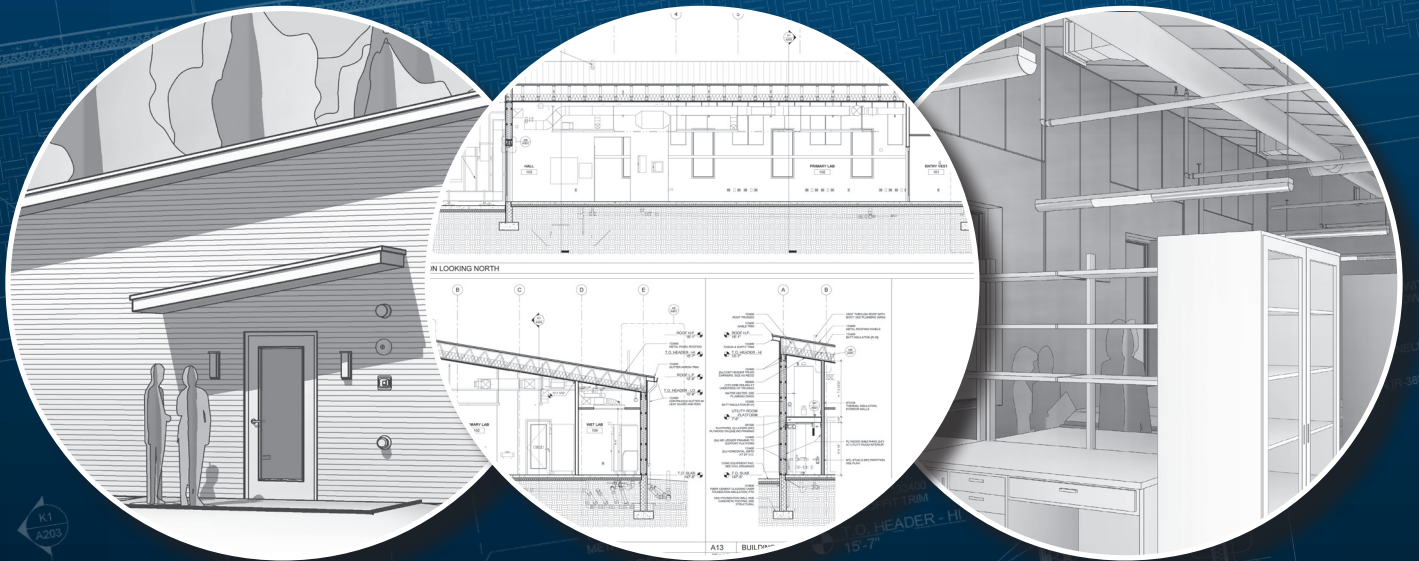


SEASONS

FALL & WINTER 2024

VOLUME 53 NUMBER 2

MORRIS ARBORETUM & GARDENS



Groundbreaking Plant Science Lab



Morris Arboretum
& Gardens

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA





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SEASONS

Morris Arboretum & Gardens
of the UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

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morrisarboretum.org

VISITOR ENTRANCE

100 E. Northwestern Avenue between Germantown and Stenton avenues in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia

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HOLIDAY CLOSURES

Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve
New Year's Day

E-NEWSLETTER

Would you like to receive our monthly e-newsletter and other Morris updates via email? It's a great way for you to stay up to date on upcoming events. Register online and help us save trees! Email members@morrisarboretum.org to be added. To address the problems of spam, many internet service providers (ISPs) and email systems now block or filter email that is not from a "safe sender." Please add info@morrisarboretum.org and members@morrisarboretum.org to your list of accepted senders or friends list if you wish to receive this information.

COVER DESIGN: Imogen Design

COVER GRAPHICS: BKP Architects

INSIDE COVER PHOTO: Bill Cullina

MORRIS RENTALS

Hold your special event in one of Philadelphia's most beautiful settings. The Widener Welcome Center and surrounding grounds are available for weddings, parties, and private and corporate meetings. For details contact the Rentals Team at (215) 247-5777 ext. 158.

A Note from the Executive Director

WILLIAM CULLINA

The F. Otto Haas Executive Director



Looking Ahead to the Next Century

The world is much different than it was when the Morris Arboretum & Gardens first opened its gates to the public in 1933 and even since our first comprehensive site plan was launched in 1978.

While the Gardens have always been—and will continue to be—an exquisite place to engage with nature, relax, and enjoy beautiful gardens, the world beyond these gates now requires more. Institutions like the Morris are de facto arbiters of important public conversations about the impact of climate change and the crucial role of biodiversity. No less important is the Morris’s responsibility to remain a source of superlative environmental outreach and education efforts to ensure that our community is aware of the vastness and complexity of the plant world and our crucial connections to it.

To these ends, the Morris is excited to unveil its new comprehensive site plan, set to guide our journey for the next two decades as the world tries to strike a balance between the health of our planet and the forward march of human innovation. Created by a team led by the outstanding landscape



Top image: Conceptual view of the new accessible boardwalk leading from the Welcome Plaza to the Fernery Terrace. **Bottom image:** New nursery and propagation facility on Bloomfield Farm. **Below:** Conceptual view up the Magnolia Slope to accessible parking and new Welcome Plaza. Renderings by Reed Hilderbrand/Design Distill.



architecture and planning firm Reed Hilderbrand along with local architects at KieranTimberlake, this visionary plan will guide the Morris into its second century in service to our community as an exemplary garden, arboretum, and science research center, ever prepared to advance environmental awareness and knowledge to a broad audience.

The plan's two primary focus areas are 1) to provide a more accessible, welcoming, and enriching guest experience and 2) to significantly expand our plant science footprint. To address the first, the plan includes a transformational redesign of our entrance and arrival, removing the ticket kiosk in favor of a pedestrian welcome terrace and, most critically, establishing additional parking and an elevated boardwalk that leads visitors on a *fully accessible* promenade directly to the Fernery plaza and Rose Garden. This will place most of the core gardens and experiences at roughly the same elevation as parking and arrival, including the Wetland areas and future trails through Bloomfield Farm.

Replacing the current steep climb from parking to gardens with a nearly level stroll will have a profound positive impact on the varied audiences we serve. Moving this additional parking and welcome center down the Magnolia Slope will also make it clearer to those unfamiliar with us that we are a welcoming place to visit. Additionally, we envision new, restored and enhanced gardens, paths and features, greatly expanded event and program space, a café, and improved amenities such as restrooms and eating and gathering spaces.



Above: The 20-year Comprehensive Site Plan for the Morris Arboretum & Gardens. Rendering by Reed Hilderbrand.

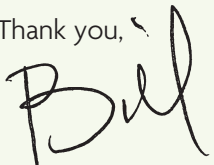
The plan's two primary focus areas are 1) to provide a more accessible, welcoming, and enriching guest experience and 2) to significantly expand our plant science footprint.

To address the second focus area, we are building new lab facilities to accommodate our current and additional research staff, and we have plans to build an even larger lab building in a later phase. Our greenhouses and nursery will also be greatly expanded and relocated to Bloomfield Farm, with work beginning soon.

Broad in its scope and ambition, the comprehensive site plan will occur in three phases over the next 20 years. Embarking on such an ambitious endeavor naturally comes with significant capital investment. The total estimated cost for just the first phase of this plan is projected to be \$25 million. We are proud to announce that the Morris has already secured funding for crucial projects outlined in the plan. Moving forward, we are excited

about the prospect of collaborating with philanthropists and supporters throughout the region to secure additional resources for priority projects that will propel the Morris Arboretum & Gardens into its next century of serving the community with renewed focus and purpose.

