

VOLUNTEER

February 2022



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Volunteer

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for
Arboretum volunteers.

Mission

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania
inspires an understanding of the relationship between
plants, people and place through education, research and
horticultural display.

Vision for the Future

As an irreplaceable public garden, the Morris Arboretum
provides a place of respite, beauty and learning where
the joy and wonder of the natural world inspire all who
visit to be enthusiastic ambassadors for plants and our
fundamental dependence on them.

A vital part of one of the great research universities in
the world, the Morris Arboretum is renowned for its
science aimed at understanding and conserving plants
and ecosystems.

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Volunteer

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Photos: Ilana Grubin, unless otherwise stated

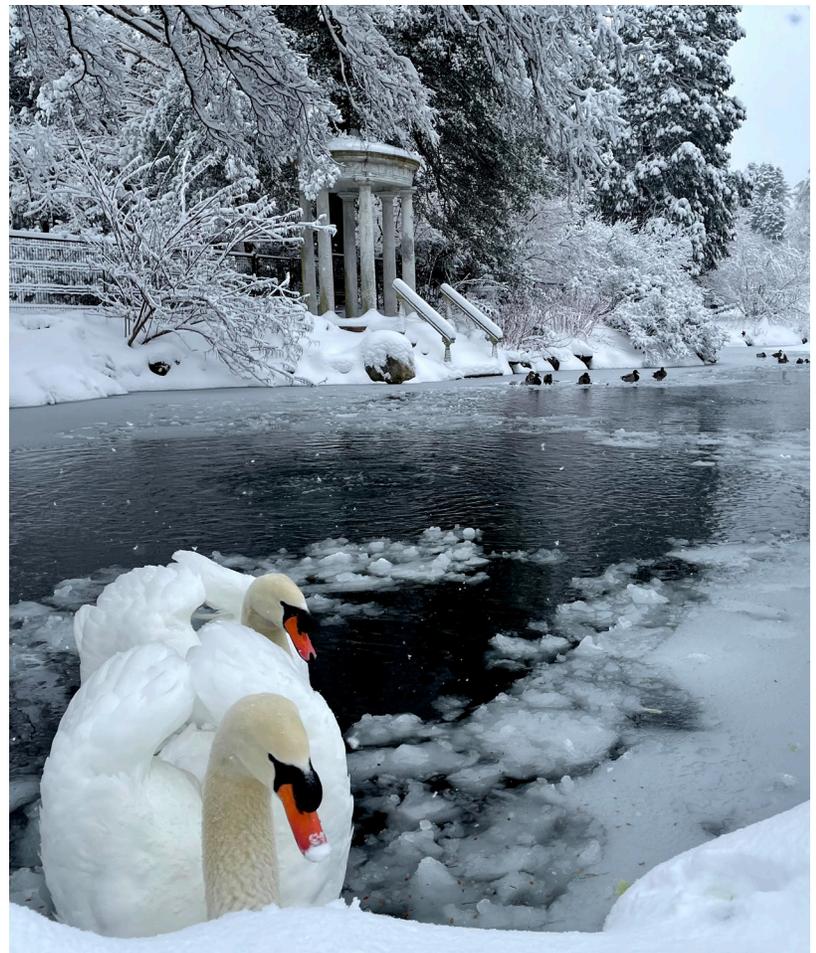
Cover: *Hydrangea quercifolia* by Stephanie Kuniholm



Asclepias syriaca
common milkweed seed pod

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Swans and ducks in the snow by Bill Cullina

Letter from the Editor

I am sitting here writing this on my first day being physically back at Morris Arboretum in about a month. We had a winter break, and then continued to work from home for several weeks because of the Omicron outbreak. I generally don't like winter or the cold, but this year I did enjoy a couple of fun sledding days, lots of bonding time with family, and long walks on some of the less chilly days.

Now that I'm back, it's good to reconnect with the Arboretum and I got to walk around today and take plenty of photos for the newsletter. It's also time for me to shift gears because we have Summer Camp registration opening this week! Even though it's still the middle of winter, the opening of summer camp registration is a big mental shift. Its time to plan, time to hire camp staff, time to email parents and help them with registration questions. Even though its chilly and grey outside today, it feels like summer could be here before we know it! Enjoy the rest of your winter – I know that spring promises to be here very soon.

Ilana Grubin

Camp Coordinator



Cunninghamia lanceolata 'Glauca'
Blue common China-fir



Callicarpa japonica
Japanese beautyberry

Notes from the Guides Chair

The Plants Are Listening

Recently, I reread the 2019 Pulitzer prize-winning novel, *The Overstory* by Richard Powers. Throughout this second reading, I kept thinking about all the disasters in 2021 that were caused in part by climate change. I was struck by the story's underlying theme of humankind's struggle between two states of being: community (nothing is here by virtue of itself) vs commodity (hyper-individualists' misapprehension of the natural world). It seems that as a society today, we don't think about the world other than as consumers, and that many of us live with plant blindness rather than with plant consciousness.

