There is limited parking on the property so once space in the Arboretum van has filled, we’ll arrange carpools from the Arboretum meadow beginning at 9:45 am before our 10:00 am departure. The program will begin at 10:30 am at Jenny’s garden. Please plan to bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided. A suggested donation of $5 per person on the day of the tour is requested to support the gardens and interns of PHS’s Meadowbrook Farm.

Please sign up via the Team Up calendar or contact Lisa Bailey at baileyl@upenn.edu if you are having trouble with TeamUp.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Learn more about Patrick Dougherty and Stickworks

Tuesday, March 19th | noon | Upper Gallery
Join us for an informal lunchtime talk for staff and volunteers to learn about Patrick Dougherty’s sculpture making process from the artist himself.

Please bring your own lunch.

Patrick will be at the Arboretum from March 12th to March 29th creating a new sculpture in the Butcher Sculpture Garden.

Paul W. Meyer Retirement Celebration

Sunday, March 31st | 3:00 pm | Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (Cherokee Campus)
Please join us as we pay tribute to Paul W. Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director, upon his retirement from the Morris Arboretum.

A special program and reception will take place to honor Paul’s 43-year legacy on Sunday, March 31, 2019, from 3:00-5:00 pm at Springside Chestnut Hill Academy (Cherokee Campus): 8000 Cherokee Street Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Advanced registration required

Register by contacting Oanh Whalen at 215-247-5777 ext. 131, owhalen@upenn.edu or by registering online here.
A Message from Darryle Lourea-Black

To everyone....

Thank you, thank you, thank you all for the amazing and thoughtful gifts that you have given me.

The most important gift is the Gift of Memories that I will have in my heart and mind that will keep me smiling always.

Your wonderful words of support are still fresh in my mind and will be with me everywhere I go from now on.

If my bad jokes and puns have pleased you, if my singing gave you a moment of happiness, it does not compare to all that you have given me for a lifetime....I truly thank you, I will always miss you and I will never stop thinking of all the times we have shared for the past 17 years and 10 months...you are all feeders of my soul and my heart and soul are full of joy....Thanks to all of you.

With gratitude and humility, may you all be blessed.

Darryle Lourea-Black
Extracurriculars

Winter Witchhazel Walk

Saturdays, March 2nd & 9th | 2:00 pm | Widener Terrace
The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country. Join this wonderful tour to learn more about these fascinating winter-blooming shrubs that add surprising bursts of color to the winter landscape. Enhance your guiding repertoire with some fun facts about different species and cultivars of varying blooming times, color and fragrance.

Arboretum 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.

March 1st | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall Conference Room

Pilgrim at Tinker Creek by Annie Dillard, Pulitzer Prize Winner for General Non-fiction

An exhilarating meditation on nature and its seasons—a personal narrative highlighting one year’s exploration on foot in the author’s own neighborhood in Tinker Creek, Virginia. In the summer, Dillard stalks muskrats in the creek and contemplates wave mechanics; in the fall she watches a monarch butterfly migration and dreams of Arctic caribou. She tries to con a coot, she collects pond water and examines it under a microscope. She unties a snake skin, witnesses a flood, and plays ‘King of the Meadow’ with a field of grasshoppers.

April 5th | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall Conference Room

A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail by Bill Bryson

Back in America after twenty years in Britain, Bill Bryson decided to reacquaint himself with his native country by walking the 2,100-mile Appalachian Trail, which stretches from Georgia to Maine. The AT offers an astonishing landscape of silent forests and sparkling lakes—and to a writer with the comic genius of Bill Bryson, it also provides endless opportunities to witness the majestic silliness of his fellow human beings. A Walk in the Woods is more than just a laugh-out-loud hike. Bryson’s acute eye is a wise witness to this beautiful but fragile trail, and as he tells its fascinating history, he makes a moving plea for the conservation of America’s last great wilderness.
**Lean on Me: Recommendations for Veteran Tree Support at the Morris Arboretum**

*Dan Sax, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*

The history of the Morris Arboretum can be told through its veteran trees. The Arboretum's eldest trees encourage us to face a fundamental truth: our natural world, when tended to with care, will persist through even the most brutal of circumstances. For this reason, the upkeep and protection of veteran trees is of the highest priority for the Arboretum. My project aims to improve the Arboretum's process of veteran tree cataloging, inspection, and protection through the creation of a codified set of veteran tree care procedures. My presentation will review the most substantial advancements made this year, and discuss future plans and needs.

