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
Alessandra Rella, 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: Alessandra Rella, unless otherwise stated

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Front Cover: Swans underneath Hydrangea paniculata in bloom
Sedum cultivar
Rudbeckia hirta
Letter from the Editor

“I held my breath as we do sometimes to stop time when something wonderful has touched us…”
From “Snow Geese” by Mary Oliver

On a lovely Sunday afternoon, I walked to a nearby park to enjoy the day and read. With an assist from the cool breeze, I laid out my periwinkle blanket and made myself comfortable. As I started to settle into my chosen spot, I began to notice the sun shining through the blades of grass, casting shadows onto the pages of my book. Surrounding me were the sounds of children playing, making friends and coming up with new games to keep themselves entertained. A steady creaking sound played in the distance, coming from a swing set being well used. Then outbursts of soft laughter came from others around, who like me, were sitting on their blankets enjoying the beautiful day.

The book I was reading? Mary Oliver’s New and Selected Poems, Vol 2. I love Mary Oliver’s poetry for many reasons, but I particularly love her attentiveness to detail. I am always amazed by how her writing on the ordinary can fill me with awe and deep reflection. She is able to describe our natural world in ways that bring out the true wonder that exists around us at all times. The quote above is from a poem of hers I read that afternoon in the park that I found particularly touching.

Fall is approaching, and with this transition out of summer comes change. While change can be difficult (and I speak from personal struggles), change is also a treasure box filled with small details that will eventually come together to form something new. But it’s easy to miss these everyday instances that make up a change, and instead we dwell on the new reality itself that awaits us. This year, I am going to make a point of watching carefully as the seasons unfold around the Arboretum. I’m excited to observe the small details of the daily that will eventually come together to create a world of warm colors, and hopefully a cooler atmosphere.

If you aren’t yet familiar with Mary Oliver’s work, I invite you to read some of her poems. She’ll be a wonderful companion for these lovely upcoming months of transition and detail.

Happy September,

Alessandra Rella

The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern
September is Here

It is hard for me to believe that September is already here. The summer slipped by so fast as it does every year. Hope your summer was filled with relaxation, traveling, time in your garden and guiding. As guides, we have many things to look forward to at this change of season – more children to teach and inspire with new tours, plus refresher courses, educational seminars, and trips for volunteers only.

My talented friend, Marie Higgins, graciously agreed to write a poem appropriate for this time of year. I think that you will enjoy it!

FALL SLIPS ON

The shoe rack hangs like the choice I must make.
I stare only at the flip flops.
My sweaty summer soles must have worn them out.
Only flecks of brand remain.
It interests me that I paid no mind to the missing words until today.
Probably because summer always slips on without notice.
Today’s late September visit from unfriendly winds catches too much of my attention.
“What to wear?” sigh “What to wear?”
Looking at the fashion boots makes my shin skin prickle.
I want naked, but naked is, as it often is, impractical.
Soon naked will only become a tree.
In the meantime, I choose furry fuzzy slippers and leave the socks out of it.
Fall slips on.

Enjoy the cooler weather and increased activity at the Arboretum.
Hope to see all of you soon.

Joan Kober
Chair of the Guides
Announcements

FALL FAMILY WEEKEND - October 5th and 6th

Sign-Up to Volunteer

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 ext. 109.

Available shifts for pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table:
Saturday, October 5th: 10a.m.-12:30p.m. or 12:30p.m.-3p.m.
Sunday, October 6th: 10a.m.-12:30p.m. or 12:30p.m.-3p.m.

Scarecrow Design Contest and Clothing Drive

Participate in the Morris Arboretum’s 12th Annual Scarecrow Design Contest!

This year’s theme: Famous Musicians

For more information on entering the contest, click here.

Your scarecrow will be on display from October 5th through Halloween.

Donations Needed!

We can always use extra clothes and materials for the scarecrow making event during Fall Family Weekend! Please consider donating 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 bin located on the Widener Visitor Center Porch.
OUTDOOR CAREER SYMPOSIUM - October 24th

The Outdoor Career Symposium is an annual Morris Arboretum event that gives students from area high schools the opportunity to learn about careers in the outdoors and speak with environmentally focused professionals.

We need your help to make this event successful! Find out how you can help below.

Be a Group Leader

Attending students (~80) will rotate through the day’s events in groups of 15-20. In order for everything to run smoothly, we need a leader for each group to guide the students to where they need to go. 10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Be a Photographer

We need a talented photographer to document the day!
8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

Be a Tour Guide

The day of the Symposium will begin with tours of the Arboretum. We need guides to show participating students and professionals around our beautiful gardens!
8:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

If interested in participating, please contact Alessandra Rella at arella8@upenn.edu
**Reminders**

**Fall Guide Refresher Sessions**

The Fall Guiding Refresher sessions are coming up! Please attend on your primary guiding day. Attendance at any one session is required:

- Monday, September 9
- Wednesday, September 11
- Friday, September 13
- Tuesday, September 17
- Thursday, September 19

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Meet at Widener. We’ll take a van to Bloomfield Farm when needed.

