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Volume I, Number 1, Spring 1990



THE MORRIS GARDENER

The newsletter of the horticulture and greenhouse volunteers of
the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Hi! and welcome to "The Morris Gardener". We hope this horticulture and greenhouse volunteer newsletter will help us all keep in touch with what is happening at the Arboretum and with each other. We look to you for ideas and contributions - any news you think would be of interest to your fellow volunteers, want ads or notice of events. Our thanks to all who helped with this edition!

Shelley Dillard and Anne Koper Wagner

Morris Arboretum Horticulture Volunteer Schedule

April 11
Langstroth Bee Garden
Chick Culp

April 18
Greenhouse Landscaping
Shelley Dillard

April 25
Compton
Dan Allier

May 2
Plant Sale Preparations
Shelley Dillard

May 9
Plant Sale
Section Leaders

May 16
FranklinTown Annuals
Melinda dams

May 23
Field Trip
Mt. Cuba Center

May 30
English Park
Bill Graham

THE MORRIS GARDENER is published periodically throughout the year. Articles and comments are welcome. Send correspondence to the arboretum c/o the greenhouse.

LETTERS

Congratulations to the editors of the first edition of "The Morris Gardener". I am confident that this newsletter will grow to become an important vehicle of communication among staff and volunteers. As we look to the future, volunteers will play an increasingly important role in the management of the gardens at the Morris Arboretum. "The Morris Gardener" will help all of us stay in touch with one another and build an *esprit de corps*. I am eagerly looking forward to reading the first issue.

Paul Meyer



Have you noticed the new bench in the cottage garden? It's a gift from friend and former volunteer Claire Alexander, now living in Texas. Claire keeps in touch...

Dear Friends,

My recent visit to the Arboretum really reminded me of some great learning experiences packed in with lots of fun! What a great idea to have a volunteer newsletter. The work you do with volunteers is so incredible - now that I'm back in Texas, I realize how spoiled I became at the Morris.

Good old Texas ! It's nice to be back, but we're entering our third year of serious drought which is tough. I'm still keeping my hands and knees dirty trying to grow Pennsylvania perennials in this heat with lots of TLC. The big news down this way is we're expecting a baby in 8 weeks. Yikes - that's soon, so I need to clean the garden out before I get too big to dig! I'll keep you posted as to whether it's a John or a Lydia.

Have a wonderful Spring and know that I'm thinking of all of you. Let me know if anyone is ever passing this way

Sincerely,
Claire

BOOK REVIEWS

For the rosarian at your house...
Roses by Roger Phillips and
 Martyn Rix.

1400 roses in full color
 photographs. Description of each
 rose's origin and parentage, ap-
 pearance, characteristics, and
 growing conditions.

224 pages, softbound, \$19.95,
 Wayside Press
 Byron Lukens

Modern Miniature Daffodis, Species and Hybrids

by James S. Wells, Timber
 Press, 1989.

This book will be a very
 worthwhile addition to any library.
 Along with the 'usual' texts of
 names, descriptions, etc., Mr.
 Wells has included a very unusual
 index on plant availability and dif-
 ficulty in growing. This feature
 minimizes the trauma of defeat
 when you read about a treasure you
 would like to own, but cannot lo-
 cate! The pictures are excellent,
 and the information given is very
 inclusive. This is a very easy to read
 and easy to use book - a long over-
 due update on miniaturae daffodils.

Roxie Gevjan

SEE YOU AT THE PLANT SALE



May
 10 - 13th

MISSING

If it's not here, it's because you
 didn't send the item to the editor:
THE MORRIS GARDENER
 Morris Arboretum
 9414 Meadowbrook Avenue
 Philadelphia, PA 19118

Volunteer Profile

Byron Lukens

Octogenarian Horticulture Volunteer and Renaissance Man

Mr. Lukens has been my right hand man at the greenhouse since I began working at the arboretum. From taking daily temperature readings, watering the fernery, and tending the greenhouse borders to washing pots, planting record numbers of bulbs, and disinfecting benches, he is always working hard to keep the greenhouse running smoothly. Gina Hart interviewed him for this profile. - Shelley Dillard

Byron Lukens' life has spanned every decade of this century. When asked his opinion of what it was like having lived in every decade he replied, "It's wonderful to have the strength and motivation by the Grace of God and an opportunity to dig the soil of the Morris Arboretum." He has been digging the soil of the arboretum from 1975 to the present.

Byron sees his life divided into quarters of twenty years. The first was "preparing for life and a teaching career." (University of Pennsylvania, B. S., English, M.S., Administration) In the next twenty years he was an elementary school teacher. Then in 1948 he became an administrator in the curriculum office and was responsible for enriching the education of teachers. Inspired by a Philadelphia "Inquirer" article stating that teachers knew nothing of life beyond their "ivory towers", Byron named his program "Exodus from the Ivory Tower." Among many and varied field trips the teachers visited the Inquirer. There they observed the bull dog edition of the lobster shift (12 - 4 am) being put to bed.

