

# VOLUNTEER

August 2014



**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

*Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

# 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](mailto:efhawley@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 128

Garden Railway: Iana Turner, [iana@upenn.edu](mailto:iana@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 110

Grist Mill: Bob Gutowski, [gutowski@upenn.edu](mailto:gutowski@upenn.edu)  
or 215-247-5777 ext 132

Horticulture: Pam Morris Olshefski, [pamela@upenn.edu](mailto:pamela@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 188

Archives & History: Leslie Morris-Smith,  
[leslm@upenn.edu](mailto:leslm@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777 ext 175

Physical Facilities: Tom Wilson, [wilsonth@upenn.edu](mailto:wilsonth@upenn.edu) or  
(215) 247-5777 ext 108

### **Information:**

(215) 247-5777

[www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)  
100 E. Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

### **Volunteer**

Claire Sundquist, Editor

Contributors: Jody Sprague, Jenny Godwin, Pam Olshefski, Lisa  
Bailey

Questions, comments, and submissions can be  
directed to the editor at [mabxeduc@upenn.edu](mailto:mabxeduc@upenn.edu) or mailed  
to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Claire Sundquist, unless otherwise stated



## Contents

Letter from the Editor	1
Notes from the Guides Chair	2
Volunteer Opportunities	3-4
Fall Guiding Sign-up	5
Education News	6-7
Garden Highlights	8
Upcoming Events	9-10





## Letter from the Editor

Hot, sticky, summer days like those we have had in the past few weeks often bring up nostalgic memories of childhood for me. I was a summer baby, born on the solstice, and took that to heart growing up, believing the summer months were made just for my enjoyment. Swimming, picnics, pond splashing, and berry picking filled my days!

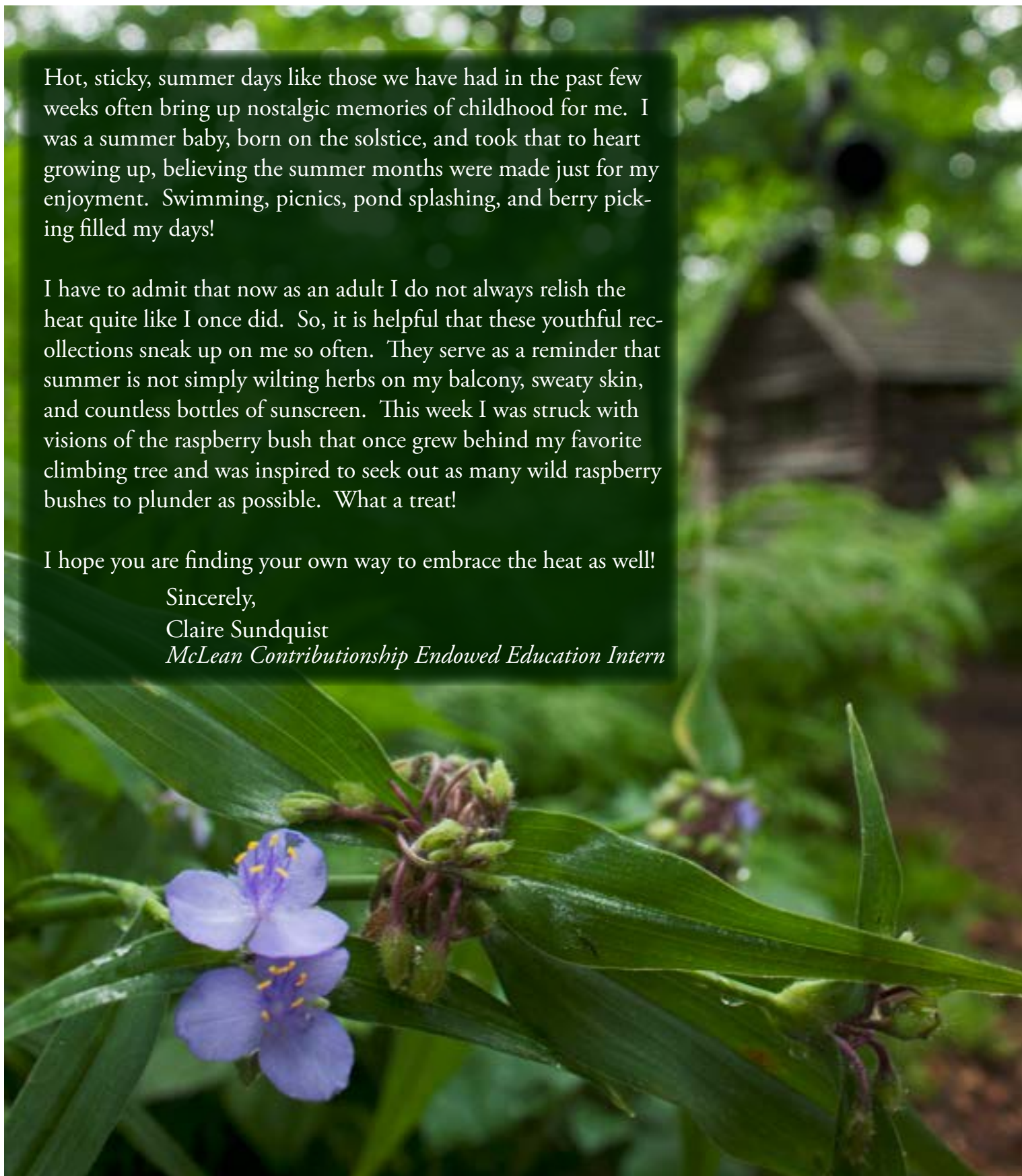
I have to admit that now as an adult I do not always relish the heat quite like I once did. So, it is helpful that these youthful recollections sneak up on me so often. They serve as a reminder that summer is not simply wilting herbs on my balcony, sweaty skin, and countless bottles of sunscreen. This week I was struck with visions of the raspberry bush that once grew behind my favorite climbing tree and was inspired to seek out as many wild raspberry bushes to plunder as possible. What a treat!

