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.

Education: Liza Hawley, efhawley@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 128
Garden Railway: Pam Morris Olshefski, pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 188
Grist Mill: Bob Gutowski, gutowski@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext 132
Horticulture: Pam Morris Olshefski, pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 188
Archives & History: Leslie Morris-Smith, leslm@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 175
Physical Facilities: Tom Wilson, wilsont@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 108

Information:
(215) 247-5777
www.morrisarboretum.org
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Volunteer
Alessandra Rella, Editor
Contributors: Deitra Arena, Joan Kober, and Joyce Munro. Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at edintern@morrisarboretum.org or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Alessandra Rella, unless otherwise stated

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Front cover: Crocus tommasinianus
Hello everyone, and greetings from Austin, Texas!

Though I’ll be back by the time you’re reading this, I am currently writing from Austin, where I am attending the APGA Education Symposium! So far the trip has been fun, informative, and inspiring. I’ve met educators from gardens across the country who have shared many fascinating stories and programming ideas with me. We’ve toured The Lady Bird Wildflower Center and The Zilker Botanic Gardens, which are both incredibly beautiful. I am finding myself especially inspired by all the presentations and tours surrounding children’s gardens. These spaces, which encourage kids to follow their innate curiosity and imagination to explore the natural world, can be truly magical. At Lady Bird, I watched a little girl climb into a giant bird’s nest (made out of twigs wrapped around a short platform) and triumphantly yell out, “I can see the whole universe from up here!” In that moment I thought, yup, this is the environment I want to work in.

Stay tuned for a more in-depth recount of my experience in Austin at the Symposium in next month’s issue of Volunteer! Until then, I wish you all a very happy March,

Alessandra Rella
The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern

Morris Arboretum Volunteers
100 E. Northwestern Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19118
A Revered Tree Lives On

A gigantic elm tree nicknamed “Herbie” was 110 feet tall and more than 200 years old when it was cut down on January 19, 2010. The good news is that Herbie will live on due to cloned trees that are being made available to the public.

While alive, Herbie was the tallest and oldest elm in New England. This stalwart tree survived 14 bouts of Dutch Elm disease due to the efforts of his devoted caretaker, Frank Knight. The pair became renowned, as Knight spent half of his life caring for the tree that he called “my old friend”.

Knight realized that he could not save every elm in his hometown of Yarmouth, Massachusetts so he focused on saving Herbie. For over 50 years Knight supervised selected pruning of Herbie’s diseased limbs and applications of insecticides and fungicides. Before Herbie was chopped down (sadly with 101-year old Knight watching), the Elm Research Institute in Keene, New Hampshire worked with Knight to collect some cuttings from Herbie to protect the tree’s legacy with clones. It is hoped that Herbie’s descendants will have some resistance to Dutch Elm disease, but the jury is still out on this.

The years long effort has created 1,500 mini Herbie’s and the goal is to create many more — in fact, hundreds of thousands. “Herbie is our hope for the future,” reported John Hansel, the 95-year old founder of the Elm Research Institute. Working with the University of Wisconsin, Hansel helped create and distribute about 300,000 “Liberty” elms that were derived from trees growing in the Midwest. Hansel shifted his efforts to studying Herbie in the hopes of creating an elm better suited to the Northeast.

It has been a cumbersome process. Researchers began clipping leaves from Herbie long before his death. They planted about 5,000 of these clippings in pots before getting a single tree to take root. From that single tree there are now 1,500 trees. The National Arboretum in Washington, D.C. also was interested in Herbie and took some clippings. Some of these clippings were planted in Maine, but they did not survive.

See you in the gardens — let’s hope for an early spring.

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides

Source: “Hearth Elm Tree May Be Gone but It Still Sows Hope” by David Sharp, the Philadelphia Inquirer, Monday, January 20, 2020
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

**Signs of Spring Tour**
Saturday, March 7 | 11:00 a.m.
Widener Terrace
Explore the early signs of spring emerging!

**Intern Presentations**
Wednesdays, March 11, 25, April 1
12:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery
Come hear about the many interesting projects this year’s interns have been working on! Read more about each intern’s project on page 8.