Byron served in Abbeyville (Normandy) with the 59th Troop Carrier Squadron (U.S.A.F.) in World War II. He was honored with the European Theatre Ribbon, the Bronze Star and Marksman Medal. Closer to home he received the George Washington Medal from the Freedom Foundation. In addition to all this and much more, he produced two documentaries for WHY-TV, and wrote a description of the sights of the Delaware River waterfront for 250,000 public school children which is still used.

An oath taken by ancient Greek youths impressed Byron very much: to lead a life dedicated to making the earth a better place for his having been there. It certainly characterizes Byron's life.

Did You Know...

Did you know that some synthetic burlap looks just like the real thing? Much of the synthetic burlap is now being made from carpet backing and will not decompose like the old jute burlap. If you think that all synthetic burlap is slick and shiny, look again. We have received a number of complaints this year of trees being planted two to three years and not being able to root-out. Upon investigating, it was evident that only a few small roots had managed to penetrate and there was no sign of decaying fabric despite the fact that it had been buried two years. I personally cannot visually distinguish the two materials when side by side except by smell. If you have been having difficulty with establishing trees and shrubs that were planted without removing the burlap, you had better dig-round and look.

Frank Gouin, in The University of Maryland "Nurserymen's News"

SPECIAL PARKS BULLETIN

The trust fund set up by Benjamin Franklin will expire on April 17th, 1990. In accordance with Franklin's will, the trust fund will be turned over to the City of Philadelphia and the State of Pennsylvania to be used as the respective governments see fit.

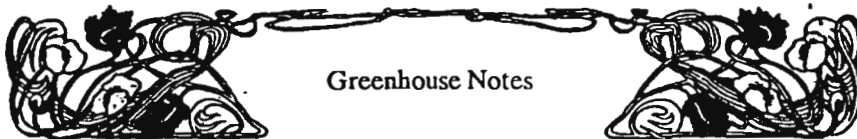
The City Parks Association has developed a proposal for the use of this fund, which amounts to about \$2 million. The proposal envisions the establishment of a Franklin Fund for Open Space Maintenance, a perpetual endowment that would be used for the care and protection of our parks and open spaces. Grants from the fund would be used to support project requests from community and user groups. Only the earnings from the fund would be used. The principal would not be invaded.

This is a unique opportunity to reverse the entrenched neglect of the City's park system. As a Friend of Philadelphia Parks, please add your voice in support of the City Parks Association's proposal by contacting the Mayor and your councilperson. Tell them that you support the creation of the Franklin Fund for Parks and Open Space Maintenance.

Contact Your City Councilperson and The Mayor:

Lucien E. Blackwell	Room 408
George R. Burrell Jr.	Room 488
Augusta A. Clark	Room 580
David Cohen	Room 588
Joseph E. Coleman	Room 490
Mayor W. Wilson Goode	Room 215
Joan L. Krajewski	Room 595
Jack P. Kelly	Room 592
Ann J. Land	Room 406
W. Thatcher Longstreth	Room 594
Brian J. O'Neill	Room 586
Angel L. Ortiz	Room 590
Francis Rafferty	Room 562
Joan Specter	Room 582-B
John F. Street	Room 584
Marion B. Tasco	Room 484
James Tayoun	Room 404
Anna C. Verna	Room 403

CITY HALL, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107



Greenhouse Notes

Last fall Paul Meyer travelled to Korea to collect seeds. After a long wait the seeds have finally arrived. Going through the seed lots, I felt like a child on Christmas morning. I discovered maples, magnolias, Jack-in-the-pulpits, rhododendrons, pines, astilbe, and many other species. Some species I recognized, but many - like *Tschonoskii* maple and *Okamotoanum* maple I have never grown or seen!

After inspection, we discovered some maples had already germinated in their storage bags, so Tim Weldon, the propagation intern, sowed them immediately. Some other seeds needed to be repacked in moist sphagnum. Regardless of moist or dry packing, the seeds were all placed in the refrigerator.

Some of the seeds will be distributed to nurseries; some to supporters of Paul's trip. The rest will be kept by the arboretum. They will be grown to be added to the collection, and as future dividend plants. Larger seed lots of particular species will be used in various research trials.

It's a very exciting time at the greenhouse! Stop by and see what's happening as weeks go by.