I hope you are finding your own way to embrace the heat as well!

Sincerely,

Claire Sundquist

*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



# Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

Recently Jim Bobb spoke to us about his beekeeping experiences. In fact, we went to Bloomfield to see his bees. He is simply fearless around the little creatures. Perhaps you have toyed with the idea of being a beekeeper. Following are some myths associated with this pastime.

1. **Bees need to be in a rural setting to produce honey.** This is simply not true. Many urban and suburban areas have an abundance of flowering plants that produce nectar. Flowering trees and shrubs can be found in parks, along streets and even in abandoned lots. Honey bees forage up to 4 miles from their hive.
2. **The bees will swarm.** A swarm is normally very gentle and unlikely to cause problems. The specific cause of swarming is not known but they do know the crowding of a hive and the age of the queen play contributing factors in it.
3. **Bees are aggressive.** Honeybees are not particularly aggressive, but some hives are more aggressive than others. Many bee breeders advertise gentle bees for sale. Keeping your hive in a low traffic area and away from lawn mowing would be beneficial.
4. **Beekeeping is labor intensive.** A colony needs to be examined only 8 to 10 times a year, with the most intensive efforts in late winter and spring. Some beekeepers want to investigate more often. This is understandable but a colony will generally do better if left alone.
5. **You must keep honeybees to have bountiful crops.** Honeybees are excellent pollinators but they are not the only bee species that play a role in pollination. There are an estimated 3,500 bee species in North America.
6. **Beekeeping is expensive.** Like many hobbies, the major expenses involved in beekeeping are at the start. The beekeeper needs to buy hive equipment, bees, tools, and protective gear; the total cost of these items is about \$350. Yearly maintenance costs are typically less than \$30.
7. **Your neighbors won't let you keep bees.** To ensure your neighbors cooperation, position hives so that the flight path of foraging bees does not intersect with high-traffic areas in the neighbor's yards. Place a fence in front of the hive, to encourage the bees to fly above head level. Plus if you share the harvest, your neighbors will be thrilled.

I hope this has answered a few of your questions about providing a home for these busy creatures.



Happy Gardening,

Jody Sprague

*Chair of the Guides*

# Volunteer Opportunities

## First Wednesdays

These talks and workshops are offered to give some updates, information, and a behind the scenes look at different areas of the Arboretum (and sometimes even other gardens!). They are always the first Wednesday of the month, begin at 12:30, and usually run about an hour. We have had tours of the garden sections by the section leaders themselves, of the Herbarium, garden tours at the Miller's Cottage, and a peek at Nina Schneider's home garden. Although *First Wednesday* events are scheduled to be convenient for horticulture volunteers, they are open to all volunteers.

Please feel free to contact Pam Olshefski at ext.188 or email ([pamela@upenn.edu](mailto:pamela@upenn.edu)) if you have any questions.

## Join us for the August 'First Wednesday' Talk!

**Nature Nurtures: The Power of Plants**

**Wednesday, August 6th | 12:30pm**

*Louise Clarke, Bloomfield Farm Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum*

Please meet at Bloomfield Farm in the Magnolia Room for a garden writer's presentation.