**Schedule:**
- 9:00 a.m. – Mill Tour refresher
- 10:40 a.m. – Water Cycle Tour refresher
- 11:45 a.m. – Individual Tour activity refreshers
  (Water Testing, Web of Life, Clear Cutting, What Tree Am I)

We will review existing tours and activities, but we will also be introducing a brand new activity: “What Tree Am I?” that will match student interests and hobbies to a particular tree at the Arboretum. It’s a lot of fun!

**Sign-Up for Fall Guiding**

Remember to sign up for your fall guiding preferences (September through March)

Please hold your primary guiding day two weeks in advance, before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded).

Thanks to every one of you for the wonderful work you do!

*Liriope spicata*
A Look Back

Q&A with Bill Cullina, August 14

Weren’t able to make it to this event? Read about it here!

Contributed by Anne Ciaralli

Bill was only in the middle of his second fulltime week when he met with the volunteers for this Q&A session. It became immediately evident that he is enjoying his transition so far, and he already has a host of observations and new ideas that he shared with us. Bill was warm, engaging and thoughtful. When asked what drew him to Philadelphia, Bill shared that he spent time in the area during the 1990’s, attending conferences and lectures. He stated that nothing compares to “America’s Garden Capital” and that he has always thought of returning. Bill’s most pleasant surprises so far include the “family feeling” among the staff and volunteers (or “un-paid staff,” as he prefers to say), the great relationship with Penn, and the passion everyone exhibits for the work they do. Seeing only opportunities, Bill spoke enthusiastically of:

- More emphasis on native species
- Organic pest/weed control
- A review of the Collection versus current climate conditions
- Soil health
- Sharing Arboretum practices with Penn and beyond
- The arrival sequence for visitors such as streamlining ticketing, parking, welcoming
- Roving docents
- Offering shuttle service from public transportation sites
- Shuttle availability within the garden for greater accessibility for all
- Additional educational programs for children
- New exhibits and seasonal attractions such as holiday lights, a butterfly exhibit, Fall Harvest

Bill concluded by expressing his wish to inspire a “culture of service” among all paid and unpaid staff, visitors, and plants alike. His hope is to bring outsider eyes to the visitor experience by tapping into member feedback to ensure visitors leave feeling enriched and transformed.

Volunteers left the session feeling upbeat and excited to support Bill in whatever the future holds!

Remember this guy?

Last September, Lisa Bailey snapped this amazing photo. This hawk spent about an hour on the Visitor Center porch, snacking on surrounding plants and posing for pictures!
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Saturday Morning Live Tour: Great Trees
Saturday, September 7 | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace
Learn more about some of the finest specimens in the Arboretum's collection of magnificent trees. See old trees, trees from far away continents, and trees native to Pennsylvania. Even if you’ve seen these trees before, there’s more to know about each of them.

First Wednesday Workshops
Wednesday, September 11th | 12:30 p.m. | Widener Terrace
Please note that this month’s workshop will NOT be on the first Wednesday, but rather the second! Tony Aiello will be leading a walk, titled, Reading the Landscape: How the Arboretum Learns. This will look at changes in the Arboretum's landscape over time, highlighting elements that date from before John and Lydia through the present day.

MORE Hidden Gems Tour
Saturday, September 14 & 28 | 11:00 a.m. | Widener Terrace
The original Hidden Gems tour was so popular that it has returned 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.

Sunshine and Roses
Thursday, September 19 | 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. | Rose Garden
Join us for an evening in the garden as we celebrate you! This is one of the Arboretum's annual volunteer appreciation events. Please look for an invitation in your inbox for more information.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Korean Culture Day
Saturday, September 28 | 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate traditional and modern Korean culture and discover the country’s way of life through music, dance, food sampling and a garden tour. The 2:00 PM tour highlights Korea’s native trees and plants.

Book Club

September- The Botany of Desire
By Michael Pollan
Friday, September 6 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

In The Botany of Desire, Michael Pollan ingeniously demonstrates how people and domesticated plants have formed reciprocal relationships. He masterfully links four fundamental human desires—sweetness, beauty, intoxication, and control—with the plants that satisfy them: the apple, the tulip, marijuana, and the potato. In telling the stories of four familiar species, Pollan illustrates how the plants have evolved to satisfy humankind’s most basic yearnings.