As we take these momentous steps toward a greener future, we invite each and every one of you to be a part of this transformative journey. Together, we can set the course for the Morris and ensure that it remains an outstanding public garden and a leading center for plant research, education, and community outreach.

Thank you,


THRIVING THROUGH philanthropy



PROPAGATION EXPANSION AND ENHANCEMENT

Martha “Marty” Wallace and her husband, Edward “Ed” Kane, have made a \$500,000 commitment to expand propagation operations to Bloomfield Farm. Plans for this work originated in the 1977 master plan that guided the development of Morris Arboretum & Gardens from a private estate to a public garden. This expansion of a field nursery and indoor propagation areas will enable the Morris to sustain its position as a leading public garden and research institution for the next century.

Rendering by Reed Hilderbrand/
Design Distill.



PLANT SCIENCE LAB

Over many years an impressive roster of donors has provided generous support to help establish the Morris Arboretum & Gardens Plant Science Lab at Bloomfield Farm. With a new commitment of \$200,000, we are honored to add the McLean Contributionship to that esteemed list of supporters. With groundbreaking scheduled in October 2024, the new facility will support current plant research efforts including specimen-based research and field work on the plants of Pennsylvania.

Design graphic by BKP Architects.



SEVEN ARCHES

Grants from the Arcadia Foundation, Keystone Historic Preservation Program of the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission, and the William B. Dietrich Foundation, along with contributions from the late Joan Citron and Ann and Frank Reed, will enable a historic restoration of this garden feature that dates back to John and Lydia Morris. In addition, a bluestone plaza with seating for visitors and a new interpretive exhibit about the structure will be added.

Rendering by Reed Hilderbrand.



HILL & CLOUD GARDEN

Restoration and enhancement of historic garden features is a perennial need. Significant commitments from Janet S. Klein and Wendy and Walter Foulke have enabled the Morris to develop plans to renew this hidden gem and make it accessible.

Rendering by RAS Landscape Architects.



\$40,000
\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000

MORRIS MEETS THE CHALLENGE!

In June 2024, an anonymous donor issued a \$40,000 challenge to the Morris.

The assignment? Secure 350 Annual Fund and Membership gifts in the month of June alone. Our members and supporters heeded the call and responded generously, with more than 650 supporters purchasing or renewing a membership or making a contribution to the Annual Fund by June 30, 2024. The Morris community's rapid response "unlocked" the \$40,000 challenge, helping us to close out the fiscal year with strong numbers.

The Morris is grateful to its members and Annual Fund donors who support our day-to-day operations and help to ensure that the gardens and garden features are expertly maintained throughout all four seasons.

Thank you!



Using DNA Science to Save Native Plants

NEW LAB WILL EXPAND RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

BY MELLANY ARMSTRONG, Communications Coordinator

Admire the red berries and dark green leaves of an American holly tree in the stark white landscape of a Pennsylvania winter, and you're appreciating the beauty of a native tree.

THAT NATIVE BEAUTY IS BEING THREATENED.

A changing climate that brings more frequent heat waves and longer droughts is stressing the trees and plants in our region and nationally. The harsher conditions are creating a cascade of issues, such as fewer seeds being produced, invasive species moving in, and the altering of the ecosystem.

As a leading public garden and research institution, Morris Arboretum & Gardens is working to save native plants and trees through science. Groundbreaking for the new Morris Arboretum & Gardens Plant Science Lab is set for this fall on the adjacent Bloomfield Farm.

"It's really an important first step for us as part of a larger program to build our research footprint," said Bill Cullina, the F. Otto Haas executive director of the Morris. "The lab will provide space that our current staff needs to understand the genetics of rare as well as abundant species."

The new facility will provide a wet lab space and equipment that researchers will use to complete plant molecular biology and anatomy studies.



Design graphics by BKP Architects.

Research & Conservation

Since its inception as a public garden in 1933, the Morris has served as a center for botanical research. The scientists study the evolution, phylogenetics, systematics, taxonomy, anatomy, and morphology of plants. The Morris also has a longstanding research program in floristics, or the study of what plants grow in a certain place in a particular timeframe, with a major focus on the flora of Pennsylvania.

Native plants are a critical part of our ecosystem, helping to clean the air and water, providing food and shelter for wildlife, and releasing nutrients to fertilize soil. That's why it's important to protect them, said Dr. Timothy Block, the John J. Willaman chair of botany and director of plant science at the Morris. For decades, Block has studied why plant species become rare or threatened or endangered.

"To actually practice conservation of the species, we need to understand why they became rare in the first place," he said. "Understanding the molecular biology of a species is really a critical piece to being able to effectively protect those species."

Botanical scientist Dr. Cynthia Skema said the new lab's molecular biology tools can help answer

questions about plants through DNA analysis, from looking at genetic diversity of a species that's in decline to deciding which individual plants are most important to save or to breed with one another to increase population numbers.

"Any kind of conservation intervention, really, to be done responsibly, needs to have molecular data informing it, and by and large in Pennsylvania, there's very little of that happening yet," she said. "So this will be a big chance to improve that entire effort."

Skema's research involves looking into the DNA and evolution of *Ripariosida hermaphrodita* (Virginia mallow), a globally vulnerable species that is a member of the cotton family (Malvaceae).

"I think it was a very calculated thing for Lydia Morris to give her estate to this large research institution because she wanted there to be continued discovery and generation of new knowledge," Skema said. "And we've done that for decades. I think this new lab is really going to just open the horizons for what we can do."

Construction of the new lab is expected to be completed in early 2025.



Digging into Native Plant Research

The University of Pennsylvania has published "Digging into Native Plant Research," which highlights the importance of native plants and the recently established Jan Albaum and Harry Cerino Native Plant Research Endowment in Memory of Martin Albaum. This endowment will support our Plant Science Department as well as the Morris Arboretum & Gardens Plant Science Lab. Read about it here: morrisarb.org/native-plant-research



LIVING HISTORY

The interior renovation phase will include replacing the arched wood doors. The door closest to Germantown Avenue will have a glass panel so the old pump works will be visible to the public.

“We’d like to restore the pump so that it can move, and we want to put a glass door in there so people can see how it worked,” he said. “It’s a wonderful sort of living history.”

Built by Chestnut Hill stonework master Pringle Borthwick from design specifications by founder John Morris, it was rendered in local rusticated Wissahickon schist. Seven Arches has been a defining architectural feature since 1911. It is also a contributing structure in the Morris’s listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

“We anticipate that with the historic restoration and the addition of new interpretive elements and new plaza, Seven Arches will become a highly visited area of the garden,” said Cullina.

The Seven Arches project is supported by a grant from the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission’s Keystone Historic Preservation Grant Program, a program funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

SPRUCING UP Seven Arches

A structure that offers some of the most beautiful views of the Morris Arboretum & Gardens is set to become even more inviting.

The stone architectural feature known as Seven Arches in the English Park section of the Gardens will be restored and preserved as part of the Morris’s comprehensive site plan. The century-old structure with seven arched doorways will also be enhanced with the addition of a bluestone terrace.

