

VOLUNTEER



FEBRUARY 2013

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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Photos throughout: Sarah Bolivar unless otherwise stated



Image: Arboretum Staff

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Letter from the Editor February 2013

It was a pleasure to learn that Punxsutawney Phil has predicted an early spring. We can only hope that this winter eases its arctic grip just a bit. Don't let the cold set you into hibernation mode, though! Classes like foraging for edible native plants, yoga, and spring pruning are just around the bend. Also, there are some wonderful lectures expounding on the Arboretum's plant exploration program and history of Japanese flowering cherries this month. Happy February!

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*

Intern Trip Corner

Winds muffled our voices and the Schuylkill roared, but it was a perfect day to learn about Philadelphia's drinking water and sewer history. The Fairmount Water Works Interpretative Center guides and Philadelphia Water Department Historian Adam Levine graciously shared their knowledge of Philadelphia's intricate water systems.



notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

The Hanford Nuclear Reservation was created in 1943 in Eastern Washington State. It was a top secret area during the Cold War. More than 600 square miles of sagebrush and grassland were cleared of ranchers, farmers, and Native Americans. Almost a dozen plutonium producing nuclear reactors were built. After the reactors were closed down, they continued to leak waste. Hanford was then the largest nuclear waste site in the world. No one would go near the place.

Fast forward to 1994. Someone at the Nature Conservancy realized that a piece of land that had been prevented from having farming and grazing on it might have developed a fair amount of biodiversity. Two female botanists decided to take a chance and visit Hanford. What they found was a paradise. There were slopes covered in wildflowers and native grasses. There was a level of biodiversity not found anywhere else in Eastern Washington. They identified hundreds of plants. One of these was a bladderpod which they sent to Harvard and the exciting news was that this was a species new to the scientific community. The next year they found another new species, desert buckwheat. Both of these plants only grew at Hanford. The botanists said that it was “like stumbling on the Holy Grail – twice”. It seems that the Cold War and arms race had managed to save this piece of land for Mother Nature. Six years later, President Clinton created the Hanford Reach National Monument, which protected the land and all its species, old and new, forever. A nice end to a rather nasty story!

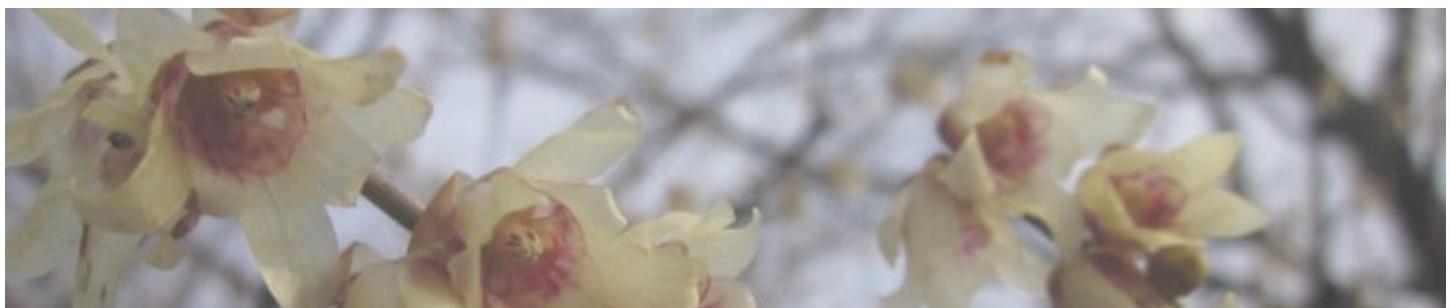
(Adapted from *Nature Conservancy, Autumn 2009*)

We are the only species in this vast web of life that no animal or plant depends on for its survival – yet we depend on this whole web of life for our survival.

- Thomas Friedman, “Hot, Flat and Crowded”

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides



events and lectures



Sunday, February 17 | 1 - 3pm

“Witchhazel” is your Favorite?

Did you know that the Arboretum has fabulous color and fragrance even in the middle of winter? Grab your family and head over to the Arboretum for a day of fun and exploration. (Free with admission.)



