

# VOLUNTEER

July 2015



**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY 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.

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### Volunteer

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## *Letter from the Editor*

A special thank you to the Morris Arboretum for giving me the opportunity to work and learn here this coming year. I am most excited to meet all of the volunteers personally, and gain wisdom from them. Although I am far away from my home state of Florida, I already feel very welcomed and appreciated here. The community surrounding the Arboretum is so special, and just may become like a second family to me.

Here's to a fantastic year!

*Pilar Rivera*

*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*





## *Notes from the Guides Chair*

*Hello everyone,*

Where are the largest sand dunes in the Western Hemisphere? Did you say the Baja Peninsula? Or the sand dunes of Lake Michigan? The late Charles Kuralt called Highway 2 “one of America’s 10 most beautiful highways”. This highway runs right through these sand dunes. If you guessed Nebraska, you would be right. The Sandhills of northern Nebraska cover 19,000 square miles. Shallow seas covered this area and laid down thick layers of sand, gravel and silt, creating a large plain extending eastward from the Rocky Mountains.

After extensive uplift, cycles of erosion and deposition gradually created the Great Plains. Volcanic activity to the west deposited layers of ash over much of the area. These layers were covered by wind-blown sand, creating the Sandhills.

The Sandhills include all of Cherry County and more. This county is larger than the state of Connecticut. In fact there are more cattle than people in the county, approximately 169,000 while the county seat, Valentine has a total of 2,800 residents.

Even though I grew up in Nebraska, I must admit prior to last summer, I had never been to Cherry County, in the north central area of the Sandhills. My husband wanted to visit Valentine, the county seat for its dark sky area, perfect for star gazing. I wanted to see a river I had heard of for years – The Niobrara, a designated National Scenic River. What a gorgeous river, I would never have guessed such a place could exist in my home state.

Niobrara means spreading water river. For centuries the Ponca and Omaha Indians fished, hunted and camped along this remarkable river. The river begins in the high plains of eastern Wyoming and flows 535 miles to join the Missouri River in northeastern Nebraska. Today the Niobrara is a large vacation destination for river tubing and camping.

*...continued on page 3*



## *Notes from the Guides Chair*

*continued from page 2*

We visited Fort Niobrara National Wildlife Refuge home to herds of bison, elk and prairie dog towns, as well as more than 230 species of birds. The visitor center offers help on what to see and do. As the name implies, the refuge is the site of a frontier fort. Fort Niobrara was active from 1879-1906 and was used as a cavalry remount station until 1911. Long before that the area was home to long-jawed mastodons, giant bison, and three-toed horses. You can see several fossils in the visitor center.

Only in the Sandhills would you find a national forest that is mostly grass. The Samuel R. McKelvie National Forest is wooded with 5,000 acres of eastern red cedar, as well as scotch, jack and ponderosa pines. The other 110,000 acres are Sandhills prairie, maybe not what you would have considered a forest but stunning none the less.

Recently the Sandhills have been in the news. The Keystone XL Pipeline was designed to run right through this area. The usual taciturn ranchers of the area have become quite vocal about their opposition to the pipeline. The Ogallala Aquifer, a vast deposit of underground water is under the Sandhills. When you drive through the Sandhills, you can see water standing in low areas, this water is from the aquifer. A pipeline leak or accident in the area would be devastating to the aquifer and the water used in the Sandhills.

If you have an opportunity to drive west, take a detour off I-80, head north at Grand Island, Nebraska taking Highway 2 through an area you would not believe still existed.

*Happy Gardening, Happy Travels,*

*Jody Sprague*

*Chair of the Guides*

## Volunteer Workshops

### Meet our new Education Intern!

Join our new Education Intern, Pilar Rivera, as she explores the beauty and art of flowers. Learn how flowers can enhance your mood and brighten your surroundings. Then, exercise your creativity in a group floral arranging session!

**Thursday, July 9th | 10:30am | Widener Upper Gallery**



### The Korean Plants at Morris Arboretum

Join Paul Meyer, F. Otto Haas Director and plant explorer, for a journey through Korea. After seeing slides of the mother plants, Paul will take us on a walk to see some of the plants brought back from his many trips to the Korean peninsula.

**Friday, July 10th | 10:00am | Widener Classroom**



*photo courtesy Paul Meyer*

## Volunteer Workshops

### Derek Fell and His Inspiration from Monet's Garden

Claude Monet described his garden as his one and only masterpiece. Derek Fell, the author of three books about Monet's garden at Giverny, France, will explain some of the plant partnerships that help to make it a work of art. Derek lives in Bucks County at historic Cedaridge Farm where he has developed 20 themed gardens inspired by visits to gardens of the great French Impressionist painters. During his presentation Derek will not only show slides of Monet's garden through four seasons but also his Cedaridge Farm property. Join us in the Upper Gallery of Widener for a scintillating talk about art in the garden inspired by Monet. Mr. Fell will bring copies of his books for signing.

