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, wilsonth@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 108

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

Volunteer
Jennie Ciborowski, Editor
Contributors: Joan Kober, Joyce Munro, Michelle Conners, Elise Smith, Deitra Arena, and Eric Moore.
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

Cover Photo: April showers collect on Osteospermum petals in the planters around the Widener Terrace.

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Polemonium reptans
Jacob’s ladder

Cercis chinensis
Chinese redbud
In 1557 Thomas Tusser compiled a collection of writings entitled *A Hundred Points of Husbandry*. Within this collection he included a short poem with the following verse:

“Sweet April showers  
Do spring May flowers”

This phrase popped into my head on a number of occasions this last month. We had our fair share of rain showers and snow affecting the area as of late and one can only hope this weather ushers in the blossoms of springtime.

If you have been out in the Arboretum recently you may have observed that a plant’s bloom time is directly affected by the weather. This past season of unusual temperature changes and precipitation has caused some plants to hold onto their blossoms for longer than before and delayed the bloom time of others. I noticed this when looking back at the past photograph records of *Volunteer*.

In 2016 *Cornus florida* was showcased on the cover. The bottom photograph is what flowering dogwood currently looks like at the Arboretum. These photos were taken of the same plant exactly two years apart and I find their differences remarkable. Delayed bloom time or not I am sure we have wonderful May flowers to come!

Best Wishes,
Jennie Ciborowski  
*The McLean Contributionship  
Endowed Education Intern*

1) Raindrop on *Mertensia virginica*  
2) *Cornus florida* by Pilar Rivera 2016  
3) *Cornus florida* 2018
Notes from the Guides Chair

Planet Earth

When my seven-year old grandson, Charlie, visits, we often play a game involving choosing an exotic place to visit and then discussing everything we know about that location. Since Charlie is a human sponge when it comes to absorbing facts about anything and everything, I typically learn more from him than he learns from me. During a recent visit Charlie wanted to visit the Arctic so he could tell me all about one of the world’s greatest large animal migrations - that of the caribou herds heading north to their summer feeding grounds on the Arctic tundra.

I soon found out that he learned this and much more from watching Planet Earth, a groundbreaking series from the BBC and Discovery Channel that was originally released in the U.S. in 2006. In eleven episodes this series transported nature lovers from the Himalayan mountains, to spectacular jungles, to the depths of the ocean, and everywhere in between. I was hooked after watching Episode 7, Great Plains. All 11 episodes plus 6 more from Planet Earth 2 (released in 2016) are available on Netflix. I will definitely be going back for more.

Also fascinating to me are the behind the scenes details involved in producing such an unusual series. The documentary took five years to film at a cost of 25 million dollars. It was the result of the painstaking efforts of dozens of filmmakers traveling the world. One of the most interesting stories was that of a film crew capturing a dramatic snow leopard hunting scene on the border of Pakistan and Afghanistan while the rest of the world was hunting for Bin Laden. Locating snow leopards is very difficult as only 3,000 to 7,000 of them live in the mountains around Central Asia.

Producer Doug Alan spent nearly three months in northern India trying to capture snow leopard activity and he came away with only an hour of a snow leopard sleeping. Then after a year of delays due to the international terrorist manhunt, eight crew members and 20 local trackers moved to a spot near the border of Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. The crew slept in caves and dressed like locals for six weeks before being rewarded with the incredible footage that features a rare snow leopard chasing down its prey. What an exciting adventure!

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon for another season of our own exciting adventures at Morris Arboretum!

Joan Kober
**Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities**

**Volunteer for the Plant Sale**

*Tuesday, May 8 - Saturday, May 12 | Bloomfield Farm*

Please join us to help make the 2018 Morris Arboretum Plant Sale at Bloomfield Farm another successful year of connecting people with plants. Volunteers will receive a 20% coupon good for one-time use on May 11th or 12th. The actual plant sale runs Thursday - Saturday. Please [click here](#) to see dates, times, and available slots.

**Questions?** Contact Michelle Conners at mconners@upenn.edu or by phone at (215) 247-5777 ext. 109.

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**Twilight & Peonies**

*Thursday, May 31 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Widener Tent*

Please join us for the annual Education Volunteer Recognition event, Twilight and Peonies. Bring your spouse or significant other, and enjoy this gala event being held in the tent behind Widener. This memorable evening will be filled with a potluck dinner, a plant exchange, and the presentation of volunteer awards!

