

# VOLUNTEER

February 2015



**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

*Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*

# Volunteer

## Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

*Volunteer* is a newsletter published monthly for  
Arboretum volunteers.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an historic public garden and educational institution. It promotes an understanding of the relationship between plants, people, and place through programs that integrate science, art, and the humanities. The Arboretum conducts four major activities: education, research, outreach, and horticultural display. As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania provides research and outreach services to state agencies, community institutions and to citizens of Pennsylvania and beyond.

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Photos: Claire Sundquist, unless otherwise stated



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## *Letter from the Editor*

Having spent January reflecting on the year past, I like to switch gears in February to plan and get excited for what the coming year has in store. I often find myself making springtime plans even on the coldest, snowiest mornings. This is the perfect time of year to consider changes you would like to make in the garden this year. If you haven't already you can check out seed catalogs, make lists of seeds you would like to order, and get space ready for starting those seeds indoors in the coming months. It is a fun way to get organized while daydreaming of warm nights and lengthening hours of sunshine.

**Happy Daydreaming!**

Claire Sundquist

*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



## *Notes from the Guides Chair*

Hello Everyone,

As the new year begins, I like to take a moment to reflect on how fortunate I am. I feel so lucky to be living in the Philadelphia area, plus being associated with Morris is truly a double blessing. The Delaware River Valley offers a cornucopia of horticultural delights. It has been this way since William Penn drew up his “greene country town.”

In fact, in 1754 Peter Collinson rushed from his office in the City of London to the Thames to pick up the most exciting piece of merchandise he had ever received: two wooden cases from Philadelphia, filled with hundreds of seeds neatly wrapped in paper. These seeds carried the beginning of what would become known as the “English Garden”. Where did these seeds come from? Who sent them? They were sent from our very own John Bartram (I feel since I now live in the Philadelphia area, I can lay claim to John Bartram), a Pennsylvania Quaker who was passionate about plants and botany. Bartram spent four decades traveling up and down the east coast to provide “exotic” plants for the English landscape.

The English were desperate for the seeds from Bartram. Never before had there been such a vast choice to bring beauty and variety to the garden in all seasons. Prior to seeds from the new world, England only had four native conifers to choose from and autumn was a truly muted affair. After the arrival of the seeds, a spectacular show of vibrant colors was now available. The American towering trees, flowering shrubs and glossy evergreens gave English gardens what they called “living pencils”, creating irregular outlines that made the first “natural” landscapes in England. Instead of the straight lines and geometry that had been the backbone of the 17th and 18th century. Bartram’s trees and shrubs provided shapes and patterns – columns, cones, pyramids and spheres – without the need for pruning shears.

Bartram sent red cedars, Eastern hemlock, kalmias, rhododendrons, Indian bean tree, false acacia, white bark paper birch, plus many more, thus freeing the English garden from the pruned patterns and topiary of their past. Throughout England gardeners were designing with the American species. Even Capability Brown, the man who would be remembered for creating the archetypical English landscape garden, created a heavy timbered American forest at Petworth in Sussex.

American plants became so popular that Peter Collinson had his garden emptied by thieves several times. Finally, Collinson and his horticultural friends had a Parliamentary Act passed in 1766 whereby plant thieves could be punished with transportation to the penal colonies. By the time Bartram died in 1777, the English garden had been completely transformed and had become so fashionable the plants and designs were exported to France, Germany, Italy and Russia. Gardeners recreated “le jardin anglais,” “der Englishche Garten,” and “il giardino inglese” – ironically all consisting of Bartram’s American trees.

Now don’t you feel fortunate? At any time you can visit Bartram’s garden without getting on a ship, we can look around our arboretum gazing with appreciation at what is available on our doorstep.

Happy Gardening,

*Jody Sprague*

*Chair of the Guides*

## *Continuing Education News:*

### Approved courses for Workshop Hours

We are offering a variety of classes that are eligible for education volunteer 'class' hours. Listed below are the upcoming approved courses. Register to improve your knowledge of the Arboretum!

