

VOLUNTEER

September 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

When I first came upon Robert Engman's sculpture above the Step Fountain I was intrigued but not surprised to learn the piece's title, *After B.K.S. Iyengar*. Having practiced yoga for a number of years I was familiar with the name B.K.S. Iyengar. His work in bringing yoga to North America and making the practice more accessible to a new, diverse audience is an ever present influence on the world of modern yoga. Even though I did not know the history behind this particular work of art, and knew little about the artist himself, the connection between Iyengar's views on life and the garden seemed natural. I enjoyed contemplating the many possible connections between the Arboretum and the world renowned yogi as I walked through the garden that afternoon. In *B.K.S. Iyengar: The Man, the Myth, the Magic* Kofi Busia states that "Iyengar has achieved balance in his life- the same balance Engman expresses in the Iyengar sculpture" In so many ways, balance is also what we strive for at the Arboretum.

Last month, on August 20th, B.K.S. Iyengar died at the age of 95. This news prompted me to learn more about the history of the yogi, the sculpture, and the artist. I have shared some of what I learned on page 8. I hope you enjoy learning about this amazing piece of art and the interesting story it has to tell.

Sincerely,
Claire Sundquist
McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Photo Courtesy of Paul Meyer

Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

On the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend I worked the Welcome Cart. On my way to the Arboretum I decided to do my own survey. I was curious as to why people come to the Arboretum. I assumed most of the answers would be along the lines of – we needed something to do today, so we decided to come to the Arboretum. Well, I am happy to say I was very wrong.

To begin my survey, I made sure everyone understood this was my survey for this article. It was to satisfy my own curiosity as to why people came. I know why I come to the Arboretum several times a month but I didn't know why someone else would come. I only had two questions in my unscientific survey. Here are the results of many interesting conversations!

Where are you from?

Boston

Collingswood, NJ

Taiwan

NYC

Florida

Brazil

Woodbury Heights, NJ

Scotland

Blue Bell

Mt. Laurel, NJ

Scottsdale, AZ

Wyncote

Slippery Rock

Conshohocken

Warminster

Philadelphia

Hatfield



Continued on page 3.

Notes from the Guides Chair continued

Why did you come to the Arboretum today?

“We are celebrating our anniversary!”

“We are visiting from Brazil. The plants here are so unusual for us, it is so interesting.”

“I imagined it would be beautiful and wanted to share it with my daughter.”

“Our two year old saw the holiday trains this past winter. He asks if the trains are back EVERY DAY. Today was the opening of the garden railway, and he practically made us come.”

“I come for a walk several times a week. This was the only place my aging mother found calming. When I come to the Arboretum I feel near to her.”

“I live in Scotland and am an avid gardener. My daughter and son-in-law brought me.”

“We live at Ann’s Choice Retirement Community and came here on a date.”

“We are members of Tyler Arboretum and wanted to see what Morris Arboretum is like.”

As you can see, the ‘why’s’ are just as varied as the locales. I enjoyed this little survey. My respondents were very cooperative. In fact, several were eager to share their enthusiasm for our arboretum. It’s a good thing to see our place through the eyes of someone else.

Happy Gardening,

*Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides*



Education News: *Register for fall classes!*

Early Evening Tour of Bloomfield Farm

Saturday, September 20 | 5:30-7pm

Louise Clarke, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Go behind the scenes with Arboretum staff for an early evening harvest moon tour of historic Bloomfield Farm. Meet at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm.

Tai Chi in the Garden

Four Thursdays: September 18, 25, October 2, 9 | 10-11am

Al Smith, Practitioner Member, National Qigong Association

Volunteer Price: \$40

Do you want to reduce stress, quiet down, move in a slow, balanced way, and cultivate energy? In the beautiful outdoor setting of the Morris Arboretum, we will share in the practice of the healing art of Tai Chi. No experience is needed. Please wear loose-fitting clothing.

Woody Plant Propagation

Tuesday, September 23 | 7-9pm

Shelley Dillard, Propogator, Morris Arboretum

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Growing woody plants from seed can be very rewarding, especially since they are often expensive, and the particular plant you want can be hard to find. Learn the secrets of propagating woody plants from seed. Check in at the Widener Visitor Center and walk to the Greenhouse.