The restoration has three key elements: repointing mortar, installing waterproofing, and replacing asphalt along the entire 114-foot length; adding interpretive elements highlighting the 19th century interior water pump and waterworks; and building a bluestone terrace and surrounding garden that will become a central area for visitors to enjoy.

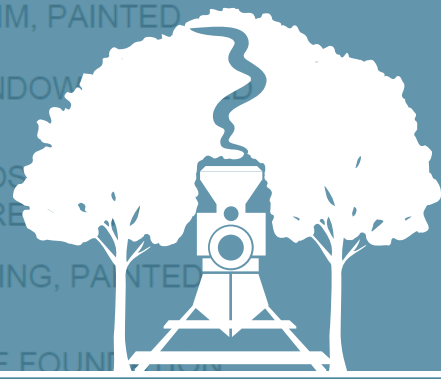
“This new garden and plaza will provide a place to comfortably enjoy the beautiful vistas across English Park,” said Bill Cullina, executive director of the Morris. “We envision being able to have events there. And it’s adjacent to some of our institutional partners, like [Woodmere Art Museum](#) and [Chestnut Hill College](#), so there’s the potential for us to be able to partner with them to do some joint programs.”



Top photo: Stephen Bandura. Bottom: Seven Arches concept by Reed Hilderbrand.

GROUNDBREAKING

in 2025 for New Garden Railway Train Shed



The Garden Railway will have a new look in the new year—the nearby train shed “tent” will be replaced with a structure featuring a playful design inspired by the landmark Chestnut Hill West Station newsstand on Germantown Avenue, complete with crooked fascia.

The new train shed will provide more space, storage, and better shelter to trainmasters Bruce Morrell and his grandson, Josh Faia, and the staff and volunteers who help keep the trains running. Executive Director Bill Cullina says it will enhance the guest experience, increase accessibility, and celebrate the past while embracing the future.

“It’s a really cool project because it solves a functional need of replacing the old canvas tent that’s there now,” said Cullina. “It’s also a celebration of the history of trains and Chestnut Hill, and how trains were so formative to the development of Chestnut Hill and the community.”

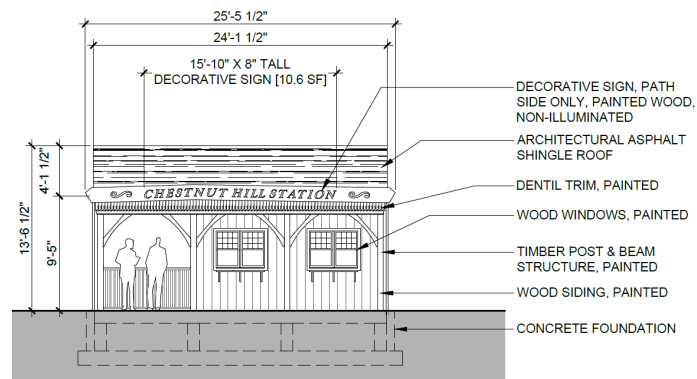
Cullina said while it’s not a scale replica of the newsstand, it will have the same Victorian details—the green, tan, and red paint scheme,

and the iconic and charming crooked roofline. There will be an enclosed space outfitted with benchtops, lighting, and shelving to store the extra trains and equipment. An L-shaped 8-foot-deep porch with seating will provide visitors with shelter from the weather and a great spot to watch the goings-on in the garden.

The new structure comes by way of a \$300,000 commitment by

longtime Morris members Radclyffe “Mike” Thompson and his wife, Maria Thompson, who has been newly elected to the Advisory Board. Their gift will also establish an endowment to ensure ongoing upkeep and maintenance for the new structure.

Construction is expected to begin after the close of the Holiday Garden Railway at the end of December.

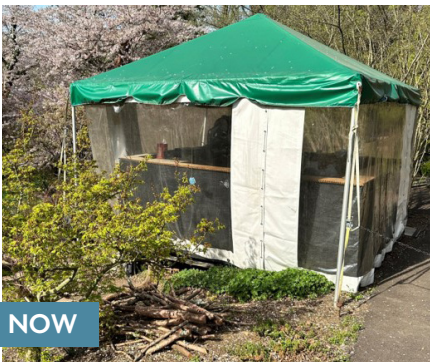


Left: Blueprint design by BKP Architects.

Below left: The current train shed “tent.”

Below center: The iconic Chestnut Hill West station.

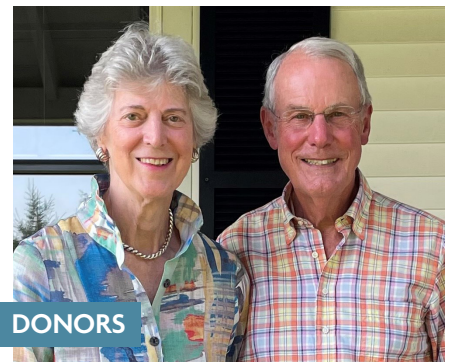
Below right: Maria and Mike Thompson.



NOW



INSPIRATION



DONORS

► BIGGER AND BOLDER

Our colorful exhibition *Exuberant Blooms* drew people and pollinators like hummingbirds and bees all summer long. This modern take on Victorian flower carpets featured more than 10,000 beautiful, bright flowers spread over more than a quarter acre. The display was sponsored in part by Ball Horticultural Company and Powder Mill Foundation.



▲ FUNKY PLANTS

Bromeliads with hot pink spiky flowers, green zebra-striped leaves, and deep tubular barrels that hold rainwater decorated the Paleontologist's Cottage for our Summer of Dinos. Be sure to come back in October to visit the cottage when it is covered with hundreds of pumpkins and gourds—the perfect fall selfie spot!

► HE'S HUGE!

The 25-foot-tall TyrannoMorris Rex surprised and delighted visitors in the Whimsical Woods in July. You can reminisce by watching [this time lapse video](#) of him being set up by members of our facilities and horticulture staffs.



▲ A ROARING GOOD TIME

Guests dressed as their favorite dinosaurs in masks, t-shirts, and inflatable costumes for our Dinosaur Parade in June. They also played dino limbo, looked for fossils and bugs, and did some biped dancing in the Whimsical Woods!

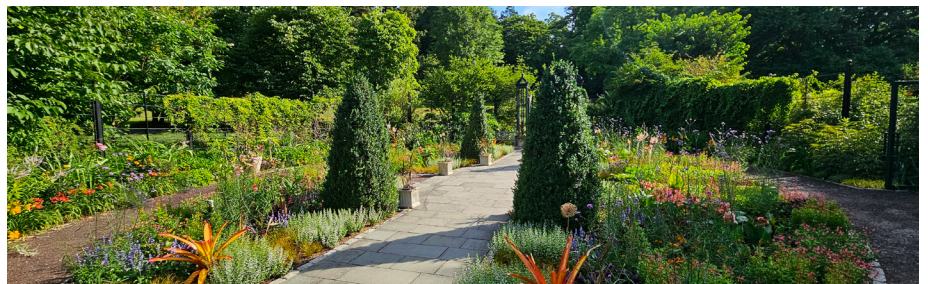
Photos by Mellany Armstrong, Cynthia Schemmer and Sherry Falese.

