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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Photos: Alessandra Rella, unless otherwise stated

**Front Cover:** *Prunus ‘Snofozam’ SNOW FOUNTAINS* by Eloise Gayer

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**Pictures by Eloise Gayer, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose & Flower Garden Intern**
Announcement

Arboretum Closed Until Further Notice

In response to the unprecedented public health crisis related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), Morris Arboretum will close to the public until the University of Pennsylvania feels that it is safe to re-open. Please know that this decision was made after careful deliberation and that our priority is to do all we can to ensure the safety and well being of our staff, volunteers, and visitors. Information pertaining to public health is rapidly evolving and, as such, it is not yet known when we will reopen. We will be vigilant in our efforts to keep our website up-to-date and we will communicate directly to members and class registrants via email with the latest details.

Canceled Events Due to Closure:
Delightful Dogwoods Tour, 5/2
Irish Day, 5/3
MORE Hidden Gems Tours, 5/9 & 5/23
A Celebration of Spring, 5/17
Twilight and Peonies, 5/27
Regular Saturday and Sunday May Tours

Morris From Home
Stay connected with Morris Arboretum from home! Check morrisarb.org for updates on how you can still experience the Arboretum in these three ways:

1. LEARN FROM HOME
Sign-up for an online class or check-out our gardening video playlist!
morrisarb.org/learn

2. CONNECT FROM HOME
Follow Morris Arboretum on Facebook and Instagram to stay up to date on what’s blooming in the garden. You can now also explore Arboretum friend's gardens!
morrisarb.org/connect

3. GIVE FROM HOME
If you are in a position to make a donation of any size to the Arboretum, please consider doing so online at morrisarb.org/giving

We need your help!
What are you missing most about the Arboretum? What would you like to see more of on our social media pages? What classes would you like to see offered? If you have ideas on how we can better help you and others connect with Morris Arboretum during this challenging time, we’d love to hear from you! Email info@morrisarboretum.org with your suggestions.
Letter from the Editor

Last weekend, my boyfriend and I spent the day in Pennypack Park. The sun was overflowing in the deep blue sky and we couldn’t resist but to venture out into the world. So we put on our face masks and headed out.

If you have never been to Pennypack Park, I would highly recommend it! The drive there alone was absolutely gorgeous. We drove along roads lined by trees in full bloom, which provided a spectacular canopy of reds, pinks, whites, and greens. Once we arrived at the park, we found a quiet trail skirting a sunlit creek to walk along. Throughout the day, I kept thinking to myself, “wow... trees are just so amazing!”

I reflected on how my connection to trees has changed in this past year or so working for Morris Arboretum. Through this internship, and particularly the intern class, I have learned how to identify so many different trees. This is of course useful for practical reasons, but I also feel that by knowing the names of trees, we strengthen our personal relationship with them. It’s as though you are recognizing a tree for who it is by greeting it by its name, just as you would greet an old friend. As I walked through Pennypack, I noticed all the beech surrounding me, with their characteristically long buds and silvery bark, and by recognizing them, I felt as though we were sharing a secret. Gaining this familiarity with trees, a gift I have gotten from my internship, is something I will always be grateful for.

When I am Among the Trees
by Mary Oliver

When I am among the trees,
especially the willows and the honey locust,
equally the beech, the oaks and the pines,
they give off such hints of gladness.
I would almost say that they save me, and daily.

I am so distant from the hope of myself,
in which I have goodness, and discernment,
and never hurry through the world
but walk slowly, and bow often.

Around me the trees stir in their leaves
and call out, “Stay awhile.”
The light flows from their branches.

And they call again, “It’s simple,” they say,
“and you too have come
into the world to do this, to go easy, to be filled
with light, and to shine.”

I am also sharing Mary Oliver’s poem, When I am Among the Trees with you. Reading this poem has become an Arbor Day tradition for me. This poem also rang through my head during that day at Pennypack.

Well here we are, another month that I am sending you wishes of good health and letting you know how much I miss you! I hope you are all continuing to find ways to help you get through this very strange time. Here’s to hoping I will see you all again soon.