Fall Botany in the New Jersey Pine Barrens

Saturday, September 27 | 9am-4:30pm

Janet Novak, Past President, Philadelphia Botanical Club

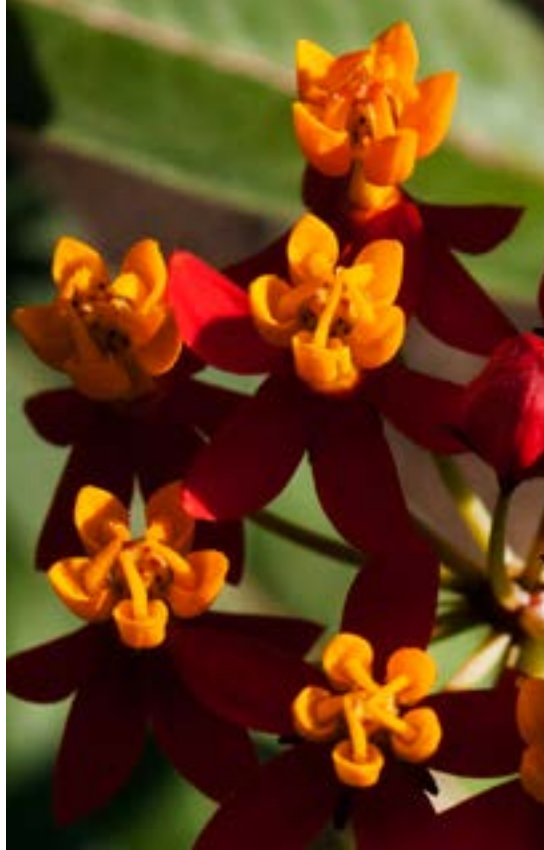
Volunteer Price: \$55

On this trip, we will visit the major habitats found in the pinelands including dry pine-oak forests, bogs, and native grass meadows. Boots are not necessary, though good walking shoes are recommended. Please bring sunscreen, bug repellent, water, and lunch.

To view full descriptions visit www.morrisarboretum.org

To register with a credit card call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.

Don't Forget!



Fall Guide Refresher Sessions

Brush up on your guiding skills and learn something new.

Tuesday, September 16th | 10am-1pm

Come and practice a revised Mill Tour! Meet at Bloomfield Farm.

10am-noon Mill Tour and practice

noon-12:30pm bring your lunch, drinks and dessert provided

12:30-1 Horticultural Center

Monday, September 22nd | 10am-1pm

Get to know two new tours. Meet at Widener Visitor Center.

10am-noon 4 Seasons through the 5 Senses Tour and practicum

noon-12:30pm bring your lunch, drinks and dessert provided

12:30pm-12:45pm Interdependence Tour activity

1:30pm-2pm Environmental Tour activity

There are still spots available for the Volunteer Field Trip to
Meadowbrook Farm!



Tuesday, September 9th | 10am - 12

Please park in the meadow. Vans will depart the Arboretum at 10am.

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

Photo Courtesy of Philadelphia Horticulture Society

Scarecrow Design Contest

Morris Arboretum is calling all scarecrows for its 7th Annual Scarecrow Design Contest.



Create a scarecrow for this year's theme, **Heroes and Villains**. Sign-up by Thursday, September 18 to ensure your place in the contest! Entry fee is \$30, with a \$5 discount for those who register by Friday, September 12. Scarecrow frames, hay, burlap and twine are all provided. Details and downloadable contest entry forms are available online at www.bit.ly/MAcrows.

These scarecrows will be on display at the Arboretum for three weeks along Scarecrow Walk at the Oak Allée from Saturday, October 4 through Sunday, October 19. Visitors of all ages will vote for their favorite scarecrow to determine which will be the winners. New this year, prizes will be awarded to the top five winning Scarecrow Designers!



Scarecrow Clothing Drive

Don't throw away those old jeans. **Donate them!** Jeans, long sleeve button-down shirts, hats, ties, scarves, beads, bits and pieces of old costumes, craft supplies like yarn, fabric, and pipecleaners are all appreciated to clothe the scarecrows at this year's Fall Festival. Please place any items you have to donate in the blue bins on the side porch of the Widener Visitor Center.