A Fresh Vision for the Pennock Flower Walk

BY JEN MONICO, Compton Horticulturist



If you have visited the [Alice & J. Liddon Pennock Flower Walk](#) in the past year you may have noticed a slight difference in the treatment of the center beds. Last fall we decided we wanted to present four seasons of color in this garden, with the vision to increase off-season interest as well as saturate the summer with blooms. We removed all existing plant material and added about two inches of compost that was hand-turned into the soil. Into that newly augmented soil we planted over 6,000 pansies in a gradient from deep blue around the center to bright yellow along the outer path. The pop of color looked great throughout the quieter winter months and stepped up in the spring with the arrival of light-yellow narcissus, apricot tulips, and creamy yellow hyacinths.



BLANK CANVAS

Historically, the Pennock Garden was created with the intention of being filled with a sunset color theme. With the opportunity to design on a fresh planting canvas this year, I brought back that theme and created a cohesive design throughout all four beds. In May we began the daunting task of taking out all of those pansies and installing this new summer sunset planting. It is looking full and vibrant with an array of peach, apricot, orange, and a few bright reds, with a foil of purple shades. The show-stopping *Aechmea blanchetiana* 'Hawaii' glows against the airy inflorescence of *Calamintha nepeta* spp. *nepeta* and the purples of *Salvia* 'Unplugged So Blue' and *Strobilanthes dyeriana* 'Persian Shield.' Unifying swaths of *Verbena bonariensis* and *Canna* 'Toucan Coral' carry across the space, their purple and peach blooms dancing above the planting.

Late September will see a re-emergence of the pansy planting but in a fresh color palate. It will be a matrix of saturated moody colors with bright accents. You will just have to come by and see for yourself!



Mid-Atlantic Plant Research CONFERENCE

A FOCUS ON FOREST HEALTH



First-Ever Mid-Atlantic Plant Research Conference at Morris Focuses on Forest Health

On May 31, 2024, the Upper Gallery at the Morris was full to capacity at the first-ever Mid-Atlantic Plant Research Conference, highlighting innovative plant research happening throughout the Mid-Atlantic region, including here at Morris Arboretum & Gardens.

Both in-person and virtual audiences spent the day learning and discussing the intersection of plant science and conservation.

Speakers addressed the way that plants in our region are facing new challenges to their survival, growth, and reproduction due to a variety of threats that includes land-use change, habitat loss, climate change, and more. Participants included professionals in the fields of conservation, forestry, arboriculture, landscape design, and plant science. They came together to learn about the research that can inform our work to address the challenges forests face in the Mid-Atlantic Region in a multi-disciplinary way.

One of the places these challenges are most keenly felt is in our regional forests. Thanks to plant research at the Morris and throughout our region, and conferences like this one that bring together scientists and conservation experts, we can bring our best minds to bear on this issue and work together to protect and preserve plants and their habitats into the future.

For more information on the plant science research happening at Morris, visit: morrisarb.org/research

THE 11TH ANNUAL TREE CANOPY CONFERENCE

Unseen

FRIDAY
October 18, 2024
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

HAVERFORD COLLEGE,
STOKES HALL AUDITORIUM

This annual symposium brings together a variety of green industry professionals and other stakeholders who work with and care about our region's urban forest. Participants will further their knowledge, connect with others in the industry, and gain continuing education units toward their credentials.

While some parts of trees and the green industry are visible, others are underground or less easily observed. Speakers will dive into some of these topics, including soils, fungi, root systems, dendrochronology, trees and the air, the social dimensions of urban forestry, and more. There's an optional walking tour of the Haverford College Arboretum with the Philadelphia Mycology Club, and a separate opportunity for attendees to take a behind-the-scenes tour of Haverford College Arboretum's extensive tree collection.

The conference is a partnership between the Morris Arboretum & Gardens and Haverford College Arboretum. To register, go to morrisarb.org/conferences.



Clara Reyes

Assistant Director of Youth and Visitor Education

Clara Reyes works to make sure kids who visit the Morris Arboretum & Gardens have a positive, fun learning experience, and that experience might just start off with some calisthenics.

“If I’m teaching at summer camp, the first thing I have the kids do is jumping jacks or stretch,” she said. “I know a lot of fun theater games that are quick and easy to focus them in.”

Reyes is the assistant director of youth and visitor education, and her background in theater and dance adds a sense of whimsy to her position. She teaches tap dance on weekends, and stage manages and directs theater productions.

BUILDING A FOUNDATION

TO REYES, WHAT CHILDREN LEARN AT THE MORRIS SHOULD GO DEEPER THAN A LESSON ABOUT TREES AND PLANTS.

“If a kid, in the hour that they’re here for a tour, develops the confidence to even touch a tree, that’s great,” she said. “It’s really to break down the walls so that they can feel uncomfortable but feel confident that they’re safe to have a new experience. And when they’re older, and they look at a tree, they can say, ‘I remember when I went to the Morris and I had a great time.’”

The Education Department also oversees the Morris’s new high school internship program, now in its second year. The program hosts two students each summer who spend time learning skills in horticulture as well as office etiquette ([see page 16](#)). Reyes views this and everything else the department does as very meaningful.

“What I see is a pathway to leadership for these kids, a pathway into this world of horticulture environmental science,” she said. “What we’ve done in the Education Department is sort of turn our view inward to make a community impact. These kids go on to this field, and their dreams will take them wherever they want to go.”

Helping the young students get there is the goal of the annual Outdoor Career Symposium, being held October 9 ([see page 16](#)) at the Morris.

“We want to support all youth, and especially youth in Philadelphia who don’t get the access others might have,” Reyes said. “We want to reach people we haven’t yet.”

“I’m just really excited to put more content out there that allows youth visitors and visitors in general a different kind of way to enjoy the garden,” she added.



Sydney Taylor

Executive Assistant to the F. Otto Haas Executive Director Bill Cullina

Sydney Taylor has been hired as executive assistant to the F. Otto Haas Executive Director Bill Cullina. A native of Philadelphia and graduate of Temple University, Sydney was most recently the office/operations manager for the Make the World Better Foundation, an organization founded by former Eagles linebacker Connor Barwin dedicated to creating parks and open space for the city of Philadelphia. Before that, she worked as an administrative assistant for the Settlement Music School after four years as a flight attendant for American Airlines and a stint in Hollywood working for CBS television.

In her spare time, Sydney is a yoga instructor and owner of a floral design and plant-care business that she runs from her home in Jenkintown.

INTERNSHIP &
FELLOWSHIP
PROGRAM

Here's what
our 2024
interns and
fellows have
been up to....



I spend most days removing invasive plants, watering our new trees, and helping to manage over 100 acres of natural areas. Our restoration practices range from rotational mowing to live staking on stream banks. I've been practicing my plant ID and learning about the most up-to-date ecological restoration techniques. Here's a picture of me on a kayak removing Phragmites and purple loosestrife from the Wetland.

Claire Coss, *The Hay, Honey Farm Natural Areas intern*



I am getting my hands dirty in the greenhouse and learning the ins and outs of propagation methods, including growing from seed, division, and cuttings. Working in the greenhouse, I am learning about the process through which the plants we grow end up getting accessioned and planted out in the gardens, and are sometimes shared with other arboretums. Additionally, I am assisting in the upkeep of the Fernery, where I can often be found thinning and pruning ferns.

Max Dupont, *The Martha J. Wallace Plant Propagation fellow*



I'm learning all aspects of tree care and maintenance. A lot of our time on the arboriculture team is spent planting new trees and ensuring healthy growth through watering and pruning. We also handle hazards and removals as needed.