Shelley Dillard, propagator

FIND THE HORTICULTURE CREW

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A F B I L L W J R A V R Y C G N M
R M P Y Q U C A E N I E E F K O A
T J W B N D A N P N N N L S C I G
O G I N A H E V O E C G L Y I R G
A F N E I L O N K R E A E L H A I
D B A R T U V C I E Y W H V C M E
N A X K H M A P O T T D S I V N C
I C V U J L N C T L S E U A Q B A
L Z O E V O D E W A K I R E N E R
E J W Z A Q B G F W E I R A M F O
M A R I L Y N D R A W D E H G U H
N E R A K G J C Y D U J B Z C X J
H S T E V E O V B A T T E R O L Y
    
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ANNE	GINA	MARION
ART	HORACE	MELINDA
BART	IRENE	NEIL
BETTY	JAN	PAM
BILL	JUDY	SHELLEY
CHICK	KAREN	STEVE
CHRISTINE	LORETTA	SYLVIA
DAK	MAGGIE	VINCE
DAVE	MARILYN	WALTER
EVO	MARIE	

Thanks to Loretta Seidl.

Needed:

A small electric mower (ideally with flip-over handle) like the Black & Decker 8000 18" mower. Call Maggie, 222-8148.

Giveaways:

Two healthy (about 3 years old) trumpet vines. Call Maggie, 222-8148.

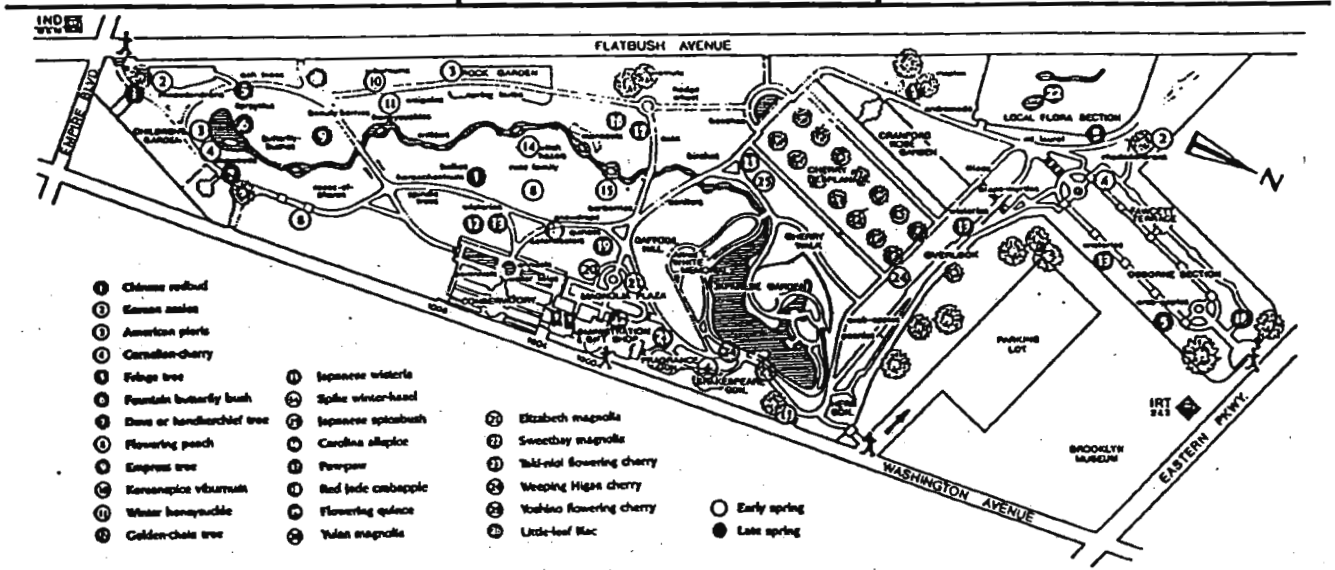
Wanted:

Your contributions to the next issue of THE MORRIS GARDENER - a profile of your favorite plants, book reviews, puzzles, new sources for plants or ideas for future articles.



Thanks to Edward Wagner and his computer for producing the first edition of our newsletter.

FIELD TRIPS



BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN FIELD TRIP

Join with other guides and the horticulture volunteers on a bus trip to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on Friday, June 1, 1990. The Brooklyn Botanic has a premiere rose garden, a local flora section, and a widely photographed Japanese hill and pond garden, as well as many other diverse gardens within a garden. Some 12,000 different kinds of plants are grown in the conservatories and on the grounds at the garden.

The bus will leave from the Morris parking lot at 7:30 a.m. on Friday, June 1 and return at approximately 6:30 p.m. You will be able to buy lunch at the cafeteria or eat your bag lunch on the bus. The registration fee of \$15 must be paid by April 27th so we can reserve the bus.

Brooklyn Botanic Garden Bus Trip

Friday June 1, 1990 7:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

MT. CUBA CENTER

WILDFLOWER GARDEN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 23RD, 10-NOON

They have limited us to 30 people, so sign up early to insure yourself a space.

Name: _____

Phone: _____