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
Emily Clark, Editor
Contributors: Joan Kober, Lisa Bailey, Erin Conley, Joyce Munro and Michelle Conners
Questions, comments, and submissions can be directed to the editor at edintern@morrisarboretum.org or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

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Cover Photo: Indian Magic crabapple, Malus ‘Indian Magic,’ Crabapple Slope

A skipper in the garden

Brachiosaurus in the Fernery
Letter from the Editor

When putting together this month’s newsletter, I initially wanted to include a poem about the turning of the season. If you look through these pages, however, you’ll notice no such poem. So many poets seem to write fall off as summer’s unfortunate end (think Robert Frost’s “Nothing Gold Can Stay”). Not so, I say!

Autumn has always been my favorite season. Maybe it’s that I’ve spent most of my life on an academic calendar, but this season always feels like new beginnings (for proof of that just check out the Rose Garden’s fabulous second bloom). Autumn is that magic time of year that’s just asking you to cuddle up with a warm cup of tea, but still warm enough to sleep with the window open. I love the crisp air and crisper apples, and the daily excitement of watching leaves move through their fiery palette. Right now though I’m thankful that it seems that summer’s heat has finally broken.

Let’s welcome in the fall!

Sincerely,
Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

Rosa ‘RADyod’
The Blushing Knock Out
Rose Garden
Notes from the Guides Chair
BACK TO THE 1960’S

My husband and I recently celebrated our 50th anniversary – hard for me to believe that the years have flown by so fast! This event got me thinking about what it might have been like at the Arboretum 50 years ago. So…I decided to pay a visit to some of the plants that were accessioned during that period (it was hard to find ones from 1968 exactly so I cheated and included plants added to the collection anytime during the 1960’s). Here were two of my favorites:

- *Parrotia persica* or Persian ironwood is located across from the Mercury Loggia. This small, single trunk deciduous tree is native to Iran and was added to the collection in 1961. It will eventually grow to 20-40 feet tall. It has oval to oblong leaves that are reddish-purple in the spring, medium to dark green in summer and yellow, orange and red in the fall. The bark exfoliates to show green, white or tan patches beneath to provide good winter interest.

- *Buxus sempervirens* or Silver Common Box is located next to the Mercury Loggia and was accessioned in 1961. It is a rounded shrub or small tree and is native primarily to open woodlands and rocky hillsides in southern Europe, northern Africa and Western Asia. It usually matures in shrubby form to 5 to 15 feet tall, but it may grow as a tree to as large as 20 to 30 feet tall. It grows well in a variety of part shade conditions so it is very happy where it is now situated.

Our master of Arboretum history, Bob Gutowski, generously shared with me some other interesting tidbits from 1968 – exactly 50 years ago. Here they are:

- Membership fees doubled to $10 for a Sustaining Member.
- The number of annual visitors “may be conservatively estimated at over 10,000.”
- Arboretum Director A. Orville Dahl participated in the NASA sponsored “Symposium on the Biosatellite II Experiments”, including ionizing radiation induced mutation rates and cyotological changes in plants in microgravity.
- J. Angus Paxton Heeps, a Wisley Garden trained RHS Fellow, was appointed Superintendent of the Morris Arboretum.
- Arboretum Taxonomist, Dr. Hui-Lin Li was working abroad on the Flora of Taiwan.
- Plant Distribution Days, forerunner of the annual Plant Sale, offered Rhodendron Schlippenbachii, Betula Maximowicziana, Fontanesia philyreoides and Viburnum opulus.
- The Arboretum Bulletin reported “In direction of planning for the future was the removal of the sadly derelict Morris Mansion on September 12-16, 1968.”

Enjoy guiding in the cooler (and, hopefully, less rainy) weather of fall. Joan

Note 1: The Biosatellite II experiment confirmed that plant leaves, stems and roots depend on continuous gravity for orientation. Without gravity leaves, stems and roots grow in unexpected directions. This knowledge opened interesting possibilities for artificial control of plant growth.

Note 2: Lydia’s attorney, Maurice Bower Saul, fought for 36 years to convince the Morris Foundation Advisory Board to comply with a directive clearly expressed in a codicil to Lydia’s will – that the mansion be demolished after her death – no renovation, no expansion. Instead, she wanted a pavilion erected on the site so that visitors could view the beauty of the estate from a hillside vantage point. Finally, after many years of misuse and neglect of the mansion, the Advisory Board agreed.
Volunteer Workshops

**Workshop: Adventures of an Itinerant Gardener**

Friday, October 5th | 11:30 am | Upper Gallery

*Adventures of an Itinerant Gardener: The Year of Sleeping Around, Not-to-be-missed Public Gardens and Arboreta*

In 2016 Holly Jobe bought an RV camper and took a 15-month journey visiting family, friends, colleagues, parks, gardens and arboreta throughout North America. Her trip took her to 33 states, Mexico and two Canadian provinces. She visited many well-known gardens, parks, private gardens and hidden gems. During this presentation, Holly will share some of the special places that touched her for their uniqueness, purpose, education, unusual flora, creative design, or were just plain delightful. Enjoy her photographs and start your list for when you visit different parts of this beautiful continent. Please feel free to bring your lunch.

