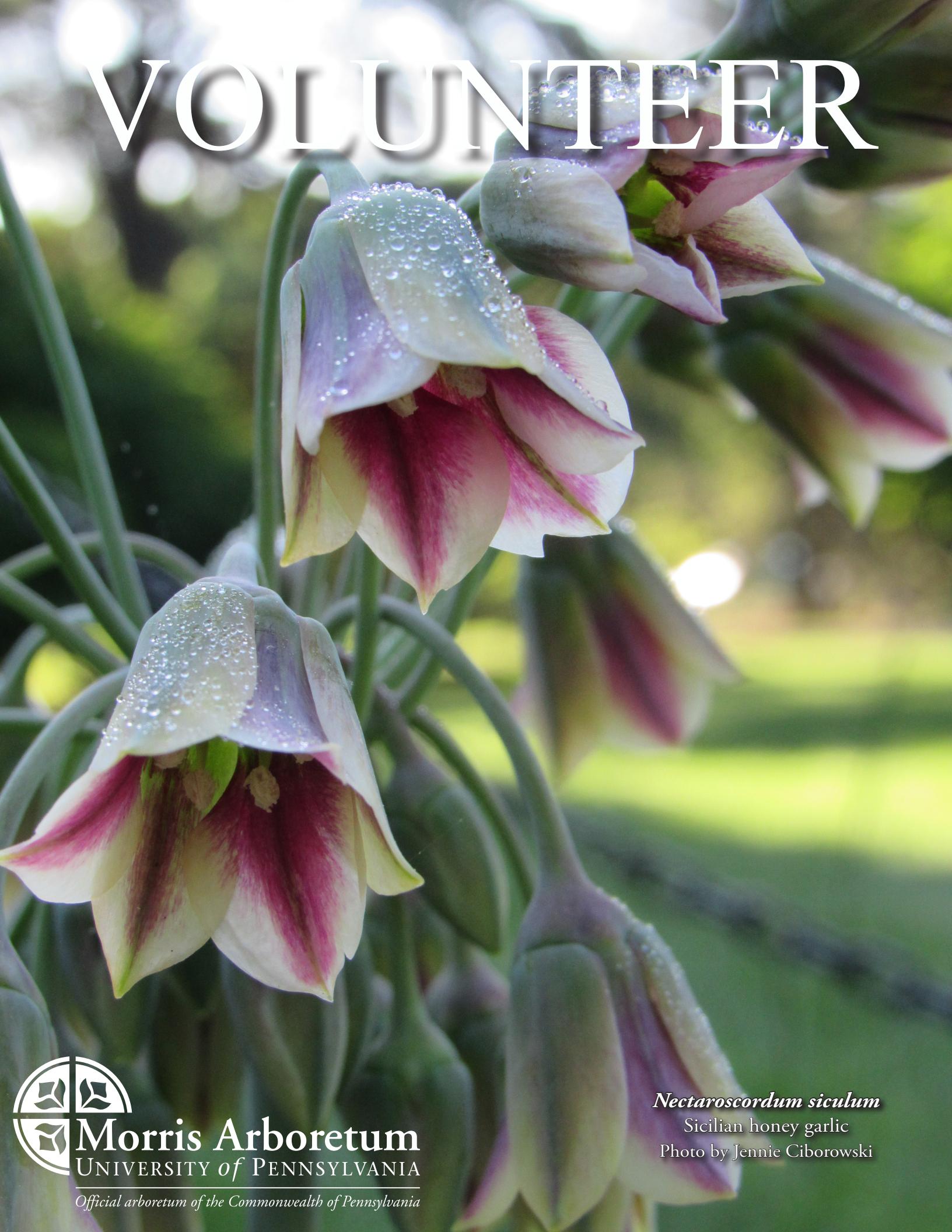


VOLUNTEER

A close-up photograph of several bell-shaped flowers, likely Nectaroscordum siculum (Sicilian honey garlic), hanging downwards. The flowers are white with distinct purple or maroon streaks on the inner petals. They are covered in numerous small, clear water droplets, suggesting they have been recently watered or are morning dew. The background is blurred, showing more of the plant and some greenery.

Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Nectaroscordum siculum
Sicilian honey garlic
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski

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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Grist Mill: Tom Wilson, wilsonth@upenn.edu or
(215) 247-5777 ext 108

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Volunteer

Melissa Lisbao-Underwood, Editor

Contributors: Deitra Arena, Jim Kohler, and Joyce Munro

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

Photos: Melissa Lisbao-Underwood unless otherwise stated



Salvia nutans

nodding sage

Photo by Jennie Ciborowski

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Fairy looking for real estate

photo by Jenny Rajotte

Letter from the Editor

Dear volunteers,

April has come and gone, the crocuses are replaced by grape hyacinths, and from my window I can see a yellow magnolia in bloom. A little uncertain--the weather being what it's been, one day torrential pouring skies, the next day frankly hot--the flowers stay slightly closed, saving themselves for the best part of spring. They look like little teacups, waiting for the party.

