

# VOLUNTEER

June 2022

*Papaver somniferum*

'Lauren's grape'

Photo by Jennie Ciborowski



**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

# Volunteer

Morris Arboretum of the University of  
Pennsylvania

*Volunteer* is a newsletter published monthly for  
Arboretum volunteers.

## Mission of Morris Arboretum

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.

## Become a Volunteer

Volunteering at the Morris Arboretum can be a rewarding and stimulating experience: learn new skills, make new friends, and become a valued member of the extended volunteer staff. The Arboretum could not accomplish all that it does without the help of its volunteers who play an integral role in the organization. Listed below are our current volunteer opportunities.

For more information contact: Jenny Rajotte  
jrajotte@upenn.edu or 215.247.5777 ext. 236.

### Information:

(215) 247-5777

[www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

100 E. Northwestern Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19118

Melissa Lisboa-Underwood, Editor

Contributors: Deitra Arena, Jim Kohler, and Joyce Munro

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

Photos: Melissa Lisboa-Underwood unless otherwise stated



*The step fountain*

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*Water droplets on Hosta leaves*

Photo by Claire Sundquist

## Letter from the Editor

Dear Volunteers,

Summer is just around the corner and I finally feel like I've gotten into the swing of things (just in time for our Summer of Swings!) I'm very fortunate to be among people--volunteers and coworkers--who love to learn and teach. Beyond the obvious beauty of the Arboretum, that is what makes this place special.

Some things I learned this past month: The Morris Arboretum used to source its plants by following the latitude line all the way to China. Bette showed me a map of the world to demonstrate this, explaining how (with the exception of the Atlas Mountains) northern Africa and southern Europe are generally too hot for us to find seeds that may survive on the Arboretum. And so we traveled eastward. A geography lesson and propagation lesson in one!

I also learned from Tim Block and fellow interns, on a hike at Fulshaw Craeg. There, my cohorts crouched beside the flowers, saying names that were rollercoasters of 'o's and 'a's: *Viola sororia*, *Sanguinaria canadensis*. All this Latin made the flowers seem even more mysterious and even more worthy of time and effort, which is maybe why we give them those names in the first place-- to highlight their complexity.

Finally, I was informed by another

volunteer that the swans do in fact enjoy music, and that I should play my violin for them sometime, but I was also advised not to practice too much because who knows how the music sounded to their swan-ears anyway. This might have been my favorite piece of advice.

Each morning I walk outside my house and smell that rain-soaked lush green scent. I barely noticed when the blossoms dropped, and now everything is a deep, rich green. My piece of advice: if you're not afraid of bee-stings, try walking barefoot. It's good for you!

Melissa Lisbao-Underwood

*The McLean Contributionship  
endowed visitor education intern*



*Interns at Bob Gutowski's garden*

Photo by Jenny Rajotte

## *Notes from the Garden Educator's Chair*

### **Interconnecting Cultures, Creating Communities:**

*What I took away from attending the Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium, April 19, 2022*

On April 19, Liz Bauer, Maureen Conway, Sarah Hamill, Mary Weidig and I had the pleasure of attending the Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium hosted by Penn Museum staff and volunteer guides. The big takeaway of this conference was this: museums are changing how they interact with their communities, devising strategies to promote inclusivity in a diverse, dynamic world.

Several key speakers took the podium to discuss their mission: Brian Daniels, Ph.D, Director of Research and Programs for Penn's Cultural Heritage Center, outlined the museum's role within the community and how museums are obligated to honor all community members by making it easy for everyone to participate. For Penn Museum, said Daniels, that includes reaching out to and hearing the voices of all the people whose legacies are contained by the very artifacts the museum displays, including those of indigenous tribes of North America. Christopher Woods, Ph.D, Penn Museum's new Director, talked about soliciting new ideas from the University community and from the residents of its West Philadelphia neighborhood.

Structural changes to the museum were also reflected in its staff appointments, as with Jennifer Brehm, who is Penn Museum's Director of Learning and Community Engagement, a newly created position that Brehm had held for just one week prior to the consortium.