**Evaluation of the Crabapple (*Malus*) Collection and Assessment of the Crabapple Slope**

*Micah Christensen, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

The Morris Arboretum has 48 crabapple trees. The vast majority are growing in two locations: the slope by the Rose Garden and on the farm between the community garden and the executive director's residence. Initial examination of the collection showed only two native crabapple specimens (*Malus coronaria*) both with a provenance of Maryland. Propagation of a tree with more local provenance was done to improve and expand the *Malus* collection. The four parts to this project included soil testing of the slope, development and implementation of evaluation criteria, propagation of a nearby native crabapple, and recommendations of crabapple cultivars for the slope.
Establishing a Baseline Plant Species Inventory Within the Penn’s Wood Deer Exclosure  
Mike Cranney, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern  
Overpopulation of white-tailed deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a problem adversely affecting the ecological health of eastern deciduous forests in the United States, including those in southeastern Pennsylvania. In 2016, an exclosure was installed in the Penn’s Woods section of the Arboretum’s natural lands with the hopes of facilitating forest restoration and learning about the response of the plant community. This project was designed as a comprehensive survey to establish a baseline record of plant species present within the exclosure. Information gleaned from these surveys will afford a better understanding for how excluding white-tailed deer impacts the forest ecology, and can inform future uses of deer exclosures on the property for habitat improvement.

Preserving Place at the Morris Arboretum: A Landscape Management Plan for the Historic Intern House Garden and Hillcrest Building  
The primary objective of this project is to guide the proper care for a historic section of the Arboretum through the creation of a landscape management plan. The property around the Gardener’s Cottage—now serving as the Intern House— and Hillcrest Building is a visible part of the garden where three major pathways converge. Architectural features from the turn of the century and a Conifer collection dating to the Morris era should be preserved for their historic significance.

Your Guide to Tree Adventure: Interpretive Panel and Guidebook Design  
Emily Clark, The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern  
In honor of Out-on-a-Limb’s 10th anniversary, this project provides supplementary interpretation at the Arboretum. In addition to designing a guidebook, I also created three interpretive panels intended to walk a visitor through the strata of a tree. These panels are titled “Don’t leave without looking,” “Every ring tells a story,” and “Getting to the root of things.”
Intern Presentations

Pests of Woody Landscape Plants: An Integrated Pest Management Scouting Guide
Jenny Klimowicz, The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern
Effective pest and disease management is a vital part of maintaining Morris Arboretum’s plant collection. To facilitate this process, Morris Arboretum is in need of an updated scouting guide that not only lists key Arboretum pests and diseases, but gives detailed information on when and how to scout for these problems and what to do when such problems arise. I have created a scouting guide outlining ten key pests that frequently affect the Arboretum’s woody plant collection to be used by the plant protection intern and other Arboretum staff to effectively scout, monitor and treat the living collection using a variety of pest management strategies.

Identification protocol and management strategies of plant pathogens in the Morris Arboretum Greenhouses
Vinnie Galatolo, The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern
The purpose for my project is to develop a streamlined protocol for staff to identify, track, and diagnose plant pathogen infections in the Morris Arboretum greenhouses. Plant pathogens are one of the greatest challenges greenhouses face. Proper identification and treatment of infections is essential to the overall health of greenhouse plant collection. Implementing a strict pathogen identification protocol and management strategy will significantly reduce the possibility of spreading an infection. Executing effective treatment strategies in the greenhouses is the first line of defense against planting diseased plants in the Morris Arboretum.

Univ. of Pennsylvania Street Tree Pit and Trench Treatment Inventory and Recommendation
Amanda Wood, The Martha S. Miller and Rusty Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern
Street trees are under constant stresses more so than their counterparts in natural lands. Considering their tough environment, the surface treatment for pits and trenches can help ameliorate those conditions. This project cataloged and researched tree surface treatments to make potential recommendations to improve Penn’s tree pit and trench care.
Continuing Education

Compost, Biochar, Manure, and More! Choosing Soil Amendments for your Garden
Lucy Dinsmore, Azalea Meadow Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum
Saturday, March 16th | 10:30 am - 12 noon

What is biochar and how do I use it? How can I improve my compost pile? Which manure is best for my vegetable garden? Should I add topsoil to my garden? We'll answer all these questions and explore the techniques we use at the Morris Arboretum to improve the growth of our plants.

