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
Emily Clark, 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: Jennie Ciborowski, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: Virginia bluebells (Mertensia virginica) and Epimedium on Woodland Walk.
A few of you have asked about the small, chalk board signs you may have seen popping up around the Arboretum in the past year. They’re called “ephemeral signs” and are meant to do just what the name suggests - the signs put a spotlight on the ever changing parts of the garden you don't want to miss.

Here are a few of my favorites from the past season:

If you ever have an idea for an “ephemeral sign” send me an email at emiclark@upenn.edu and I’ll do what I can to make one!

Best Wishes,
Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Notes from the Guides Chair

Education Interns - Where Are They Now?

We are lucky to have such terrific education interns each year as they do so much to help us. Kudos to current intern, Emily Clark, for her outstanding update of several garden panels. I thought it would be interesting to hear about what former interns are doing now. Hope you enjoy the update.

Sincerely, Joan Kober

Steve Wright (2008-2009): I am now the Director of Horticulture and Curator of Plant Collections at Jenkins Arboretum and Gardens in Devon. My primary focus is on building our collections and overseeing the horticultural and curatorial maintenance of the Gardens. I was fortunate to be the intern during the development and construction of Out on a Limb/Tree Adventure. My internship project was to create the passport. My year at Morris had a profound effect on me as it helped to instill in me an obsession for plants and public horticulture. I would not be where I am today without that experience and I am forever grateful to have had the opportunity.

Rebekka Schultz (2009-2010): I live in Paoli with my husband and son, Jack, who was born in June, 2018. I am currently in my second year of teaching Lower School Science at Westtown School in West Chester, PA. I spent my intern year evaluating the feasibility and market audience for a summer camp at the Arboretum, and then developed a pilot program that ran in June, 2010. As you know, the camp has only grown since then! As an intern, I had the opportunity to gain experience in program development, marketing, budgeting, and hiring. I am forever grateful for the experience!

Sarah Bolivar (2012-2013): After a rich year at Morris Arboretum, I went to the Harvard Graduate School of Design to obtain my Master of Landscape Architecture degree. During this time, I worked on such projects as designing a campus master plan for a non-profit school in Nepal and leading a design workshop with high school students in Japan. The Arboretum internship was invaluable in providing me with a foundation for plant identification and working with youth. I am now at the Central Park Conservancy where I work on designing and restoring the 843 acre park’s landscapes.
Notes from the Guides Chair

Stephanie Kuniholm (2013-2014): As an Education intern at Morris, I completed a project on the overlap between education programs and membership. After completing my internship, I was accepted into the Longwood Graduate Program for Public Horticulture where I focused my thesis research on membership programs at public gardens. I am now the Director of External Relations at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. My year at Morris was an important time for me to spend honing in on the intersection of my skills and interests. I’m grateful for the opportunity I had to spend the year working with such a warm and talented team of interns, staff, and guides!

Pilar Rivera (2015-2016): My internship led me straight into the museum field as an informal educator. I am now the Community Engagement Coordinator at the Academy of Natural Sciences. I use the skills I gained as an intern every day: teaching, organizing classes, and cross-departmental networking.

Jennie Ciborowski (2017-2018): I am currently the Program Coordinator at Haverford College Arboretum. This position involves planning education classes, workshops, trips, designing Arboretum publications and managing the Arboretum’s volunteer program. I also still work at Morris as a part-time member of the Visitor Experience team. My intern project at Morris was the redesign of the fernery plaza interpretive panels.

Congratulations to Emily Clark who will be spending the summer in DC at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum once her internship at Morris is completed in June. We all wish you the best of luck, Emily, but we will miss you!
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer for the Plant Sale

Tuesday, May 7th - Saturday, May 12th | Bloomfield Farm

Please join us to help make the 2019 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 10th or 11th. 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.

Twilight & Peonies

Thursday, May 30th | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | Widener Tent

Please join us for the annual Education Volunteer Recognition event, Twilight and Peonies. Bring a friend, and enjoy this gala event being held in the tent behind Widener. This memorable evening will be filled with a catered 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 Emily at emiclark@upenn.edu or via Team Up by May 16th.

P.S. Remember to wear your Hawaiian shirt!
Marketing and Facilities Presentation for Volunteers

May 20th | 12 noon | Upper Gallery

Susan Crane, Director of Marketing will fill us in on what goes on behind the scenes in Morris Arboretum’s Marketing department. Marketing is responsible for branding the Morris Arboretum with a strong and consistent message that reflects our mission. Marketing handles all Arboretum publications and print materials, advertising, press outreach, communications to Penn, strategic partnerships, the Arboretum’s website and e-News, and social media.

