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 emiclark@upenn.edu or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Emily Clark, unless otherwise stated

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Letter from the Editor

This month I had the opportunity to attend a session of the American Sociological Association’s annual professional meeting, all about museum design. For me, the most interesting panel was titled “Sense and Sensibility: The Multi-sensory Museum,” lead by Gemma Mangione of the University of Columbia. I’ll save you some of the nitty-gritty details (although you can read her full article here!), but essentially Mangione argues that botanical gardens, and by extension arboreta, are “fundamentally more democratic spaces” than traditional gallery exhibits because they encourage the user to tap into all of their senses.

This idea really struck a chord with me because it’s something we’ve probably all observed. A few weeks ago, a guide returned from a tour with an experience I think perfectly summarizes Mangione’s thesis. While on a tour, a little boy stopped to smell some sage and exclaimed “it smells like Thanksgiving!” Even though the student may never have seen the plant outside of its dried, packaged form, by tapping into another sense he was able to make a meaningful connection.

At the Arboretum, I’m constantly reminded of the importance of looking beyond looking. Next time you’re outside, try to observe through something other than the eyes: listen for the beating of humming bird wings or wait for the smell of the katsura tree. Find what you can discover when you sense beyond what you’re used to...and then tell me about it!

Sincerely,
Emily Clark
The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern

Phases of Iygar.
Notes from the Guides Chair

END OF SUMMER POTPOURRI

I hope that all of you enjoyed a wonderful summer – the monsoon-like rains certainly cut down on my water bill, but greatly increased the time I spent getting rid of weeds in my garden. As the summer winds down, I start thinking about the tremendous impact that all of us as guides have on Morris Arboretum. The statistics prove this; between January and June of this year 98 groups and a total of 3,092 participants were scheduled for tours. 2,558 of these participants were children so we have had a very busy year. Thanks to all of you for the tremendous work that you do!!

Have you noticed the ephemeral signs that have been appearing in the garden lately? We can thank our education intern Emily Clark for these very clever additions to the landscape. Emily would love your suggestions on additional signs – just email her locations and what the signs should say. She looks forward to hearing from you at emiclark@upenn.edu.

Thanks to Eileen O’Rourke for forwarding me an article on migrating birds from the March, 2018 issue of National Geographic. It contains some very interesting information that you can use in your next wetlands tour. For example, birds use the sun and stars to point themselves in the right direction and time their annual migrations. When daylight hours lessen, birds sense that it might be time to migrate. Also, birds often use the earth’s magnetic fields to guide them on their journeys. These field lines are stronger and more detectable at the poles where they converge. Birds flying closer to the equator usually have to rely on other cues to help them find their way. Did you know that some birds have sensors in their eyes that help them detect the magnetic field and magnetite – a mineral that acts as a magnet – to help them tell in which direction to fly?

In addition, birds that migrate during the day often use landmarks such as mountains, rivers and coastlines to guide them. They frequently follow familiar routes to return to the same sites year after year. Finally, human development can affect migrations in numerous ways. Wind turbines can kill birds and city lights confuse birds that fly at night. Climate change can affect the time and ultimate success of birds’ journeys.

Enjoy your time in the garden as the change of seasons brings cooler weather and, hopefully, less rain. See you all there soon.

Joan Kober
Volunteer Workshops

Volunteer Workshop

Friday, October 5th | 11:30 am

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.

Lydia Morris Legacy Society Luncheon

Thursday, November 1st | 12:00-2:00 pm

Paul W. Meyer cordially invites you to Lydia Morris Legacy Society Luncheon on Thursday, November 1 from noon-2pm in the Upper Gallery of the Widener Visitor Center. Whether you are already a member of the Society or you come as a guest, this is an opportunity to meet other members of the Lydia Morris Legacy Society and learn more about opportunities to help the Arboretum through estate planning and other giving options, such as IRA distributions or charitable gift annuities. The program includes lunch, a presentation from Lynn Ierardi, Director of Gift Planning from the University of Pennsylvania, and a presentation from Archive Volunteer, Joyce Munro, titled, “Lydia’s Efforts to Preserve the Past.” Space is limited and registration is required. For questions or to register, please contact Alison Thornton at alisonth@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 105.
Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer 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.

Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer
September 7 | 1:00 PM | Gates Hall Conference Room
Drawing on her life as an indigenous scientist, Kimmerer shows how other living beings offer us gifts and lessons, even if we've forgotten how to hear their voices. Bringing together memoir, history, and science, she examines the botanical world. Kimmerer writes of investigating the natural world with her students and her efforts to protect and restore plants, animals, and land. A trained scientist who never loses sight of her Native heritage, she speaks of approaching nature with gratitude and giving back in return for what we receive.

Book Club: H is for Hawk by Helen Macdonald
October 5 | 1:00 PM | Gates Hall Conference Room
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”.

Saturday Morning Live Tours
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.

September 1st | Hidden Gems Tour
This popular tour includes 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.

October 6th | Sculpture Tour
Discover fine examples of public art that complement the Arboretum’s landscape and plant collection.

November 3rd | Native Trees Tour

December 1st | Conifers Tour
Volunteer Opportunities

Outdoor Career Symposium

Thursday, October 18th | 9:00am-2:00 pm

We are pleased to announce the 7th annual Outdoor Career Symposium held at the Morris Arboretum! Volunteers help make this event a success by directing participants, taking photos, and acting as friendly faces. Come earn volunteer hours, get a free lunch and help introduce students from under-served school to the possibility of outdoor careers.

Please contact Emily at emiclark@upenn.edu for more information.

Fall Refresher

Wednesday, September 26th & Tuesday, October 2nd

Refresher workshops are great opportunities to sharpen your skills, brush up on touring techniques and enhance your guiding repertoire.

Upper Gallery, 10:00 AM: Tips & Techniques for Leading Children’s Tours, featuring Kristi Littell, Co-Leader Wissahickon Charter School.

Techniques covered: Encouraging a discovery approach to learning; assessing prior student knowledge; engaging a quiet group; and maintaining focus

11:00 AM: Interdependence Tour, with technique practice
12:00 Noon: BYO Lunch and Wrap-Up Sessions
Volunteer Trips

Fall Gardening Day at the Governor’s Residence
Wednesday, September 26th

Join Arboretum staff and volunteers on Wednesday, September 26th for a fall gardening day in the Governor’s Residence garden in Harrisburg. In case of inclement weather, the rain date will be Thursday, October 4th.
This will be the 9th time that the Arboretum’s volunteers and staff have participated in a fall gardening day in the Residence garden. As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth, it is one way that we help one of Pennsylvania’s most important public gardens. Your help would be most appreciated.

Seats are limited. If you are interested in participating, please contact Pam Morris Olshefski before Friday, September 14th. She can be reached by phone at (215) 247-5777 ext. 188 or via email at pamela@upenn.edu.

Trip to Pennovation Center & Penn Museum
Tuesday, September 25th | 9:00 am

Join us as we tour 2 destinations at University of Penn. First, at the new Pennovation Center we’ll learn about past, present & future innovations taking place on site and get an insider’s look at work being done in biotech, health tech, robotics and more. The interior of this LEED Gold building utilizes natural daylight while retaining an edgy industrial feel, and an adjacent outdoor plaza links the surrounding buildings to add open space to this newly developed hub in the area.

Next, we’ll visit the Penn Museum of Archaeology & Anthropology for a tour of the new Middle East Galleries featuring hundreds of objects, highlighting thousands of years of human history. The new 6,000 sq. ft. suite of three galleries, vividly explores life in the Mesopotamian world, from early writing and record keeping to burial practices, transportation, agriculture, cooking, and the arts.

Vans will depart the lower meadow at 9am. Please bring a brown-bag lunch, as we’ll stop for lunch inside the Penn Museum just before our tour. Sign up is available via our TeamUp calendar, or email baileyL@upenn.edu if you cannot access TeamUp.
Arboretum Events

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

Calling all Scarecrows for the Scarecrow Design Contest!