Happy May,

Alessandra Rella
The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern
COLLABORATING TO MANAGE STORMWATER RUNOFF IN PHILADELPHIA

Many thanks to Jim Kohler for scheduling another great program for the guides on April 10th – a presentation by Dottie Baumgarten on Philadelphia Drinking Water and Treatment Practices. Kudos also to Lisa Bailey who expertly facilitated a Zoom experience rather than the planned visit to the Philadelphia Waterworks. Dottie provided participants with lots of very interesting and timely information.

Dottie’s session reminded me of an article I read last year on a collaboration between PHS and the Philadelphia Water Department (PWD). In July of 2019, these two entities completed the largest residential rain garden ever created in Philadelphia. This Germantown rain garden is an excellent example of Philadelphia’s leading role in the fight to reduce the harmful effects of stormwater runoff. Philadelphia is at the forefront of this effort through the Green City, Clean Waters program. This program is a 25-year, $3 billion plan to reduce combined sewer overflows by focusing on green stormwater infrastructure. As part of this program, Rain Check, funded by PWD and managed through a partnership of PHS and the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, is making great strides towards achieving this goal.

Green infrastructure, including rain gardens, downspout planters, permeable pavers, and other porous surfaces, collect and filter water during a storm, preventing it from running into sewer systems. Green infrastructure also increases property values and improves the health of community residents.

Rain Check offers free rain barrels and up to $2,000 in funding toward downspout planters, rain gardens, permeable pavers, and de-paving. The only thing residents need to do in order to participate is to attend a free educational workshop hosted by PHS, and if applying for a tool other than a rain barrel, to be current on their water bill. Since the program began in 2012, Rain Check has hosted 337 workshops with a total of 7,075 participants and installed 2,964 rain barrels, 563 downspout planters, 82 rain gardens, 282 permeable paver projects, and 45 de-paving projects.

The largest residential rain garden in Philadelphia was recently installed at the Germantown home of Ann and Roger Torockio. The Torockio’s attended a PHS workshop, which connected them with Bria Tobie of Realty Landscaping Corporation, a contractor in charge of installations of some of the Rain Check projects. “I was inspired by their house and yard – they had a great blank slate,” said Tobie. “It gave us the opportunity to create a much larger rain garden than we typically install.”

Since the Torockio’s had both sun and shade in their yard, Tobie was able to create a woodsly look behind the garden and a meadow design inside the garden. She designed the garden using a planting pattern that aligned to both the wettest and not as wet zones. With 285 square feet of surface area and a depth of seven to eight inches, the rain garden was sized to manage, at a minimum, one inch of rainfall landing on the 750 square foot roof area draining into the rain garden. About 90 percent of all rainfall in Philadelphia is 1 inch or less, so PWD frequently uses 1 inch as a benchmark for stormwater projects.

It is anticipated that due to climate change our region will become warmer and wetter. Zach Popkin, PHS Residential Stormwater Program Manager, explained that “some landscape designers are thinking about how to size rain gardens not just for our current rainfall patterns, but also for the future based on the impact climate change will have on our region.” Hats off to both PHS and PWD for developing and implementing innovative strategies for managing Philadelphia’s stormwater runoff problem.

Source: PHS and PWD Leading the Way in Stormwater Runoff Innovation, July 10, 2019 (posted on phsonline.org)

During these very trying times my main wish is for all of us to stay safe and well. It will take patience and tenacity on everyone’s part to get through this pandemic, but we will do it! Looking forward to happier times to be spent with you at the Arboretum and not just on Zoom. Things could be worse – my son recently put this into perspective for me when he asked how we could have coped when he and his sister were children with no technology and no Netflix! Good food for thought.