Tom Wilson, the Moses Feldman Family Director of Facilities, will focus on what an important part endowments play in the maintenance and renovation of the Arboretum’s most beloved features.

No RSVP required, hope to see you there. Please feel free to bring a lunch, and all your questions!

Arboretum Then and Now with Tony Aiello

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

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

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 busier as the weather warms up, so remember to leave time for lines, traffic, and parking accommodations. Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Arboretum Ambassadors

If the weather looks good, then we are probably busy! Come to the education office and grab a green volunteer apron from the back of the door. Then go to 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 the Arboretum is busy!

A Note from Jess Slade and Natural Areas Team

In the upcoming weeks, we’ll be making some changes to the Arboretum’s main entrance plantings. We removed most of the existing plantings in April and will be following up with a plant installation in May after our plant sale. Things might look bare for a little while so we just want to let you know what’s happening. We are excited for the new entrance design that will be simple and colorful while keeping to the theme of using North American native plants. Feel free to stop by and say hi if you see us working in the area. We’d be happy to tell you more about the work we are doing here.

Sincerely,
Jess Slade & the Natural Areas team
Spring is in bloom in America’s Garden Capital. With 36 public gardens, arboreta, and historic landscapes located within 30 miles of Philadelphia, the Greater Philadelphia region has more gardens in close proximity than anywhere else in North America. From the Nemours Estate with hundreds of acres of formal gardens and natural woodlands, to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve, and the spectacular Scott Arboretum encompassing over 300 acres of the Swarthmore College campus, plus of course, our beloved Morris Arboretum – there are many options to explore and enjoy. Celebrate the region's public gardens!

Check each garden’s website to confirm their hours of operation prior to your visit. Adventure awaits! The Arboretum has reciprocal admissions deal with many garden that can be found here.

### 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.

- **May 3rd | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall Conference Room**
  - *Ginkgo: The Tree That Time Forgot* by Peter Crane

- **June 7th | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall Conference Room**
  - *The Pine Island Paradox* by Kathleen Dean More

Perhaps the world’s most distinctive tree, ginkgo has remained stubbornly unchanged for more than two hundred million years. Inspired by the historic ginkgo that has thrived in London’s Kew Gardens since the 1760s, renowned botanist Peter Crane explores the history of the ginkgo from its mysterious origin through its proliferation, drastic decline, and ultimate resurgence. Crane also highlights the cultural and social significance of the ginkgo: its medicinal and nutritional uses, its power as a source of artistic and religious inspiration, and its importance as one of the world's most popular street trees.

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

New Tour: MORE Hidden Gems!

Saturdays, May 11th, 25th, June 8th and 22nd | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

The original Hidden Gems tour was so popular that it is returning this season with MORE! Go off the beaten path to see less frequently visited garden gems and add some new fun facts to your guiding repertoire. The tour is a combination of structures, sculptures, spaces, trees, and vistas.

Saturday Morning Live Tours: Dogs and Bark

Saturday, May 4th | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace

Dogwoods and tree bark, of course – not Fido and Trixie! Discover dogwoods in many shapes and forms and explore the artistry of tree barks on many types of trees from all over the world – from beech, filbert, hickory, and lace-bark pine to noticeably different barks on the beloved dogwoods.

Saturday Morning Live: Small Trees for Small Spaces

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

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

Patrick Dougherty and his son, Sam, were at the Morris Arboretum for three weeks in March. Working with staff and volunteers, they created a new Stickwork sculpture from thousands of pieces of willow. Patrick named the sculpture Loop de Loop since the finished piece resembles a roller coaster with its swoops and switchbacks and a dozen rooms beneath, all of which are open to the sky. It’s a kids paradise for hide-and-seek!

Watch the videos David Tavani shot, documenting the sculpture’s creation [here](#) and an interview with Patrick [here](#).

This is the third installation Patrick has done at the Arboretum. The first was the Summer Palace in 2009 and the second, a Waltz in the Woods in 2015. While each has been very different in its look, Patrick’s work is always wonderfully creative, whimsical, and continually attracts and delights our visitors - both children and adults alike.

To all who signed up, and then were on site to help with the installation – a huge THANK YOU.
Continuing Education

Native Plants for Your Home Pollinator Garden
Bess Trout, Horticulturist, Tyler Arboretum
Saturday, May 11 | 10:30 a.m. - 12 noon

Did you know every third bite of food we eat is the result of a pollinator? Bees, birds, bats, and butterflies are all environmentally and economically important! Invite pollinators into your garden by providing the food sources they need. Bess will explain the elements of a successful pollinator garden.