October- Gathering Moss
By Robin Wall Kimmerer
Friday, October 4 | 1:00 p.m. | Gates Hall Conference Room

Living at the limits of our ordinary perception, mosses are a common but largely unnoticed element of the natural world. Gathering Moss is a beautifully written mix of science and personal reflection that invites readers to explore and learn from the elegantly simple lives of mosses. Robin Wall Kimmerer’s book is written as a series of linked personal essays that will lead general readers and scientists alike to an understanding of how mosses live and how their lives are intertwined with the lives of countless other beings. In this book, the natural history and cultural relationships of mosses become a powerful metaphor for ways of living in the world.

The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff and meets the first Friday of each month, through December, at 1 p.m. in Gate Hall. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month. Contact Dietra Arena at deitraarena@gmail.com with any further questions.
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

Volunteer Tour of Awbury Arboretum
Wednesday, October 2 | 9:30 a.m.

Please plan to join us for a tour of secret gardens at Awbury Arboretum. Denis Lucey, experienced landscape designer and former Landscape Manager of Awbury, will treat us to a tour of the hidden gems in the Arboretum. Vans will depart from the lower meadow at Morris. Please sign up via the TeamUp calendar or email Lisa at baileyL@upenn.edu if you have trouble with Teamup. We’ll plan to have a brown bag lunch at Awbury. Suggested donation $5.00 per person.

Insider Art Show and Sale
Sunday, October 20 | 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.

Artists and crafters, it’s your time to shine! For a $40 registration fee, set up your crafts for spectacle and purchasing. This event will be happening in conjunction with Bloomfield Farm Day. Join us for demonstrations, music, food, a few animals, and the final opportunity of the year to tour the restored Springfield Mills.

For more information, or to register, contact Michelle Connors at mconners@upenn.edu.

Art by Brittany Monser

Photo taken last year by Lisa Bailey
Our new fall course brochure is here! Be sure to check out the many great classes we have to offer this season. The following classes are ones that will count toward volunteer hours. For more information on each, please see our course brochure.

**Twilight Garden Stroll**  
Thursday, September 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.  
Enjoy twilights ebb to night while listening to Arboretum stories, exploring garden nooks, and investigating plants in the living collection.

**Green House and Fernery Tour**  
Saturday, September 28, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon  
Join Arboretum proegator Shelley Dillard for a tour of the greenhouses. Don't miss your chance to go inside these busy buildings which are usually closed to the public.

**Re-envisioning a Garden**  
Saturday, September 28, 10:00-11:30 a.m.  
Discover how a professional breathes new life into a garden! Staff horticulturist Erin Conley will share how she reimagined and redesigned the Pennock Garden.

**Wissahickon Botany Walk**  
Saturday, October 12, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.  
Explore the Wissahickon Valley Park as a terrestrial ecologist! Wander through meadows and forests in search of plants in foliage, flower, and/or fruit.

**John and Lydia Morris’s Travel Companion Tells All**  
Wednesday, October 16, 4:30-6:00 p.m.  
Louise Kellner, John and Lydia’s travel assistant, kept detailed diary entries on their travels. Enjoy some afternoon tea and discover what these entries hold!

**Public Gardens in Today’s World**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2:00 p.m. at the Ambler Theater  
Take this opportunity to meet the Arboretum’s new executive director, Bill Cullina, and hear him speak on the importance of public gardens.

**Birds of the Arboretum: An Illustrated Lecture**  
Saturday, November 2, 1:30-3:00 p.m.  
Learn about the birds that frequent the Arboretum and admire beautiful photos. Plus, discover how you can make your own backyard a bird oasis!

**Heroines in Horticulture**  
Sunday, November 3, 2:00-3:30 p.m.  
Dig deeper into the lives and practices of heroines in horticulture in this primer on women’s history in the gardens. Learn and discuss the lasting contributions women have made!

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, or sign up online using the code “ELM” for discounted classes.
Discounted fall classes for volunteers:
Get 50% off on these classes

**Behind the Scenes**
- Twilight Garden Stroll, 9/12
- Greenhouse and Fernery Tour, 9/28
- John and Lydia Morris’s Travel Companion Tells All, 10/16

**Birding**
- Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot Session 1, 9/24
- Birding at the Arboretum: A Local Hotspot Session 2, 10/16
- Houston Meadows: A Unique Bird Habitat, 10/24
- Birding in the Wissahickon, 9/21
- Birds of the Arboretum and Backyard Birds: An Illustrated Lecture, 11/2

