

VOLUNTEER

November 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.

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Volunteer

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Photos: Claire Sundquist, unless otherwise stated



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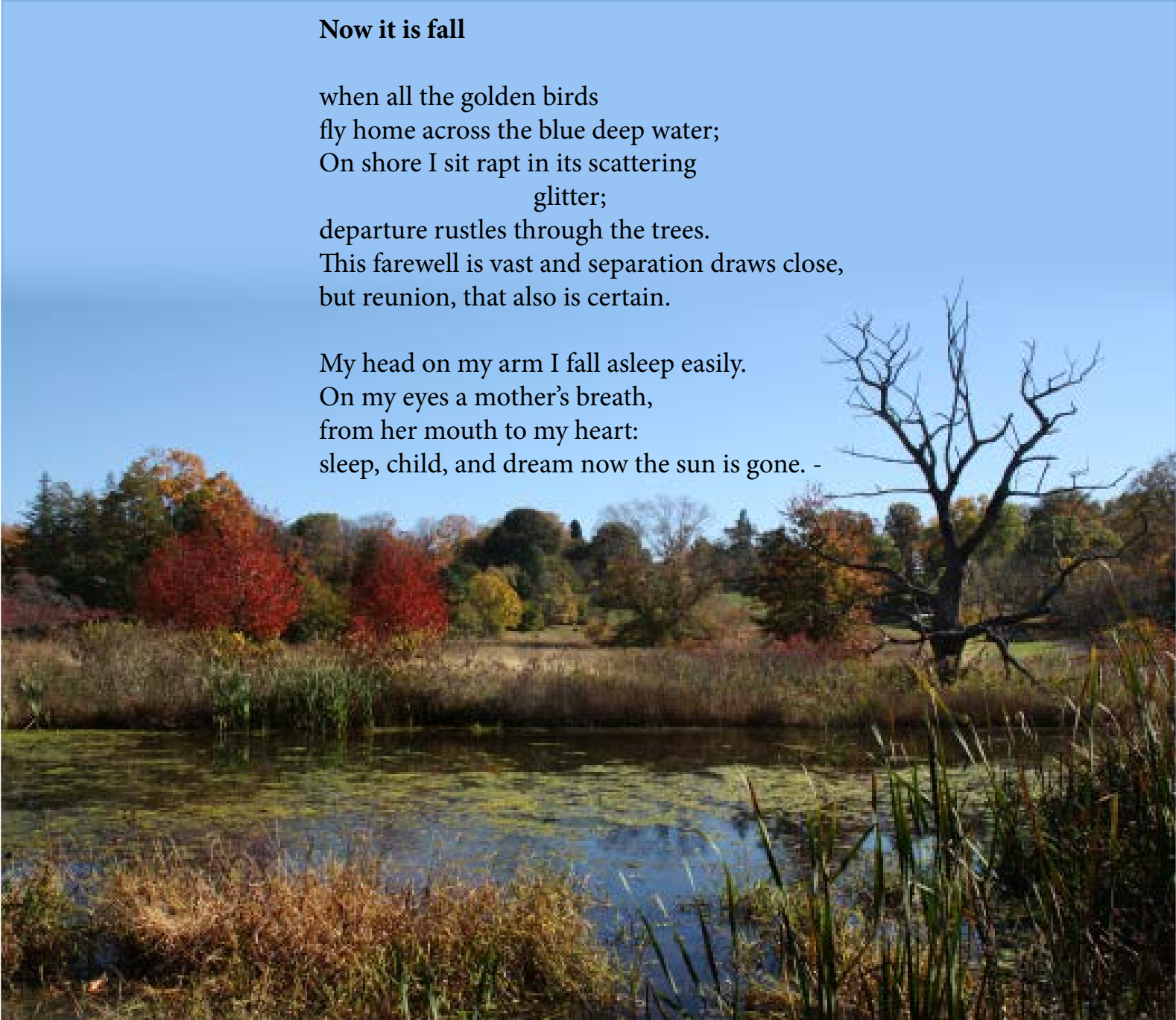
Letter from the Editor

I have deeply enjoyed losing myself in poetry ever since I received Shel Silverstein's *Falling Up* on my seventh birthday. The bright and ever changing scenery of fall always inspires me to return to my library of prose. Autumnal poetry can be depressing with imagery of deterioration and preparation for the coming winter. Recently I have been particularly enamoured with the work of Swedish poet Edith Södergran. In the poem, *Now it is fall* I am reminded of the coming frost, but also of the promised spring.