#### **Behind the Scenes Research: Sex Evolution in Plants**

An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection

#### **Greenhouse and Propagation Tour**

Behind the Scenes: The Morris Arboretum Archives

#### **The Magnificent Trees of Spring: Cherries, Magnolias and Dogwoods**

Winter Tree Identification



*Volunteers who have given a minimum of 30 hours over the past year may take these and any other courses at a discounted price. Please refer to the Volunteer Price Spreadsheet, posted in the Widener Education office, for a list of the discounted course prices available to Arboretum volunteers.*

To view full descriptions visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

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

## Upcoming courses

Get a jumpstart on learning with one of these winter courses!

### **Behind the Scenes Research: Sex Evolution in Plants** **Thursday, February 12 | 7-8pm**

*Dr. Cindy Skema, Botanical Scientist, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$10

Dioecy, the condition in plants where male individuals are separate from female individuals, is rare in the Plant Kingdom, but has evolved repeatedly in independent lineages. This lecture will discuss both the similarities and differences in these evolutionary shifts, and possible selective pressures related to them. Dr. Skema will share with us her current research on a case study of the evolution of dioecy in ribbonwood (*Plagianthus*), a mallow endemic to New Zealand. Anatomical and genetic data of floral development in ribbonwood will be presented, and explained for a lay audience, as a means to show how and when males stop being females and vice versa in this interesting plant system. Botany novices and geeks alike are welcome!

### **An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection**

**Saturday, February 21 | 10am-noon**

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

Volunteer Price: \$15

Join us as we tour the Arboretum's outstanding collection of witchhazels with Curator Tony Aiello. The beautiful and fragrant floral display of witchhazels is a welcome sight during the bleak winter months. Tony will describe the different kinds of Asian and North American witchhazels in cultivation and explain why they are such terrific additions to the home landscape.

### **Make-Your-Own Tonic Workshop**

**Sunday, February 22 | 1-3pm**

*Paula Billig, Herbal Counselor, Paula's Herbs*

Volunteer Price: \$32

This is the perfect time of year to mix up a spring tonic to toast the Spring Equinox. Tonics have been traditionally used at this time of year for centuries, to help the body 'wake up' from the lethargy of winter and prepare for hard work once again. In this fun spring tonics workshop, you will make a delicious Angelica elixir to take home and learn the two main purposes for this herbal medicinal tonic- to either enhance digestions and elimination (think 'spring cleaning' for the body) or enhance the immune system.

To view full descriptions visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

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



## *Help Create a Patrick Dougherty Stickwork Installation at the Morris Arboretum*

Patrick Dougherty will be at the Morris Arboretum creating a new sculpture from Tuesday, March 9th to Friday, March 27th on weekdays, and on Saturday, March 14th, and Sunday, March 15th.



### **Volunteers for the Construction of the Sculpture**

Volunteers will assist Patrick Dougherty in the construction process, moving scaffolding, sorting materials, assisting in the weaving process, and cleaning up the site. Volunteer shifts are 4 hours long, and are from 8 am to noon in the morning and 1 pm to 5 pm in the afternoon.

Patrick requests that volunteers will:

- Have enthusiasm, physical stamina, and the ability to follow directions.
- Be comfortable working on scaffolding or ladders, that is, not afraid of heights, especially in the 2nd and 3rd week of the installation.
- Be sixteen or older. Teens need to be especially dedicated and responsible, and will only be scheduled one at a time.
- Dress appropriately for working outdoors in early spring, including sturdy footwear.
- Bring work gloves, and rain gear as work goes on even in light rain.
- Bring pruners if possible, for their own use during the construction.
- Sign a waiver and release before working on the project.