**Winter Witchhazel Walk**
Saturdays, March 14 & 28
1:00 p.m. | Widener Terrace
Discover many varieties of these delightful winter beauties that add surprising bursts of color and fragrance to the winter landscape.

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**new program for volunteers**

**Philadelphia Drinking Water & Treatment Practices**

Friday, April 10
10:00 a.m.
Widener Upper Gallery

Join us on Friday April 10th as Dottie Baumgarten, educator for the Philadelphia Water Department, will discuss water treatment and stormwater management. Bring your questions about drinking water, sewage treatment, stormwater management, and our relationship to the water we need and use.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Book Club

The Weather Makers
By Tim Flannery
Friday, March 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall
Over the past decade, the world has seen the most powerful El Nino ever recorded, the most devastating hurricane in 200 years, the hottest European summer on record, and one of the worst storm seasons ever experienced in Florida. We are reaching a global climatic tipping point. The Weather Makers is both an urgent warning and a call to arms, outlining the history of climate change, how it will unfold over the next century, and what we can do to prevent a cataclysmic future. Flannery offers specific suggestions for action for lawmakers and individuals, from investing in renewable power sources like wind, solar, and geothermal energy, to offering an action plan with steps each of us can take right now to reduce deadly CO2 emissions.

Bringing Nature Home
By Douglas W. Tallamay
Friday, April 3 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall
As development and subsequent habitat destruction accelerate, there are increasing pressures on wildlife populations. But there is an important and simple step toward reversing this alarming trend: Everyone with access to a patch of earth can make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. There is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife—native insects cannot, or will not, eat alien plants. When native plants disappear, the insects disappear, impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. In many parts of the world, habitat destruction has been so extensive that local wildlife is in crisis and may be headed toward extinction. Bringing Nature Home has sparked a national conversation about the link between healthy local ecosystems and human well-being. By acting on Doug Tallamy's practical recommendations, everyone can make a difference.

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month.
Continuing Education

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 sign up online using the code “ELM” for discounted classes.

Creating a Naturally Beautiful Water Garden
Marc Radell, Master Gardener Emeritus, Penn State Extension

Wednesday, March 11 | 7:00-9:00 p.m.
50% off for volunteers
Increase the beauty of your landscape and attract pollinators, amphibians, songbirds, and other desirable wildlife. Come learn how to create, plant, and maintain container, pre-formed, and custom water gardens of all sizes.

Floral Design in Vases
Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, Owner of Flowers on Location

Saturday, March 14 | 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Learn the tricks of the trade for arranging loose flowers so that they can look their very best. Different techniques and elements of design will be covered in depth.

eBird: How Citizen Science Impacts Conservation Science and How You Can Make a Difference
Holly Merker, Pennsylvania’s eBird State Coordinator

Tuesday, March 31 | 6:30-8:00 p.m.
50% off for volunteers
eBird benefits birders and researchers alike. Come learn how to submit data and how you can use eBird to learn more about birds.

Endowed Lecture

Building Philadelphia’s Science Capital
Dr. Darryl Williams, Senior Vice President of Science and Education Franklin Institute

Wednesday, March 18 | 2:00 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery
50% off for volunteers | Guides receive volunteer hours for attending
Philadelphia can lead in executing the new national STEM education strategy by focusing on building our own community’s science capital. Come learn about how institutions like The Franklin Institute and Morris Arboretum are leveraging strategic partnerships to engage the Philadelphia community through informal science learning and engagement.
Construction on the Deer Fence Has Begun!

Contributed by Bill Cullina, *Morris Arboretum F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

The Morris Arboretum has had a distressing and recurring problem with deer being injured or killed as they attempt to jump over or squeeze through our wrought iron perimeter fence. We have been working to come up with a solution that will preserve the neighborhood character and security of the fence while making it safe for deer and other wildlife. Deer are also very destructive to our living collections and as local deer populations have grown, damage has increased to the point that all young trees planted at the Arboretum must be protected with fence rings and cultivation of most non-woody plants outside of deer exclosures is nearly impossible. Additionally, many smooth-barked trees are heavily damaged by bucks rubbing off antler velvet in the fall.