This model stands in contrasts to that of past days when it was left up to museum staff to come up with visitor activities with very little input from the community. Now museums have woken up to the fact that the relationship that exists between them and the public is reciprocal and that promoting diversity is not only a museum's responsibility but also a boon.

The Morris Arboretum is no exception to the rule, as our model undergoes a similar evolution. We have a strong relationship with the public and partner with several learning institutions with the goal of making our heritage—historical, cultural, and natural—understandable to people across many ages and backgrounds. We too, have recently hired new staff: Jude Thachet, who started January 2022, is tasked with developing and maintaining connections with schools in northwest Philadelphia that have not previously visited the Arboretum. Jennifer Rajotte, Intern and Volunteer Coordinator, provides a channel of communication for all Arboretum interns and volunteers. Stephanie Bruneau, the new Assistant Director of Adult Education and her intern Rebecca Roth, are analyzing past class

performance and have ambitious plans for fall class offerings and beyond. Finally, we, as Garden Educators, are constantly revising our tour curriculum to better meet the needs of the children who come here.

A museum is a community just like any other. Staff, stakeholders, donors, the people who are represented in its exhibitions, the people who live near it and its visitors, are all members of this community. It is both the duty and in the interest of museums to have a dialogue with its community members, to learn as well as teach. This is how we all grow together.

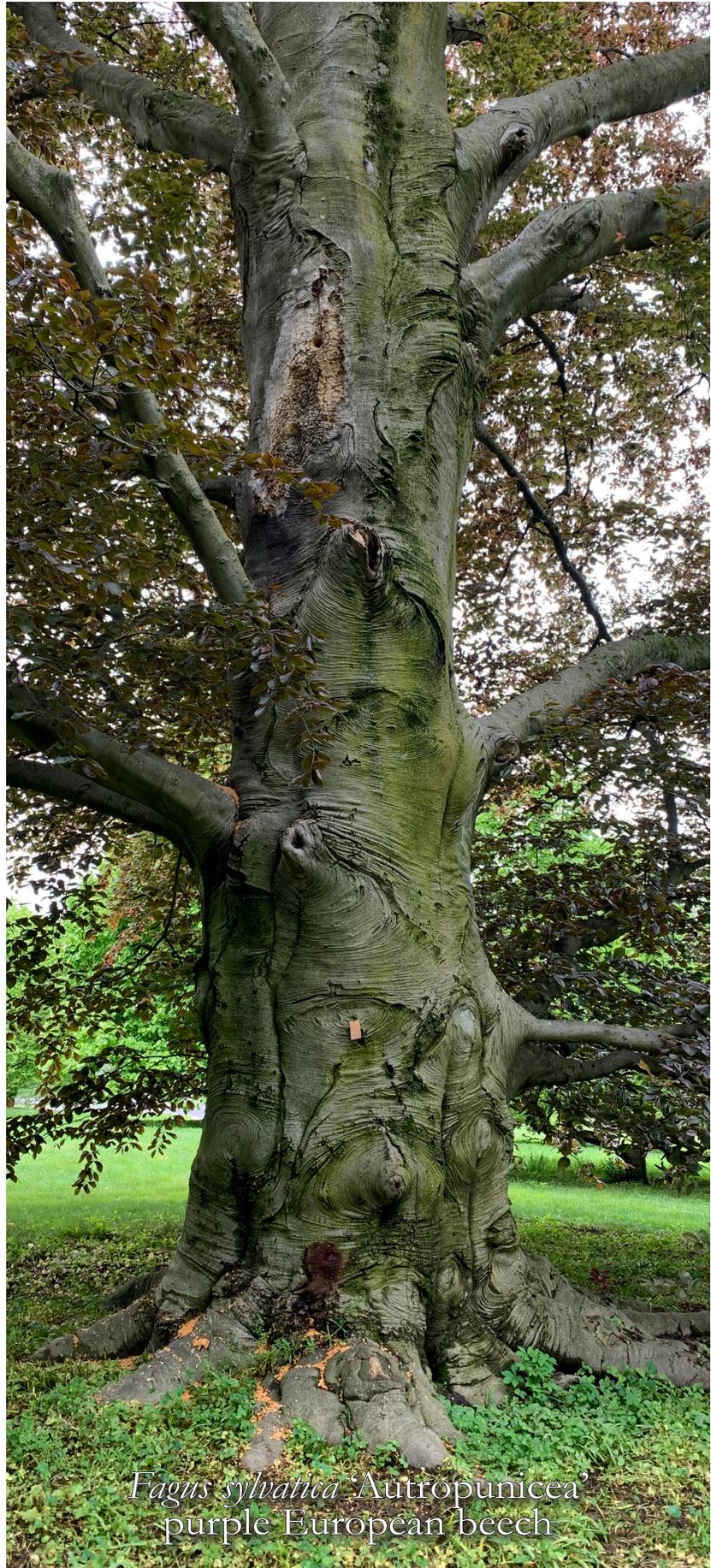
See you at the Arboretum.