**Wednesday, August 5th | 10:00am**



*photo courtesy Rob Cardillo*

### First Wednesday Workshops

Join us the first Wednesday of every month for exciting workshops, talks, and tours.  
Meet at 12:30pm at the Widener Terrace, unless otherwise noted.

July 1st	<b><i>Behind the Scenes Greenhouse Tour</i></b> with Tony Aiello and Shelley Dillard <i>*meet at the Greenhouse</i>
August 5th	<b><i>Tour of Compton Section and New Plans</i></b> with Paul Orpello
September 2nd	<b><i>Garden Writer's Presentation</i></b> with Louise Clarke <i>*meet in the Upper Gallery</i>
October 7th	<b><i>Tour of the Grist Mill</i></b> with Ted Bell <i>*park at Bloomfield Farm</i>
November 4th	<b><i>Ornamental Grasses</i></b> with Lucy Dinsmore

## Meet the New Interns

Hanna, a recent graduate of Mississippi State University, received her master's degree in botany. Her master's thesis focused on the genetic variation in rhizobia associated with *Chamaecrista fasciculata* across seven physiographic regions of Mississippi. Additionally, she worked in the Mississippi State University Herbarium, where she helped develop the protocol for record georeferencing. Upon graduation she accepted the position of Flora of Pennsylvania Intern at the Morris Arboretum where she could further cultivate her knowledge and training in plant biology. In her spare time, Hanna bakes and decorates elaborate cakes, hangs out with her two dogs, and gardens.

### Hanna Dorman

*The Eli Kirk Price Endowed  
Flora of PA Intern*



### Willa Rowan

*The Hay Honey Farm Endowed  
Natural Lands Intern*



Willa graduated from Oberlin College a month ago with a bachelor's in geology and environmental studies. Her favorite job at college was operating a biological closed-loop wastewater treatment system for Oberlin's environmental studies building. A Trenton native, she traces her love of nature back to playing in the woods as a kid and is excited to bring that love into her internship at the Morris Arboretum. When she's not at work, she enjoys biking, hiking, reading, and woodworking.

Emily grew up in Connecticut where she began experimenting with pest control on her own backyard vegetable garden. After attending UConn for her bachelor's degree, Emily recently finished her graduate program at the University of Pennsylvania. She received her master's degree in environmental studies with a concentration in biology. Her capstone involved plant inventory and community sampling on Crossways Preserve in Blue Bell, PA. Outside of work, Emily enjoys fishing, camping, and searching for amphibians and reptiles!

### Emily Milbauer

*The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas  
Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*





## Meet the New Interns

### Maya Czulewicz

*The Charles S. Holman*

*Rose and Flower Garden Intern*



Maya is proud to be The Rose and Flower Garden Intern at Morris Arboretum this year. During her years in school, at Temple University School of Environmental Design, she worked at the Ambler Arboretum of Temple University and earned a degree in Horticulture. She grew up in Connecticut and Pennsylvania and has been living in Philadelphia for a few years.

Paige, a Wisconsin native, graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2014 with a bachelor's degree in landscape architecture. Her senior capstone focused on revitalizing a downtown waterfront district through addressing the health of the community and environment. Upon graduation, Paige moved to Washington, D.C. where she spent a year working at an engineering and land planning firm. She has since decided to abandon the typical office setting and gain more experience within the horticultural realm. Outside of work, Paige can be found travelling, biking, and picnicking.

### Paige Ida

*The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr.*

*Endowed Horticulture Intern*



### Pilar Rivera

*The McLean Contributionship*

*Endowed Education Intern*



Pilar is a native of sunny Florida. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in landscape and nursery horticulture, with a focus in public gardens management. She is so happy to continue learning from the knowledgeable staff and volunteers at the Morris Arboretum! Pilar's interests include beekeeping (she doesn't have hives of her own...yet!), quilting, singing, paper crafting, keeping in touch with her family in FL, and spending time with her husband, Eric and orange tabby cat, Beans.

## Meet the New Interns

### Trish Kemper

*The Martha S. Miller Endowed  
Urban Forestry Intern*



Trish graduated from Temple University in 2015 with a master's degree in landscape architecture. Her thesis/capstone project was the design of a 48-acre park at the confluence of the Delaware and Schuylkill Rivers on the active U.S. Army Corps dredge facility that could be the final node along the Schuylkill River Trail. The design included pedestrian trails, boardwalks and overlooks through a recreated freshwater tidal marsh, an Atlantic coastal plains forest, wet meadows and upland forests. Her career goal is to use her knowledge of design, native plants and sustainable practices to create inviting and ecologically beneficial open spaces. On the weekends, Trish enjoys playing guitar, gardening, hiking and birding with her family.

### Josh Best

*The Walter W. Root Endowed  
Arborist Intern*



Josh, a Pennsylvania native, attended Berea College in Kentucky where he met his lovely wife Christina, who also hails from the Keystone state. Josh earned a bachelor's degree in biology in 2013 and has some experience working with mine-reforestation research and horticulture within a university landscaping environment. Both Josh and Christina have enjoyed biking and hiking in the Wissahickon Park, cooking excellent food, appreciating good music, and exploring the city of Philadelphia since their arrival in May. They look forward to investing in local events and groups in the Germantown and Mount Airy areas.