Photos courtesy Paul Meyer

Please contact Lisa Bailey at [baileyl@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyl@upenn.edu) or at 215-247-5777, ext. 157



*Help Create a Patrick Dougherty Stickwork  
Installation at the Morris Arboretum, continued*

**Maintenance Crew**  
***Ongoing after March 28th***

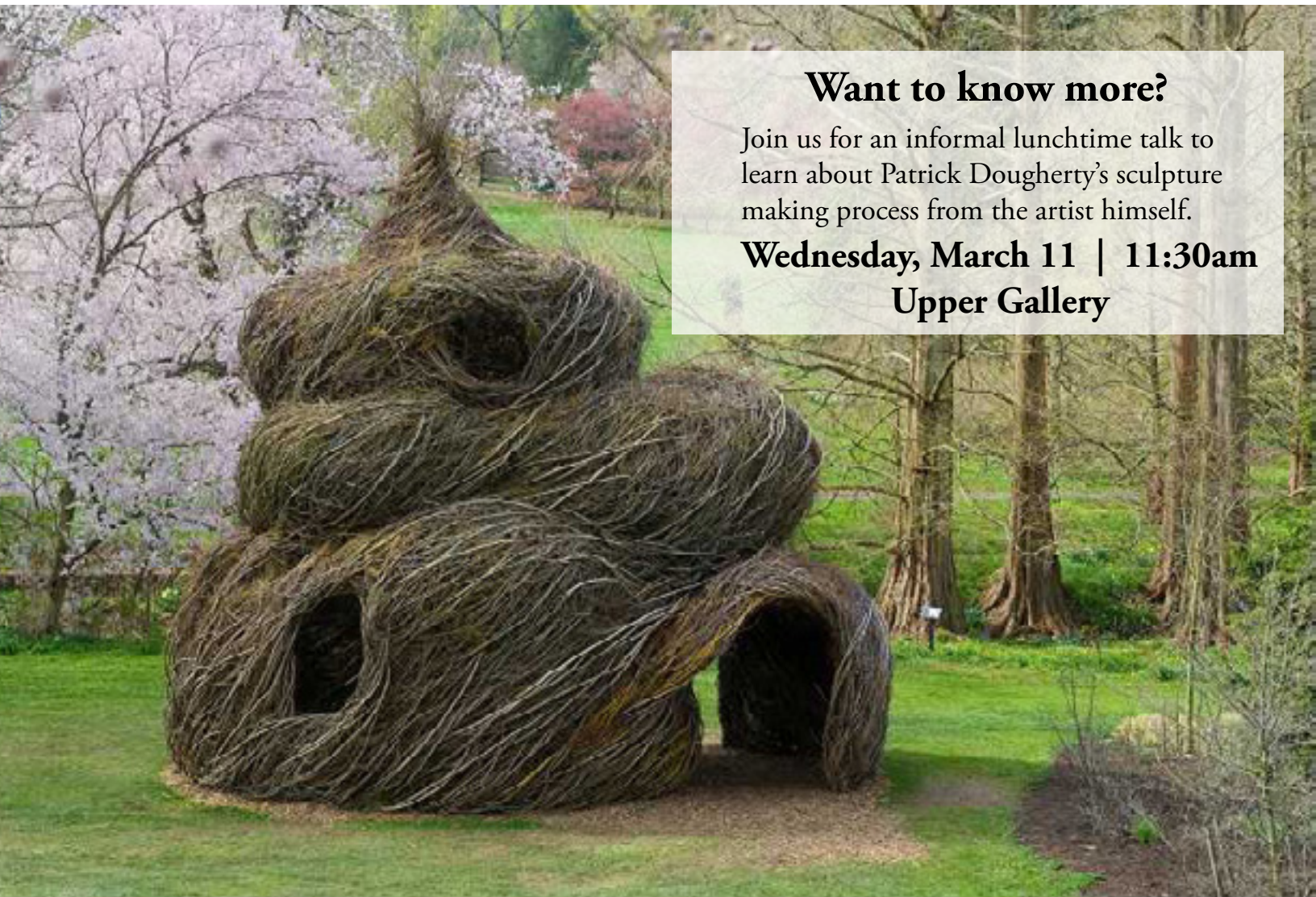
This group of volunteers will meet periodically to help maintain the sculpture after the construction process. The maintenance crew will replace and clean up materials around the installation. We hope to keep the sculpture in peak condition for as long as possible so we are looking for a longer term commitment from this group.