All my best,

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Book Club

**My First Summer in the Sierra**
By John Muir

Friday, May 1 | 1:00 p.m. | Virtual Meeting

The book club will meet virtually this month for an online discussion. If you would like to participate, please contact Deitra Arena in advance at deitraarena@gmail.com

In the summer of 1869, John Muir, a young Scottish immigrant, joined shepherds in the foothills of California’s Sierra Nevada Mountains. The diary he kept while tending sheep formed the heart of this book. *My First Summer in the Sierra* incorporates the lyrical accounts and sketches Muir produced during his four-month stay in the Yosemite River Valley and the High Sierra. His record tracks that memorable experience, describing in picturesque terms the majestic vistas, flora and fauna, and other breathtaking natural wonders of the area. Today Muir is recognized as one of the most important and influential naturalists and nature writers in America. This book will delight environmentalists and nature lovers with its exuberant observations.

**The Triumph of Seeds**
By Thor Hanson

Friday, June 5 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall*

We live in a world of seeds. From our morning toast to the cotton in our clothes, they are quite literally the stuff and staff of life: supporting diets, economies, and civilizations around the globe. Seeds are fundamental objects of beauty, evolutionary wonders, and simple fascinations. Yet, despite their importance, seeds are often seen as commonplace, their extraordinary natural and human histories overlooked. Thanks to this stunning new book, they can be overlooked no more. This is a book of knowledge, adventure, and wonder, spun by an award-winning writer with both the charm of a fireside story-teller and the expertise of a field biologist. A fascinating scientific adventure, it is essential reading for anyone who loves to see a plant grow.

*Subject to change to a virtual meeting

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.
Congratulations, Michelle Conners!

Michelle Conners, long-time Public Programs Event Coordinator, has accepted a new position and some new duties as the Visitor Experience Event and Volunteer Manager, reporting to Christopher Dorman. In addition to managing Arboretum events, Michelle will now be helping coordinate volunteer efforts across the Education & Visitor Experience Department with the Guides, Millers, History and Archives volunteer teams as well as leading development of the newest volunteer group, the Arboretum Ambassadors. Please contact Michelle at mconners@upenn.edu with your thoughts or suggestions.

Twilight & Peonies Spring Awards Banquet Temporarily Postponed

My guess is this change of plans isn't a surprise to anyone. We left the Arboretum on Friday the 13th of March - yeah, I'm calling out Friday the 13th - and we haven't been back since, with the exception of horticulture and facilities staff on staggered schedules. We're not likely to be back anytime soon either. I miss you all!

The annual awards dinner for Education Volunteers (Guides, Library & Archives, Mill, and Arboretum Ambassadors) will be postponed until next May. All your supervisors will compile your hours through next year and we'll have a gala that celebrates all the hard work you do.

Please contact me with any concerns. Keep visiting the Arboretum virtually - there really is a lot of beauty and knowledge on our website right now! And I hope to see you all as soon as possible.

Liza Hawley, Ass‘t Dir Visitor and Youth Education
efhawley@upenn.edu
Learn from Home

In response to the unprecedented public health crisis related to Coronavirus (COVID-19), all spring classes have been canceled through September 12. The Continuing Education team is working hard to process all refunds for these classes.

We are excited to now be offering online classes! Be sure to regularly check morrisarb.org/online-classes for updates on classes to be offered. Sign-up for classes online as usual.

Birding Mondays
Tony Geiger, Birder
Mondays, May 4, 11, 18 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Even while staying at home you can experience the joy of discovering birds! Join Tony for his upcoming birding classes: Bird Migration (5/4), Bird Song (5/11), and Nesting Birds and Bird Behaviors (5/18). Discover new birds you can expect to see during migrations and check out some of the latest tools scientists are using to study bird migration; Learn the calls of common backyard birds and tips and tricks for remembering bird calls; Familiarize yourself with local nesting birds and the habitats they prefer for nesting, and learn how you can encourage birds to nest in your backyard.
members: $8 | non-members: $10

Green Roofs from the Ground Up
Louise Clarke, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist, Green Roof Professional
Friday, May 8 | 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Join Louise Clarke for a behind-the-scenes tour of the intensive green roof located at Bloomfield Farm. Completed in spring 2010, Louise has overseen the planting design, installation, and maintenance of over 3200 square feet of living roof. Perennials, woody plants, and bulbs from over 75 taxa share space on this aerial oasis. We will visit green roof history, green roof benefits, types of green roofs, and a review of the Arboretum’s intensive green roof construction. A look at successful (and not so successful) green roof plants, and recent intern research projects will be highlighted.
members: $8 | non-members: $10

Did you miss any of the Intern Project Presentations?
You’re in luck! Those presentations that were given via Zoom and recorded will become available on the Morris Arboretum YouTube channel. Check back for new uploads of project presentations and other educational videos.