### Victoria Bolden

*The Martha J. Wallace Endowed  
Plant Propagation Intern*



Victoria, a Pennsylvania suburbanite, graduated from Penn State University in the spring of 2015 with a bachelor's degree in horticulture and a minor in entomology. Throughout her career she has had a special interest in native plants, edible plants, and perennial plants. In addition to plants, she studies insect life cycles of pests and pollinators. In her free time she enjoys singing, acting, gardening, cleaning, baking, and writing. Victoria looks forward to applying her studies and interests to help connect plants, people, and pollinators.

# Hickory Run State Park

by Debbi Carr

(continued from June's newsletter)

The stream we followed was clear but tea colored from the tannins in the bark of the Eastern Hemlocks. In the 1800s, the bark was cut from the hemlocks and used to tan hides for leather goods. Because there were so many eastern hemlocks in the area, the nearby village of Lehigh Tannery was the center of the tanning industry in the 1860s. After our Hickory Run walk, we drove to the ruins of the main tannery and Tannery Bridge extending over the Lehigh River.

We scraped the bark on yellow birch twigs and chewed them to taste the aromatic birch flavor used in making birch beer. Curious, I did a little research at home and discovered that, while yellow birch was sometimes used, the black birch (also called sweet birch) was more often used.

Tim pointed out that *Amelanchier canadensis* trees sold in nurseries are usually labeled incorrectly and are actually *Amelanchier arborea* or *Amelanchier laevis*. We didn't find an *Amelanchier laevis*, but Tim said to eat the berries if we find one because they will be very sweet!

Towering above us were black cherry, eastern hemlock, yellow birch and American beech, trees that make up the northern forest. While black cherry and eastern hemlock are native to the Philadelphia area, they are really trees of the northern forests and grow much larger there.



... We found a tiny Red Eft (about 1 ½" long) among the rocks. [It] is the land-dwelling juvenile stage of the Red-spotted Newt.



Tim thinks the rock pool at the bottom of the waterfall is 12' deep and said people swim there all summer.

## Quiz from the Archives



- 1 It was said that conversation with Lydia**
  - a) Could be challenging because of her shyness
  - b) Had something of the pattern of an obstacle race
  - c) Proceeded at a decorous Quaker pace
- 2 Lydia's china, a treasure of the Arboretum archives,**
  - a) Has been carefully preserved according to the directions specified in her will
  - b) Is a recent gift from the families of her cook and her physician
  - c) Is only on temporary loan here
- 3 John Morris's early outline of his vision for the Arboretum described a**
  - a) Sweet, gentlewoman's garden, fragrant with bloom, rich in color, and graceful in simplicity
  - b) Panoply of roses sufficient to overwhelm the senses and revive the spirit
  - c) Startling display of spring bulbs creekside and thereabouts
- 4 The diary of their 1889-1890 trip around the world records that when packing to go from Yokohama to Tokyo, someone "seemed to have gotten out of practice, was in a worse muddle than ever, and it really looked doubtful as to whether we would make the ...train." Was this someone**
  - a) Lydia Morris
  - b) The Morrises' easily intimidated Japanese servant
  - c) John Morris

# Garden Highlights

photo courtesy Paul Meyer



*Clematis*  
*'Etoile Violette'*  
Etoile Violette clematis



*Rosa 'RADcon'*  
THE PINK KNOCK OUT rose

photo courtesy Pilar Rivera



*Hydrangea macrophylla*  
*'Mousmee'*  
Mousemee bigleaf magnolia



*Aesculus parvifolia*  
bottlebrush buckeye

photo courtesy Pilar Rivera



*Achillea filipendulina*  
fernleaf yarrow



*Tradescantia subaspera*  
spiderwort

# Upcoming Events

## July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Wednesday (see p. 4) Hort Volunteers with Lucy	2	3	4 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
5	6	7	8 Hort Volunteers with Paul	9	10 Workshop: “The Korean Plants at Morris Arboretum”	11 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm
12	13	14	15 Hort Volunteers with Louise	16	17	18
19 Mill Demo Day 1-4pm	20	21	22 Hort Volunteers with Tracy	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hort Volunteers with Vince	30	31	

### Weekly Volunteer Events

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am-12pm  
Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm  
Saturdays and Sundays: Welcome Cart 11am-3pm

### \*Guides Council Meeting Change

The Guides Council will begin meeting every *1st Thursday of the month* beginning in August. The next Guides Council will meet on Thursday, August 6.

# Upcoming Events

## August

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
2	3	4	5 First Wednesday  Hort Volunteers with Louise	6 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	7	8 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9am-3pm
9	10	11	12 Hort Volunteers with Vince	13	14	15
16 Mill Demo Day 1-4pm	17	18	19 Hort Volunteers with Lucy	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Hort Volunteers with Tracy	27	28	29
30	31					

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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