Please contact Pam Olshefski at [pamela@upenn.edu](mailto:pamela@upenn.edu) or at 215-247-5777, ext. 188

**Want to know more?**

Join us for an informal lunchtime talk to learn about Patrick Dougherty's sculpture making process from the artist himself.

**Wednesday, March 11 | 11:30am**  
**Upper Gallery**





# Volunteer Opportunities

## Volunteer Workshop: The History of Horticulture in Philadelphia

*Presented by Nicole Juday*

*Horticulture Education Coordinator, The Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation*

The Philadelphia region has one of the richest horticultural legacies in the country going back for more than 300 years. Learn about the birthplace of American horticulture and the key developments in our area throughout the 18th and 19th centuries that resulted in Philadelphia being named America's Garden Capital.

**Tuesday, February 17 | 10am**

**Widener Classroom**



As a Morris Arboretum Member, you are invited to the

*Woodmere Art Museum*

*Member Mixer*

**Thursday, February 19, 2015**

at Woodmere Art Museum

9201 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia

4:30-5pm

5:15pm

5-6:30pm

Shop in the Museum Store and save 10%

Guided Tour of the Exhibitions

Wine and Cheese Reception

No registration required and admission is complimentary.



*Horticulture Volunteer Workshops*  
**Wednesdays, February 11 and 25 | 8:30am**  
**Upper Gallery**

## February 11

<b>8:30-9:00am</b>	Arrival
<b>9:00-9:15am</b>	Welcome & Volunteer Update, <i>Pam Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant</i>
<b>9:00-10:00am</b>	Lucy's Visit to England, <i>Lucy Dinsmore, Horticulturist</i>
<b>10:00-10:30am</b>	Break
<b>10:30-11:00am</b>	Marketing Department Update
<b>11:00-noon</b>	Mt. Desert Island, <i>Steve Pyne, Former Plant Propagation Intern</i>
<b>noon-1:00pm</b>	Lunch, please bring your own
<b>1:00-1:30pm</b>	Botany Department Update & News, <i>Cindy Skema, Botanical Scientist</i>
<b>1:30-2:30pm</b>	Bold Foliage, <i>Louise Clarke, Horticulturist</i>

## February 25

<b>8:30-9:00am</b>	Arrival & Welcome, <i>Pam Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant</i>
<b>9:00-10am</b>	100 Years of Maples at Morris Arboretum, <i>Tony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture &amp; Curator</i>
<b>10:00-10:30am</b>	Break
<b>10:30-11:00am</b>	Greece, <i>Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist</i>
<b>11:00-noon</b>	Garden Update, <i>Paul Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director</i>
<b>noon-1:00pm</b>	Lunch will be provided
<b>1:00-2pm</b>	Structural Pruning, <i>Andrew Hawkes, Assistant Arborist</i>

## Witchhazel Tour



Photo Courtesy Bob Gutowski

### Tour the Witchhazel Collection!

**Saturdays at 1pm**

**February 14, and March 14**

Do you want to know more about our witchhazel collection? The Great Plants Committee of the volunteer guides has developed a specialized tour of witchhazels for the winter months of 2015. On two Saturdays at 1 pm -- February 14, and March 14, there will be a public tour lasting up to one hour.

The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country in a public garden. Join the tour to learn more about these fascinating winter-blooming shrubs. Learn about their history and how the plant was used as an astringent and for medicinal purposes. The Saturday tours will show 14 different species and cultivars of varying blooming times, color and fragrance.

### Spring Guiding Sign-up

Your spring guiding sign-up sheet will be arriving in the mail shortly. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season. Please hold your primary day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course). Once selected, return the sheet by mail or email.