Volunteer Opportunities



Workday at the Governor's Residence

*Join Arboretum staff and volunteers on Wednesday, **October 1st** for a fall work day in the Governor's Residence garden.*

As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth, this is one way we help one of Pennsylvania's most important public gardens, and it will be the seventh time the Arboretum has provided this service. In case of inclement weather, our rain date will be Thursday, October 9th. Watch your inbox for more information! Your help is most appreciated.

Volunteer for Fall Festival!

Saturday and Sunday, October 4th and 5th

Last year Fall Festival was expanded to two days. Over that beautiful early autumn weekend the Arboretum hosted more than 3,800 visitors. This popular family event requires many hands in order to run smoothly. If you are able to lend yours, please let **Michelle Conners** at **mconners@upenn.edu** or **215-247-5777 x109** know what job and shift you would be available to volunteer for:

Saturday, October 4th

10am-12:30pm - pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table
12:30pm-3pm - pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table

Sunday, October 5th

10am-12:30pm - pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table
12:30pm-3pm - pumpkin painting or scarecrow supply table

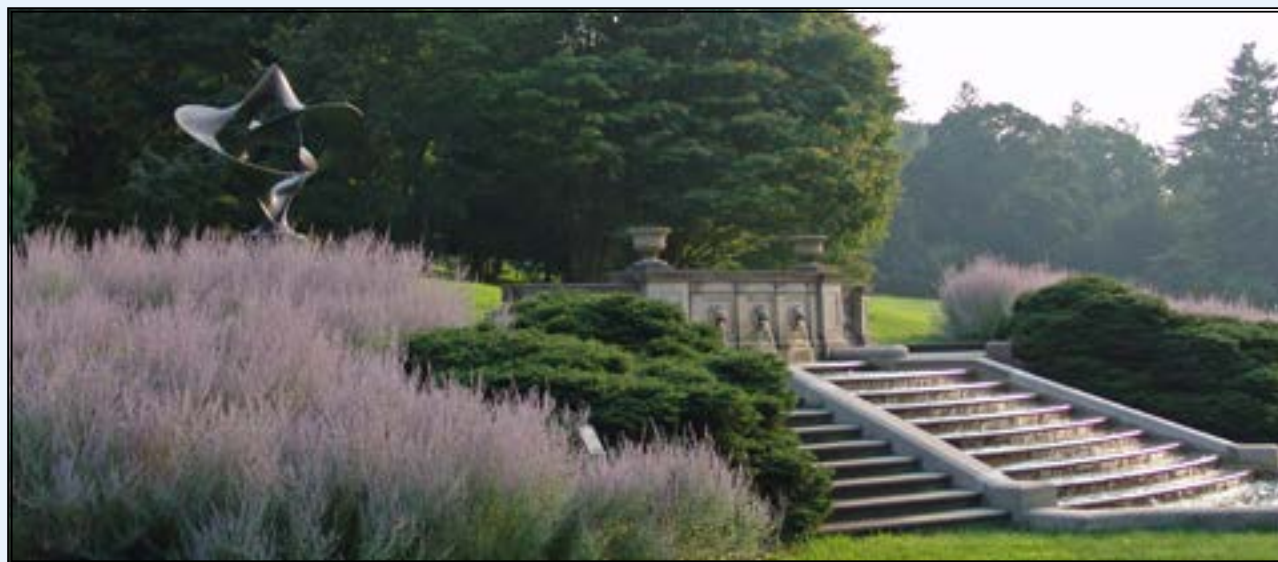


Before 'After B.K.S. Iyengar'



This chestnut tree once stood in the midst of English Park. It was lost to chesnut blight in 1912, only 3 years before John Morris's passing. Following his death Lydia utilized the now open space where the chestnut tree once stood and commissioned a fountain in honor of her brother. The Step Fountain was built in 1916.

Sixty years later American sculptor Robert Engman met B.K.S. Iyengar following a yoga demonstration at Haverford College in 1976. The artist later noted that the demonstration was "the most incredible physical and mental expression I've ever witnessed in my life, barring none." This strong impression inspired the work for the sculpture *After B.K.S. Iyengar*, an abstract representation of the yogi's spirit.