View Eloise Gayer’s presentation, “Reinstalling Two Historic Rose Garden Beds” available on YouTube now!

Be sure to tune-in for our last Intern Project Presentation on Wednesday, May 8 at 12:30 p.m. by Dominique Groffman, titled “A Niche Analysis of Ripariosida hermaphrodit (Virginia mallow) Across its Native Range”
Learn from Home

A Photo Guide to Propagating Succulents
By Eloise Gayer, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose & Flower Garden Intern

Even though I work with roses all day, succulents are my greatest love! For this article, I counted my full collection of cacti and succulents for the first time in years. I have 138 plants (oh my)! One of the reasons I have so many is that they are so easy to propagate. In this article, I will show you my methods of propagation, plus some care tips for the youngest members of your growing succulent collection.

Pictured left is my current setup for overwintering my succulents. The purple glow is from the grow lights you see affixed to the shutters. These lamps have LED bulbs that mimic sunlight by providing both red and blue spectrum light. Growing here are plants like *Echeveria*, *Aeonium*, and *Graptoveria* species, all of which have tight, rosette shaped leaf arrangements that will stretch out without daily full sun. Other succulent plants like *Crassula*, *Aloe*, or *Agave* species won’t stretch without full sun, so I keep these in my sunniest indoor location without extra lighting. As soon as all danger of frost has passed, I will move my collection outside and spend the summer defending them from chipmunks.

Many succulents, including all the ones I mentioned above, can be propagated from a leaf. Whenever a plant loses a leaf, a whole new plant is in the making. Set aside any leaves that fall off a plant and in a few days, it will begin to push roots. In addition to roots, the leaves will begin to produce new tiny plants from the point where it separated from the stem. In most cases, the leaf needs to separate cleanly from the stem or else it will not root. In other cases, like with *Aloe* plants, the leaf can be cut anywhere between the stem and leaf tip. The leaf will form a callous over the wound, then start to put out roots; this process takes a few extra days. Pictured below are *Echeveria* leaves that have begun to form new plants.

While attached to their mother leaf, these young plants don’t need any water or soil. The tiny succulents you see emerging are using the water and nutrients stored in the old leaf to produce new growth. Wait until the old leaf goes completely dry before transferring the plant to soil. The plants pictured on the right are ready to be separated (carefully) from their mother leaf and potted up with well-draining cactus mix.
Succulents can also be propagated from cut stems. When a succulent begins to get long and leggy, I ‘behead’ the rosette, allow the cut stem to form a callous, and let the cutting root in soil. The ‘headless’ stem will produce more new plants from growth nodes lower down. Pictured left is *Echeveria pulvinata*, or ‘Red Velvet’ echeveria, named for its soft, felted foliage and the red tips its leaves develops in full sun. On the left you see a new baby plant forming on a cut stem. On the right you see a full, healthy plant grown from the base of some heavily pruned stems.

Once my newly propagated plants are ready, I transfer them to either a shallow, wide pot or a tray with one or two inches of soil. Since their roots are still immature, they do not require a deep, full-sized pot. Once they get larger, develop significant roots, and begin to crowd each other out, I transfer them to a deeper pot of their own, or one shared with just a few neighbors.

Watering is usually the succulent-owner’s downfall. It is very important not to give succulents too much water! I give my young plants one gentle mist every day, but I never water them fully until they are large and rooted into their second pot. Tiny plants with immature roots will be washed right out of the soil! When they are fully grown, water them very infrequently: once every two to three weeks in winter – even less for certain species – and once a week in the late spring and summer during active growth.