Luke Foering, *The Walter W. Root Arboriculture intern*



I am learning all about land stewardship and how to tackle invasive plants. I'm also assisting in a variety of projects to continue the transformation of the former grazing lands at the Morris into healthy meadows, wetlands, and forest. It has been such an enjoyable experience working with and learning from the staff, interns, and volunteers.

Zachary Gillespie, *The Hay, Honey Farm Natural Areas intern*



I've learned so much at the Morris, including hands-on experience planting and designing garden beds, making potting arrangements, and pruning. Some of my favorite things have been live staking in the Natural Areas and laying out and maintaining the herb garden. We've been doing a bunch of plant walks and plant ID practice, too.

Wren Lucas, *The Charles S. Holman Jr. Rose & Flower Garden intern*



I have enjoyed furthering my knowledge of native plants and weeds, pruning roses, and networking with other gardeners and staff. I am excited to learn more about education, and plan to focus much of my attention on the therapeutic and healing qualities of plants. I'll apply this knowledge to educational and healing programs for marginalized communities.

Kelsey Tagg, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock Jr. Horticulture intern*



With the Urban Forestry Department, I help manage the trees on Penn's campus, consult with clients about their tree needs, and advocate for trees throughout the Philadelphia region. I also participate in outreach events, and I recently remediated mulch volcanoes during an event in Whitmarsh Township.

Matt Walker, *The Martha S. Miller and Rusty Miller Urban Forestry fellow*



I've created public programming, hosted monthly Fossil Fridays (requiring me to expand my repertoire of dinosaur-related facts and activities), designed a map to help visitors interact with Morris's prehistoric plants and resident dinosaurs, created a six-week summer curriculum for our middle school camp, provided support for the counselors and campers, and found out that yes, the skills I developed as a classroom teacher for the past 35 years can translate beyond the classroom.

June Murray, *The McLean Contributionship Youth and Visitor Education intern*



I have been working to resurvey populations of *Carex polymorpha*, a plant imperiled in Pennsylvania and vulnerable globally. I am attempting to answer questions about its growth habits, distribution, and general ecology through abiotic measurements of its surrounding habitat. These two arms of research will better inform management practices for *C. polymorpha* and contribute to our knowledge of why rare plants grow where they grow.

Troy Tetreault, *The Eli K. Price Plant Science fellow*



I have been busy planning our fall course catalog and conferences. It's been a fun challenge to engage with participants and learn emerging interests and create forward-thinking but foundationally grounded offerings. As an enjoyable side project, I've developed a children's soils science program for our summer camps/schools out days. This program raises awareness of topsoil loss, and of soil's essential ecosystem and crucial role it plays in our lives.

Charlie Wilson, *The McLean Contributionship Adult Education intern*

1 Summer High School Intern Learns New Skills

Although it was Malcolm Wardlaw's second summer internship at the Morris, it was the first time he worked in a canoe.

"I was in the Wetland cutting down Phragmites, and some of them were out of reach," he said. "If you go too far out, it's a bunch of water. So I got into the canoe. I was a little scared at first, but once I started getting used to it, it was nice."



Wardlaw is a rising senior at Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School on Spring Lane in Philadelphia. He's learning how a public garden functions under Morris Arboretum & Gardens' plan to provide work experience and career-building skills for high school students.

Wardlaw spent this internship working in the Horticulture department. He learned to use a handsaw to cut down invasive plants, and he removed weeds in various areas of the Gardens.

Morris will be a host site for two students from Lankenau high school for the coming school year. These students will spend two days a week rotating through all departments from September through May.

2 Planting the Seeds for Future Careers

Philadelphia high school students are learning how they can get on the leafy green path to a career working outdoors.

That's what Morris Arboretum & Gardens' 13th annual Outdoor Career Symposium is all about. Sixty students in grades 10 through 12 are invited to connect with professionals who work in horticulture, landscape architecture, public gardens and the like on October 9, 2024.

"If you love nature, there are many ways to manifest that into a career," said Clara Reyes, assistant director of youth and visitor education. "The Morris is a place where we want their brains and we want their talent. So, if they are interested in any kind of career in horticulture, in the green space, we are available to them."

The invited students from four high schools get time to mingle, and then professionals from the various industries have roundtable discussions with them.

Most career experts come from Philadelphia-based environmental organizations, creating representation for students who may not know that these opportunities exist in Philadelphia. The afternoon is filled with outdoor workshops, including one on how to safely climb a tree using arborist equipment.

"We want to get kids excited about plants and science at a time when they are thinking about their future," said Bryan Thompson-Nowak, director of education. "Pairing them with professionals shows them job opportunities that they may not have even thought of."





◀◀ SPRING WEATHER

CBS Philadelphia came to the Morris March 19 to find out when is the [best time to start spring gardening](#), as well as what to do in the cold snap that hit during the vernal equinox. Reporter Jasmine Payoute talked with Director of Horticulture Vince Marrocco on a chilly day in the Rose Garden.

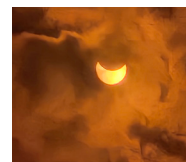
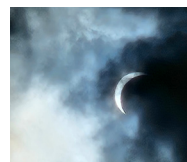


▲ WE'RE TALKING FLOWERS

Fox 29 Live with Bill Anderson visited the Morris on March 18 to learn more about what was [blooming in early spring](#) from Lead Horticulturist Erin Monda and Director of Horticulture Vince Marrocco.

▼▶ CELESTIAL SHOW

Hundreds of people looked above the treetops at the Morris on April 8 to see a partial eclipse of the sun. Families and folks of all ages watched through solar eclipse glasses, cereal box viewers, and special telescopes in what was a party atmosphere. Assistant Director of Youth and Visitor Education Clara Reyes showed NBC10 how a cereal box viewer works. The next total solar eclipse that can be seen from the contiguous United States will be on August 23, 2044.



◀ BEAUTIFUL BLOSSOMS

Jan Carabeo of CBS Philadelphia talked with Director of Horticulture Vince Marrocco on March 22 about how [cherry trees were blossoming](#) earlier than usual.



THE NATURAL WORLD AS A PLACE TO

Learn

BY STEPHANIE BRUNEAU
Assistant Director of Adult Education

Can you imagine loving your workplace so much that you go there on the weekends, just for fun, with your kids in tow? This would be hard to believe in many work environments, but that's the reality for me here at the Morris. Aren't I lucky?

Photo credits, left to right: Paul W. Meyer, Julia Lehman, Paul W. Meyer

On the weekends we stay outside, and I let my kids lead the way. Where should we go? I ask. We head down to the Wetland to look at the turtles, over to the katsura-tree for a picnic in the shade, or down to the creek by the Log Cabin to play Poohsticks at the bridge.

We invited some friends from out of town to join us—they'd never been to the Morris before. "Is there a kids play area there?" our friends asked. "The whole place is a kids play area!" my child exclaimed. It's true. There is the Garden Railway, of course, and *Out on a Limb*, both designed especially with children in mind. But really, the whole arboretum and gardens are a child's wonderland—huge and sprawling, yet safe and contained, with natural elements that engage all of their senses. We ended up down by the creek, where the kids spent the afternoon stacking smooth rocks by the East Brook and making a tiny fairy village they named "Potato Town East."