After B.K.S. Iyengar came to Morris Arboretum in 1988 on loan from Marian Garfinkel and Marvin Garfinkel. The bronze sculpture was placed above the Step Fountain and on September 8th Morris Arboretum welcomed both Engman and Iyengar to a sculpture dedication. The dedication and yoga demonstration celebrated the addition of Engman's sculpture as well as the revitalization of flowing water to the Step Fountain.

Photo Courtesy of Paul Meyer

Pictured from left to right: Robert Engman, sculptor; Marian Garfinkel, Chair of the Dedication Committee; B.K.S. Iyengar; India's ambassador to the United States, P.K. Paul; Arboretum Director William Klein.



Photo Courtesy of Steven Goldblatt

'After B.K.S. Iyengar' continued

Jan McFarlan, *Assistant Director, Education and Intern Programs* shared her memory of the *After B.K.S. Iyengar* sculpture dedication that took place at the Arboretum on September 8th, 1988. The sculpture's namesake, B.K.S. Iyengar himself joined the event, performing a yoga demonstration for those who had gathered.



Photos Courtesy of Steven Goldblatt

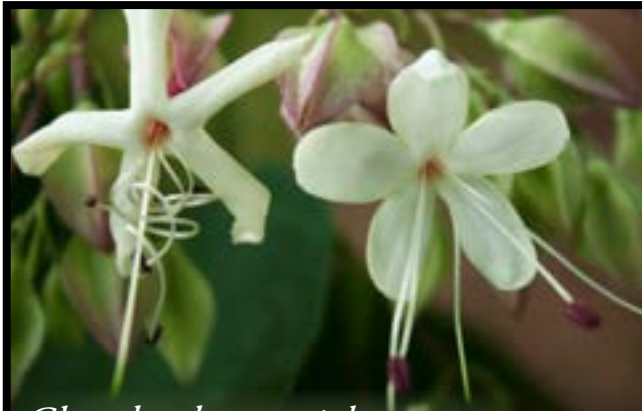
“It was a beautiful day. There was a large crowd. We were seated in chairs just below the water stairs. The new sculpture, *After B.K.S. Iyengar* was just unveiled and the switch was turned on that powered the water to fall over the water stairs.

For the first time in decades water cascaded over the stairs. This was impressive.

A platform had been erected on top of the water stairs. Mr. Iyengar was on top of the platform. He was an older man but looked remarkably fit. He began to do yoga poses that were perfectly executed and difficult to do. In some ways his poses did remind me of the new sculpture.

The crowd loved it and was amazed by his agility. There was lots of murmuring by the crowd because they were so impressed.”

Garden highlights:



Clerodendrum trichotomum
harlequin glorybower
behind the Springhouse



Lagerstroemia 'Tuskegee'
Tuskegee crapemyrtle
Oak Allée



Maackia amurensis
Amur Maackia
parking lot



Cedrus atlantica 'Aurea'
golden Atlas cedar



Cleome spinosa
spider flower
Rose Garden



Perovskia atriplicifolia
Russian sage
Step Fountain

Upcoming Events

September

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day	2 Education Committee noon	3 First Wednesday Talk 12:30pm	4	5	6 Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
7	8	9 Field Trip (see pg. 5) Guides Council 1:30pm	10 Great Plants Committee 10:30am	11	12	13 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm
14	15	16 Guide Fall Refresher 10am-1pm	17	18 Sunshine & Roses 5-7pm	19	20
21 Mill Demonstration Day noon - 3pm	22 Guide Fall Refresher 10am-1pm	23 Retention Committee 1:30pm	24 Programs Committee 10am	25	26	27
28	29	30 Education Committee 1:30pm				

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

Saturdays and Sundays: Welcome Cart 11:00am- 3:00pm

Upcoming Events

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Workday at Governor's Residence (see pg. 7)	2	3	4 Discovery Series 11am - 3pm Fall Festival
5 Fall Festival	6	7	8	9	10	11 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9am - 3pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 Bloomfield Farm Day 12 - 3pm	20	21 Guide Workshop 10:30am- noon	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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