For the plant exchange place a favorite plant from your garden in a pot, attach a label with growing requirements/bloom time, and place your plant on the back wall of the tent when you arrive. At the end of the evening you can take home another plant of your choice. Please RSVP to Jennie at jmc5832@upenn.edu or via [Team Up](#) and write the name of your dish in the RSVP.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Entrance Etiquette

Please stop at the kiosk every time you arrive after 10:00 a.m. Let the Visitor Experience staff know that you are a volunteer and allow them to check you in. The Arboretum is typically more busy as the weather warms up, so remember to leave time for lines, traffic, and parking accommodations. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Happy Wanderers

If the weather looks pretty, then we are probably busy! Come to the education office and grab a green volunteer apron from the back of the door. Then place yourself at a high-trafficked area in the garden. We need you the most on the Widener Terrace near the membership cart on weekends. Other dates we anticipate to be busy are on Team Up, but feel free to come whenever!

Hidden Gems Tour

Saturday, June 2nd | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

This tour is a combination of structures, sculptures, trees, and vistas. See these garden gems that are off the beaten path or hidden to most visitors, plus a few that are “hidden” in plain view.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Small Trees for Small Spaces

**Saturday, May 5th | 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 have many special features, such as spectacular bark, interesting forms, and great flower and leaf color. 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. Don’t miss this opportunity to see trees that will pop in your home garden!

Grand Opening: Time in the Garden Exhibit

**Saturday, May 5th | 11:00 a.m. | Throughout the Arboretum**

Join us for the opening of Morris Arboretum’s newest exhibit, *Time in the Garden*. Time is the essence of gardening and the natural world. Whether counting tree rings, or planting seeds, the passage of time marks the life of the garden. Come out for the Grand Opening to meet the artists, listen to the original compositions of University of Pennsylvania senior and classical music composer Nicholas Escobar, and enjoy a glass of wine or beer. For more information and a schedule of events please [click here](#)!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Dogs and Barks Tour

Saturdays, May 12th & 26th, June 9th & 23rd | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

Come see dogwoods in many shapes and forms while you celebrate the Chinese Year of the Dog in 2018. This tour will feature trees, shrubs, spring bloomers, summer bloomers and more! Then explore the artistry of tree barks of many kinds of trees from all over the world - from beech to filbert, hickory, and lace-bark pine to noticeably different barks on the beloved dogwoods.

Volunteer Book Club

First Friday of the Month | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Please join fellow volunteers for a fun discussion of books about plants, nature, and the environment. Meeting dates and books selected for 2018 are listed below. Come for any or all of the discussions. Please sign up via Team Up. For additional information contact Deitra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com or (610) 716-9720.

May 4
June 1
September 7
October 5
November 2
December 7

The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben
Grandma Gatewood’s Walk by Ben Montgomery
Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald
Walden by Henry David Thoreau
A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Book Club: *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben

May 4th | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Are trees social beings? In this international bestseller, forester and author Peter Wohlleben convincingly makes the case that, yes, the forest is a social network. After learning about the complex life of trees, a walk in the woods will never be the same again.

Book Club: *Grandma Gatewood’s Walk* by Ben Montgomery

June 1st | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Emma Gatewood told her family she was going on a walk and left her small Ohio hometown with a change of clothes and less than two hundred dollars. The next anybody heard from her, this genteel, farm-reared, 67-year-old great-grandmother had walked 800 miles along the 2,050-mile Appalachian Trail. Grandma Gatewood became the first woman to hike the entire Appalachian Trail alone, as well as the first person – man or woman – to walk it two and three times.