Within the past decade, several notable non-fiction books have been written to raise our plant consciousness. They include, 2013's *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer; 2016's *The Hidden Life of Trees: What they Feel, How they Communicate – Discoveries From a Secret World*, by Peter Wohlleben, and the 2020's book for children, *Can You Hear the Trees Talking?*, by Peter Wohlleben.

A recent segment on PBS News Hour featuring Mozart Vineyard in Montalcino, Italy, shed light on plants in a way that forces us to think about plants differently and remove the lens of plant blindness. Since 2005, acres of grape vines have been serenaded 24/7 by the music of Mozart using 80 Bose speakers

placed throughout the vineyard. Studies by the University of Florence's agricultural faculty and the University of Pisa's entomological department have found that Mozart's sound waves have positive effects on the vine's root system, leaves and flowers, with particular emphasis on the repellent effect the sound waves have on parasites and predators. It even seems that the vine leaves and grapes closest to the speakers grow larger and have more color. Why Mozart? The vintner, Carlo Cignozzi, claims that the music of Mozart emotes the soothing sound wave lengths of rain falling. Once the grapes are harvested, they continue to be exposed to Mozart in the wine cellar, and the music is credited with shortening the length of the fermentation process and improving the color of the resulting Brunello wine.

Other studies have found that plants respond favorably to frequent exposure to classical and jazz music...and unfavorably to rock and roll. Just one more reminder that the plants are listening, and that we need to rethink the ways that we look at the natural world.

May you be healthy,

Jim Kohler
Chair of the Guides



Snow panorama by Stephanie Kuniholm

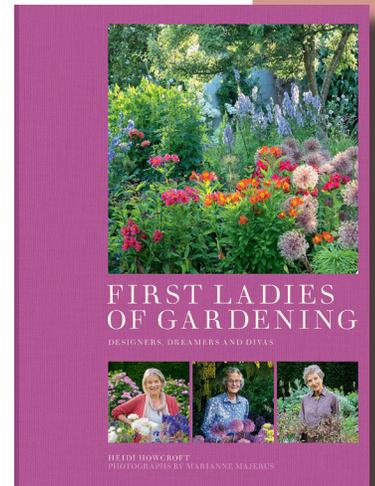
Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities

March Book Club

First Ladies of Gardening by Heidi Howcroft, 2015

March 4 | 1:00 PM | Zoom Meeting

The English Garden is the universal measure of all things related to garden design. It is in the UK that the great garden designers live and work and where a major gardening movement has developed over the last few decades, influencing the rest of the world with its ideas and vision. This book introduces the “grandes dames” of contemporary English garden design and includes the great names of the garden world which have emerged since the 1950s, from Vita Sackville-West and Beth Chatto to Beatrix Havergal. It also presents outstanding women gardeners of the present-day who have likewise had a substantial influence on the development of contemporary garden design. Heidi Howcroft has discovered these women’s gardening secrets and writes sensitively and informatively about the individual women and their influence on the English country garden. The individual gardens’ charm and design are captured in photos by Marianne Majerus.



The Book Club is open to all Arboretum volunteers and staff. All are welcome to attend any session and you do not have to attend every month.

Volunteer Symposium

February 9 & 16 | 1:00 PM | Zoom Meeting

The arboretum will host staff presentations to catch you up and prepare for the 2022 season. Although the schedule isn’t fixed yet, topics will include Rose Garden path plans by Vince Marrocco, the *Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture*, long-range conservation plans from Tim Block, the *John J. Willaman Director of Plant Science*, and introducing the Summer of Swings and associated tree care by Bryan Thompson-Nowak, Director of Education, and Peter Fixler, *Paul W. Meyer Chief Arborist*.



The program will be presented on Zoom, and recorded for those who can’t make it. No RSVP is necessary, just [click this link to join](#).

Past Events

On December 15th 2021, about a dozen Arboretum volunteers enjoyed a tour of the Masonic Temple on North Broad St at JFK Blvd. in Phila.

The Temple was constructed in the Norman architecture style in 1883 before City Hall was even built. Housed at the Temple are seven different “lodges”. Each one was fashioned in different periods of design – Byzantine, Greek & Renaissance. The Egyptian Room was a crowd favorite. One room was a replication of the Alhambra in Spain and is highly regarded for its tribute to Moorish design.

Our guide explained in depth the history of Masons dating back to the Crusades. Many benevolent works are completed by the Masons and the Temple extols their founding virtues of prudence, temperance, fortitude and justice via sculpture, stained glass and frescoes. Man’s relationship to the heavens was depicted in one ceiling and countless biblical characters were depicted throughout.

Of note were the number of founding fathers who belonged to the Masons as well as three twentieth century presidents. In conclusion, this was an exciting inside look at an architectural wonder and all were grateful to get inside such a prominent landmark. Many thanks to the Visitor Education Program Committee for arranging this tour.

