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
Alex Correia-Sareyka, Editor
Contributors: Jody Sprague

Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at edintern@morrisarboretum.org or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Alex Correia-Sareyka, unless otherwise stated

Cover photo: A rainbow of fall colors on *Acer pseudosieboldianum* at the Ravine Garden.

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Most of us are accustomed to the reference of fall as the “harvest season,” in the sense that there are “harvest” festivals we can attend, or an abundance of pumpkins and apples at the local grocery store. Last November, I enjoyed the experience of actually partaking in a harvest season while living on a farm. After the hot toil of summer, the short, cool days of fall were a welcome rest as we harvested our bounty of fall crops. Next year’s garlic and strawberries were planted, the greenhouses were fully sown with winter vegetables, and manure was spread over the fields. After work, we started canning, drying, and freezing as many vegetables as we could to use through the winter.

Thanksgiving is a well loved holiday for many reasons, but my favorite thing about the meal itself is the tradition of eating seasonal fall foods. In our time and place, we are accustomed to eating whatever we want, whenever we want, regardless of whether it is able to be grown in Pennsylvania soil during that time of the year. Thanksgiving might be the only time in the year when some families intentionally enjoy a meal comprised of seasonal produce. Sweet potatoes, apples, squashes, and cranberries are the stars of the show. What are some of your favorite Thanksgiving foods?

Alex Correia-Sareyka
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
Hello Everyone,

To Mulch or Not To Mulch, that is the question. For years, I read about the benefit of mulch – weed suppression, conserving water, and soil enrichment. My curiosity needed some answers.

My first stop was Morton Arboretum. They listed the following benefits of mulch:

1. Provides an insulation layer. Mulched soils are warmer in winter and cooler in summer.
2. Conserves soil moisture.
3. Improves the soil's physical structure and fertility.
4. Prevents erosion and water runoff.
5. Reduces root competition by suppressing weeds.
6. Protects from lawnmower damage
7. Recycles yard/landscape waste
8. Provides a more natural appearance of the landscape
9. Provides a favorable environment for earth worms and other organisms that benefit soil structure and fertility.

Granted Morton Arboretum is located outside Chicago, perhaps I needed an answer closer to home. I found an article by Adrian Higgins from The Washington Post, titled “5 Secrets of Successful Gardeners.” Higgins writes, “One of the best mulches is shredded leaves, or semi-rotted leaf mold, from the fall leaf drop. Recycling leaves also saves on the mulch bill, which can add up. A two-inch layer of shredded leaves in November will have kept winter weeds at bay and promoted earthworm action.”

Mr. Higgins and I are on the same page. For the last two years we have collected our fall leaves, semi-shredding them, and placing the leaves on several beds. It really does work, plus we aren’t moving large piles of leaves to the curb for pick up and it decreases the amount of mulch I purchase. Bob Schindelbeck, an extension associate at Cornell University's Department of Soil and Crop Science, writes in Fine Gardening, “Living plant roots are the foundation of the soil ecosystem, so bare soil is not healthy soil. Even turf grass and weeds provide habitat and food for countless soil-dwelling organisms.” He also states, “If you have a spot that's mostly mulch, here's your excuse to buy more plants.” My kind of guy! I will probably stick with mulch because of the above listed reasons. Therefore, as you clean-up the fallen leaves, give some thought to placing them on your beds. You will appreciate it in the spring.

Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides
Continuing Education

Volunteers who have worked over 30 hours during the past year may take 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.

Greenhouse & Propagation Tour
Saturday, November 5
10:30 a.m. - 12 noon
Go behind the scenes with Arboretum Propagator Shelley Dillard for a late fall tour of the greenhouse when it is full of overwintering plants. This tour will include a look into the Arboretum’s greenhouses and propagation areas as well as a stop at the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery.

What eBird Can Do for You, and What You Can Do For eBird
Tuesday, November 15
1 - 2:30 p.m
Your bird sightings can make a difference in conservation science! This class will explore how the program eBird is used by birders and researchers. New to eBird or not, you will learn new ways this powerful tool can be of use to you from your own backyard, and in your travels across the globe.

Holiday Tabletop Tree with Lights
Monday, December 12
10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Make a special centerpiece that is sure to put you into the holiday spirit. Create your own tree from long-lasting greens, bows, and glass balls. Decorate your centerpiece with fresh flowers and lights for a festive holiday decoration.
Holiday Happenings

Horticulture Volunteer
Holiday Potluck

Treat your fellow Horticulture volunteers to your favorite dish or dessert and enjoy this winter celebration!

Wednesday, December 14th | 12:30pm
Upper Gallery

Education Volunteer
Winter Potluck

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a winter celebration with fellow Education volunteers and staff! RSVP to Alex at acorreia@upenn.edu or via Team Up, and include the name of your dish.

Thursday, December 15th | Noon-2pm
Upper Gallery

Staff & Volunteer Evening
at the Holiday Garden Railway

Bundle up and come enjoy the twinkling lights of the Holiday Garden Railway after dark on this special evening set aside for volunteers and staff. Complimentary cookies and hot cocoa will be available. Bring a flashlight!

Thursday, December 1st | 4:00-7:00pm

photo courtesy Paul Meyer
Volunteer Opportunities

**Tu B’Shevat - The New Year of Trees**

Help children celebrate Tu B’Shevat! It’s the Jewish New Year of Trees. In Israel, Tu B’Shevat is a national holiday and children don’t go to school. Instead, they go with their families or classmates to plant young trees in the countryside and learn about the importance of trees. We need volunteers for a variety of activities throughout the week at the following times. Feel free to volunteer for multiple slots! Sign up via Team Up, or e-mail Lisa Bailey if you are having trouble using Team Up at baileyl@upenn.edu

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**Volunteer Writers Wanted!**

Are you an avid gardener, nature enthusiast, or traveler looking to share your expertise and adventures? We are currently seeking guest writers for Volunteer. Please email Alex at acorreia@upenn.edu if you are interested in contributing!
Volunteer Photos

Our education volunteers have been very busy this fall with school tour season in full swing. Below are a few snapshots of our guides leading children and adult tours at the Arboretum.
Morris Arboretum Social Media

Become a Morris Arboretum Social Media Ambassador

Social media outlets are an important way for Morris Arboretum to gain visibility and get the word out about attractions and events. If you use Facebook, Instagram or Twitter, please click the icons below to follow or “like” us if you don’t already! You can help our presence on social media by taking it a step further as a Morris Arboretum Social Media Ambassador and following the steps below.

**Facebook**
- Like, comment, and share our posts.
- Check in when you visit the Arboretum
- Share if you are “Going to” or “Interested” in an event
- Invite others to like the page or attend an event

**Instagram and Twitter**
- Tag your posts at the Arboretum with your location
- Include our hashtag #morrisarboretum in your post
- Use event-specific hashtags if available
**Garden Highlights**

- **Nyssa sylvatica**  
  black tupelo  
  Nyssa slope

- **Diospyros virginiana**  
  common persimmon  
  Seven Arches

- **Osmanthus heterophyllus**  
  false holly  
  near Swan Pond

- **Malus ‘Red Jade’**  
  Red Jade crabapple  
  near Summer House

- **Hamamelis virginiana**  
  common witchhazel  
  Nyssa slope

- **Euonymus hamiltonianus**  
  Hamilton euonymus  
  Seven Arches
### Upcoming Events

**November**

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**Weekly Volunteer Events**

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

## December 2016

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