

# VOLUNTEER

MAY 2013



Morris Arboretum  
UNIVERSITY 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 a 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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enjoy the gardens

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arbor day fun

Image: Arnold Winkler

## Letter from the Editor

### May 2013

It's May and the Arboretum is resplendent with flowers blooming, ferns unfurling, and trees leafing out. Though mesmerizing, we have tasks at hand. This month, we'll need all the help we can get with the annual Plant Sale. There are multiple shifts you can sign up for (and for which you can receive a 20% discount coupon). There are other treats in store this month: a volunteer workshop with Dr. Tim Block, *The John J. Willaman Director of Botany*, and a volunteer trip to Ringwood State Park. You can even start your vacation early by checking out some trips in our [course brochure](#). Have fun in the gardens!

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship*  
*Endowed Education Intern*



## Intern Trip Corner

The interns recently met with Danica Doroski, former Plant Propagation Intern and the current New York Restoration Project Volunteer Coordinator. We explored two sites in particular: Sherman Creek Park's restored wetland and Highbridge Park's reforestation project. We had a great time exploring these spaces in the upper eastern portion of Manhattan. Afterward, we went to Fort Tryon Park and took in the expansive views of lower Hudson River and the New Jersey Palisades.





## notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

This is the tale of a tree. It is a Callery pear tree that was growing in a planter near Building 5 of the World Trade Center since the 1970's. She bloomed every year. After the 9/11 attack, she disappeared under the fallen towers. In October, a clean-up worker found her smashed and pinned beneath blocks of concrete. She was decapitated, had eight feet of charred trunk, broken roots and only one living branch. The Deputy Director of Central Forestry for the NYC Parks Department thought she was unsalvageable, but the clean-up workers convinced him to give it a try. She was taken to the nursery of the Van Cortland Park in the Bronx. Her dead burned sections were cut away, her roots trimmed, and she was planted in good soil. She grew and was named "Survivor." In 2010, a dreadful storm with 100 mph winds uprooted her. It took several weeks of work and a heavy duty boom truck to get the now 30 foot "Survivor" upright. She survived again. Several years later she was replanted near the footprint of the South Tower where she stands proudly upright. Her most damaged side faces the public and many people said that she "spoiled" the landscape. But on the 10th anniversary of 9/11, when the memorial site was opened to survivors and family members, many of them tied blue ribbons onto "Survivor's" branches. Hope!

(*Smithsonian*, March, 2013)

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, *Chair of the Guides*



# events and lectures



Image: Morris Arboretum Staff

Thursday, May 9 - Saturday, May 11

## Plant Sale

Have fun and earn a 20% discount coupon. Volunteers are still needed from Tuesday through Saturday to help with set-up and the sale. Signing up has gone on-line this year. Follow this link [bit.ly/volunteerPS](http://bit.ly/volunteerPS) and select the dates and times that work for you. Questions?

Contact Michelle Conners at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or 215-247-5777 ext. 109.

click here ➔ [bit.ly/volunteerPS](http://bit.ly/volunteerPS)

## Volunteer Workshop - No RSVP Needed

May 17 | 10:30 - 12pm

### Seeing the Forest and the Trees

Dr. Timothy A. Block,  
*The John J. Willaman Director of Botany*

This talk focuses on the history of discovery, use, and abuse of Pennsylvania's forests. We'll look at impacts on forest ecosystems and discuss the current and potential future conditions of our forest communities.

Saturday, May 25 | 1:00 - 3:00pm

## Garden Railway Opening: Around the World in an Afternoon!

This summer, Morris Arboretum's Garden Railway will transport visitors to the far ends of the earth. Spanning the globe, visitors will experience magical visits to The Great Wall of China (China), The Leaning Tower of Pisa (Italy), Hagia Sophia (Istanbul), Tikal (Guatemala) Maachu Picchu (Peru), Petra (Jordan), the Giza Pyramid and Alexandria Light House (Egypt), and The Eiffel Tower (Paris). (Free with Admission)



## around the arboretum

### join us - a bird count at the wetland

Volunteers and Staff are invited to an Arboretum Bird Count. On two Saturdays in May (May 18 and 25), volunteers and staff are invited to participate in a bird count at the Morris Arboretum Wetland. You do not need to be an expert birder to join in—all levels are welcome! Feel free to bring guests. The goal is to enjoy the morning and gather data that will be posted on the eBird website about the species and numbers of birds at the wetlands. We will also help update the bird-list on the Arboretum web site. This project will be helpful to the Arboretum in assessing the variety and strength of its bird population.