Wired Floral Jewelry
Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location
Sunday, March 17th | 12:30 - 3:30 pm

There is a trend to design floral jewelry with colorful aluminum wire, beads, and fresh flowers. Whether you are preparing for a wedding, a party, prom, or another special event, you can use these new techniques to create stunning floral jewelry and accessories. Cheryl will demonstrate various techniques, and give you ideas.

Beneficial Bugs in your Garden
Samantha Nestory, Horticulturist, Stoneleigh
Saturday, March 30th | 10:00 - 12 noon

Did you know that less than 1% of insect species are considered pests? That leaves a lot of room for insects that we can learn to love! Beneficial insects can control pests, reduce (or eliminate) the need for pesticides, and make your garden healthier and more sustainable. In this class, we will learn about the benefits of bugs, and also how to identify and attract them to your.

The Importance of Creating a Sense of Place in Smaller Gardens
Tony Dufour, Registered Landscape Architect Certified Arborist, and Owner, Anthony Dufour Gardens
Saturday, March 30th | 10:30 - noon

Local, “native” materials are as important as native plants in creating and maintaining gardens with local flavor. Landscape architect, Tony Dufour, will explore what access to low priced, global, ‘big boxed’ materials has done to dilute our identity, and what we can do to re-establish our garden footprint here in the Delaware Valley.

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 or visit http://www.morrisarboretum.org/ed_classes.shtml
From the Archives - Five Things You Might Not Know About...

by Joyce H. Munro

The Japanese Gardens of Compton

1. Between 1898 and 1912, several Japanese gardens were created at Compton. Among them were the Rockery in the Fernery, the Teahouse Garden in Wissahickon Woods, the Hill & Cloud Garden near the Swan Pond, the Overlook Garden near Hillcrest Avenue and the Rock Pond by the katsura tree.

2. The Japanese landscape designers were named Furukawa (Rock Pond), Sato (Teahouse Garden), and Muto (Hill & Cloud and Overlook). The name of the Rockery designer is unknown.

3. Naturalist Mulford B. Foster photographed the Rock Pond (click here) and Overlook (click here) around 1920.

4. The significance of the “three wise monkeys” carved on a fudo stone in the Overlook Garden is explained in an undated note, written in English, in the Arboretum Archives. It may have been written by Y. Muto, creator of the garden. The monkeys, the writer states, visualize an old Japanese proverb: *thou shall not speak, look at or hear anything which is not worthwhile and beneficial to you as well as to others.*

5. In 1917, the Imperial Japanese Mission, composed of the Japanese Ambassador, diplomats and senior military officers, traveled to Washington, D.C. to meet with President Wilson and members of the Cabinet and Congress. The purpose of the mission was to congratulate America on entering World War I and to strengthen collaboration between the two nations. The Japanese emissaries then traveled to Philadelphia to exchange greetings with the Mayor and the newly appointed U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Roland S. Morris (a distant relative of John & Lydia Morris). After a visit to Independence Hall and luncheon, they motored out to Compton for a tour of the Japanese gardens and a “typical American garden party” hosted by Lydia Morris.

*Ikekomi-Doro (planted lantern) in the Overlook Garden.*
Garden Highlights

**Hamamelis x intermedia ‘Rubin’**
Rubin witchhazel
Garden Railway

**Viburnum henryi**
Henry viburnum
Garden Railway

**Camellia japonica**
common camillia
Log Cabin

**Eranthis hyemalis**
winter aconite
Near the Greenhouse

**Helleborus foetidus**
bear’s-foot hellebore
Out-on-a-Limb

**Corylus fargesii**
Farges filbert
Sculpture Garden
## Upcoming Events

### March 2019

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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30 am  
**Sundays:** Winter Wellness Walks 1:00 pm
# Upcoming Events

## April 2019

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## Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

**Sundays:** Regular Tour 11:00 am - 12:00 pm