We investigated modifying or heightening the existing fence, but this proved extremely expensive, not to mention out of scale and character with the neighborhood. We decided to erect a black metal mesh fence directly outside the existing iron fence. The mesh fence is two feet taller (eight feet high) than the existing fence, so it will prevent the deer from being impaled. It will also prevent bucks from attempting to squeeze through the bars of the existing fence and getting stuck. However, the mesh is thin enough that it does not detract measurably from the view of the fence from the neighborhood.

**How much of the Arboretum will be fenced?** Our current plan is to fence approximately 70 of our 165 acres (42%). The fence will run adjacent to Paper Mill Run at the base of the Magnolia Slope, around the wetlands and then along our side of Wissahickon Creek. It will then follow the existing fence along Germantown, Hillcrest and Meadowbrook Avenues.

**What about the fence along Northwestern and Stenton Avenues?** This section of existing iron fence lies outside of the deer fence project. We are planning to modify the fence or replace it with split rail (leaving the entry gate and a few transitional sections of metal fence on either side) to make it safe for deer.

**What about foxes and other mammals?** We will install wildlife openings for smaller mammals such as foxes and mink to pass through.

**Will the existing gates in the fence still be operable?** Yes, we plan to keep all existing gates operable but may have to modify them to make them safe for deer. The gate from employee parking to Gates Hall that is currently left open will need to remain closed once the fence is complete. We plan on installing a self-closing mechanism on this gate along with new hinges.

**What about the deer presently living at the Arboretum?** Deer that currently forage in the areas to be enclosed will be able to forage in the 95-acres that will not be fenced. This includes high-quality grass land and wetland habitat large enough to sustain the herd without degradation.

**What about the deer fences surrounding the Rose Garden, Garden Railway, and forest below Out on a Limb?** These will be removed once the new fence is complete.
Congratulations to Lisa Bailey and Lorraine Bucci, who on March 27 will receive The Environmental Innovation Team Award, awarded by the Philadelphia Intellectual Disability Services and Public Awareness Committee (PAC).

Administrative Assistant of Visitor Education Lisa Bailey often receives feedback from the visitors she meets at Morris Arboretum. Beginning a few years ago, Lisa began to piece together tidbits from all of those conversations to identify the need for a customized tour for visitors with special requirements. Lisa and Lorraine Bucci, a volunteer guide with experience providing support to individuals with disabilities, collaborated with staff at the Penn Museum and Art-Reach (a non-profit organization that helps connect underserved audiences with arts and cultural opportunities in and around Philadelphia) to structure a new visitor experience. They created a tour that lasts between 45 minutes to one hour and is based on either tactile experiences throughout the garden, arts and crafts and natural materials collection, or meditations on sounds, smells, and even a little 'tree yoga.' Frequently, a combination of these activities may be used, tailoring the tour to the interests and abilities of the visitors on any day. Since the first tour last year with a group of young children, Lisa, Lorraine, and other education volunteers have hosted many groups of all ages.

This work caught the attention of SPIN, Inc., a not-for-profit social services organization, who sent eight small groups of adults on the autism spectrum to pilot the new tour. To date, SPIN has sent a total of 23 groups to partake in the special needs tours, a total of 66 participants. The tour was also provided to a group of 45 students in Special Education from Springfield Township Middle/High School.

Members of SPIN, Inc. nominated the Morris Arboretum team for the Brighter Future Awards, given out by the Philadelphia Intellectual Disability Services and Public Awareness Committee (PAC). After the committee's review of all the nominations submitted, the PAC agreed with SPIN, Inc. that the work conducted by Lisa and Lorraine is worthy of recognition, and so Lisa and Lorraine have been awarded this year's Environmental Innovation Team Award! The award will be presented to them on March 27 at a luncheon where Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney will be in attendance.

Congratulations, Lisa and Lorraine!
Intern Projects

Come hear about the many interesting projects this year’s interns have been working on!

Wednesday, March 11 | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery

Assessments and Recommendations for the Widener Wooded Path

The Widener Wooded Path, leading from Widener Visitor Center to the Rose Garden, plays an important role as the route that introduces the visitors to the beauty of the Arboretum’s gardens. Due to differing design decisions of previous section leaders of the area, difficult cultural conditions, and pest issues, the path has lost the cohesion and flow that provides a smooth transition between Widener and the gardens. Caitlyn has worked to re-establish design intent in the area and add seasonal interest where it is lacking in order to create a more interesting and welcoming experience for visitors.