It's a time of discovery, of learning, a time for bubble-machines and correcting misconceptions. One misconception I had was about tulips. I used to think tulips were uptight, pastel, and boringly Appolonesian. But it turns out they're full of contradictions: bashful but brazen, understated but dramatic, both hiding behind while simultaneously dashing out of green, sheath-like capes, to meet the mid-day sun, head-on. They also, unlike the ephemeral petals of the cherry, like to stick around. Maybe that's why I never really looked at them. They're everywhere! They persist.

And yes, I said bubble-machine! That's not something you see every day, but the Arboretum has it's very own now and may many a fairy-parade pass beside it. On the heels of the bubble machine we have our summer of swings, and, in the meantime, kids arrive in full buses again, to learn about the

difference between evergreen and deciduous trees, opposites and alternates, the multi-layered structure of a leaf, and, (mostly) to run unrestrainedly to the those musing, metal statues of John and Lydia Morris, saying 'here, Mr. Morris!' and laying freshly picked dandelions in their arms, as if the Morris's were visitors of their own estate.

Melissa Lisbao-Underwood

*The McLean Contributionship
endowed visitor education intern*



YELLOW CUBED™ Tulip

Notes from the Guides Chair

Old-Growth Forests: Their Importance and Where to Find Them in PA

by Jim Kohler

I was recently inspired to do research about old-growth forests after reading a January 2022 Smithsonian Magazine article titled *The Old Man and the Tree*. The article tells the story of eighty-year-old Robert Everett, known in Western Massachusetts as 'the old-growth evangelist'. Though there has been a lot of discussion lately in the climate science community about the importance of young forest growth, Everett's article opened my eyes to the fact that old-growth forests are much more effective in mitigating climate change.

The term old-growth forest first came into use in the 1970's and describes multispecies forests that have been untouched for at least 150 years. In addition to their serenity, old-growth forests are more biodiverse than young forests and have an uninterrupted ecological cycle over time which means they are more resilient. What's more, writes Everett, trees between 100 and 150 years of age capture much more carbon than young trees do. These findings are the result of careful research done by climate scientist William Moomaw in conjunction with other scientists, who all challenge the assumption that younger, faster-growing forests are better for our environment than mature forests. Moomaw and his colleagues coined the term Proforestation

(saving old-growth forests) and urges that we spend less energy planting new trees and more energy protecting these old-growth forests.

Today old-growth forests are under serious threat, with only 5% of original old-growth forests in the West and less than 1% of original Eastern USA forests remaining. Within the last decade, a non-profit organization called The Old-Growth Forest Network (www.oldgrowthforest.net) was founded to help identify and preserve our nation's old forests. The 315-acre Forest Cathedral area of Cook Forest State Park, located about 300 miles northwest of Philadelphia, is considered Pennsylvania's finest old-growth forest. Other Pennsylvania old-growth forests closer to Philadelphia include White Clay Creek Preserve in southern Chester County, 41-acre Hart's Woods in Doylestown Township, and Ferncliff Wildflower & Wildlife Preserve in Lancaster County.

We all have a duty to protect old-growth forests, for both their beauty and their importance to the planet.

See you at the Arboretum,
Jim Kohler, Garden Educators Chair

Source: Jonny Diamond, *The Old Man & The Tree*, Smithsonian, January 2022.



Garden educators posed for a quick pic at the Visitor's Center on the final Tuesday of March

In preparation for a new season of children's tours, the new group of guides trekked into the arboretum to learn our curriculum tours and "seasoned" Garden Educators gathered each Tuesday in March to refresh their expertise on these tours. Our Connected Environment, the new children's tour is meant for grades 4-7, and merges the previous Sustainability and Interdependence tours, focusing on our stewardship of the environment.

-Karen Holmes



May 11th, 12:30 in the Magnolia Room

Meet our new Visitor Education Intern, Melissa Lisbao-Underwood. Melissa, a graduate of Rutgers University, brings to the position a background in Agricultural Sciences and Environmental Conservancy as well as years of experience in both classroom and summer camp education.

Please join us in welcoming her to the team!

Did you know...?

Ancient Greeks believed that peonies were created by the moon goddess, Selene, and that the moonbeams captured on the petals of the flower would protect humans from ghosts.