Sunday, February 24 | 2pm | Upper Gallery

Japanese Flowering Cherries: A 100 Year-Long Love Affair

Klein Endowed Lecture

Anthony S. Aiello, *The Gayle E. Malone Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum*

2012 marked the 100th anniversary of the planting of the famous flowering cherries surrounding the Tidal Basin in Washington D.C. Flowering cherries have long been a captivating presence in Japan and throughout the U.S. since their introduction 100 years ago. In this lecture, Tony Aiello will discuss the introduction of flowering cherries into the U.S. and will focus on their history in Philadelphia. Along with his interest in the history of cultivation of flowering cherries, Tony has been using the Arboretum's cherry collection as a model for preserving our horticultural heritage and at the same time providing best practices of veteran tree care.

Monday, February 25 | 10:30am - 12pm | Upper Gallery

Volunteer Workshop

Paul Meyer, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

Tony Aiello, *The Gayle E. Malone Director of Horticulture and Curator*

Paul Meyer and Tony Aiello will provide an inside look of the Morris Arboretum's plant exploration program, as well as discuss the most important plants to come out of the program. The directors will discuss why they undertook plant exploration efforts, how the trips are organized, what happens to the plants once they return, and some of the more significant collections of the past 30 years of plant exploration.

events and lectures

2012 - 2013 intern project presentations

Tuesday, March 5

The Philly Bee's Stake in Pollination: The Bees of Philadelphia

Stephanie Wilson, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*

Tuesday, March 12

Fernery Website Update

Steve Pyne, *The Martha J. Wallace Plant Endowed Propagation Intern*

Thursday, March 14

Reading the Cookie: Tree Anatomy, Physiology, and Wood Decay

Fabrice Rochele magne, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arboriculture Intern*

Tuesday, March 19

Composting Program at Morris Arboretum

Jamie Berlin, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

All presentations take place from 12:30 - 1:30pm in the Upper Gallery.

Thursday, March 21

Resource Management and Stewardship Plan for Harriet Wetherill Park

Rebekah Armstrong, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*

Tuesday, March 26

More Kids in the Woods: The Morris Arboretum as Outdoor Laboratory

Sarah Bolivar, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

Thursday, March 28

The Michaux Quercetum: A Comprehensive History and Status Assessment

Jessa Finch, *The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Areas Intern*

Tuesday, April 2

Revitalization of the Pollination Garden Area

Heather Schmidt, *The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

Thursday, April 4

A Similarity Comparison of Extant Vegetation to the Soil Seed Bank in the Natural Lands Section of the Morris Arboretum

Emma Williams, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

around the arboretum

tu b'shevat - sweet birch, what a rush!

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out with the Arboretum's Tu B'Shevat celebrations! It was high-paced, action-packed, and more importantly, dirt-loads of fun. Please take a look at the following message from one of the participating classes!

We learned about how trees grow. We learned about the roots of a tree. The roots can get hurt. We learned that roots work for the tree. They bring the food up and down.

Trees are important because we get oxygen to help us breathe. You need to plant trees so you can be healthy. Trees give us food, paper, wood, furniture, pencils, and shade. Trees can be homes for animals like squirrels and birds.

Thank you for teaching us about trees. Thank you for letting us plant trees. We will take care of them.

Thank you so much.

Love,

The Superstars (Tu B'Shevat Participants)

Looking forward to our next event? Don't forget to sign up for Arbor Week volunteer opportunities in April!



around the arboretum

checking on newer plantings!

After trees have shed their leaves and the cold weather moves in, the Arboretum begins to move at a slower pace. During these months, the Arboretum staff has time to check on younger plantings and newer transplants. By visiting these plants individually, staff can evaluate health and initiate proper management practices. Younger trees are more vulnerable to the elements, so checking on them annually can help reduce problems in the future.

After checking that all accessioned plants are alive and accounted for, staff can focus on:

Minor pruning - Cutting off branches that are rubbing one another or look to be a problem in the future.

Staking - Protecting the young plants from buck rub (the practice of male deer rubbing their antlers on the stems of small trees to remove the velvet from their antlers).

Trunk protection - Using netting around the base of the trunk to stop animals, such as groundhogs, from eating the bark.

Insect damage - Taking note of the insect causing the damage, evaluating if it will cause a major problem to the plant, and taking the necessary management steps, such as pruning or spraying.

Labeling issues - Accessioned plants within the Arboretum are assigned a specific number so they can be tracked over the years. If tags fall off, or are missing, this needs to be dealt with right away.