The public attention she brought to the little-known footpath was unprecedented. Her vocal criticism led to bolstered maintenance, and very likely saved the trail from extinction. The story of Grandma Gatewood will inspire readers by illustrating the full power of human spirit and determination.
Guide’s Reflections: March Refresher
by Elise Smith

The Training Committee is happy to report that feedback was very positive on our March Refreshers and Guide Development. Liza and Lisa introduced each session and explained how the guide development forms will be implemented. The Training Committee then demonstrated the new development program by leading either the Tree Adventure tour or the Sustainable Practices tour for the assembled guides. Everyone played a part: tour guide’s partner, chaperone or specific aged children. When the tour ended, Liza or Lisa, the guide’s partner, and the guide, filled out the new development forms separately followed by a short discussion allowing the guide to assess their own work first and noting the helpful feedback of the other two.

All guides then participated in a refresher on the Common Experiences for the Interdependence, Four Seasons Through Five Senses, Wetlands, and Secrets of Seeds Tours. At the end, guides were given an updated How to Prepare for and Lead a School Tour paper. All guides have been assigned a partner and it has been wonderful to see the enthusiastic sign-ups already happening for the new Guide Development requirement.

Here is a reminder of the process: Each guide pair has a guiding day in common. One guide having that day as a primary day and the other as an alternate. The primary guide will get calls from their Day Chair and they will pick a day that they want to do a tour with Liza, Lisa, or Jennie, and their partner as observers. That guide will call their partner to make sure they are available to observe and then get in touch with Lisa to notify her. After the tour, the three will fill out and discuss the new development form as shown during the March refreshers. Following that, when the primary guide gets a call for a tour she/he calls their partner and they set up a tour, letting Lisa know, so that the alternate guide can go through the same development process. Every guide has to only lead this way once.

We are extremely grateful to have such fabulous guides here at Morris Arboretum. As the years go on, training gets more fine-tuned and we want everyone to feel comfortably on the same page. If there appears to be particularly difficult parts of touring that are common on the development forms, the Training Committee will make sure that a refresher on those will be offered in the future or the Education Committee will revisit the tour for inclusion.

Enjoy your tours during this much awaited spring!
Mushrooms Have Garden Interest
by Eric Moore, The Martha S. Miller & Rusty Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern

Many people suffer from mycophobia, or the fear of fungus. As a soil scientist by training, I find this sad and troubling. Psychologists suggest that this innate aversion to mushrooms and various other fruiting bodies has an evolutionary explanation. Early hominids were programmed to be wary of potentially poisonous fungi, as hungry and recklessly mycophillic individuals were removed from populations.

However, we now know that there are many fungi out there that are edible and even beneficial to human health. Fungi also have indirect impacts on human health by promoting plant and soil health. By breaking down organic matter, fungi assist in maintaining fertile soil. Some species of plants even depend on mycorrhizal fungi for survival. Mycorrhizal fungi form mutualistic associations with plant roots, and enhance nutrient uptake for plants in return for sugars. If these positive aspects of fungi aren't enough, stop to look around this spring and take note of the ephemeral beauty fungi adds to forests and gardens.

So, if there are a ton of great aspects to fungi, why don't we cultivate them in our gardens? For one, fungi cultivation can be a difficult endeavor, but a rewarding one! Fungi reproduce through microscopic spores, which can be harder to collect and manage than seeds, and you won't find them in stores. Despite this, there are a variety of local spore sources and cultivation guides available online that can walk you through the process. Kits are often sold that can teach you how to inoculate logs with different species of fungi and all you have to do is sit them out in your garden and wait! If you want to continue gardening during the winter, you can also easily grow organic mushrooms indoors!

Shiitake mushrooms are a great choice for any garden. They are easy to grow, contain a significant source of vitamin D, and have anti-inflammatory properties. Chanterelles exhibit striking yellow color come early fall, and are full of B vitamins. Lion’s mane fungus (Hericium erinaceous) has a unique, furry look. It has a taste comparable to crab or lobster and contains compounds that may prevent cognitive decline. Edible fungi make up the vast majority of the mushroom cultivation market, but there is always room for experimentation for more adventurous mycologists!

Fungi are strange, beautiful, and unique members of the garden community. Here at the Arboretum, we often discuss seasonal interest in regard to plants. However, fungi also have seasonal interest as garden features, and I see mushroom cultivation as a bonus challenge in garden design. Whether they’re peeking out in late autumn, or popping into spring with the blooming flowers, fungi can make a wonderful addition to any garden!
Continuing Education

**Great Native Trees and Shrubs for your Landscape**
Dr. Will Ryan, *Botanist/Restoration Ecologist*
*Saturday, May 12 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*

The popularity of landscaping with native plants continues to grow. Native species of trees and shrubs provide rich ecosystem services in our landscapes and gardeners are turning to native landscaping to reduce garden maintenance. Join botanist Will Ryan as he shows you many of his favorite native trees and shrubs.