When I'm at the Morris during the week, I am a part of the Education Department, working with my colleagues to coordinate learning experiences for kids and adults. Our education programs aim to help students of all ages observe, question, and experiment to better understand our natural world. What lives, grows, and breaks down at the

Morris? How do we take good care of the plants and natural systems in our stewardship? How do parts of a system affect each other?

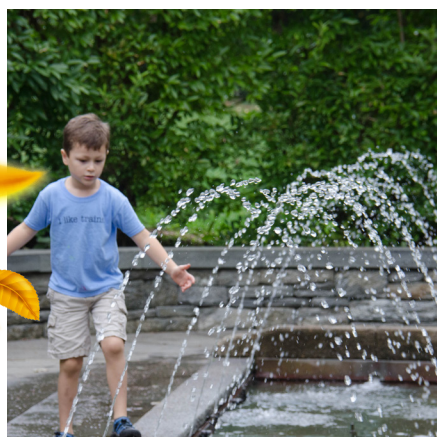
With a firm belief that playing and learning outside sparks curiosity and wonder that persists, the Morris has been offering outdoor educational opportunities since the 1970s. Interest has never been stronger than it is today. Youth visitation to the Morris has been rising steadily, and this past spring summer camp enrollment sold out the day that it opened. Adult education courses, from Rose Pruning to Moonlight Mindfulness, have had full rosters of students throughout the season. There is clearly a desire on behalf of both kids and their adults to get out in nature, learning and playing.

There are so many benefits of using nature as a play space and a classroom in both formal and informal ways. As 'Potato Town East' so perfectly illustrates, being in nature fosters creativity. Whereas structured play environments like safety-surfaced playgrounds have rigid ways to play and rules for use, nature play is open-ended. A slide, for instance, might be fun for children, but it doesn't engage other parts of the brain like creative thinking or problem solving. Playing outdoors with natural elements is less prescriptive. Pebbles, branches,

dirt, leaves – children can make up their own games and rules, engaging many parts of their mind as they play.

Nature play encourages us to use all our senses and to connect with the broader environment. How does the leaf/bark/pebble feel? How does it smell? For kids, this can be a much richer experience than indoor play with manufactured toys. For adults, we are inspired to put down our phones, to breathe a little bit deeper than we do during the workweek. We are reminded of the deeper truths that are easy to forget in the rush of daily life. As Albert Einstein famously remarked, "Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better."

The Morris has many different ecosystems on site. Each is a classroom with a different set of lessons. There's a creek for turning over rocks and building dams; the Wetland for spotting turtles and birds; the meadow for finding monarch caterpillars on the milkweed; the forest, and more. Are you inspired to come learn in our classrooms? Learning from nature at the Morris is a fun and rewarding experience that will last a lifetime. Come explore on your own or see what formal learning we're planning for kids of all ages at morrisarboretum.org/learn-discover.





Moonlight & Roses

JUNE • 07 • 2024

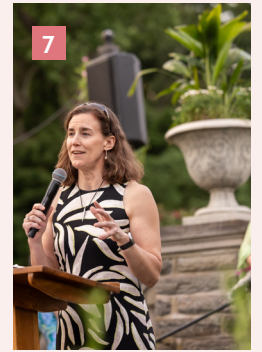
Moonlight & Roses took place on Friday, June 7, with more than 450 guests in attendance. This year we honored Joseph Manko, environmental law pioneer, along with Comcast NBCUniversal Environment. The evening began with cocktails in the Rose Garden, followed by dinner and dancing, featuring a live band in our signature clear-top tent. Total revenue raised from this year's event was \$355,000, with all net proceeds supporting the Morris's operations. Thank you to everyone who attended and supported the event, especially our lead sponsor, Independence Blue Cross.

Save the date for next year's Moonlight & Roses, June 6, 2025.

1. Ana Pujols-McKee and Ted McKee
2. Evan Pruitt, Shuchi Rogers, Julie Shaffer, and Christine Wilmerding
3. Guests of Field Operations
4. 2024 Moonlight & Roses Individual Honoree Joseph Manko
5. Guests of Independence Blue Cross along with Lisa and Jack Heuer (second and third from the left)
6. Peter and Lily Ferry, Emmeline and Romeo Abella
7. Sara Cronenwett speaking on behalf of the 2024 Moonlight & Roses Institutional Honoree Comcast NBCUniversal Environment
8. May Belle Rauch, Lawrie Harris, Penelope (Penny) Harris, Susan Catherwood, RuthMarie Colket, Ellen Nalle Hass, Susie Saunders, Margaret Wallis
9. Bob Victor and Lexa Edsall
10. Tasha Taylor-Igbanol and Ryan Igbanol
11. 2024 Moonlight & Roses planning committee chair Ruth Chang with husband Tai Chang
12. Guests of Springer Capital

Photos by Eddy Marengo.







Her legacy reminds us of the enduring power of generosity, friendship, and advocacy—values that continue to shape the Morris’s vision for the future.

IN MEMORIAM

Remembering Edith Robb Dixon (1932 – 2024)

Prominent philanthropist Edith R. Dixon, affectionately known as Edie, left an indelible mark on the Morris Arboretum & Gardens through her steadfast dedication and generous support.

As a member of the Morris Board of Advisors from 2014 to 2023, Edie played a pivotal role in the ongoing refurbishment of the Widener Welcome Center, a historic building that underwent a remarkable transformation with her support and guidance. Her generosity paved the way for the expert restoration of the building’s exterior—featuring a beautifully designed plaza, ADA accessible entrances, meticulous masonry work, and a new historically sensitive roof. Inside, Edie’s contributions led to the installation of modern systems and the creation of inviting public spaces that enhance the visitor experience.

Edie’s connection to the Morris ran deep. She was a member of the Morris for decades and resided for many years at the neighboring Erdenheim Farm along with her husband, Fitz Eugene Dixon Jr. Though she eventually sold the farm, she continued to remain close to the Morris. Edie joined a small group of travelers in 2011 on a Morris-sponsored trip to New Zealand. Just a few years later, Edie joined the Morris’s Advisory Board, where she remained for three full terms of service. As a board member, Edie’s no-nonsense demeanor, sharp wit, and dedication made her a beloved figure among her peers. Her sense of humor brought joy to board meetings, creating moments of laughter and camaraderie.

In 2016, the Morris celebrated Edie as the individual honoree at its annual Moonlight & Roses gala, a tribute that highlighted her outstanding contributions and friendship. Although she usually shied away from the limelight, she radiated utter delight as she was driven through the gardens in a golf cart adorned with flowers and lights, an homage to her vibrant and generous spirit.

Beyond her philanthropy at the Morris, Edie was a passionate advocate for improving accessibility for the disabled, offering valuable insights and guidance to the Morris’s leadership. Her legacy as a catalyst for inclusivity continues to inspire ongoing efforts to make the garden a welcoming and accessible place for all.

Though her absence is keenly felt at the Morris, her memory lives on as a testament to the profound impact she had on this community. Her legacy reminds us of the enduring power of generosity, friendship, and advocacy—values that continue to shape the Morris’s vision for the future.

LEADERSHIP AT THE MORRIS

Welcoming our Newest Advisory Board Members

The Morris Arboretum & Gardens is honored to introduce its newest board members, whose first three-year terms began in July 2024.



**DIANE E.
Newbury**

A well-known figure in Philadelphia's gardening and horticulture communities, Diane is a cultural resources historian who has worked with preservation architects, museums, and archaeologists. She earned her BA in art history from Beaver College (now Arcadia) and her MA in historic preservation from the University of Pennsylvania.