Jim Kohler, Chair of Garden Educators



*Hypericum androsaemum*  
'Albury Purple'  
tutson

Photo by Claire Sundquist



*Fagus sylvatica* 'Autropunicea'  
purple European beech



## Meet Mark McKendree, the new Walter W. Root Arboriculture Intern!

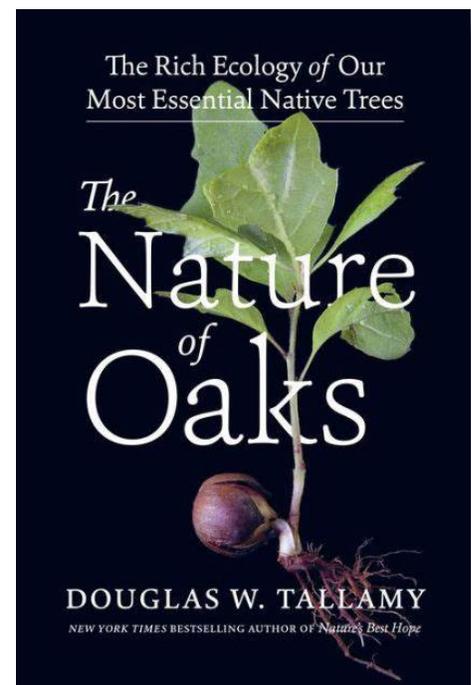
From Royersford, Pennsylvania, Mark graduated from Penn State this spring with Agricultural Science degree and minor in Arboriculture. Throughout college, he worked with Residential tree service companies like Davey and Savatree and John B. Ward. Mark enjoys practicing botany and arboriculture and also likes fishing, hiking and flying kites.

## June Book Club

Jun 3 | 1:00 PM | [Zoom Meeting](#)

**The Nature of Oaks: The Rich Ecology of our Most Essential Native Trees by Douglas W. Tallamy**

Oaks sustain a complex and fascinating web of wildlife. *The Nature of Oaks* reveals what is going on in oak trees month by month, highlighting the seasonal cycles of life, death, and renewal. From woodpeckers who collect and store hundreds of acorns for sustenance to the beauty of jewel caterpillars, Tallamy illuminates and celebrates the wonders that occur right in our own backyards. He also shares practical advice about how to plant and care for an oak, along with information about the best oak species for your area. *The Nature of Oaks* will inspire you to treasure these trees and to act to nurture and protect them.



The Book Club is open to all Arboretum staff and volunteers

## *Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities*



### **June classes at the Arboretum will nourish your body and your mind!**

Join us for **Yoga in the Garden** on Tuesday evenings in June, from 5 – 6 p.m.

Other open classes:

**Cover the Ground!** Great Groundcover Ideas (Saturday June 4th, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.)

**Hydrangea Heaven** (Saturday, June 18th from 10 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.)

**Gardening in Heat and Drought** A Visit to a Designer's Home Garden in Chestnut Hill (Saturday, June 11th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.)