During the medieval times, it was believed that putting peony seeds under a pillow or in wine would ward-off nightmares.

Paeonia 'Ivory Jewel'
ivory jewel peony
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski

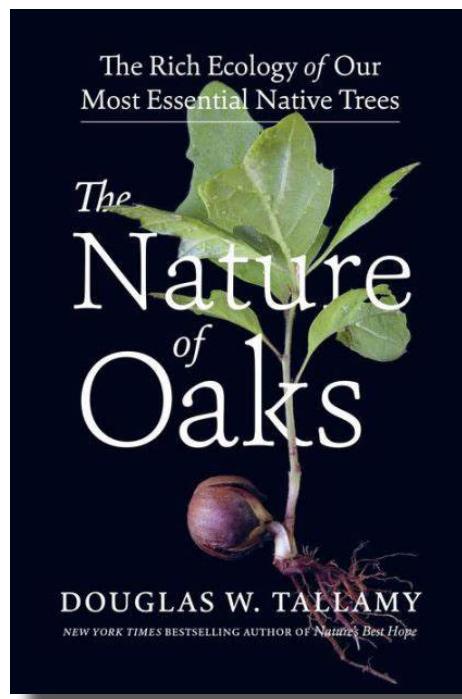


June Book Club

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

Bee Monitors Wanted!

The Pennsylvania Bee Monitoring Project is an effort to collect standardized data on the occurrence of wild bees across the state, and better identify and understand changes in bee species distribution, diversity, and abundance. Lead researchers Dr. Margarita López-Uribe, Assistant Professor of Entomology, and Dr. Nash Turley, Post-doctoral Researcher, both of Penn State University, are conducting this citizen science program to regularly collect, clean, and mount bees from across the Commonwealth for identification. Morris Arboretum is thrilled to be one of 20 volunteer organizations in the program.

We're looking for bee enthusiasts, naturalists, and science-minded volunteers who are detail-oriented and willing and able to handle dead insects. Volunteers will need to be comfortable working both in the Field (30%) collecting specimens, and in the Lab (70%) cleaning and pinning bees that may be very small—clear vision and dexterity handling very small pieces are essential. To learn more go to: <https://www.morrisarboretum.org/pdf/Bee-Volunteer-2022.pdf>

Succulent Fairy Garden Planter

Saturday, May 14

11:00 am – 1:30 pm

Members: \$80 | Non-members: \$90

Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location

Join us for this fun workshop meant to share with a child or grandchild (ages 5+). Working with an assortment of succulents and whimsical fairy garden accessories, you and your young companion will work together to create a personalized, magical, miniature indoor garden to enjoy all year round. This workshop is a wonderful way to nurture your creative right brain and chase away the winter blues. A single registration admits one adult and one child. All materials are provided by the instructor. Please bring a box to take home your creation.



previous happy class participants

Volunteer Workshops and Opportunities (Cont.)

Join us at the Barn at Bloomfield Farm

Wednesday, May 11th, 1:30pm

For decades, the Morris Arboretum has stored many unused treasures in the Barn at Bloomfield for safekeeping. Did you ever wonder what's in the Barn that is usually off limits to the volunteers?

We asked Bob Gutowski to unlock the door and lead us on a treasure hunt. Barns are notoriously dusty and dirty, so wear your old clothes and be ready for a journey into the past.



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 byob 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>

Volunteer Lunch and Learn with Bill Cullina



Wednesday, May 18th, noon

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

Please join us for an informal question and answer session with Bill Cullina, the Arboretum's F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Bring your lunch and your questions. Bill is looking forward to meeting you!