Diane and her husband live in Philadelphia in a house that they restored over 25 years ago. The two-acre garden developed over the years has been featured in the *Philadelphia Inquirer* and has been open for the Garden Conservancy Open Days.



**SUSAN "SUZY"
Schurr**

Suzy is a director of The Jane and Leonard Korman Family Foundation. She is a lifelong learner, researcher and teacher of health and healing. She is a holistic health coach, having been trained at the Institute for Integrative Nutrition in New York City in 2011.

Suzy completed the Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction program at the Myrna Brind Center for Mindfulness at Jefferson Hospital in 2011. She also volunteered at the Villanova office of the Brind-Marcus Center for Integrative Medicine, helping to plan events for the community by introducing families to integrative health.

Suzy lives with her husband in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania, and Naples, Florida.



**MARIA MULLEN
Thompson**

A proud Penn alumna (GR80), Maria is a respected architectural historian and is a seasoned volunteer in nonprofits across the region. She has served on the board of directors and as secretary of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia.

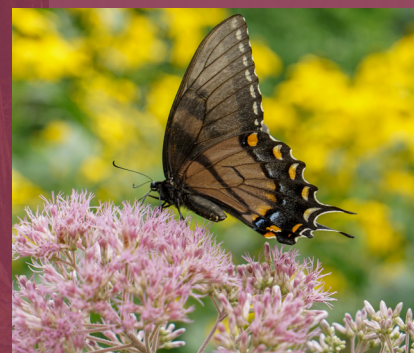
Maria has also served on the board of the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania and on the vestry of the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, in addition to currently serving as a member of the Library and Archives Committee at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. She is the vice president of the Library Company and has been a shareholder since 1984. She is a member and past president of The Weeders garden club and served on several national committees of the Garden Club of America.

Gardening in a Changing Climate

As temperatures fluctuate and weather patterns become less predictable, home gardeners and landscape professionals must adapt their practices to ensure the health and vitality of their plants and the sustainability of our landscapes.

In fall 2024 the Morris Arboretum & Gardens is running a special programming series exploring a variety of strategies and techniques for successful gardening amidst the challenges of a changing climate. Through a combination of interactive discussions, the presentation of successful case studies, and private garden site visits, participants will gain skills and confidence to navigate the complexities of gardening in an era of environmental uncertainty, while simultaneously fostering a deeper connection to the natural world and a commitment to sustainable stewardship.

SEE OUR COMPLETE OFFERING OF CLASSES AT MORRISARB.ORG/CLASSES!



LECTURES

Native Trees, Shrubs and Vines for a Warmer Future

BILL CULLINA

F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Morris Arboretum & Gardens

We must be proactive, promoting and planting species that will thrive in our changing climate. In this online talk, Bill Cullina, the F. Otto Haas Executive Director of the Morris Arboretum & Gardens, will showcase species that show great promise in the rapidly warming Northeast and Mid-Atlantic.

Thursday, October 17 (ONLINE) // 6:00 – 7:30 pm



Xeriscape Gardening & Green Roof Tour

RYAN DRAKE

McCausland Natural Areas Manager, Morris Arboretum & Gardens

Gardening with little or no irrigation can save time and water while still providing lush, floriferous gardens. Participants will learn about xeriscaping, and then tour the green rooftops at Morris Arboretum & Gardens' Bloomfield Farm.

Friday, October 25 // 10:30 am – 12:00 pm

Successful Stormwater Management at Home

JOHN MAJDIC

Landscape Designer, GreenWeaver Landscapes

Join us for a program exploring practical strategies for managing stormwater on a residential scale. You will leave with an understanding of a variety of green infrastructure techniques that could be implemented on your own property.

Thursday, November 7 // 6:00 – 7:30 pm



Ecological Edible Landscaping

RICHIE MITCHELL

Owner, Bear Creek Organics

Join us for a presentation packed with ideas, examples, and explanations of how to work with edible fruits, nuts, berries, and native plants in your own yard.

Saturday, October 5 // 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

PRIVATE GARDEN TOURS

GREEN LIGHT PLANTS PRIVATE GARDEN VISIT

Landenberg, PA

Pawpaws and More: Native and Permaculture Plants for a Resilient Garden



DALE HENDRICKS

Founder, North Creek Nurseries; Owner, Green Light Plants LLC

Dale's home and plant nursery sit on a 12-acre piece of a formerly abandoned farm. Dale will take us on a tour of the land where we will see a variety of garden areas, lots of lovely woodland and prairie native plants, a small nursery area, and several food forest plantings that include walnuts, pawpaws, persimmon, and a plethora of other multi-functional trees.

Friday, September 27 // 1:00 – 4:00 pm

WEATHERWOOD FARM VISIT

Revitalizing a Piece of Bucks County's Ecological Heritage, Doylestown, PA



DAVID HUGHES

Landscape Architect Specializing in Native Plants and Ecological Design

Join us for a private guided tour of this 4-acre property. Purchased in 2014, this woodland area that was once overbrowsed by deer and overrun by invasive plants is now a thriving forest-floor community of native plants.

Friday, October 4 // 1:00 – 4:00 pm

GOOD HOST PLANTS PRIVATE GARDEN VISIT

Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, PA

JOHN JANICK

Owner, Good Host Plants Native Plant Nursery

In the native plant nursery that he runs out of his home in Mt. Airy, Philadelphia, John Janick works to promote biodiversity by growing straight-species native plants. Join us on-site at John's home and the site of his nursery and learn about how John turned a weedy property covered with invasives into the healthy woodland, aquatic habitat, and thriving native meadow we'll see together.

Saturday, October 5 // 1:00 – 2:30 pm



RETIREMENT

PATRICE SUTTON

Patrice Sutton has retired after nearly 25 years of service to the Morris Arboretum & Gardens.

Her love of plants led her to the Morris and a position as assistant to Executive Director Paul Meyer in March 2000. When Bill Cullina was hired as executive director in 2019, Patrice was pleased to stay on as Bill's assistant to help navigate the transition, operations during COVID, and to work on master planning.

During her tenure, Patrice not only managed the day-to-day goings-on in the director's office and served as Advisory Board liaison, but she also project-managed myriad key initiatives such as three Patrick Dougherty installations, the Morris's museum and Arb-Net accreditations, personnel searches and recruiting, and board and staff events.

In her retirement, Patrice plans to travel, expand her gardens, and spend more quality time with her friends.



AWARD

PETER FIXLER

Chief Arborist Peter Fixler has been named 2023 Production Arborist of the Year by the Penn-Del Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Fixler was presented with the award at Penn-Del ISA's 59th Annual Shade Tree Symposium in honor of his contribution to advancing quality arboriculture through innovation, selflessness, and the promotion of safe work practices. He teaches the Morris's arboriculture interns each year how to safely climb trees and trains them in current arboricultural practices. His work comprehensively reduces tree-related risk at the Morris Arboretum & Gardens and beyond.

Above, Fixler is pictured with his 2023 Production Arborist of the Year award.