**Volunteer Training with Megan Becker**

Wednesday November 14th | 10:00 am | Upper Gallery

Calling all guides! Join us when our speaker will be Megan Becker, Penn Museum Access Specialist, as we learn the best ways to provide useful, enriching guided tour content specifically for students with autism. During this interactive session, guides will learn unique tools and techniques for engaging all visitors to the Arboretum. In addition to these strategies, we will demonstrate activities for the newly developed guided tour for special needs students, that will be piloted in the very near future.
Volunteer Opportunities

Book Club

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff and meets the first Friday of each month. You are invited to attend any session and do not have to attend every month.

Sign up via Teamup is suggested but not required.

H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald
Friday, October 5th | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall

The New York Times bestseller and award-winning sensation, Helen Macdonald’s story of adopting and raising one of nature’s most effective predators has soared into the hearts of millions of readers worldwide. Fierce and feral, her goshawk Mabel’s temperament mirrors Helen’s own state of grief after her father’s death, and together raptor and human “discover the pain and beauty of being alive”.

Walden by Henry David Thoreau
Friday, November 2nd | 1:00 pm | Gates Hall

By virtue of its casual, brilliant wisdom, Thoreau’s account of his two year adventure in self-reliance at Walden Pond is one of the signposts by which the modern mind has located itself in an increasingly bewildering world. The work is part personal declaration of independence, social experiment, voyage of spiritual discovery, and manual for self-reliance. It is one of the most influential and compelling books in American literature.

Saturday Morning Live

Saturdays at 11:00 am | Widener Terrace

Join an experienced guide for a different featured tour each month. Spread the word.

Bring your family, friends and neighbors.

October 6th | Sculpture Tour

Discover fine examples of public art that complement the Arboretum’s landscape and plant collection.

November 3rd | Native Trees Tour

View native trees that are well suited to local growing conditions and support wildlife.

December 1st | Conifers Tour
Volunteer Trips and Opportunities

Dogs and Barks Tour

Sunday, October 13th and 27th | 12 pm
Join an experienced guide on this fun tour exploring the artistry of tree barks on many kinds of trees from all over the world – from beech, filbert, hickory and lace-bark pine to noticeably different barks on the beloved dogwoods. Tours begin at Widener Visitor Center.

Volunteer Trip to the Woodlands

Thursday November 8th | 9:00 am-1:00 pm
Please join us on a trip to the Woodlands Cemetery, a one-of-a-kind 18th-century English pleasure garden, 19th-century rural cemetery, and a tranquil green space for visitors in the West Philadelphia area. Designated a National Historic Landmark, the Woodlands was the former country seat of William Hamilton, and offers one of the nation’s most architecturally sophisticated neoclassical homes from the years following the American Revolution.

We’ll enjoy a 90 minute tour of both the grounds and home, followed by a brown bag lunch. Vans will depart from the Arboretum meadow at 9:00am, and returning at approximately 1:00pm.

Sign up is available via the Teamup calendar, or if you cannot access the calendar, please contact baileyL@upenn.edu.
Arboretum Events

Scarecrow Walk

Come out and see more than 30 designer scarecrows on display in the Oak Allée! Visitors of all ages may vote for their favorite scarecrow to determine which will be the winners.

October 7th - October 31st

Fall Family Weekend: Saturday & Sunday, October 6th & 7th

Many hands are needed to help this popular family event run smoothly! Please consider helping out if you can. To volunteer for this event please contact Michelle Conners by email at mconners@upenn.edu or by phone at 215-247-5777 x 109. Available shifts for pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table:

Saturday, October 6th: 10am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-3pm
Sunday, October 7th: 10am-12:30pm or 12:30pm-3pm

Insider Arts & Craft Show and Sale

Sunday, October 21st | 12-4 pm

Show off your talents to your fellow members at this year’s Insider Arts & Craft Show and Sale to be held in conjunction with Bloomfield Farm Day. For a $35 registration fee you are welcome to set up your works for visual enjoyment and purchasing. This is the last open Grist Mill Day of 2018 and we’ll be celebrating with demonstrations, music, food and a few animals. For more information, or to register, contact Michelle Conners at mconners@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 109.
Welcome - Erin Conley

Welcome Compton section leader Erin Conley

Please join staff in welcoming the Arboretum’s newest addition-
Erin Conley, Compton section leader.

A message from Erin:

I graduated from the University of Wyoming with a major in Agroecology and a minor in Horticulture in May 2017. My position as the 2017-2018 Rose and Flower Garden Intern here at Morris was crucial in my decision to pursue a career in public gardens, which perfectly combines my love of plants, working outside, and being surrounded by equally passionate people. After the conclusion of my internship at Morris, I spent this past summer as a Horticulture and Landscape Maintenance Intern at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University, learning every aspect of another horticultural institution. This experience helped me prepare to return to Morris as the Compton Section Leader and I could not be more excited about the upcoming years in this position.