- Jamie Berlin, *Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*



Tree Images: Jamie Berlin

around the arboretum

continuing education opportunities

Friday, February 22 | 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Birding at Barnegat Light

Ruth Pfeffer

Experienced Birder and Trip Leader

Located at the north end of Long Beach Island, Barnegat Light State Park is a great place in New Jersey for winter birding. Bird possibilities at this season include: Harlequin Ducks, Common Eiders, Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, all three Scoters, Northern Gannets, lots of gulls, and Purple Sandpipers. This is a beautiful park where you can enjoy some great birding. (Volunteer Price: \$58)

Saturday, March 2 | 1 - 3 p.m.

An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection

Anthony S. Aiello

The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum

Join us as we tour the Arboretum's outstanding collection of witchhazels with Curator Tony Aiello.

(Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

Saturday, March 16 | 10 a.m. – 12 noon

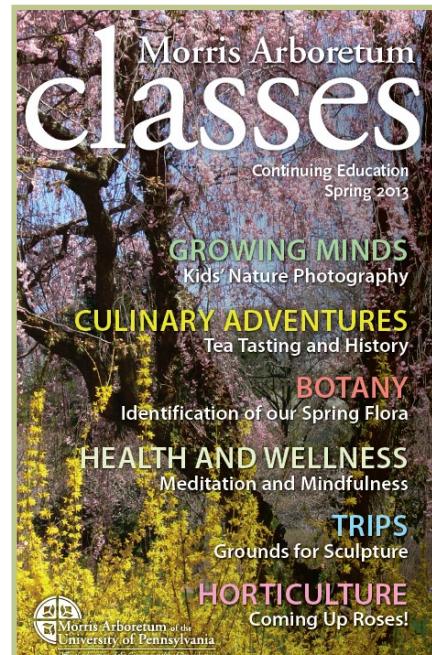
American Idols: Native Plants to Love

Catherine Renzi

Owner, Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery

Are you curious about native plants? In this class you will have the chance to learn about great native plants. (Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

To learn more and to register for these great opportunities, call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.



Thursday, March 21 | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Creating Stunning English Gardens with Yankee Practicality

Kerry Mendez

Garden Designer and Owner of Perennially Yours

Learn great design tips and plant combinations from the gardens of Adrian Bloom, an award-winning garden designer and author from Dis, England. This illustrated lecture features a collection of inspiring photographs taken while Kerry stayed at Bressingham Manor, a bed and breakfast in the heart of Adrian's magnificent seven acres of gardens. The lecture focuses on perennials, shrubs, bulbs, grasses, conifers, and annuals hardy for the Northeast, as well as design concepts you can use in your garden. (Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

volunteer news

february 13th horticulture volunteer workshop

AM

8:30 - 9:00	Arrival	
9:00 - 10:00	The Curatorial Life of a Plant at the Morris Arboretum	<i>Tony Aiello</i>
10:00 - 10:30	BREAK	
10:30 - 11:00	Gardens of Boston – Public & Private	<i>Lucy Dinsmore</i>
11:00 - 11:45	The Michaux Quercetum	<i>Jessa Finch</i>
11:45 - 12:00	Hort. Volunteers Business and Updates	<i>Pam Olshefski</i>

PM

12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH BREAK – BROWN BAG LUNCH	
1:00 - 1:45	Windsor Great Park	<i>Louise Clarke</i>
1:45 - 2:15	Fossil Hunting	<i>Steve Pyne</i>
2:15 - 2:45	Edinburgh Scotland	<i>Heather Schmidt</i>

february 27th horticulture volunteer workshop

AM

8:30 - 9:00	Arrival	
9:00 - 10:00	Plants and Gardens of New Zealand	<i>Paul Meyer</i>
10:00 - 10:30	BREAK	
10:30 - 11:00	Facilities Department Update	<i>Tom Wilson</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Bees in our Area	<i>Stephanie Wilson</i>
11:30 - 12:00	Growing Minds Program & More	<i>Miriam Von Essen</i>

PM

12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH BREAK – LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED	
1:00 - 1:45	Pruning Lesson	<i>Vince Marrocco</i>
1:45 - 2:30	Projects of the Urban Forestry Department	<i>Jason Lubar</i>

volunteer news

rose garden working party

Looking for ways to get more involved with the Arboretum, expand your gardening knowledge, and get your hands dirty? Come volunteer with us!