Register here.

Evening Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot
Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader
Tuesday, May 14 | 4:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Join Ruth and explore some of the hotspots for birds at the Morris Arboretum. We will visit the Arboretum's natural areas including wetlands, meadows, and the woodlands along the Wissahickon Creek. These areas provide great habitat for a wide variety of birds year-round. Bring your binoculars. Park in the meadow next to the Arboretum entrance kiosk and meet Ruth there.

Register here.

Evening Wine and Cheese Wander
Tony Aiello, Morris Arboretum Director of Horticulture and Curator, Erin Conley and Lucy Dinsmore Morris Arboretum, Horticulturists
Wednesday, May 15 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Join us for an exclusive night at the Arboretum with wine and hors d’oeuvres exploring three remarkable parts of the garden after hours with our very own staff sharing how they experience these sites. Sites will be open from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and guests can arrive when it is convenient. Last arrival should be no later than 6:30 p.m. to allow time to visit each site.

Register here.

Walking Mindfulness Meditation
Sara Trohaugh, Yoga Teacher and Therapeutic Massage Practitioner
Three Fridays, May 17, 24 & 31 | 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.

Mindfulness meditation is a form of meditation designed to develop the skills of deep listening to our inner and outer experiences with acceptance, patience, and compassion. In the beautiful setting of the Arboretum, this class will guide us to use mindfulness meditation practices.

Register here.

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.
Five Things You Might Not Know...About Weathervanes

1. Shortly after the round pavilion (aka the Summer House) was built at the corner of the Rose Garden in 1908, its shingle roof was adorned with a “vignette” weathervane. Though the designer is unknown, this vane tells a familiar tale of hospitality. A man (thought to be Frank Gould, Head Gardener of Compton) presents a pineapple to a woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and summer suit (Lydia Morris). Around them are symbols of the Morris’s gardens—potting bench, watering can, and potted plants. At one end, a terrier barks at something “out there” and at the other, a rabbit keeps a wary eye on things. See the pavilion weathervane here.

2. Years ago, the Summer House vane was broken almost in two by a falling tree. Eventually it was removed and placed in storage. In 2011, the damaged vane was repaired, re-patinated and mounted once again on the roof. See conservation details here.

3. The tallest feature of the Compton mansion—a canted-corner tower—once had a pyramidal roof. And pointing to the sky at the peak of the roof was a slender weathervane. Around 1940, the weathervane was removed (along with the roof) but look closely and you will see it here.

4. In 1941, Paul Cret designed a stone workhouse behind the Fernery with a cupola topped by a “banneret” weathervane. But the weathervane was evidently an option because shortly after the workhouse was erected, a visitor from McKeesport named Thomas Williams noticed the cupola was missing its finishing touch. He returned home, crafted a vane and donated it to the Arboretum. Williams’ vane featured the four directional arms topped by a fanciful arrowhead with banner tail. The vane has disappeared but fortunately a photograph of it was published in the Morris Arboretum Bulletin.

5. When Thomas Williams visited the Arboretum, he was actually coming to visit family—his sister Margaret was the wife of John Tonkin, the Supervisor of Grounds.
Garden Highlights

Prunus ‘Okame’
Okame flowering cherry
English Park

Corylopsis pauciflora
buttercup winterhazel
English Park

Rhododendron mucronulatum
Korean rhododendron
Parking Lot

Mertensia virginica
Virginia bluebells
Out on a Limb

Cercidiphyllum japonicum
katsura-tree
katsura-tree

Lamprocapnos (Dicentra) spectabilis
bleeding heart
English Park
## Upcoming Events

### May 2019

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<td>1 1st Wednesdays with Lucy Hort. Vol. with Lucy</td>
<td>2 Guide Council 1:30 pm</td>
<td>3 Book Club 1 pm</td>
<td>4 Saturday Morning Live Tour 11 am - Dogs and Bark Tour</td>
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<td>15 Horticulture Volunteers with Vince</td>
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<td>19 Springfield Mills Opening Day 1 pm</td>
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<td>29 Horticulture Volunteers with Erin</td>
<td>30 Twilight &amp; Peonies 6 - 8 pm</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon  
**Wednesdays:** Garden stays open until 8 pm (June - August)  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm  
**Sundays:** Regular Tour 11:00 am - 12 noon
### Upcoming Events

#### June 2019

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<td>27 Arboretum Then and Now with Tony Aiello</td>
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**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm

**Sundays:** Early Bird Weekends, Arboretum opens at 8:00 am. Regular Tour 11:00 am - 12 noon