***Thank you so much for making visits to the Arboretum so memorable for so many!***



Photo Courtesy Paul Meyer



# *Intern Project Presentations*

In March and April the 2014-2015 class of interns will present their projects. These presentations are open to the public. Save the dates to hear all about what they have been working on throughout the year.

**All presentations begin at 12:30 in the Upper Gallery.**

## **Comparing IPM Programs Among Regional Rose Gardens**

Tuesday, March 3

Jennifer Lauer, *The Charles S. Holman Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

## **Making Improvements in Morris Arboretum's Compost**

Thursday, March 5

Lauren Weeks, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

## **Rain Garden Revitalization at Bloomfield Farm**

Thursday, March 12

Anna Bower, *The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern*

## **Tree Management and Circulation in an Underused Section of the Natural Lands**

Tuesday, March 17

Aaron Greenberg, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*

## **Creating ArcGIS StoryMaps of the Morris Arboretum:**

### **Mapping People, Plants, and Place**

Tuesday, March 24

Corey Bassett, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*

## **Identification and Biological Control of Top Pests and Diseases in the Morris Arboretum Greenhouse Complex**

Thursday, March 26

Danielle Swanner, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*

## **An Expanded Approach to Garden Etiquette**

Tuesday, March 31

Claire Sundquist, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

## **Ecological Niche Modeling (ENM) Across the Tree of Life:**

### **The Effects of Climate Change on Eight Pennsylvania Natives**

Thursday, April 2

Natasha Phillips, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

## **The Diversity and Community Structure of Soil Fungi of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**

Tuesday, April 7

Jacob Golan, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*

## From the Archives



We dug deep into the Arboretum Archives for some fun facts to test your knowledge. Maybe you brushed up on your Morris history over the holidays – or maybe not. See how you do with these questions!

Photo courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

- 1 Lydia Morris, who died in 1932, stipulated in her will that...**
  - a. the iron fence be completed around her estate.
  - b. a larger barn be erected at Bloomfield.
  - c. “Lydia’s Seat” be preserved in the Rose garden.
- 2 John Morris enjoyed his horse and carriage and for years...**
  - a. rode in the Chestnut Hill Fourth of July parade.
  - b. kept the roads at Compton unpaved to cushion the horses’ feet.
  - c. refused to allow motor cars on his property.
- 3 In John Morris’s day, trees were relocated on the property by...**
  - a. balling the roots in burlap, and sliding to new location.
  - b. using a lever system to load the tree onto a wagon.
  - c. placing the tree on a platform that rode on a track to the new location.
- 4 Lawns at the Arboretum were once mowed by...**
  - a. mowers pulled by horses with special shoes that would not leave tracks.
  - b. teams of men pulling large mower cylinders.
  - c. herds of imported goats.

## Garden highlights:



*Acer davidii*  
**David maple**



*Corylus fargesii*  
**Farges filbert**  
near Swan Pond



*Picea abies* 'Acrocona'  
**Acrocona Norway spruce**  
near Hillcrest Pavilion



*Hamamelis mollis*  
**Chinese witchhazel**



*Comptonia peregrina*  
**sweetfern**  
stumpery



*Pinus densiflora*  
**Japanese red pine**  
Parking lot



# Upcoming Events

## February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	Tu B'Shevat					
8	9	10	11 Volunteer Workshop 8:30am (see pg. 8)	12	13	14 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am-3pm  Witchhazel Tour 1pm
Tu B'Shevat						
15	16	17 Volunteer Workshop 10am	18	19 Woodmere Member Mixer (see pg. 7)	20	21
22	23	24	25 Volunteer Workshop 8:30am (see pg. 8)	26	27	28

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

# Upcoming Events

## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	4	5  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	6	7
8	9	10	11  Patrick Dougherty Presentation 11:30pm	12  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	13	14  Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm  Witchhazel Tour 1pm
15	16	17  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	25	26  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	27	28
29	30	31 Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm  Volunteer Workshop 2pm				

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

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