Enhancing Invertebrate Habitat on the Intensive Green Roof
Nate Flicker, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern

Nate is focusing on enhancing the insect habitat quality of the intensive green roof by adding nesting resources as well as a diverse collection of flowering perennials. He has installed a small wet area on the roof, dead wood, bee nesting tubes, and a sand bed (for ground-nesting bees) to improve nesting habitat. In the spring Nate will install new plantings, which will include butterfly weed, asters, blazing star, prairie coneflower, and wild buckwheat, and other pollinator-friendly flowers.

Protecting Tree Roots at the Morris Arboretum
Alex Gunstensen, The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern

Trees need their roots to survive. Roots take in water and nutrients from the surrounding area and allow the tree to grow into a beautiful landscape feature. Roots need to be protected and cared for to ensure that the plant will grow properly in the future. This project discusses common ways that roots are damaged at the Morris Arboretum, and several ways that we can all help keep them healthy and growing well.
**Intern Projects**

Wednesday, March 25 | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery

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**Floral Development of *Ripariosida hermaphrodita* (L.) Weakley and D. B. Poindexter in Response to Recent Taxonomic Change**

Dominique Groffman, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

Dominique is compiling a niche analysis in ArcGIS of the rare, weedy, and native Virginia mallow (*Ripariosida hermaphrodita*) from herbarium specimens around the country. In response to recent taxonomic revision from the genus *Sida* to the monophyletic *Ripariosida*, this niche analysis hopes to provide a better understanding of the distribution of Virginia mallow. Hydrologic, geologic, land use, and climactic variables will be incorporated into the final analysis, with the possibility for field work along the Susquehanna River this spring.

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**A Gap Analysis of the Morris Arboretum Hydrangea Collection**

Emily Conn, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*

Emily is producing a Gap Analysis of the Morris Arboretum’s Hydrangea collection by assessing the representation and conservation value of the hydrangea collection with a focus on two groupings of “fuzzy leaf” varieties: the aspera group and scandens complex. Within these fuzzy leaf groupings, Emily will determine which hydrangea species & cultivars are missing or underrepresented within our collection, and include recommendations of suitable additions with an emphasis on Asian wild collected species and species available from collections at regional arboreta. This project entails seed propagation of target species growing at the Arboretum, and cutting propagation of desired species from local institutions to diversify our growing collection.

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**What’s the Catch? Collateral Mortality of Spotted Lanternfly Trapping**


In an effort to mitigate the spread of spotted lanternfly (SLF), authorities have advocated the application of sticky band traps to the trunks of infested trees. The practice is appealing as it is easily implemented by homeowners and is chemical-free, and thus ostensibly environmentally friendly. This project aims to categorize, quantify, and evaluate the bycatch incurred by these sticky bands so that they can be deployed as effectively and responsibly as possible.
Intern Projects

Wednesday, April 1 | 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. | Widener Upper Gallery

Engaging with the Morris Arboretum’s Japanese Gardens
Alessandra Rella, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

The Japanese influence present at the Morris Arboretum plays an important role in the Arboretum’s history and landscape, yet there are limited available resources for visitors to learn about and engage with our Japanese gardens. For her project, Alessandra has focused on creating engaging, new interpretative material for visitors to learn more about the various Japanese gardens and features present throughout the Arboretum. Four new signs will be placed in the Hill and Water Garden, which include mindfulness activities that invite visitors to experience the garden through their senses, and a digitized version of the Arboretum’s Japanese Elements tour will soon become available as a self-guided tour on the Arboretum website.

Reinstalling the Lower Rose Garden Beds
Eloise Gayer, *The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

Eloise will chronicle the design and installation of two mixed rose and perennial beds along the lower wall of the Rose Garden. These designs will prioritize fragrance, especially along the seated retaining wall that will result from the rose garden construction project, colors complimentary to the Sundial and Sunset quadrants directly across from the beds, and simplicity in planting design to create an area of transition from the interior of the rose garden to the rest of the garden.