Volunteers are needed in the Rose Garden and the rock wall, cottage garden, herb garden, meadow garden, hardy fern garden and stumpery, and sculpture garden. The group will work alongside Lucy Dinsmore, the Rose

Garden Horticulturist, to tackle a number of seasonal maintenance projects. These physical tasks include weeding, mulching, pruning, planting, deadheading, and more. We'll meet the first and third Saturday mornings of the month from April through December. Previous gardening experience is helpful, but not required. You will learn new skills, make new friends, and become a valued member of the extended volunteer staff. Our volunteers play an integral role in the organization, and the Arboretum could not accomplish all that it does without your help!

An informational orientation and walk-through of the garden is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd, from 9 – 11am. All subsequent volunteer work days will occur on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9am – noon, starting April 6th.

***Space is limited. If you are interested, please contact Pam Olshefski for an application at pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext.188.

bluebird nest box monitoring project

The Morris Arboretum needs volunteers to help monitor its bluebird nest boxes. The time commitment is approximately one to two hours per week from March through August. No previous experience is required.

A training session will be held on Wednesday, February 20 at 10 a.m. at the Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm to show you what to do.

If you are interested please respond to jlm@upenn.edu.



Image: Arboretum Staff



Image: Susan Marshall

volunteer news

volunteer snapshots!



Horticulture Volunteer Images: Deborah Glass

for fun

beat the winter blues with spicy hot cocoa and mini blinis!

Spicy Hot Cocoa Recipe (for 2)

Cayenne pepper comes from a cultivar of *Capsicum annuum*, and has long been known for its therapeutic properties. It's used as a digestive aid, an anti-irritant, anti-inflammatory, a circulatory stimulant, and improves heart health. Cayenne is an important spice for winter, because it produces natural warmth in the body. This recipe calls for a pinch of cayenne, but add as much spice as you like!

2 cups milk (any type)
2 Tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder (I prefer Droste)
1 Tablespoon sugar or honey (or more to taste)
½ teaspoon vanilla extract
½ tsp ground cinnamon
Pinch of cayenne pepper

Heat milk in a small saucepan over medium heat. Meanwhile, mix together cocoa, sugar, vanilla and spices, and split evenly between two mugs. Add enough hot milk to stir to a paste. Add remaining milk and stir until mixed. Enjoy!

- Courtesy of Lucy Dinsmore, *Rose Garden Horticulturist*

Mini Blinis for any Affair

2 lbs white bread	3 tsp. cinnamon
1 lb. cream cheese	1 cup brown sugar
2 egg yolks	3/4 lb melted butter or margarine
1/2 cup sugar	

Cream the cheese; add egg yolks and sugar and mix until smooth. Remove the crusts from the bread and roll each slice flat with a rolling pin. Spread each slice with the cream cheese mixture and roll up. Dip each roll into melted butter or margarine and then into brown sugar and cinnamon mixture. Refrigerate for several hours until firm. These can also be made several days ahead and then refrigerated until ready to bake. Cut each roll in half and place on a lightly greased cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes. Makes about 100 mini blinis.

