

VOLUNTEER

January 2014



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Volunteer

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for
Arboretum volunteers.

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

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Volunteer

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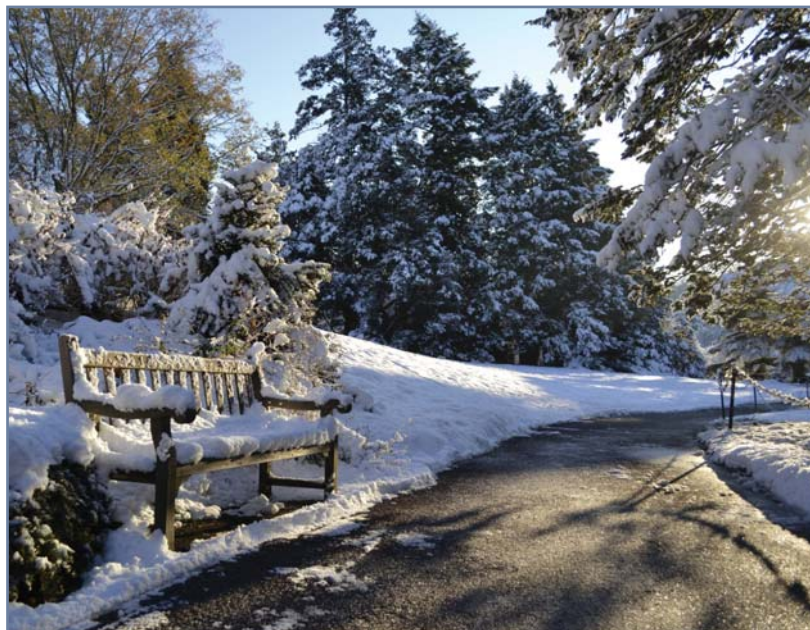
Questions, comments, and submissions can be
directed to the editor at mabxeduc@upenn.edu or mailed
to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Stephanie Kuniholm, unless otherwise stated



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Letter from the Editor

Happy New Year! As 2014 begins to pick up speed, I am happily anticipating many new opportunities to learn in the months ahead. Through volunteer workshops, continuing education classes, and even exploring the Arboretum on a slow afternoon, as members of the Morris community, our opportunities to expand our knowledge are endless. Join me this year in taking advantage of our many chances to observe, learn, understand, and appreciate!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm
McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

As the New Year unfolds, I have been thinking about some of my comments to our young visitors. When I have a tour of 3, 4, or 5 year olds, I always tell them they can pick up anything from the ground BUT don't eat anything, some plants are poisonous. Being married to a retired toxicologist, we just happen to have a book titled *Know Your Poisonous Plants* (doesn't everyone?) in our library. The other day I asked my husband, what was a poison? It is anything that can cause a harmful reaction, depending upon the dose. What about seemingly benign plants, such as grass? We all eat food products from grass each day (ex: cereal). If consumed in too large a quantity, it too can cause a harmful reaction.

Now I am wondering what exactly is poisonous in our gardens. As it turns out, quite a bit. Looking through our book, I was surprised to see what was poisonous. Take the sweet red apple, not the one the evil step-mother gave Snow White, but the ones we buy at the store. All varieties of apples contain cyanide, but the black seeds have the greatest amount. Asparagus can cause dermatitis if you eat the green young shoots raw. Again the severity depends on the amount eaten.

Colchicum, often called autumn crocus, contains a powerful poisonous alkaloid called colchicine, found in every part of the plant. Poisoning has occurred after using milk from cows that ate hay containing the leaves of the autumn crocus. Bleeding Heart, a sign that spring has arrived, contains alkaloids in all parts of the plant which may cause skin irritation on contact. All parts of all species of daphnes are poisonous, but especially the attractive fruit. Another good reason to remind our young visitors not to eat anything found outside.

Sometimes the poisonous qualities of plants are an asset to our gardens. Take the amaryllis family. My spring garden would lose its pizzazz if I didn't have hundreds of daffodils. I am delighted the deer, moles, voles and bunnies know enough to leave them alone. There is so much more to gardening than just plunking a plant in the ground. Mother Nature has given us a vast array of plants, we need to be aware of the beauty, and sometimes the dangers, around us.

Happy New Year – Happy Gardening

*Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides*



Don't forget about our guide recruitment contest!



We are still looking for new Guides and we need your help. If you know someone who is good with kids, is available during the week, and you think would make a great guide, have them contact Liza Hawley at efhawley@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 x 128, and tell them to say who sent them! You'll be increasing the Arboretum's productivity and knowledge base, as well as scoring a fabulous prize for yourself.