Now it is fall

when all the golden birds
fly home across the blue deep water;
On shore I sit rapt in its scattering
glitter;
departure rustles through the trees.
This farewell is vast and separation draws close,
but reunion, that also is certain.

My head on my arm I fall asleep easily.
On my eyes a mother's breath,
from her mouth to my heart:
sleep, child, and dream now the sun is gone. -



Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

When I first started writing for our newsletter, I mentioned I enjoy travel and gardening. I should have mentioned walking as well. We are very fortunate to live a couple of blocks from Temple University Ambler, where we have been walking for 25 years. Some of you will remember our field trip to see their facing herbaceous borders. That was years ago, they have since added several other gardens. Recently, I was on a tour of the campus with Jenny Rose Carey. She explained the history of Temple University Ambler, then we had a wonderful tour of the new areas.

One of the areas my eight year old granddaughter enjoys is the meditation labyrinth. For some reason she really enjoys walking in circles to the middle, of course walking faster than her grandmother may have some bearing on the joy. A winter interest garden has been added with lovely variegated hollies, dogwoods and more. Benches have been placed throughout the winter garden, a perfect spot on a sunny winter day.

But the area I like the most, placed next to Temple's new greenhouse, is the conifer garden. The area is in a slight depression and you use stepping stones to enter from the main walkway. Michael Colibraro (of Colibraro Nursery) is on the advisory committee at Temple Ambler and donated the plants in this area. All of the plants are readily available in the trade. Many of the plants are perfect for a small garden or as a focal point in a raised bed. Oh I wish I had seen this area 25 years ago before I planted the trees in our garden. I confess, I planted 9, yes count them, 9 Eastern White Pines of which only one remains. This was long before I was a member at Morris Arboretum, where I saw just how big they could become. Which brings me to today's topic. Gardening, as in life, is a learning experience. Is there anything more invigorating than learning something new? We are so blessed to be given so many opportunities to learn something new right here at Morris Arboretum. Between the courses offered each semester, the lectures and field trips for all volunteers, and chances for hands on demonstrations in the garden, what more could we desire? I encourage you to keep learning, take a course, attend training for a new tour, the possibilities are great.

Happy Gardening!
Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides



Save the Date!

Join us for the Volunteer Field Trip to the
National Museum of Jewish American History



Tuesday, November 11th

Please park in the meadow. Vans will depart the Arboretum at 9:30am.

Tour at the museum will begin at 10:30am.

Sign-up is available through the Google calendar or email Lisa Bailey at
baileyL@upenn.edu.

Photo courtesy the National Museum of Jewish American History

Holiday Happenings

Volunteer and Staff Holiday

Garden Railway Night

Tuesday, December 4th | 4-7pm

Come enjoy the Holiday Garden Railway after hours for a special view of the twinkling lights.

Education Volunteer Holiday Potluck

Tuesday, December 16th | noon-2pm

Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a winter celebration with other Education volunteers and staff!

Please RSVP by Google Calender or contact Claire Sundquist at 215-247-5777ext.159 or clairesu@upenn.edu. Don't forget to tell her what dish you are bringing!

Horticulture Volunteer Holiday Potluck

Wednesday, December 17th | noon-2pm

Treat your fellow horticulture volunteers to a favorite dish or plate of cookies and enjoy a winter celebration!



Learn something new!

Tea Tasting and History

with Rebecca Goldschmidt, Proprietor, Random Tea Room

Sunday, November 16 | 1-3pm

To sit among friends and sample different teas is to travel across the world's continents, mountain vistas, and great estates. Join the staff from The Random Tea Room to learn about and taste the wide spectrum of teas and herbal infusions they have curated for this special event.

Volunteer Price: \$20



Thanksgiving Harvest Centerpiece

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

Sunday, November 23 | 1-3:30pm

During the Thanksgiving holiday season, mixing flowers and dried materials along with fruits and vegetables creates stunning arrangements. Learn some tricks when working with these natural materials and create a fabulous centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table or to give as a hostess gift. Success is guaranteed! Bring a rectangular box to transport your finished arrangement home.