- Courtesy of Joan Kober, *Guide*

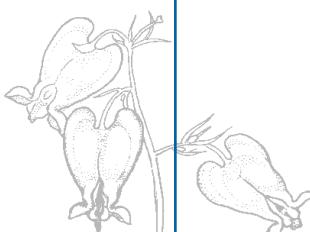
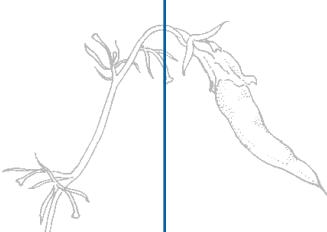
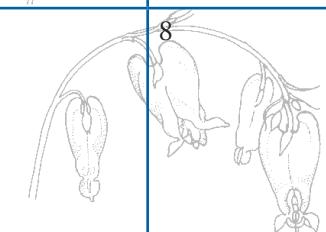
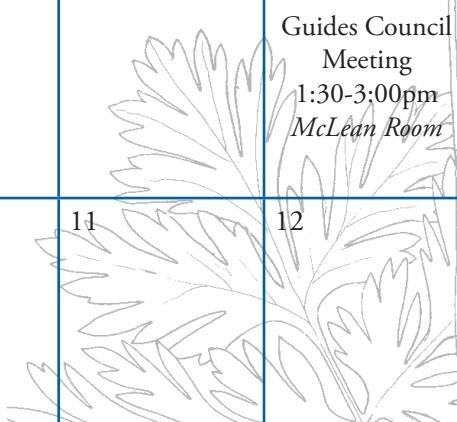
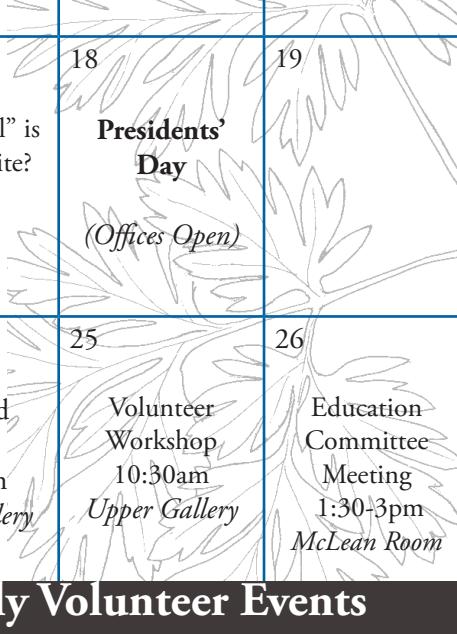
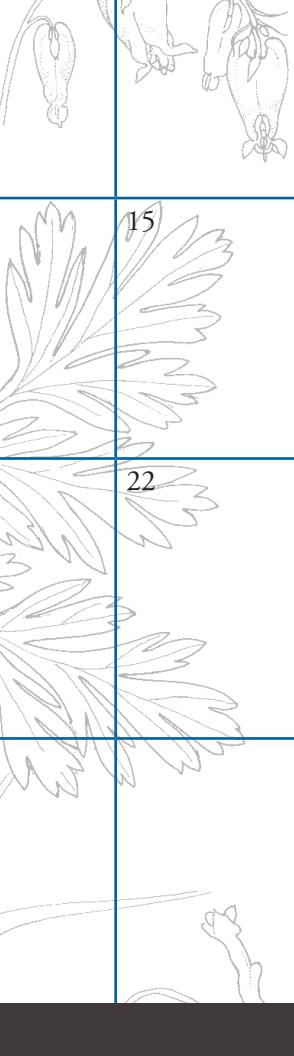
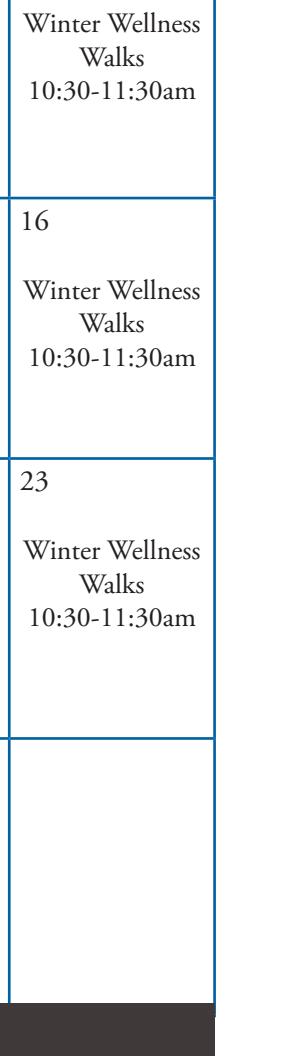
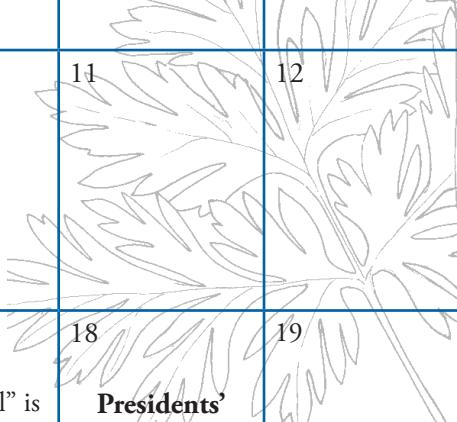
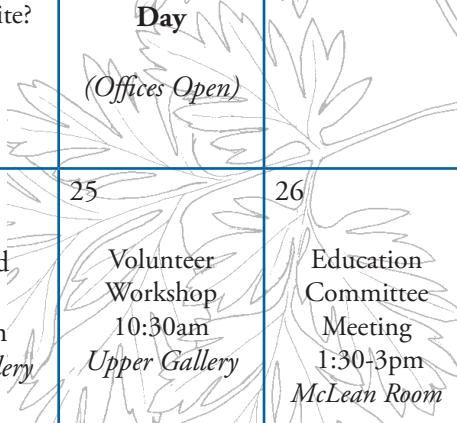
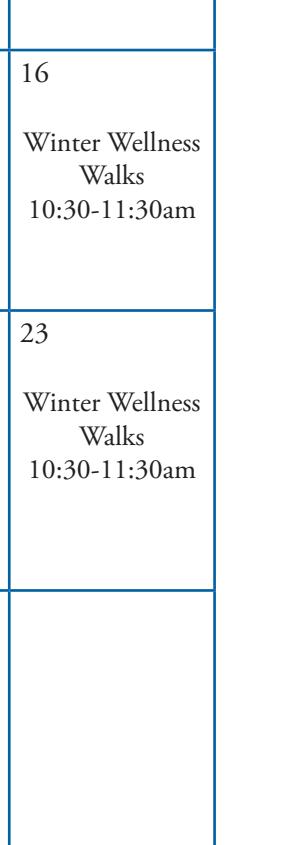
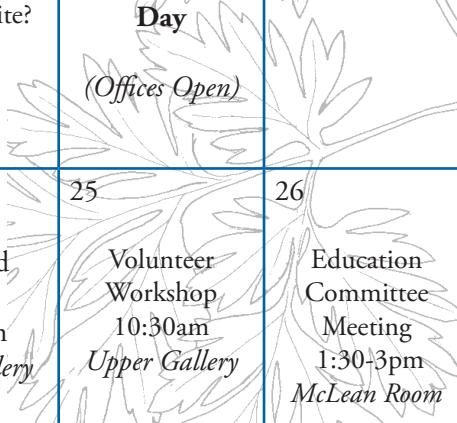
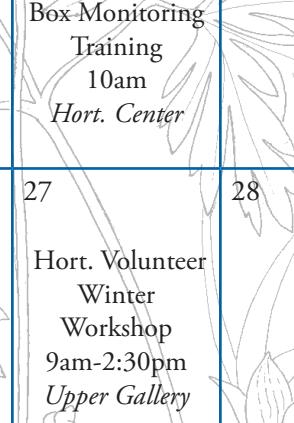
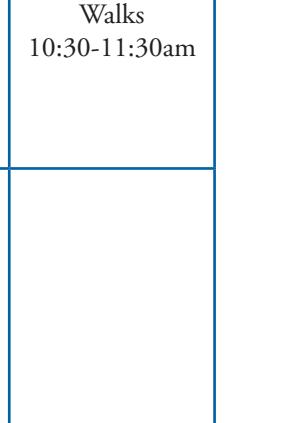