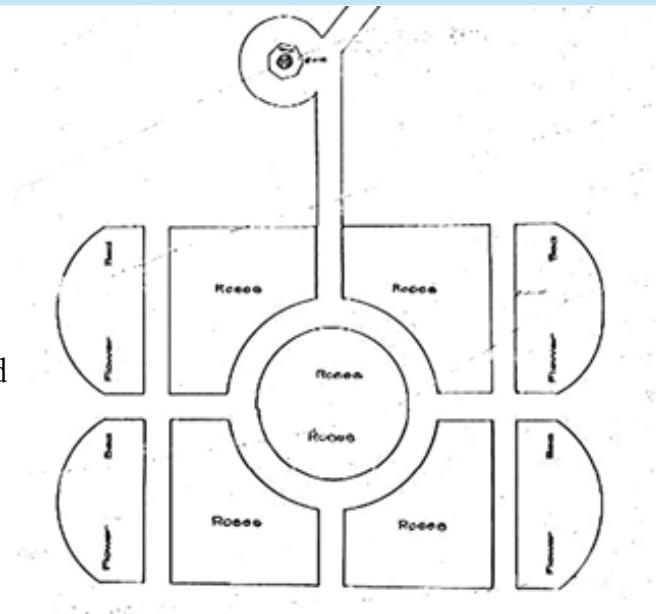
RSVP to jrajotte@upenn.edu by May 9

From the Archives

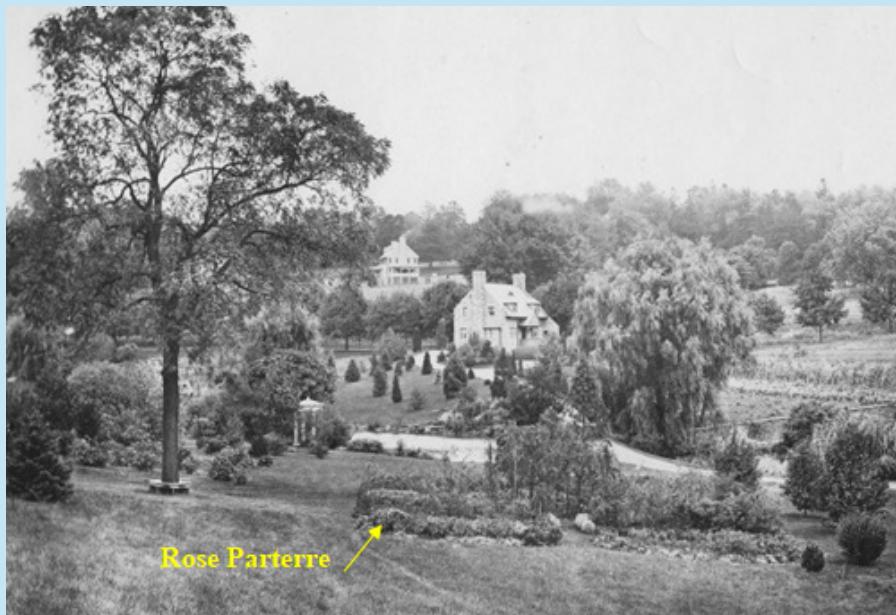
by Joyce H. Munro

A Map Worth Studying

It may not come as a surprise that there used to be more than one rose garden at Compton—roses had been significant to the Morris family since the 1730s, perhaps even earlier. In addition to their formal 4-square Rose Garden, John and Lydia created a smaller informal rose parterre near Swan Pond. Its location was marked by a champion walnut tree with wrap-around bench, the perfect seat for admiring old hybrids like the crimson ‘General Jack’ and new ones like the orangey-pink ‘Mrs. A.R. Waddell.’ Sometime after 1914, the Rose Parterre vanished from the landscape. But that didn’t mean roses were limited to the formal garden. Au contraire, there used to be an extraordinary Rose Walk longer than...but that’s another story.



The Rose Parterre, Compton Atlas, Pugh & Hubbard, 1914



Morris Arboretum Archives, 2014.40.43



Rosa 'Mrs. A.R. Waddell'
Photo credit: Sue Brown. <http://garden.org>

Garden Highlights



Ajuga reptans
bugleweed



Malus 'Indian summer'
Indian summer crabapple



Edgeworthia chrysantha
paperbush



*Rhododentron austrinum x
canescens*
azalea hybrid



Prunus subhirtella 'Pendula'
weeping higan cherry



Dianthus gratianopolitanus
cheddar pink
Photo by Jennie Ciborowski

May***Upcoming Events***

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	2	3	4 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	5 Garden Ed. council meeting 1:30	6	7 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
8 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	9 RSVP to Jennie Rajotte for Bill Cullina Q & A	10	11 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00 Bloomfield Farm 1:30	12 Education Committee Meeting: 1:00	13	14 Small Trees tour: 11:00 Regular Tour: 1-2pm succulent fairy garden planter 11:00
15 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	16	17	18 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00 Q & A with Bill Cullina 12:00	19	20	21 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
22 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	23	24	25 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	26	27	28 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
29 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	30 Arboretum open, offices closed	31	4	6	7	

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

June

Upcoming Events

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	2 Garden Ed. council meeting 1:30	3 Book Club Zoom Meeting 1:00	4 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
5 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	6	7 Visit to Dixon Meadow 10:00	8 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	9 Education Committee Meeting: 1:00	10	11 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
12 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	13	14	15 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	16	17	18 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
19 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	20	21	22 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	23	24	25 Regular Tour: 1-2pm
26 Regular Tour: 1-2pm	27	28	29 Horticulture volunteers 8:30-12:00	30	6	7

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