Morris Arboretum volunteer, Susan Marshall, an enthusiastic amateur birder, will be the coordinator. We will meet at the parking lot near the Admission Kiosk at 8 a.m. and spend about 2-3 hours. If time permits, we will also check some birding spots at Bloomfield Farm. You will sign in when you arrive. Please bring binoculars. Cancelled in case of moderate or heavy rain.

RSVP by e-mail if you plan to join us or are interested in other Arboretum birding opportunities. If you have any questions, please contact Susan Marshall ([susan1107@me.com](mailto:susan1107@me.com) or 603.731.8031) or Bob Gutowski ([gutowski@upenn.edu](mailto:gutowski@upenn.edu)).

-Bob Gutowski, *Director of Public Programs*



Image: Susan Marshall



## around the arboretum

### comings and goings in the rose garden

#### Comings:

We have new volunteers and seasonals in the garden! The Rose Garden Working Party has been busy in the garden since the first Saturday in April. We started with weed identification and proper pruning techniques, and have been pruning and weeding like crazy ever since. I even got my parents to help one Saturday, and they were really impressed by the warmth and stamina of our dedicated volunteers. Thank you Eileen, Patti, Tonia, and Rachel - I'm looking forward to our future Saturday mornings together. Just outside of the Rose Garden, Jean Cook has put in countless hours in the Cottage Garden, and we're really excited to introduce some new (and old) plants. The Dwarf Conifer Garden is starting to look a little less weedy thanks to Hiram's help. The weekly Wednesday volunteers got April off to a great start by increasing the number of plants in the Wisteria Walk and decreasing the number of weeds. We divided and transplanted the *Carex* 'Ice Dance' to bare spots after lots of weeding, and that has really helped mitigate some of the erosion problems along the Wisteria Walk.

Two new seasonals also started working in the Rose Garden in April: Andy Glaser and Laura Sweeney. With the combined forces of Andy, Laura, and Heather Schmidt, we've been able to make some much needed progress pruning roses, weeding, mulching, and renovating the turf. Check out our progress in the Rose Garden, Wisteria Walk, and Sculpture Garden.

#### Goings:

Dead roses and weeds. We've been pruning the roses heavily to increase air circulation and reduce the spread of fungal diseases like downy mildew and black spot. We've removed entirely dead roses to create space in the beds for more disease-resistant roses and other plants. We still have a lot to accomplish in the garden - mulching beds, weeding, pruning, and planting. But, we can only take it one day at a time...



- Lucy Dinsmore, *Rose Garden Horticulturist*

## around the arboretum

### continuing education opportunities

Thursday, May 16 | 10am - 12 noon

#### **Pesto Making Workshop**

Learn to make traditional pesto, as well as several fun variations using cilantro, rosemary and sorrel. Taste each pesto to decide which you like best, and learn how to creatively store and serve the finished products! (Volunteer Price: \$17.50)

Saturday, May 18 | 1 - 3pm

#### **Spring Plein Air Painting**

Paint outside in the beautiful Arboretum this spring. We will paint on canvas board with quick drying acrylic paint. (Volunteer Price: \$17.50)

Saturday, May 18 | 1 - 2:30pm

#### **Do it Yourself Natural Summer Skin Care**

Ward off bugs, treaty itchy bites, and prevent skin peeling this summer—the natural way! We will talk about the beneficial properties of natural products and essential oils. Participants will take home their own bottle of repellent along with easy instructions to make all of the treatments at home. Materials included. (Volunteer Price: \$20)

Tuesday, June 4 | 8:45am - 3pm

#### **A Trip to the Grounds for Sculpture**

Come with us to the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, New Jersey, a 35-acre indoor and outdoor museum of contemporary sculpture by internationally renowned artists who work in a wide range of media from bronze and steel to stone and concrete. (Volunteer Price: \$78.00)



To learn more and to register for these great opportunities, call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125 or click on the course title to be taken to the online registration portal.