Analyzing Soil Health and Wood Reuse at the University of Pennsylvania
Eliza Nobles, *The Martha S. Miller & Rusty Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*

Leaf litter has been shown to support soil ecology, although this relationship is poorly understood in urban environments. Currently, the Penn removes leaf litter from most of its landscapes to make way for lawn, mulch, or ivy. To assess the ecological impacts of various landscape management practices at Penn, Eliza is working with a team to monitor the chemical and biological changes that occur in soil treatments across campus. Additionally, an urban wood re-use program at Penn is underway. This program aims to sustainably recycle trees and tree parts from Penn properties in the form of marketable wood products. Eliza’s objective is to jumpstart this program by analyzing current practices, developing an adaptable tree removal policy, and establishing partnerships with local organizations and artisans.
A Picture Worth 300 Words

by Joyce H. Munro

Spring-blooming bulbs weren’t the only items John and Lydia Morris purchased from Hosea Waterer to beautify the grounds of Compton through the years. Waterer’s company in Center City Philadelphia supplied everything a gardener would need, from seeds to plants to fertilizers to tools. Hosea, a descendant of a prominent family of horticulturists in Surry, England, came to the United States in 1876, to assist with the family company’s exhibition of rhododendrons at the Centennial Exposition. The Waterer display covered 3600 square feet and was said to be one of the greatest attractions of the show.

Three years later, Hosea returned to Philadelphia and established the American branch of the Waterer company. Eventually, his sons, Anthony and Harry, joined him in the business. Through the years, all three were active members of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society; in fact, Harry Waterer served as Secretary of the Philadelphia Flower Show during the 1950s. The Waterers were well-known for their trademark exhibits at regional flower shows—“exhaustive displays” of masses of spring blooms framing elaborate structures, like the replica of a house or a Dutch windmill. They were also known for their support of the city’s “Flower Mission,” a volunteer-led effort by churches, gardeners and women’s civic organizations to distribute flowers and fruit to hospitals, missions and homes for the elderly. And each spring, garden lovers were invited to Homebush, the Waterer’s farm near West Chester, for a stroll through fields of tulips. Tulips weren’t on the 1919 Waterer invoice for spring-blooming bulbs for Compton, but daffodils and hyacinths were. Emperor and Empress daffodils had become old favorites by then and Victoria was gaining in popularity. Emperor and Empress can still be purchased, but Victoria, which tends to split into tiny bulblets and suffers during hot weather, has practically disappeared on the East coast.
Garden Highlights

**Hamamelis x intermedia**
Rubin witchhazel
near Baxter Memorial

**Eranthis** and **Galanthus**
winter aconite
and snowdrops
across from The Fernery

**Acer palmatum**
Japanese Sunrise
Japanese maple
Garden Railway

**Salix gracilistyla** var.
melanostachys
black bigcatkin willow
Swan Pond

**Albizia julibrissin**
silktree albizia
Azalea Meadow

**Viburnum x bodnantense**
Bodnant viburnum
Compton Cafe

**Cornus sericea**
redosier dogwood
Azalea Meadow
### Upcoming Events

#### March 2020

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<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Kate Deregibus</td>
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<td>Book Club 1 p.m.</td>
<td>Signs of Spring Public Tour 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>11 Horticulture Volunteers with Vince Marrocco - Intern Project Presentations 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>12 Education Guide Committee Meeting 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>14 Winter Witchhazel Walk 1 p.m.</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<td>17 Great Plants Guide Committee Meeting 1 p.m.</td>
<td>18 Horticulture Volunteers with Erin Conley - Building Philly's Science Capital Lecture 2 p.m.</td>
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<td>25 Horticulture Volunteers with Lucy Dinsmore - Intern Project Presentations 12:30 p.m.</td>
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#### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Saturdays:** Wellness Walks 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Regular Tour 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
**Sundays:** Regular Tour 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. | Wellness Walks 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
### Upcoming Events

**April 2020**

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<td>1 Horticulture Volunteers with Pam Olshefski Intern Project Presentations 12:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>4 Buds and Blooms Tour 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>8 Horticulture Volunteers with Vince Marrocco</td>
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<td>22 Horticulture Volunteers with Louise Clarke</td>
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<td>25 Arbor Day Family Day 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. MORE Hidden Gems Tour 11 a.m.</td>
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**Weekly Volunteer Events**

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.