**Vase Arranging** Learn floral design techniques such as 'gridding and stuffing', and how to use florist gel. (Sunday, June 26th from 12:00 - 2:00 pm.)

Learn more about all class offerings and register here: <https://experience.morrisarboretum.org/Info.aspx?EventID=24>

**Visit to Dixon Meadow Preserve and Boardwalk (BYO Picnic Lunch)****Tuesday, June 7 at 10:00 AM****Thomas and Flourtown Roads****Lafayette Hill, PA**

Covering 14 acres of land, the Dixon Meadow Preserve includes three quarters of a mile of boardwalk among multiple native species of flora and fauna. Led by an expert guide, learn the background on how the land and 1850 house were repurposed in 2014. After a walk-through tour of the house, we will take a leisurely walk along the winding boardwalk to look at native plants and birds. We will meet back at the house's patio for a byo lunch. Parking at the Preserve is extremely limited so volunteers will arrive by Arboretum shuttle vans. Please park at the entrance kiosk and board the vans at 9:50 AM for the 5 minute trip. Don't forget to bring your lunch and sign up on Sign-Up Genius. <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4CA8A923A2F85-dixon>

*Dixon Meadow Preserve***Volunteer Lunch and Learn: Talk Marketing with Teri Scott****Wednesday, June 29th, 12:30 PM**

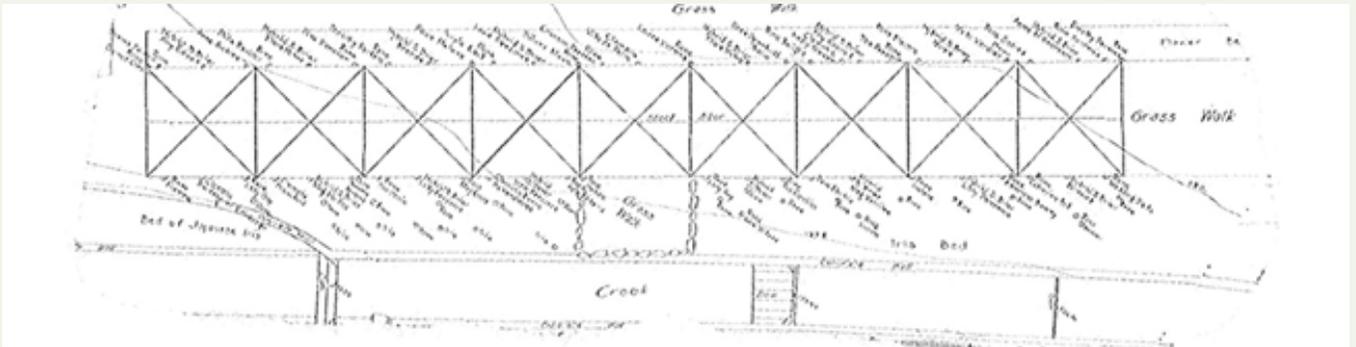
Children's Eating Area (adjacent to Widener Visitor Center)

Please save the date for an informal question and answer session with Teri Scott, the Arboretum's Marketing Director. Find out what she's cooking up, and how you can help. Bring your lunch and bring your questions. Teri is looking forward to meeting you!

RSVP to Jenny Rajotte at [jrajotte@upenn.edu](mailto:jrajotte@upenn.edu) and feel free to include topic requests or questions you'd like to share.

## From the Archives

by Joyce H. Munro



Rose Arbor, Compton Atlas, Pugh & Hubbard, 1914

If you've ever strolled through a rose-covered arbor, like the one designed by garden architect Mary Rutherford Jay at her family's estate in Rye, New York, you know what a heady experience it can be. One hundred feet of color and fragrance surround you. Now imagine strolling through an arbor even longer and taller—at Compton.