They’re baaaack! We’re talking about more than 30 scarecrows in Morris Arboretum’s 11th annual Scarecrow Design Contest. This year’s theme is “A Moment in Time.” Designers may create a scarecrow that represents a significant occasion in their life that they associate with a single, public figure. These scarecrows may be a sports or film star, an artist or musician, a book character, chef or politician.

Sign-up by Wednesday, September 26 to ensure your place in the contest!

Entry fee is $25 for members and $30 for non-members, with a $5 discount for those who reuse their wood frame from a previous year. Straw, burlap, twine and frames for those who need them, are all provided. Details and on-line registration are available at www.bit.ly/MAcrows.

Scarecrow Donations

Scarecrows need clothing too! If you’re doing some fall cleaning, please put aside the following items:

- Jeans and other casual pants
- Long sleeve button down shirts
- Bits and pieces of old costumes
- Accessories (belts, hats, ties and scarves)
- Craft supplies (yarn, pipe cleaners, fabric)

(Please leave your donations in the blue bins on the Widener Visitor Center porch.)
Arboretum Events

**Autumnal Equinox**

*Sunday, September 23rd | 1:00-3:00 p.m.*

Enjoy the sounds of the Jack Saint Clair Jazz Trio as they usher in autumn with seasonal music. Performances at 1 and 2pm at the Baxter Memorial.

**Korean Harvest Festival**

*Saturday, September 29th*

Celebrate Korean culture through music, garden tours and food sampling that highlight this country’s native plants.

**Sunshine and Roses**

*Thursday, September 20th | 5:00-7:00 pm*

Join your fellow volunteers for an evening in the garden in this annual celebration. All active volunteers are welcome. Please look for an invitation in your e-mail inbox.

**Insider Arts & Craft Show and Sale**

*Saturday, October 21st | 1:00-3:00 p.m.*

Join the Insider Arts & Craft Show, a celebration of the final open Grist Mill Day of 2018. Show off your talents and wares! For a $35 registration fee, set up your crafts for spectacle and purchasing. 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.
Volunteer Photos - Stoneleigh Trip Highlights

Above: In addition to being a beautiful garden, Stoneleigh is home to the Organ Historical Society.

Photo above: Volunteers admire a gargantuan cucumber magnolia.

Photo to right and below: Stoneleigh converted a historic pool into a garden celebrating native pear bogs.
Volunteer Corner

First of September

*by Arboretum volunteer Jenny French*

The earth holds its breath, its one big eye staring down blue, Blind to the sun. The light comes down as if through glass. Plants eat light, rising translucent and stopping full of seeds. The smell like bread rising, The hum of insects stitching the flowers like wizened seamstresses. When the bubble bursts, everything will fall—rain, leaves, thoughts. For now summer teeters, arms akimbo, with swallows in its hair. And in the heart of the earth, Even worms gorge in expectation of the planet cooling down.

![Cleome spinosa spider flower](image)

Evening Stroll

*by Jenny French*

So calm tonight hangs out the air, Almost as if it weren’t there. The rabbit hides in plainest view, With ears enfolded, in the dew. I know the pines by smell alone As I wander on toward home. I can’t bear going back inside When on this outing so much rides. I’ll sit and wait for breath to settle, Watch to test the rabbit’s mettle, Watch to find a star above, An evening moment I can love.

To have your work featured next month, please send it to Emily at emiclark@upenn.edu
Continuing Education

We’ve updated our course registration system, it’s now easier than ever to receive your volunteer discount on-line! Simply visit the Education Office for volunteer discount code you can use on-line and for the complete list of volunteer class pricing.

Build a Stool from a Tree
Karl F. Newman, Cabinetmaker and Green Woodworking
Three Wednesday’s, September 5, 12, 19 at 4:30 p.m.