**Growing Minds**
- Storytime, 9/6
- Night Animals Discovery and Live Demonstration, 10/10

**Health and Wellness**
- CBD - The Tips, Tricks and Myths, 11/14
- Shinrin Yoku: Forest Bathing for Health, 9/3

**Horticulture and Landscape Design**
- How to Grow a Lush, Green Lawn, 9/3
- Adding Fall and Winter Interest to your Garden, 9/24
- Landscaping with Bulbs, 9/26
- Re-envisioning a Garden: How a Professional Breathes New Life into a Garden, 9/28
- How to Design and Plan your Home Landscape, 10/2
- Woodland Treasures with John Lonsdale, 10/17
- Outdoor Safety In Your Garden, 10/19
- Understanding Plant Communities: The Importance in Design, 10/29
- Heroines in Horticulture, 11/3

**Botany**
- Introduction to Botany, 1/22
- Wissahickon Botany Walk, 10/12

**Creative Expressions**
- Chinese Calligraphy Painting --Fall Color, 9/22
- Painting the Anatomy of Trees, 9/22
- The Art of Japanese Ink Painting, 10/13
- Impressionist Painting, 10/20
- Weave Your Own Macramé Creation, 11/9

**Culinary Adventures**
- Creating Delicious Fall Pizzas, 11/2
- Soup Making Workshop, 12/1

**Lectures**
- Public Gardens in Today’s World, 10/23
- Conservation Management of Plant Collections: Examples from a Tropical Palmetum, 11/6

**Sustainability**
- DIY Microgreen Growing, 10/19
- Sustainable Household Practices, 11/12
In the Arboretum

Ripariosida hermaphrodita
Photos and text by Dominique Groffman
The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern

To the left are photographs of the budding and fully-formed flowers of Ripariosida hermaphrodita (Virginia mallow) growing in the Arboretum's greenhouse. Virginia mallow is native to the mid-Atlantic and the Ohio River drainage. While weedy, Ripariosida hermaphrodita is rare in the wild. Since the mid-20th century, Virginia mallow has been researched extensively in eastern Europe for its use as a biofuel, fiber, fodder and honey crop, as well as soil remediation and as a biological sound barrier. Flowers of Ripariosida hermaphrodita at all stages of development are being collected and preserved for developmental microscopy.

The John Shober Active-Duty Military Free Admission Program.... beginning September 1st!

In honor of Emeritus Arboretum Board member John A. H. Shober (First Lieutenant, USAF), the Morris Arboretum is pleased to introduce the John Shober Active-Duty Military Free Admission Program. Effective September 1, 2019, the Arboretum will grant free general admission to Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. To qualify, visitors simply need to show a valid military ID.
In October 1889, John and Lydia Morris and their travel companion, Louise Kellner, started on a ten-month tour that took them to eleven countries. Along the way, they visited gardens, both large and small, where they occasionally bought fresh flowers or plants for Compton. In her diaries of the trip, Louise wrote about some of their botanical purchases.

1. On their visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens in Kandy, Ceylon, “Mr. Morris bought five Rupees worth of different seeds and if he will have good luck with them in his greenhouse at Compton, he will have the handsomest & rarest flowers in the United States.”

2. At the Governor’s Palace garden in Macao, China, “Mr. M. was made a present of the seed of the most beautiful Chinese aster, which, so he hopes, will be in bloom by the time he returns to Compton.”

3. “We had a lovely rickshaw ride all around the Bluff (Yokohama), and stopped at a gardener’s where some plants were ordered. Miss Morris bought 50 cents worth of pinks, for which she got 16 flowers only, and I picked for myself 3 lovely Mignonettes.”

4. In Tokyo, they toured a small garden: “It was very pretty and had the loveliest little trees shaped in all sorts of twisted ways. Mr. Morris bought one of them, a wee pine tree, and I do hope that he will get it home safely.”

5. After landing in San Francisco, they went north to British Columbia for two weeks. In Banff, “Mr. Morris was out getting slips of different trees & shrubberies to be sent to and planted in the woods of Compton.”
Garden Highlights

Eryngium yuccifolium
rattlesnake master
Oak Allée

Tricyrtis dilatata
toad lily
Widener Walkway

Lagerstroemia ‘Tuskegee’
Tuskegee crepe myrtle
Oak Allée

Canna indica
canna lily
Rose Garden
### Upcoming Events

#### September 2019

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<td>Saturday Morning Live Tour 11 a.m.</td>
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<td>Guide Refresher 9 a.m.</td>
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<td>Horticulture Volunteers in Natural Areas - Guide Refresher 9 a.m.</td>
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### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30 a.m. - 12 noon

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 2:00 - 3:00 p.m., Garden opens at 8 a.m.

**Sundays:** Regular Tour 11:00 a.m. - 12 noon
Upcoming Events

October 2019

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