If you see Erin around, be sure to say “welcome back!”

Photo courtesy of Erin Conley
Sunshine and Roses

Volunteers and staff alike came together September 20th to celebrate the incredible work volunteers contribute to the Arboretum.

Many thanks to you all!

Photos by Amanda Wood and Emily Clark
Continuing Education

Garden Design for Homeowners 101
Valerie Solitrin, Landscape Designer
*Thursday, October 11, 18, 25, November 1, 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. and Saturday, November 10 1:00-3:00 p.m.*

This comprehensive overview will help you plan your outdoor living expenditures strategically! Learn about design principles, hardscape choices, outdoor lighting, tools, trees, perennials, lawns, soil, and more. Best of all, you will develop a plan for a problem area of your garden with the support and guidance of the teacher. Six sessions jam-packed with great information will be the smartest garden investment you make.

Floral Imagery in Copper Foil
Allison Zito, Artist and Teacher
*Friday, October 12 at 10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.*

Different cultures throughout history have given us a rich variety of floral imagery. Everyone will choose a favorite image or images to inspire their copper embossing. Each student will create a drawing to emboss in 36-gauge copper foil. We will explore simple techniques used to create depth in the metal foil. Then we will adhere our embossing to a wood backing and create a finished work of art. It makes a great display for your home or can be given as a gift.

Staying Fit and Healthy in the Garden
Eli Glick, PT
*Monday, October 15 at 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.*

Did you know that gardening can be part of a regular fitness program? Learn how the fitness components of aerobic conditioning, flexibility and strength training can be incorporated into your gardening routine. Demonstrations of proper lifting techniques and correct use of tools so that they work for you, not against you, will be illustrated in the class.

The School of John Morris' Dreams
Joyce Munro, Essayist and former Dean of the Graduate School, Chestnut Hill College
*Wednesday, October 17 at 4:30-6:00 p.m.*

From John Morris' correspondence and other documents, we learn exactly what he had in mind for his “institution with a three-fold object.” Join us for an in-depth exploration of The Morris Botanical Garden, School, and Museum. In keeping with John’s concern for student health, we’ll enjoy an afternoon snack while we study.

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 and the volunteer discount code to be used online.
From the Archives
by Joyce H. Munro

Never let it be said that the chickens raised at Bloomfield Farm were second rate. After all, they were ordered from the Towanda Hatchery whose chicks were “of a decidedly improved quality” and diarrhea-free. Plus the folks at Towanda sold them at “fairest prices.”

That’s what Lydia Morris’s farm manager was counting on when it came time to place his order for Barred Standard Plymouth Rock chicks every January. Evidently the Bloomfield chicken house was quite roomy because the order ran as high as 500 chicks. Then came delivery of hundreds of pounds of Pratt’s Baby Chick Food from the feed and seed store in Germantown. Once the Bloomfield pullets started to lay, their mash was augmented with crushed oyster shells and grit to aid digestion and to make strong eggshells. So it stands to reason that a half-ton was ordered at a time.

And it stands to reason that the chicken house was full of eggs every morning come spring. How about three dozen a day? Between February and May of 1921, farm hands gathered over 5000 eggs in the hen house.

So what did they do with all those eggs and poultry? From the farm produce sales book, it’s clear that eggs were sold to staff and neighbors. But during peak laying season, eggs were likely sold to local grocers.

First-rate Barred Rock chickens were raised at Bloomfield Farm until Lydia’s death in 1932. The very next day, the Head Gardener cancelled his order for spring chicks. And eventually the chicken house went quiet.

Bloomfield Farm Chicken House, detail from 1916 topographical map by James Cresson.

See Barred Rock chickens here (just imagine 500 of these cuties chirping all day!) Check out the recipe for Chicken à la King from Lydia’s cookbook.
Garden Highlights

Lagerstroemia ‘Tuskegee’
Tuskegee crapemyrtle
Oak Allee

Acer griseum
paperbark maple
Orange Balustrade

Magnolia fraseri x pyramidata
Magnolia hybrid
Japanese Garden Hill

Iris lactea
Chinese abelia
Widener Visitor Center

Malus ‘Centzam’
CENTURION crabapple
Crabapple Slope

Acer palmatum ‘Kawahara Rose’
Kawahara Rose Japanese maple
Wisteria Walk Way
## Upcoming Events

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<td>3 First Wed. with Paul Meyer&lt;br&gt;Hort. Volunteers with Kate Deregibus</td>
<td>4 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3 pm</td>
<td>5 11:30 am Vol. Workshop 1:00 pm Vol. Book Club</td>
<td>6 Fall Family Weekend 10 am - 3 pm Saturday Morning Live: Native Trees</td>
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<td>10 Hort. Volunteers with Jess Slade</td>
<td>11 Ed. Committee Meeting 1 pm</td>
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<td>31 Hort. Volunteers with Louise Clarke</td>
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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
Upcoming Events

November 2018

Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 am - 12 noon

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 pm

**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30 am

**Sundays:** Winter Wellness Walks 1:00 pm