Volunteer Price: \$50



Bald Eagles at Conowingo Dam

with Ruth Pfeffer, Expert Birder and Trip Leader

Tuesday, December 9 | 7:45am-4:30pm

Join us for a day of birding at the Conowingo Dam, a prime spot for viewing bald eagles as they feed on fish coming over the dam. We will also see lots of great blue herons, gulls, and other raptors. We will walk on a woodland trail along the river, and visit the historic town of Port Deposit. Bring binoculars, your lunch and a water bottle. Dress for the weather and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Volunteer Price: \$70

Volunteer Opportunities



Photo courtesy Arnold Winkler

Tu B'Shevat - The New Year of Trees

Help children celebrate the New Year of Trees! We need volunteers to help with a number of activities throughout the week at the following times. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot!

Sunday, February 1st	10-11:15am & 11:30am-12:45pm
Monday, February 2nd	10-11:15am
Tuesday, February 3rd	10-11:15am
Wednesday, February 4th	10-11:15am
Thursday, February 5th	10-11:15am
Sunday, February 6th	10-11:15am & 11:30am-12:45pm

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at (215)247-5777 ext.157 or baileyL@upenn.edu.

Be a Recruiter!

Do you know that guides are some of the **most** effective recruiters for our new guide training classes? Well, it's true! So don't forget to spread the word about guiding at the Arboretum to friends, neighbors, relatives and folks on your tours. Our next class is not scheduled to begin until March, 2015, but it is never too early to recruit. Anyone interested in the new class should contact Liza Hawley at efhawley@exchange.upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 128.

Thank you for being great ambassadors
for our beloved Arboretum!

Thanks for the Memories

Several years ago, eleven to be precise, Liza Hawley asked Irene Harnitckek and me if we would consider being co-chairs of the Programs Committee for the guides. We said sure, not really knowing what we would be doing but we liked the idea we could spend the time together doing it.

Doing it we did. We had a great time. We tried to do things we would enjoy; hoping the rest of the guides would enjoy it as well.

Years later, we were planning trips and lectures for all the volunteers at Morris. What a fortuitous way to meet other volunteers. We've been to a plethora of places, from small private gardens to back stage at Longwood. Our speakers have been great – all speaking as a gift to Morris. The staff has been very generous with their time as well. But all good things must come to an end, I moved on to a different position at Morris while Irene carried on with the help of Lisa. Now Irene has decided to move to a different committee. We have a new Programs Committee in place to take over January 1st.

Irene, dear friend, I thank you for sharing so many exploratory field trips with me, so many fun ideas, and above all your enthusiasm and devotion to Morris and all of your friends here. It's been great!!



Irene Harnitckek, Liza Hawley, and Jody Sprague on a trip to Mrs. Dorrance Hamilton's garden in June 2008.

contributed by Jody Sprague

Committee Update

2015 Continuing Education Programs for Volunteers

Thank you to Irene Harnitchek and Jody Sprague for planning and organizing volunteer trips, lectures and workshops while serving on the Programs Committee for almost a dozen years.

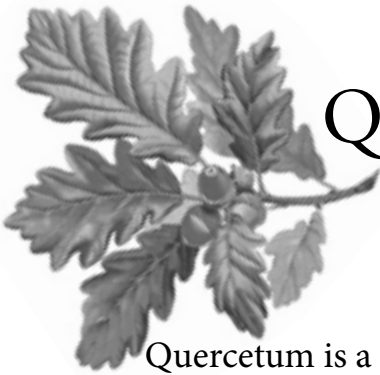
Starting in January 2015, Laura Axel, Ben Frazier, Holly Jobe and Jim Kohler hope to offer some enjoyable and diverse offerings throughout the year to reward active volunteers for being wonderfully generous and devoted to serving the Arboretum and its guests.

An active education volunteer is one who logs at least 30 volunteer hours per year. This is easy to achieve by volunteering for the Welcome Cart, guiding, Wellness Walks, workshops and committees. If you're not sure how to sign up for any of the aforementioned activities, please contact Lisa Bailey, at baileyL@exchange.upenn.edu

Arboretum vans will be reserved for active volunteers who accompany us on scheduled trips. However, if you plan to bring a guest on any field trip, you will be asked to arrange a carpool for you and your guest to reach our destination.