In 1910, the year John and Lydia Morris purchased property for English Park, they commissioned a grand, oversized arbor for a straight section of the East Brook across from the new property. Crafted by the John Baizley Iron Works, their arbor incorporated the signature Morris arch, a defining feature of earlier structures like the Summer House and garden seat at Cedar Grove. Soon after the arbor was installed, Pringle Borthwick began building yet another echo of the Morris arch on the far side of English Park, this one constructed of stone with seven arches of different heights.

There is no trace of the Compton Rose Arbor today; it was likely demolished around the time the fast-growing Dawn Redwoods, mere seeds in 1948, cast shade over the brook in the 1950s. As an aside, you may be interested to know that John Baizley was a City Councilmember from South Philly who organized the annual Mummers Parade and served as its Grand Marshall for decades.



Compton Rose Arbor, circa 1928 (2004.1.571)

# Garden Highlights



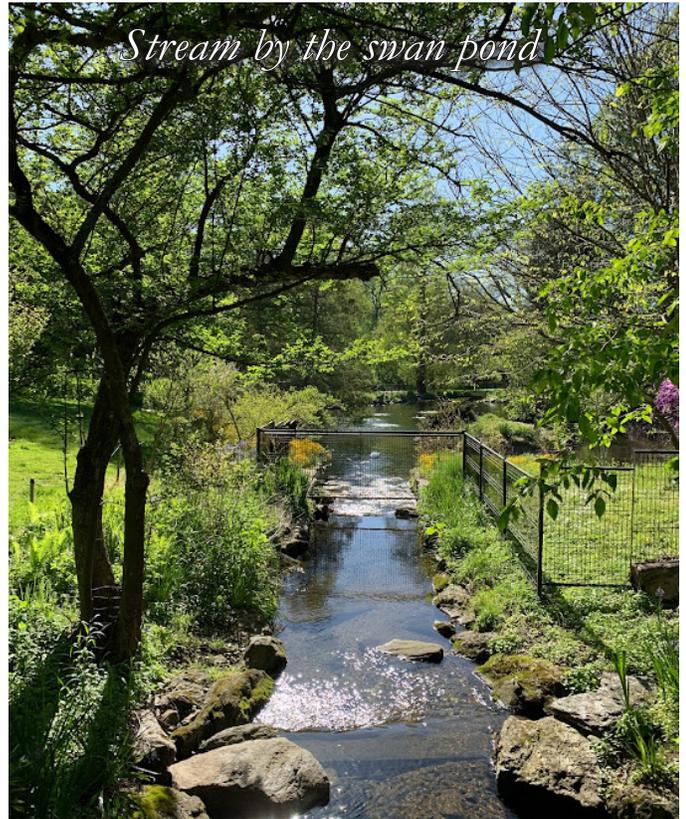
*A peaceful swan*  
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski



*Calendula officinalis*  
pot marigold  
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski



*Digitalis purpurea*  
foxglove  
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski



*Stream by the swan pond*



*Bee, pollinating*  
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski



*Millworkers*

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	<b>2</b> Garden Ed. council meeting 1:30	<b>3</b> Book Club Zoom Meeting 1:00 Moonlight & Roses: 5:30- 10:30pm	<b>4</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm
<b>5</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Visit to Dixon Meadow 10:00	<b>8</b> Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	<b>9</b> Education Committee Meeting: 1:00	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Mill Work Day Hidden Gems Tour: 11am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
<b>12</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm
<b>19</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Regular Tour: 1-2pm
<b>26</b> Open Mill Day at Bloomfield: 1-4 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	<b>30</b>		

**Weekly Volunteer Events:****Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:30am-12pm**Saturdays and Sundays:** Regular Tour 1:00pm-2:00pm

# July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
3 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	4 Offices Closed	5	6 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	7 Education Committee Meeting: 1:00	8	9 More Hidden Gems Tour: 11am Regular Tour: 1-2pm
10 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	11	12	13 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	14	15	16 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
17 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	18	19	20 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	21	22	23 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
24 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	25	26	27 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	28	29 Lunch & Learn with Teri Scott: 12:30	30

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