### gardening with history: planning & practice

Thursday, May 30 | 8:30am - 5pm

The Philadelphia region leads the nation in garden heritage sites. How do our historic landscape stewards sustain both garden and mission in the 21st century? What are best practices and opportunities? This conference explores how we govern, interpret, curate and plan. Keynote speaker Peter Hatch, former Director of Gardens and Grounds at Monticello, brings a wealth of insight. Charles Birnbaum, Director of the Cultural Landscape Foundation, shares regional models for collaborative marketing. Laura Otten, Director of the Non-Profit Center at LaSalle University, examines advisory board development. Local historic garden directors address adaptive reuse, gardening with a mission, interpretation and sustaining our gardens' relevance to the community. Participants enjoy connection and information sharing among historic garden leaders, practitioners and enthusiasts. (Volunteer Price: \$48)



## education

### a winning formula

A SPRING EVENING + DELICIOUS FOOD +  
ENTERTAINMENT = TWILIGHT AND PEONIES

This sounds like a perfect combination for our annual volunteer recognition event, Twilight and Peonies, except for one very important missing element – YOU!!! So please circle Wednesday, May 29th from 6 to 8pm on your calendar and plan to join us (with your spouse or significant other) at this gala event being held in the tent behind Widener. Our delicious potluck dinner is always a highlight of the evening so please contribute by bringing one of the following: an appetizer, main dish, vegetable dish, salad or dessert (and be sure to enter what you will be bringing on our Education Google calendar). Beverages will be provided for your enjoyment.



We are adding something brand new to the festivities this year – a plant exchange. All you need to do to participate is place a favorite plant from your garden in a pot, attach a label with growing requirements/bloom time, and place your plant on the back wall of the tent when you arrive. Then at the end of the evening you can take home another plant of your choice. Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs, has also agreed to provide irises that he has divided so don't worry if you have no plant to share – you'll still have something to take home at the end of the evening.

The evening will also feature the presentation of volunteer awards (for 100, 300, 750 and 1000 hours served) and a vocal presentation by local singing group, Celestia. Please RSVP to Sarah Bolivar at [sbolivar@upenn.edu](mailto:sbolivar@upenn.edu) or 215-247-5777 ext. 159. And don't forget to wear your name tags. Hope to see you on May 29th!

- Nancy Kolkebeck. *Guide*



# education

discovery series: fun with bugs every first saturday of the month



This unidentified firefly (Lampridae) larvae was last featured in a 2011 blog post by Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs. You can read the article by going to [www.morrisarboretum.blogspot.com](http://www.morrisarboretum.blogspot.com)



Image: Honey Bee on winter aconite, *Eranthis hyemalis*. This image is one of Bob Gutowski's many photos on Flickr. You can view the collection at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/versicolor/>

The Education Department is looking for Discovery Series Volunteers to engage with families for hands-on fun. **We need four volunteers to take on (2) two hour shifts on the first Saturday of every month beginning in April and ending in October. All activities will take place on *Out on a Limb* from 11am to 3pm.**

Please sign up on the Education Google calendar, or call Tiffany Stahl at (215) 247-5557 ext. 127 to volunteer.

## Saturday, May 4, 2013

### *Marvelous Metamorphosis*

Visit the Discovery Table and learn about how insects grow from nymph to an adult! We will explore the fascinating life-cycles of a variety of insects from lady bird beetles to butterflies. Budding entomologists will also have the opportunity to create a butterfly craft to take home, too!

## Saturday, June 1, 2013

### *Pollination Station*

Using insect models, Discovery Table explorers will learn about how pollination happens, and why pollination is so important to the natural world. Kids will put the story of pollination in order using six illustrations, as they trace the honeybee's journey from flower to flower.

## Saturday, July 6, 2013

### *Discover Fireflies*

Visit the Discovery Table and learn all about fireflies. Explore fun facts about these insects of summer, and learn all about what makes them glow! Read the book, *The Very Lonely Firefly*, and make your very own firefly craft to take home.



# volunteer news

## postcards from eastern penitentiary



The trip was a fascinating history of Philadelphia's prison system and we were transported back in time. Our guide was super, and the volunteer camaraderie made it even more enjoyable.

- Carol Benner, *Guide*

Our visit to the "state pen" was a delightful experience. I felt it was safe for me to go as the FBI rejected my fingerprints so I had no worry once there that they would keep me. We selected a very lovely April day for the tour and were guided through that mammoth place by a knowledgeable guide. I was tempted to try to scale the walls and may have done so if I had my "Jane" costume on, but common sense overcame me. After we got a reprieve from the governor, we crossed the street and had a delightful Greek lunch at Zorba's. Once again I was tempted to get up and dance, but in traditional Greek society only men dance. Eastern State had many specialty tours so I'd like to return to check them out as well.