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

Drawing the Majesty of Trees
Henry Martin, Artist
Four Sundays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 at 11:30 a.m.

Drawing outdoors is a wonderful way to relax in the natural world, and this class, in the beautiful gardens of the Morris Arboretum, provides a fun and nurturing environment in which to draw some of the most beautiful trees in Philadelphia. We will explore several simple concepts designed to facilitate drawing for beginners and accomplished artists alike, concentrating on the movement and growth of trees.

Twilight Garden Ramble
Bob Gutowski, Director of Education and Visitor Experience
Morris Arboretum
Wednesday, September 12 at 6:30 p.m.

Twilight in the garden is a special time to experience and share. Arboretum educator, historian, gardener, and naturalist Bob Gutowski will be your ramble guide. Relax and observe the landscape, creatures, sky, and plants as they transform for evening. Share some stories.

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.
From the Archives
by Joyce H. Munro

In 1878, just after pulling off the biggest city landscaping project of his career at Fairmount Park, Charles H. Miller made the case for “landscape adornment for rural homes” at the Pennsylvania Fruit Growers’ Society annual meeting. He explained how the field of landscape design had become quite fashionable in cities and now was being applied to rural life. And to counter any naysayers in the audience, he argued that even the most earnest utilitarians would admit that the cultivation of the beautiful in nature is important, whether in city or country gardens. Who could disagree with that?

Miller practiced what he preached at rural estates like Stoneleigh in Villanova and Sugar Loaf in Chestnut Hill. Then it came time to apply his principles of landscape adornment to the grounds of Compton, the country seat of John T. and Lydia T. Morris. Compton was brand new—in fact workers may have still been plastering interior walls of the house when Miller came over from Mount Airy to walk the rough and uncultivated ground with John. Keep in mind that John once divulged to reporters that friends had warned he’d never be able to grow anything on such barren land. Maybe Miller was thinking the same thing as they descended from the high plateau where the house stood, down over bare and bald ground. But Miller knew a thing or two about how to make it beautiful with masses of shrubs and well-placed trees, punctuated with vast lawns and curvilinear paths.

Miller had learned his trade well, first at the school for gardeners at Kew Gardens in London, then at William Bridgewater Page’s botanical garden and nurseries in Southampton. He also did a short stint as assistant to Joseph Paxton at the Crystal Palace in Sydenham, London. But until coming to Philadelphia in 1858, Miller had never experienced such dramatic swell and swale. Would his principles of landscaping on flat land work on steep hillsides and deep ravines?

If John had any trepidation about the future of his land as they walked around, it was wiped away with the sweep of Miller’s hand toward a small plateau below the house where he envisioned a fine flower garden. Another sweep of the hand . . . over there a pond, here an allée, down farther a park. And thus Miller brought the dry bones together to form the skeleton which John T. Morris made green and lush with plant stock from all over the world.

Read more about Charles Miller in Germantown Gardens and Gardeners p.56 here.
Garden Highlights

Lycoris squamigera
naked ladies
Widener Visitor Center

Swallow tail

Rhododendron prunifolium
plumleaf azalea
Sculpture Garden

Eutrochium purpureum
Joe-Pye-weed
Swan Pond

Lonicera sempervirens ‘Alabama Crimson’
Alabama Crimson trumpet
honeysuckle
Rose Garden

Rosa ‘AUSmas’
GRAHAM THOMAS rose
Rose Garden

September 2012
Volunteer

September 2018
## Upcoming Events

### September 2018

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<td>5 Wed. Talks - Jess Slade</td>
<td>6 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3pm</td>
<td>7 Volunteer Book Club 1:00 pm</td>
<td>8 Dogs and Bark Tour 11am</td>
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<td>12 Hort. Volunteers with Jess Slade</td>
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<td>National Grandparents Day 10am-5pm</td>
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<td>Autumnal Equinox</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am-12pm  
**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm, Garden opens at 8:00 am
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<td>21 Bloomfield Farm Day and Insider Art Show 12 - 4pm</td>
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