Brian Stenger, Garden Educator



Did you know...

The genus name *Hydrangea* comes from *hydor* meaning “water” and *aggeion* meaning “vessel”, in reference to the cup-like capsular fruit. The species name *quercifolia* combines the Latin words *quercus* “oak”, and *folium* “leaf”. However, it is not closely related to oak species (*Quercus*).

From the Archives

by Joyce H. Munro

A Map Worth Studying

When Frank Gould took the position of Head Gardener at Compton in 1898, he moved into the residence at the carriage house with his wife and two children. They lived there for six years, sharing the space with two single gardeners. But by 1902, the Goulds had two more children and the residence was getting crowded.

The Goulds needed a larger house and fortunately John and Lydia Morris had the ideal property for a gardener's cottage—an L-shaped strip of land recently purchased from J. Lowber Welsh. This property gave the Morrises access to Hillcrest Avenue and since Welsh's newly constructed trolley line ran down Hillcrest, it was an opportune purchase.

For design of the gardener's cottage, John and Lydia turned to Cope and Stewardson, the architects who designed the buildings of the Pennsylvania Institution for the Deaf in 1890 (including Morris Industrial Hall financed by John and dedicated to his father). Although Walter Cope

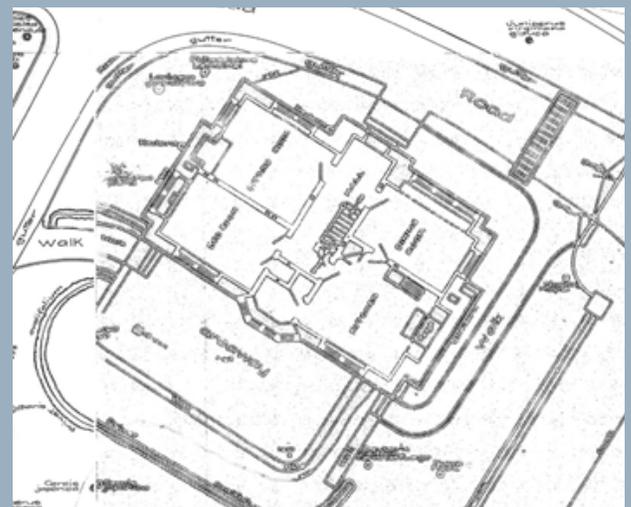
had died before the cottage was commissioned, the blueprints carried the firm's name.

Cope and Stewardson's defining style was "American Collegiate Gothic" which is evident in their buildings on college campuses in the area, including Bryn Mawr, Haverford and The University of Pennsylvania. But the firm was proficient in other styles as well, including Georgian Revival, with characteristic end chimneys, dormers and center entrance. The gardener's cottage bears traits of Georgian Revival with understated, well-proportioned features, although one significant feature—an oriel window on the back—is Gothic.

The symmetry of the cottage contrasts with T. P. Chandler's asymmetrical design of the Compton mansion and the carriage house, which begs the question, why didn't the Morrises commission Chandler, who set the architectural style for their country estate?



The Lodge Under Construction 1904, 2014.40.48



Gardener's Cottage, Detail of Compton Atlas, Pugh & Hubbard, 1909

Keeping you connected from home

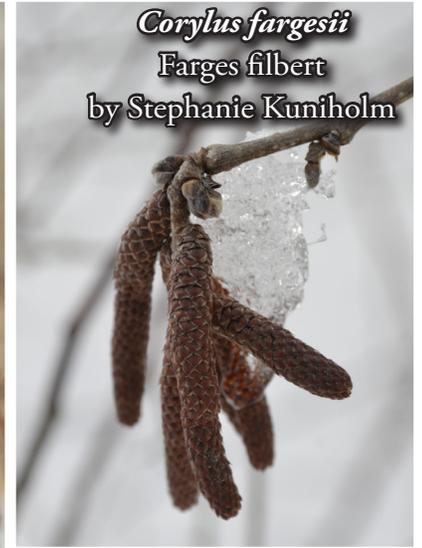
Garden Highlights



Ilex opaca 'Beulah'
Beulah American holly



Hibiscus moscheutos
common rosemallow
by Jennie Ciborowski



Corylus fargesii
Farges filbert
by Stephanie Kuniholm



Viburnum × *rhytidophylloides* 'Interduke'
DART'S DUKE lantanaphyllum viburnum



Bridge near
Azalea Meadow



Tsuga canadensis
Canada hemlock



Hamamelis mollis 'Imperialis'
Imperialis Chinese witchhazel

Upcoming Events

February						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 Bookclub 1:00pm	5
6	7	8	9 Volunteer Symposium 1:00pm	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Volunteer Symposium 1:00pm	17	18	19
20	21 Presidents Day	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	1	2	3 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	4 Book Club 1:00pm	5

Weekly Volunteer Events

Saturdays and Sundays - Regular Tour, 1:00pm-2:00pm

Upcoming