- Mary Pat Boyle, *Guide*



## volunteer news

### volunteer trip to ringwood state park

Thursday, May 16 | 8am - 6:15pm

Join us on a visit to two historical properties in Ringwood State Park in upstate New Jersey this spring. Located in the “heart of the highlands,” Ringwood is surrounded by the Ramapo Mountains. Upon arrival in our deluxe motor coach, we will first visit Skylands, the New Jersey State Botanical Garden (<http://www.njbg.org/>). This 96-acre garden also includes a 1920’s Tudor revival manor house. We will receive tours of both house and gardens. Lunch will be at Arta Restaurant (<http://artarestaurant.net>), a mere three miles down the road where our meal will consist of a salad, a choice of three entrees (including a vegetarian option), dessert and coffee or tea. After lunch we’ll travel to another property in the park, Ringwood Manor (<http://www.ringwoodmanor.com>), for a tour of the grounds which contain historical architectural elements, as well as a history of being sacred grounds for the Lenni Lenape. Then we’ll all gratefully climb back on the bus for a glass of wine to accompany our trip back home. Victoria Sicks, Miriam von Essen, and Michelle Connors will be your hostesses for this trip.



Cost: \$67.00 (includes bus, driver gratuity, tours and lunch)

Please contact Michelle at [mconnors@upenn.edu](mailto:mconnors@upenn.edu) or 215-247-5777 ext. 109 to sign up.

### seeking volunteers for creating canopy tree giveaway

The University of Pennsylvania and Morris Arboretum are partnering with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation for the third annual Creating Canopy tree giveaway. 125 trees will be given away in 5- and 7-gallon containers on a first-come, first-served basis to interested Penn staff and faculty who pre-register. We are looking for about six volunteers to perform various functions such as helping folks choose their tree species, greet and register participants, help load trees into cars, etc.

When: Thursday, May 16th and Tuesday May 21st from 3-6pm

Where: Penn Park’s parking lot at 31st and Walnut Street.

Please contact Jason Lubar at [lubar@upenn.edu](mailto:lubar@upenn.edu), 215.247.5777 ext. 189 if you would like to help. Thanks!



## upcoming events

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Hort. Volunteer Day (Louise)	2	3	4 Garden Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
5	6	7 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	8	9	10 National Public Gardens Day (Free Admission)	11
				PLANT SALE		
12	13	14	15 Hort. Volunteer Day (Iana)	16 Ringwood State Park Volunteer Trip 8:00am-6:15pm (Meadow by Kiosk)	17 Volunteer Workshop 10:30am - 12pm <i>Classroom</i>	18 Arboretum Bird Count 8 - 11am <i>Admissions Kiosk</i>
19	20	21	22 Hort. Volunteer Day (Kate)	23	24	25 Arboretum Bird Count 8 - 11am <i>Admissions Kiosk</i>  Garden Railway Summer Grand Opening 1 - 3pm
26	27 <b>Memorial Day</b> <i>(Offices Closed)</i>	28 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	29 Hort. Volunteer Day (Lucy)  Twilight and Peonies 6 - 8pm <i>Behind Widener</i>	30 Gardening with History: Planning and Practices (Registration Required)	31	

## Weekly Volunteer Events

Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2 - 3pm

First and Third Saturdays: Native Trees Tour 11am - 12pm

Second Saturday of the month: Mill Volunteer Workdays 10am

# upcoming events

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  Garden Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
2 Philadelphia Rose Society Rose Show 1 - 4pm <i>Widener Area</i>	3	4 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	5 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Vince)	6	7 Moonlight & Roses Gala 6:00pm <i>Rose Garden</i>	8
9	10	11	12 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Tracy)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Iana)	20 WRTI Jazz Concert & Summer Solstice Salsa 5:30pm	21	22
23 Bloomfield Farm Open House 12 - 3pm <i>Bloomfield Farm</i>	24	25 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	26 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Louise)	27	28	29

## Weekly Volunteer Events

Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2 - 3pm  
 First and Third Saturdays: Native Trees Tour 11am - 12pm  
 Second Saturday of the month: Mill Volunteer Workdays 10am