Image: "Ask Martha," Seattle Times

Do you have recipes that take advantage of certain plant properties? Please share with us by e-mailing Sarah at sbolivar@upenn.edu.

upcoming events

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 	2 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
3 	4 	5 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	6 	7 	8 	9 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
10 	11 	12 	13 Hort. Volunteer Winter Workshop 9am-2:45pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	14 	15 	16 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
17 "Witchhazel" is your Favorite? 1-3pm 	18 Presidents' Day (Offices Open) 	19 	20 Bluebird Nest Box Monitoring Training 10am <i>Hort. Center</i> 	21 	22 	23 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
24 Endowed Lecture 12:oopm <i>Upper Gallery</i> 	25 Volunteer Workshop 10:30am <i>Upper Gallery</i> 	26 Education Committee Meeting 1:30-3pm <i>McLean Room</i> 	27 Hort. Volunteer Winter Workshop 9am-2:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i> 	28 		

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

Second Saturday of the month: Mill Volunteer Workdays 10:00am

upcoming events

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
3	4	5 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i> Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	6	7	8	9 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
10	11	12 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	13	14 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	15	16 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
17	18	19 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	20	21 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	22	23 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am Rose Garden Working Party (registration required) 9-11am
24 Barnes Endowed Lecture 2:00pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	25	26 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i> Education Committee Meeting 1:30-3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	27	28 Intern Presentation 12:30-1:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	29	30 31

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