If you like guiding, share your fun with your friends and neighbors. Send them our way now!

Contest ends March 1, 2014 (prizes TBD).

Save the dates for Intern Project Presentations -- more information coming soon!

All presentations begin at 12:30 pm in the Upper Gallery

Thursday, March 6	Andrew Kirkpatrick, Urban Forestry
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Thursday, March 13	Emma Erler, Horticulture
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Tuesday, March 18	Stephanie Kuniholm, Education
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Thursday, March 20	Laura Sweeney, Propagation
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Tuesday, March 25	Ryan Plante, Natural Lands
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Thursday, March 27	Chelsea Smith, Flora of PA
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Tuesday, April 1	Alex Seglias, Plant Protection
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A Bugs Eye View of Morris Arboretum

Tiffany Stahl & Stephanie Kuniholm

January 8, 10:30 am

Join us for a morning of interesting insects! Tiffany and Stephanie will share their photos of insects taken at the Arboretum and tell the stories about the interesting creatures on display.

Stick around after for a short refresher on Tu B'Shevat activities. Then sign up for open slots!

Guiding Visitors with Special Needs

Stephanie Borton, Associate Director, Art-Reach

February 6, 10 am

Stephanie Borton, Associate Director of ArtReach, will be presenting a workshop to help guides become more comfortable and familiar with techniques for leading special needs groups – visitors that are blind, or deaf, or have cognitive delays. ArtReach offers discounted admissions to arts/cultural institutions in and around Philadelphia for various special needs groups as well as for economically disadvantaged groups. Morris Arboretum has been collaborating with Art-Reach as an Arts Partner for the past ten years.



NEW-- Spring Classes!

For more information about these and other upcoming classes, look for your copy of the new spring course brochure in your mailbox, online at www.morrisarboretum.org, or by calling 215-247-5777 ext. 125.

Needle Felting: From Fleece to Fantastic

Julia Grace, Multi-media Artist

Sunday, March 2, 1 – 4 p.m. --- Volunteer price: \$42.50

Learn a variety of needle felting techniques and make your very own felted ornament, brooch, sculpture, or embellishment to take home along with all the materials you need to continue felting!

Well-full Gardening

Marsha Stamm Gayl, Registered Horticultural Therapist

Saturday, March 29, 10–11:30 a.m. --- Volunteer price: \$12.50

Are you an active gardener looking to find techniques that will keep you moving in the garden? This class will discuss adaptive gardening techniques and tools. We will also learn proper body mechanics while gardening, so you can continue gardening without strain or discomfort.

Want a Work-Free Garden? Explore the Wonderful Diversity of Ericaceous Plants

Dr. Harold E. Sweetman, Executive Director, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Wednesday, April 30, 7– 8:30 p.m. --- Volunteer price: \$12.50

Come to this lecture and become enchanted by the flowers, fruit, and foliage of the amazingly diverse plants of the Heath Family (Ericaceae). Ericaceous plants have low nutrient demands, are acid-loving, and require drainage but are easily grown once you get to know them.

Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes

Charles P. Mazza, Former Horticulture Educator, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Cornell Cooperative Extension

Saturday, May 3, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. --- Volunteer price: \$32

This class is ideal for new home owners or those planning to expand a landscape into new areas of their property, whether they are experienced gardeners or novices. Included in the class is the helpful reference book: *Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes*, written by the class instructor. Class time is devoted to understanding and resolving issues that can be challenging in a landscape, as well as indoor and outdoor hands-on activities.



Notes from the Horticulture Committee Meeting – December 13, 2013

Horticulture department projects – Tony Aiello, Director of Horticulture, reviewed the following proposed projects for the Arboretum and introduced Rodney Robinson and Allan Summers, Landscape Architects who are doing the proposed plans.

Orange Balustrade Axis – Terminus Garden – Historically the view from the Orange Balustrade included a series of garden rooms descending the hill and terminating at the Baxter Memorial Garden. Now beyond the Pennock Garden, the Baxter Memorial Garden is overshadowed by several large trees including Southern magnolia, long needle pine and a large ginkgo. The Baxter Memorial is outdated and will be removed. Several alternatives were presented to replace this garden; it was decided that we do not need another major feature in the area. Visitors should be drawn into the garden which should provide an area of tranquility and repose. A plan was proposed to create a soft area with trees, shrubs and perhaps a paved circle with benches or a wall for seating.