To learn more about succulents, I recommend visiting worldofsucculents.com. This site features a comprehensive ‘Succulentopedia’ where you can find pictures, background information, and growing tips for thousands of species of succulents. While at home I like to browse their succulents by genus and discover new, fantastic plants I can dream of one day adding to my collection. As always, feel free to email me at eloiseg@upenn.edu with any questions about your succulents at home! And, when you next visit the Arboretum, see if you can spot the succulents in the Rose Garden. Happy propagating!
Fascinating Ferns

Start by taking a virtual tour of the Fernery [here](#) to learn more about the fascinating world of ferns. Then, find and circle the common names of 12 ferns in the puzzle below. Names may go across, down or diagonally. Hint: two-word names with hyphens are spelled as one word in the puzzle.

Extra credit: Draw a red circle around the fern that grows 20-feet tall and a blue circle around the fern that can tolerate temperatures down to 15 degrees.

Visit [morrarb.org/connect](http://morrarb.org/connect) to find word searches, coloring pages, and more!
Home Gardens

From Bob Panebianco’s garden

The bloodroots are very early this year; in full bloom by the third week of March!

From Pat Moir’s garden

Sanguinaria canadensis

From Olly Williams and Maryann Holloway’s garden

Sanguinaria canadensis

Daphne genkwa

Pieris japonica ‘Dorothy Wycoff’

Iberis

Phlox stolonifera

What’s happening in your garden?

Send us pictures of what you’re planting, what’s in bloom, or what you find in your home garden to share in Volunteer! Please send your pictures and captions to Alessandra at arella8@upenn.edu

photos by Caitlyn Rodriguez
From the Archives

A Picture Worth 300 Words

by Joyce H. Munro

In 1918, when this photograph of English Park was taken, Philadelphia was getting ready for a parade. The “Liberty Loan Parade,” scheduled for September 28, was an enormous event to recognize the nation’s military heroes and drum up support to pay for the war. On that Saturday afternoon, two hundred thousand residents lined the streets for the two-mile-long parade, oblivious to the fact that the Influenza pandemic, rampant in Europe, had reached city limits. Philadelphia paid dearly for the parade—within six weeks, 12,000 residents had died.

Earlier that year, Lydia Morris, had ramped up her involvement in the war effort. She joined the War Service Committee of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, charged with hosting receptions for military officers stationed in Philadelphia. As a “patroness,” she served tea at these weekly events and sang along to popular war tunes during the “Liberty Sing” but she probably left before dancing started around 10 p.m. Lydia was also a board member of a new organization, The Ship Society, whose mission was to promote shipbuilding by selling lapel pins and persuading fellow citizens of the importance of the shipping industry. And she participated in a project of the Society of Colonial Dames to raise money to equip two new hospital ships—the USS Comfort and USS Mercy.

It’s impossible to know, come parade day, whether Lydia stood along the parade route or sat in the reviewing stand at Broad and Pine or stayed home out of an abundance of caution. After all, she was close to seventy. But, given her war activities leading up to September and her sense of civic duty, it wouldn’t be a surprise to find Lydia Morris front and center, cheering battalions of marines and sailors and shipbuilders and gunpowder-makers, clapping to the music of marching bands and waving to the 5000 women war workers parading in close order.

Lydia and all of her staff survived the Influenza of 1918 (there is no way to know if any of them were infected). Once the war was over, Lydia took on other civic projects, in keeping with her family’s commitment to preserve Philadelphia’s past.
Garden Highlights

Rhododendron yedoense
yodogawa azalea
Sculpture Garden

Iris
‘Eyebright’
iris ‘Eyebright’
Dwarf Conifer Slope

Epimedium x warleyense
‘Orange Queen’
barrenwort
‘Orange Queen’
Overlook Garden

Malus
Jewelberry
crabapple
Crabapple Slope

Cercis canadensis
eastern redbud
English Park

Mertensia virginica
Virginia bluebell
Widener Walkway

Pictures by Eloise Gayer, The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose & Flower Garden Intern