Photo Courtesy of Philadelphia Horticulture Society

## Volunteer Field Trip to Meadowbrook Farm

**Tuesday, September 9th | 10am - 12**

Please join your fellow volunteers for a morning at Meadowbrook Farm.

Designed and created by J. Liddon Pennock, Jr., the gardens are a legacy to his devotion to horticulture. Vans will depart the Arboretum at 10am.

Sign up is available through the Google calendar or email Lisa Bailey at [baileyl@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyl@upenn.edu).



## Save the Dates!

### Stay up-to-date with our Fall Refresher Sessions!

*Whether you are new to guiding, or have led countless groups through the Arboretum, the upcoming Fall Refresher sessions are designed to help you become a better informed and confident guide. We encourage everyone to attend.*

#### **Tuesday, September 16th | 10am-1pm**

*Meet at Bloomfield Farm*

Come and observe a revised Mill Tour! This version of the tour is aimed at children between fifth and eighth grades. We've tried to make it exciting and relevant for children. Practice guiding and teaching about the mill without overwhelming the students (and ourselves!) with too many technical details.

#### **Monday, September 22nd | 10am-2pm**

*Meet at Widener Visitor Center*

Learn about two of our new tours! The 'Interdependence Tour' for grades 4 to 6 was introduced earlier this year but you may not have seen it in action. Then experience the new 'Four Seasons through the Five Senses' tour, for young children kindergarten through first grade. Take this chance to get to know these two great tours!