Photo courtesy of Penn-Del ISA

October is ArBOOretum Month



We're getting into the Halloween spirit this October at Morris ArBOOretum & Gardens! For the 17th annual Scarecrow Design Contest, our theme will be **VILLAINS!** Whether a misunderstood underdog or a mischievous nemesis, we are excited for a fun and frightful show! Scarecrows will be on display from October 1 through October 31. The top three entries, as selected through on-site voting by our visitors, will win prizes of \$300, \$200, and \$100. Scarecrow frames are generously provided by Tague Lumber.

Be sure to register for our **Scavenger Hunt & Costume Dance Party**, happening **October 17, 5:00 to 7:00 pm**. Fun for the whole family at just \$30 per car!

An Evening of Storytelling with the Lenape Nation of PA

In honor of Native American Heritage Month, you are invited to join the Morris Arboretum & Gardens and Woodmere Art Museum as we welcome Indigenous voices in an evening of storytelling with Chief Adam Waterbear DePaul, storykeeper of the Lenape Nation of Pennsylvania, along with other voices from the Lenape Nation of PA. We will hear stories of Lenape history, language, and culture, and will be treated to drumming and singing by the Stone Dog Drum. The program will take place at the Woodmere Art Museum, 9201 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118. To register, go to morrisarb.org/lectures.

Thursday, November 21 // 6:30 – 8:30 pm
Members: \$20 // Non-members: \$25



GARDEN RAILWAY & HGR: Nighttime Express

Make your holiday even more magical with a visit to the Holiday Garden Railway, as it is transformed for the season with thousands of twinkling lights! See the enchanting rail cars in a festive wonderland of lights and sounds, a marvelous experience for visitors of all ages. The Holiday Garden Railway will be open daily beginning November 23, and it's free with general admission.

See the Holiday Garden Railway at night for an even more spectacular experience! With laser lights in the trees and sparkling lights along the railway, HGR: Nighttime Express is a must-see. Available only with advance tickets.

SAVE THE DATE:

Premier Member Nights are December 5 and 6!

HGR: Nighttime Express Dates

4:30 – 8:00 pm

Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		Nov 30	Dec 1
		Dec 7	Dec 8
Dec 12	Dec 13	Dec 14	Dec 15
Dec 19	Dec 20	Dec 21	Dec 22

HGR: Nighttime Express Pricing

Member Adult: \$17
Member Youth (3-17): \$10
Member Child: FREE

Adult: \$22
Youth (3-17): \$12
Child: FREE

TRIBUTE & MEMORIAL GIFTS

The Morris Arboretum & Gardens is grateful to the following donors who made tribute and memorial gifts between March 1, 2024, and July 31, 2024.

In memory of Martin Albaum

Jane Albaum
Maureen & David Newman
Wendy & Thomas Soldini

In honor of Bonnie Berch

Gena & Sonny Gorasht

In memory of Seashell Dawson

Eric Dawson

In memory of Karen Detwiler

John Detwiler

In memory of Edith Dixon

Kristen Casalenuovo
Leslie Crane
Mira Zergani

In honor of Diana & Stuart Donaldson

Mary Jane Raymond

In honor of Erica Erignac

Elizabeth de Forest

In memory of Sally Gendler

Amanda & James Rice

In memory of Fern Goldstein

Claire Holahan

In memory of Joseph Kaufman

Judy & Hal Bendit
Julie, Levi, Gabe, & David Cooper
Debbie Erfer & Peter Bernstein
Michele & Mark Helfaer
Susan Lander
Maureen & Harold Marcus
Betsy & Lou Narrow
Randi Rapkin
Residents of Trianon Apartments
Sandra Sacks
Keith Shivley
Nancy, Richie, & Jon Stark
Ellen Ufberg & Judy Horwitz

In honor of Joseph Manko

Carol & Horace Barsh
John Binswanger
Vikram Dewan
Linda & Gene Manko
Sandra & David Marshall
Constance & Sankey Williams

In memory of Paul Meyer

Carol & Richard Collier
Phoebe Driscoll
Janet & John Haas
Leslie Morris-Smith & Howard Smith
Christine & Stefan Riesenfeld
Debra Rodgers
Patricia & Clarence Wurts

In memory of Jennie Miller

Kaitlin, Mike, Michael, &
Kyden Russomano

In honor of Nina Schneider

Huntingdon Valley Garden Club

In memory of Marion Schultz

Thomas Schultz

In memory of John Shober

Elizabeth Shober

In memory of Lori Snodgrass

Dolli Darah
Chrisy & Roger Jones
Eric Van Gelder

In honor of Patrice Sutton

Tracy Hawkins

In memory of Iana Turner

Mary Ann Morell

In memory of Mary Louise Young

Lucille, Joe, & Matthew Kwasizur
Mary Jo Serfass

Plan a Charitable Bequest

Throughout the Morris Arboretum & Gardens' 90-year history as a public garden, bequeathed gifts have proven to be an important source of individual support—the first being that from Lydia Thompson Morris. These gifts help to preserve and enhance the Morris's vast living collection, expand research, and increase educational outreach—strengthening our organizational commitment to the understanding of the environment and its changes.

When planning a gift, consider a charitable bequest. A gift from your will can be structured in a variety of ways. It can be in the form of cash or property, or a percentage of the remainder of your estate. Including the Morris Arboretum & Gardens in your will could be an advantageous component of your plans, reducing your taxable estate while furthering your philanthropic goals. Individuals who name Morris Arboretum & Gardens as a beneficiary in their will are recognized as members of the Lydia Morris Legacy Society and the Charles Custis Harrison Society for their generous support.



**FOR INFORMATION,
INCLUDING CUSTOMIZED
LANGUAGE SPECIFIC TO
YOUR GIVING, CONTACT:**

Alison E. Thornton
*Senior Associate Director
of Development*

Morris Arboretum &
Gardens of the
University of Pennsylvania
100 East Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

215.247.5777 ext. 105
alisonth@upenn.edu
giving.upenn.edu/gift-planning

SAVE THE DATE

Member Plant Giveaway

**Member Plant Giveaway Weekend
for all Members:**

Saturday, May 17, 2025 • 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Sunday, May 18, 2025 • 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Premier Members First Access Night:

Friday, May 16, 2025 • 4:00 – 6:00 pm

Trees, shrubs, choice ferns, and perennials were among this year's offerings at our Member Plant Giveaway in May. For three days, members were welcomed to Bloomfield Farm to select their plants and celebrate the love of gardening. If you're not already a member, consider joining at morrisarb.org/membership to receive this fun and unique benefit!



Photos by Cynthia Schemmer




MORRIS ARBORETUM MEMBERSHIP




A Gift of All Seasons

Giving the gift of a Morris Arboretum & Gardens membership as a holiday gift is an easy choice. Your recipients receive an entire year of unlimited garden admission, it is zero-waste, and it enhances wellness by getting your loved ones outdoors in a beautiful natural setting.

THERE ARE TWO EASY WAYS TO PURCHASE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP:

 Visit our website morrisarb.org/membership to purchase anytime. Customizable gift certificates are available to download and present to your gift recipient while their membership is being processed.

 Reach the membership office directly at 215-247-5777 ext. 205, Monday–Friday, 9 am–5 pm.

To ensure your gift is postmarked by December 22, orders must be received by December 16.

Morris Arboretum & Gardens Shop

From informative botanical books, to locally crafted goods, to toys for curious young minds, the Morris Arboretum & Gardens Shop strives to offer an assortment of items that will inform, engage, and inspire love and appreciation for the natural world around us.



MEMBERS GET
10%
OFF EVERYTHING!