We welcome suggestions about area gardens or historical sites to visit, topics to cover in workshops and speakers to invite for 60-minute presentations. Please send your suggestions to Jim Kohler at jkohphil@verizon.net by November 30 so that, as a committee, we can finalize our calendar of events for 2015.

Please plan to join us at the Widener Center at 10am on Wednesday, January 7th, 2015 for our first scheduled event. Holly Jobe, a graduate of this year's spring guide training class, and a travel companion will talk about their recent experience walking the Camino de Santiago trail in northern Spain.



Quercetum

by Elaine Bell

Quercetum is a Latin word meaning “an oak grove.” I first heard this term used during a Great Plants Committee meeting this summer and, not having a clue as to what it meant, I decided to go on a search to see what I could learn. It didn’t take very long for me to find out that in 1785, André Michaux, a noted French Botanist, came to the US in search of plants of the new world. He traveled throughout the country with his son, François André [1770-1855], collecting plants and sending many back to France for cultivation. In addition to collecting plant specimens, André wrote two books on North American natural history, “Oaks of North America” and “Flora of North America.” Following his death in 1802, François André decided to stay in the US to continue the work begun with his father and later wrote a 3-volume work “North American Sylva” which became a primary reference for foresters throughout the 19th century. He was elected to the American Philosophical Society in Philadelphia late in his life. Following François André’s death in 1855, the APS received a bequest from his will for what has become the Michaux Fund “to be used for furthering the progress of forestry and agriculture in the US.”

Members of the APS decided to use a portion of this Fund to plant a grove of oak trees in honor of both men. The Michaux Grove, as it is now called, contained 16 Quercus species and planting was completed in 1870. It is located in a section of Fairmount Park, south of Montgomery Drive, east of Belmont Avenue and alongside development of the 1876 International Exhibition grounds for the US Centennial, sharing landscape with Horticultural Hall.

The story doesn’t end there. In 1932, through the will of Lydia Morris, land and an endowment were entrusted to the University of Pennsylvania, establishing the Morris Arboretum. The following year, Dr. Rodney True, a University botanist, was named the Arboretum’s first Director. By 1937, the Michaux Grove had become completely overgrown - “lost” in fact - until discovered by Dr. True. In 2011, it was realized that the Michaux Grove in Fairmount Park had for the second time become overgrown and was re-discovered. While incredibly historic, this Michaux Grove demonstrates the survivability of the trees in Fairmount Park, in spite of hardly any maintenance whatsoever...only re-discoveries!

article continues on page 10

Quercetum, continued

One source in my search led me to another and then another until, finally, a gem of information. As part of the Morris Arboretum Internship Program requirements, Jessamine Finch, the 2012-13 Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern, selected as her project: *The Morris Arboretum Quercus Collection: Unearthing the Michaux Quercetum*.

VOILA! It seems that we have our very own Michaux Quercetum...right here at Morris Arboretum!

Jessa states in her report that the majority of the Morris collection is located on 5 acres of Bloomfield Farm. Morris Arboretum had received a grant from the Michaux Fund in 1953 to study, grow and cultivate oaks from around the country and the project began that spring. At the time, Drs. Fogg, Li and Santamour, among others, collected 100 acorns from each



Elaine Bell visiting the Morris Arboretum Quercetum, conducting research for this article. **Photo courtesy Dick Bell**

Quercus species with the goal of broadening the diversity of oaks in Pennsylvania and the surrounding states.

After the seedlings were planted, the staff of our Botany Department categorized the remaining acorns and placed them in storage for future research. Jess further states that there are 109 accessioned trees in the Quercetum, 80 of which are original to the project, one of three Morris Collections recognized by the North American Plant Collections Consortium. The other collections recognized are *Abies* [firs] and *Acer* [maples]. It should be noted that if anyone wishes to view the Quercetum area at Bloomfield Farm please watch for poison ivy, which is also growing in that area. If you do have occasion to be at Bloomfield Farm, be sure you don't miss the huge and impressive Bartram Oak, located near the second parking lot.