Germantown Avenue Entrance – Opening an alternate entrance to the Arboretum for those coming on public transportation or walking on Germantown Avenue was proposed. The present gate is close to the intersection making it dangerous and uninviting for visitors. Several proposals were reviewed that moved the entrance further back from the intersection with a paved entrance, decorative gates, enhanced signage, seating, an admission booth to be manned on weekends, and a bike rack. The committee decided that the admission booth should be further inside the gates to draw visitors into the garden and not congregate on the sidewalk.

Path from Rose Garden to the Swan Pond – Presently there is no direct access from the Rose Garden to the Swan Pond that is accessible by wheelchair or stroller. Since these areas are the most visited in the Arboretum, there has been discussion on how to make these more accessible to visitors. There is a twenty-five foot drop in elevation from the Rose Garden to the Swan Pond and the ADA requires that wheelchair accessible paths must not exceed a 5% elevation unless they include handrails.. The proposed path ascends from the Swan Pond toward the Garden railway and then switches back toward the Rose Garden. There was concern whether the pathway would come too close to some mature trees and visibly detract from the open area since the grading would be changed to maintain the required 5% grade. An alternate proposal was considered to connect the pathway to the lower path of the Garden Railway.

Larry Godley
Volunteer



A tasty favorite from the Education Volunteer Holiday Potluck:

Warm Chicken Salad (adapted from Paula Dean)

Ingredients:

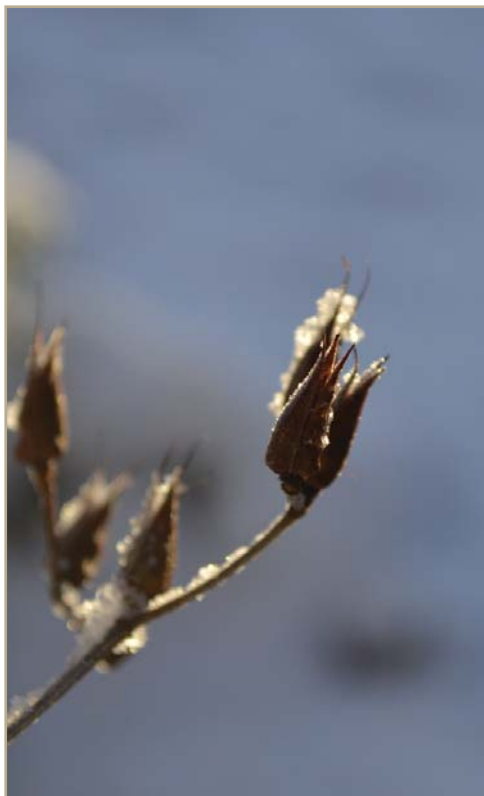
3 cups cooked chicken breast
1 ½ cups diced celery
1/2 cup slivered toasted almonds
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
1 ½ cups mayonnaise
1 ½ cups grated sharp cheddar cheese
2/3 cup crushed potato chips for topping

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Spray a 13 by 9-inch baking dish with vegetable oil cooking spray.

In a large mixing bowl combine the chicken, celery, almonds, salt, pepper, lemon juice, mayonnaise, and cheese. Place the mixture in the prepared baking dish. Spread the crushed potato chips on top. Bake for 20 minutes, or until bubbly.

Tiffany Stahl
Education Program Specialist



Garden highlights:



Schizachyrium scoparium
little bluestem
near oak allee



Hydrangea quercifolia
oakleaf hydrangea
near Out on a Limb



Quercus alba
white oak
English park



Cedrus atlanticus 'Glaucous'
Blue Atlas cedar
near Pennock garden



Metasequoia glyptostroboides
dawn redwood
across from Key Fountain



Itea virginica
'Henry's Garnet'
Virginia sweetspire
near Fernery

Upcoming Events

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Volunteer Workshop 10:30 am	9 Guides Training Committee 10 am	10	11 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
12 Tu B'Shevat Program 10am- 1pm	13 Tu B'Shevat Program 10am- 1pm	14 Tu B'Shevat <u>10am- 1pm</u> Guides Retention Committee 11:30 am	15 Tu B'Shevat Program 10am- 1pm	16 Tu B'Shevat Program 10am- 1pm	17	18
19	20 MLK Holiday <i>Offices closed; Garden open</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Guides Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm	29	30	31	

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

Upcoming Events

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6 Volunteer Workshop 10 am	7	8 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
9	10	11	12 Horticulture Volunteer Workshop* 9 am - 3 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Horticulture Volunteer Workshop* 9 am - 3 pm	27	28	

Weekly Volunteer Events

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Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

* REGISTRATION REQUIRED. We will meet in the Magnolia Room in the Horticulture Center; space is limited.