## Sunshine & Roses

Annual Volunteer Appreciation Evening

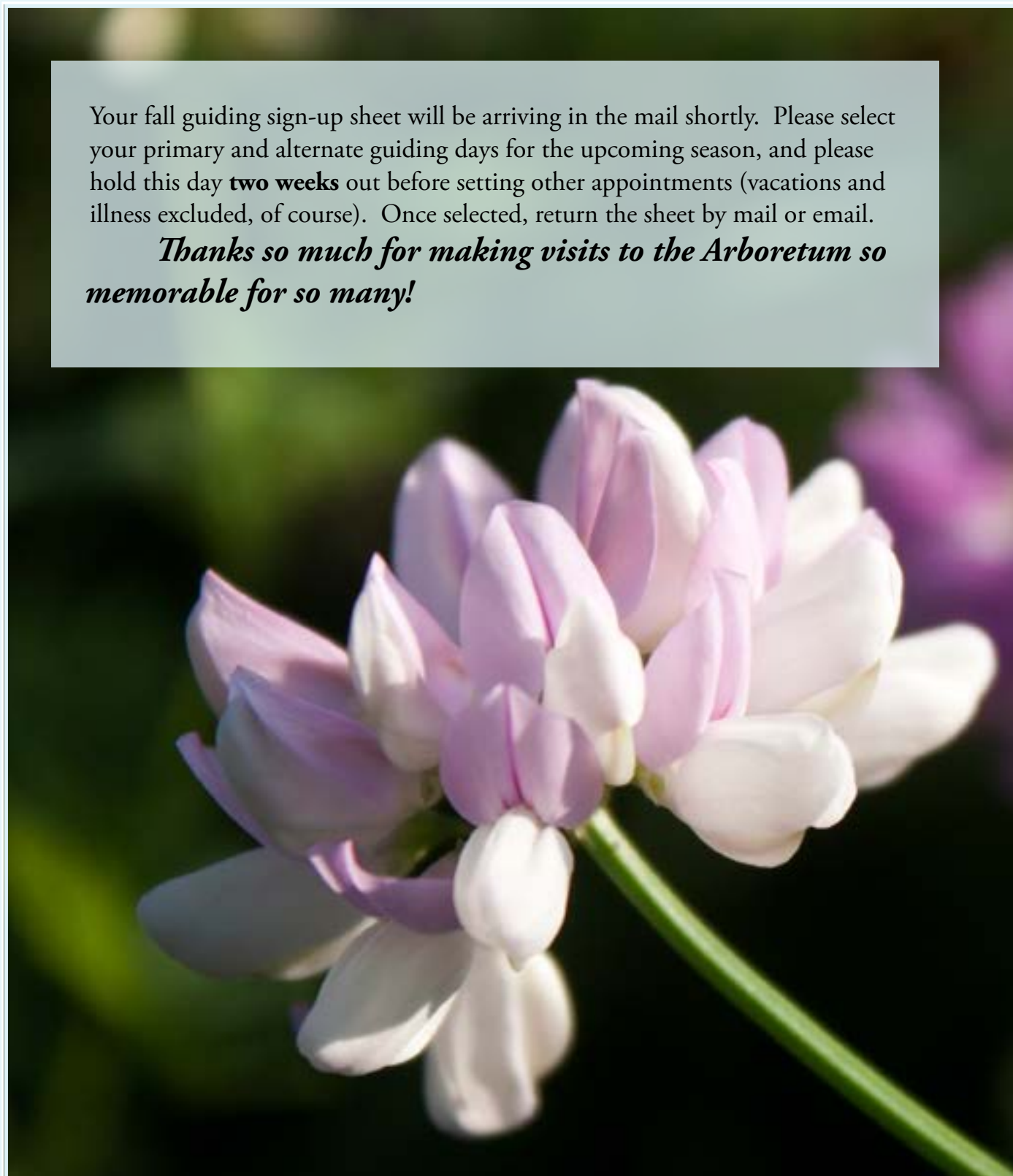
**Thursday, September 18th | 5-7pm**

Invitation with more information to follow

## Fall Guiding Sign-Up

Your fall guiding sign-up sheet will be arriving in the mail shortly. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season, and please hold this day **two weeks** out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course). Once selected, return the sheet by mail or email.

*Thanks so much for making visits to the Arboretum so memorable for so many!*



# The Fall education brochure is here!

We are offering a variety of classes that are eligible for education volunteer 'workshop' hours. Listed below are the upcoming approved courses. Register to improve your knowledge of the Arboretum!

## **Wine, Cheese, and Spectacular Trees**

Discover the Water Features at the Morris Arboretum

## **Market Basket Botany - Fall Harvest**

The World of Mosses

## **The Biology and Uses of Wood**

Early Evening Birding at the Arboretum

## **Garden Stroll by the Light of a Super Full Moon**

Early Evening Tour of Bloomfield Farm

## **Birding at the Arboretum: The Wetlands and Tree Canopy**



*You can view full class descriptions at [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org).*

*Volunteers who have given a minimum of 30 hours over the past year may take these and any other courses at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.*

*To register with a credit card, please call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.*



## September courses to get excited about!



### **Garden Stroll by the Light of a Super Full Moon**

**Monday, September 8 | 6:30-8:30pm**

*Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$20

Enjoy the garden in the soft glow of the super full moon. On this date in September, the moon will appear exceptionally big because it is closer than usual to Earth. We will enjoy this special lunar event while we stroll in the garden after hours, as twilight comes and passes into night. Refreshments following the stroll.

### **Early Evening Tour of Bloomfield Farm**

**Saturday, September 20 | 5:30-7pm**

*Louise Clarke, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Go behind the scenes with Arboretum staff for an early evening harvest moon tour of historic Bloomfield Farm. Meet at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm.

### **Birding at the Arboretum: The Wetlands and Tree Canopy**

**Saturday, September 20 | 8-11am**

*Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder, Trip Leader*

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Join Ruth and explore some of the hotspots for birds at the Morris Arboretum. We will visit the Arboretum's natural areas including wetlands, meadows, and the woodlands along the Wissahickon Creek.

To view full descriptions visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

To register with a credit card call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.

# Garden highlights:



*Cornus kousa*  
**kousa dogwood**  
Oak Allée



*Rhododendron prunifolium*  
**plumleaf azalea**  
behind Sculpture Garden



*Cynara cardunculus*  
**cardo**  
Rose Garden

*Heliopsis helianthoides*  
**false sunflower**  
meadows



*Taxodium distichum*  
**common bald cypress**  
Swan Pond



*Magnolia grandifolia*  
'Edith Bogue'  
**Edith Bogue southern magnolia**  
Garden Railway

# Upcoming Events

## August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
3	4	5	6 First Wednesday Talk 12:30pm	7	8	9 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 Mill Demonstra- tion Day 12-3pm	18	19	20	21 Great Plants Committee Meeting 10:30am	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:00am-12:pm

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

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11 am- 3:00pm



# Upcoming Events

## September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 First Wednesday Talk 12:30pm	4	5	6 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
7	8	9 Field Trip (see pg. 3)  Guides Council 1:30pm	10	11	12	13 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm
14	15	16 Guide Fall Refresher 10am-1pm		18 Sunshine & Roses 5-7pm	19	20
21 Mill Demonstra- tion Day 12- 3pm	22 Guide Fall Refresher 10am-2pm	23 Retention Committee 1:30pm	24	25	26	27
28	29	30 Education Committee 1:30pm				

### Weekly Volunteer Events

**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:00am-12:pm

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

**Saturdays and Sundays:** Welcome Cart 11 am- 3:00pm