**Volunteer price:** $15.00

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**Build a Stool! An Introduction to Green Woodworking**
Karl F. Newman, *Master Cabinetmaker/Green Woodworker*
*Three Wednesdays, May 16, 23, 30 | 4:30 - 7:00 p.m.*

Using traditional tools and safe, modern practices, we will explore the craft of green woodworking by making a simple stool. Each student will split out legs and a seat, and will have an opportunity to hew, shave, bore, and plane the parts, and assemble a three-legged stool. Please see the website for a list of tools to bring.

**Volunteer price:** $125.00

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**Behind the Scenes at the Garden Railway**
Toni and Bob Hoffman, *SEPGRS*
*Sunday, May 20 | 1:00 - 2:30 p.m.*

Join us for a sneak peak into the world of garden railways. Drawing inspiration from the great railroads that shaped our nation, garden railways mimic life in America and incorporate beautiful garden landscapes into the world of model trains. Participants will have the chance to visit the Arboretum’s garden railway and see what’s new for 2018!

**Volunteer price:** $13.00

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**Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot**
Ruth Pfeffer, *Expert Birder and Trip Leader*
*Tuesday, 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.

**Volunteer price:** $13.00

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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.
The year was 1919. American troops were heading home from European battlefields and Miss Lydia T. Morris’s war work in Philadelphia was winding down. In February, two months after she turned seventy, she hosted the last of the weekly wartime teas for sailors and marines at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania building. However, that is all Miss Morris was winding down. As the military receptions ended, she started another weekly event—hosting box parties at Monday musicales in the Bellevue-Stratford ballroom. She was also a Vice President of the Morris Refuge Association for Homeless and Suffering Animals, a member of the Board of Directors of the Ship Society, and a member of the Board of Managers of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames.

But sometime in late-winter, Miss Morris found time to curl up by the fire at her townhouse on Pine Street with the latest Cedar Acres catalog and make a list of the gladioli she wanted for the mixed flower garden at her summer home in Chestnut Hill. As she read the catalog introduction written by nursery owner, B. Hammond Tracy, I wonder if she got a lump in her throat.

“Before war-work took all of our time, the gardening habit was getting the men and women of this country, and they were planting not seeds and bulbs, tubers, and cuttings, but they were planting for hope and faith, for health and hardihood . . . Gardening for flowers, for beauty, for naturalness will never again be listed as a non-essential in the lives of the American people.”

And with that sentiment as her guide, Miss Morris chose glads named America, Dawn, Europa, Independence and Loveliness. Okay, so maybe Frank Gould, the head gardener of Compton, chose them. One chooses, another plants, somebody else waters (as the saying goes) and by mid-summer, Miss Morris had the pleasure of seeing 168 glads do their long-stemmed sword dance, in shades of pink, rose, coral, yellow and white.
Garden Highlights

Syringa oblata var. dilatata
Korean early lilac
Garden Railway

Magnolia stellata
star magnolia
Magnolia Slope

Epimedium stellulatum
epimedium
Widener Visitor Center

Mertensia virginica
Virginia bluebells
Out on a Limb

Syringa ‘Bailming’
PRINCE CHARMING lilac
Widener Visitor Center

Prunus subhirtella
higan cherry
Near the Swan Pond
## Upcoming Events

### May 2018

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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 and Sundays**: Garden opens at 8 am (May - September)
## Upcoming Events

### June 2018

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<tr>
<td>Grist Mill Demonstration 1 pm</td>
<td>New Interns Arrive</td>
<td></td>
<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Kate Deregibus</td>
<td>Summer Solstice Celebration 6 am</td>
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<td>Dogs and Barks Tour 11 am</td>
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<td>Horticulture Volunteers with Jess Slade</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Wednesdays:** Garden stays open until 8 pm (June - August)