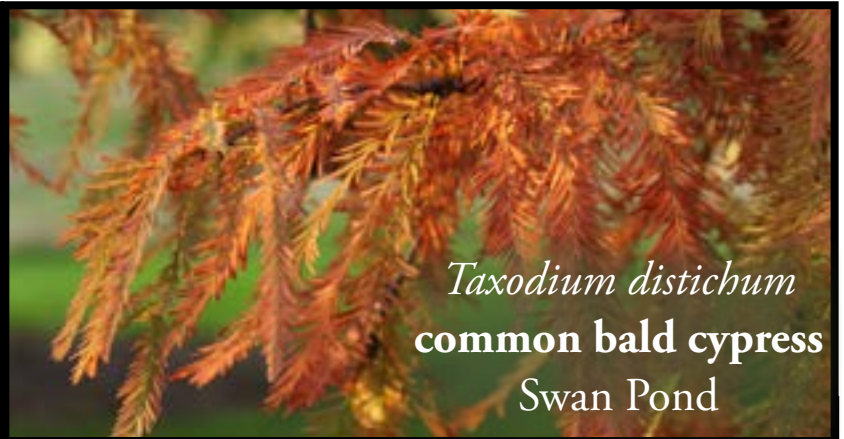
It is hoped that the example of a Michaux Quercetum will serve as inspiration to plant more *Quercus* in keeping with the memory of the Michaux botanists and also just because they are lovely trees!

Jessamine Finch's report can be found on the Morris website at http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/ed_internships_credit.shtml

Garden highlights:



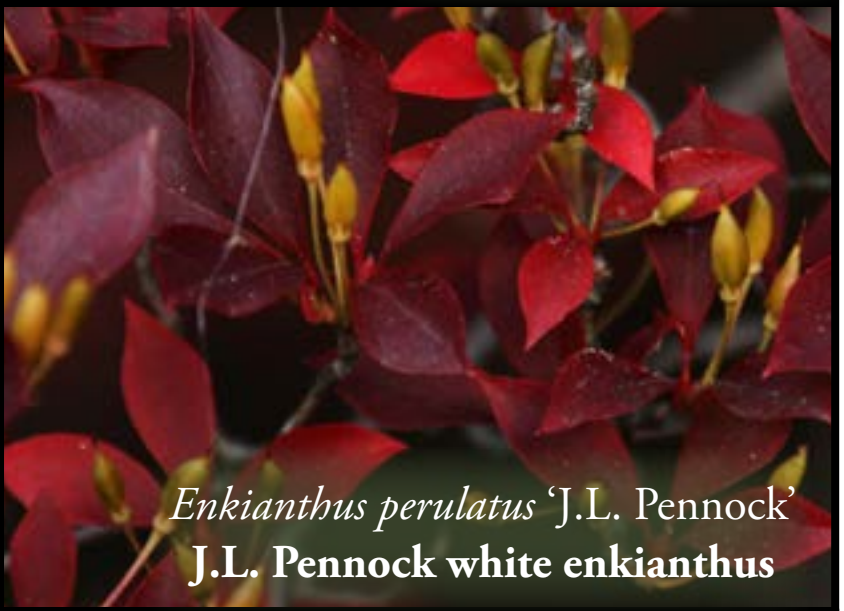
Callicarpa japonica
Japanese beautyberry
parking lot



Taxodium distichum
common bald cypress
Swan Pond



Knautia macedonica 'Mars Midget'
Mars midget knautia
Rose Garden



Enkianthus perulatus 'J.L. Pennock'
J.L. Pennock white enkianthus



Rosa 'White Flower Carpet'
white flower carpet rose
Rose Garden



Zanthoxylum simulans
flatspine prickly-ash
near Ravine Garden

Upcoming Events

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Education Committee noon-1pm Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	5	6	7	8 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm
9	10	11 Volunteer Field Trip (see pg.3)	12	13	14	15
16 Mill Demonstra- tion Day 12-3pm	17 Great Plants Committee 10:30am	18 Training Committee 10:30am	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving Arboretum closed	28 Holiday Garden Railway opens	29 Holiday Garden Railway grand opening

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30ams

Upcoming Events

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	3	4 Volunteer & Staff Holiday Garden Railway Night 11am-3pm	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm
14	15	16 Education Volunteer Winter Potluck noon-2pm	17 Horticulture Volunteer Winter Potluck noon-2pm	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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