

VOLUNTEER

October 2013



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 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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Volunteer

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Cover photo and photos throughout: Stephanie Kuniholm
unless otherwise stated



Nyssa sylvatica

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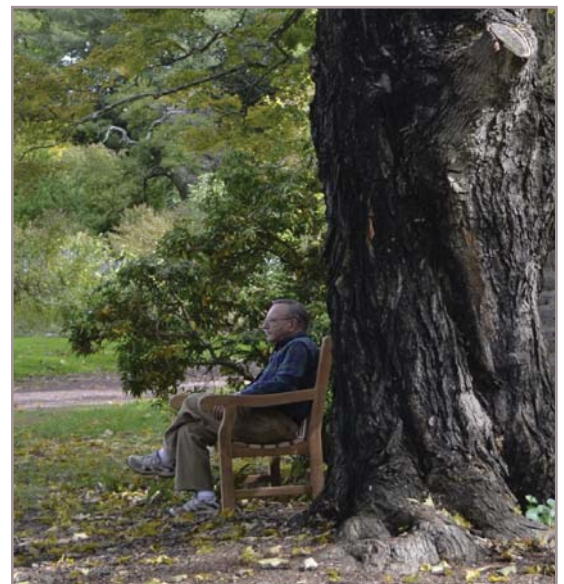
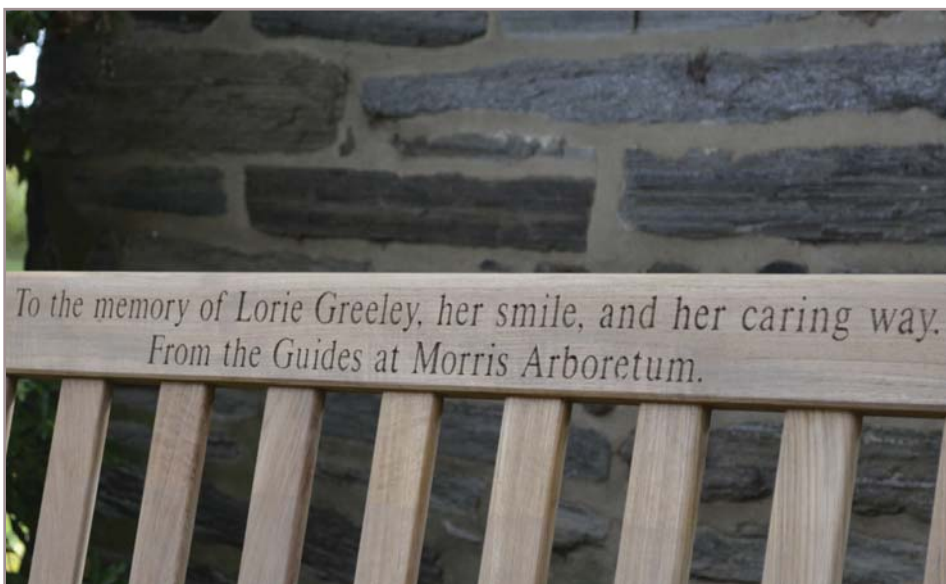
Letter from the Editor

This morning we were spoiled with another picturesque fall day; cool air, warm sun, leaves changing from green to yellow to red. Today I joined with other Arboretum staff, volunteers, Guides, and friends to celebrate the dedication and enthusiasm of Lorie Greeley. Although I didn't have the chance to meet Lorie, I was struck by her love of learning and her willingness to be immersed in the Arboretum and involved in the lives of those around her. What struck me even more was that I was completely surrounded by people who share Lorie's dedication and enthusiasm for the Arboretum. Today I am especially thankful to be in the middle of such a passionate and energetic community of learners!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm

McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

Now that fall is upon us, perhaps we need to assess our spring and summer gardens. I try to use the right plant in the right place method of gardening. But that is not always the case. For instance, I know the deer love tulips, and although I too love tulips, I no longer have them in my garden. However, the deer also love to munch on my lily blooms (after all you can put them in salads, so they must taste good) yet they will always have a place in my garden. I mustn't forget roses. I realize they are deer candy, Japanese Beetle Smorgasbords and receptacles for every plant disease on the planet, but after 45 years of growing roses, I don't intend to stop now.

When I told a dear friend in England the deer had eaten my flowers, she was shocked to learn we have deer in our yards. I then mentioned we also play hosts to voles, moles, chipmunks, squirrels, and ground hogs. Oh yes, I forgot to tell her about the adorable bunnies under my potting shed. They too love to munch on rose leaves.

As we review our gardens from 2013, we reconsider our plant choices, the animal damage done but also the incredible joy we have received from our bit of trying to tame nature. We remain, like all gardeners, the most optimistic of all creatures, for next year will be different! Happy Fall, Happy Gardening.

*Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides*



Save the Dates!

Volunteer Workshop: Fragrance in the Garden *October 24, 10 am*

Speaker Robin Potter will lead us in a conversation about the botany and human history of fragrant gardens, including a review of fragrant plants and ways to incorporate them into the garden. This fun talk ranges from pollinators to Persian carpets to plants!

Please note: Our start time has been changed to 10 am!

Volunteer Field Trip to the Pearl S. Buck House *November 12, depart at 9:30 am*

Join fellow Arboretum volunteers for a morning at this historic house. Pearl S. Buck, recipient of the Pulitzer Prize and Nobel Prize in literature until her death in 1973. Our tour of the house will feature Holiday decorations as well as an Edison-Dictaphone, pieces from Pearl Buck's wardrobe, and more! Admission is free and we will stop for lunch on the way home.

To RSVP, please email Lisa Bailey at baileyl@upenn.edu or call 215-247-5777 ext. 157



Koelreuteria paniculata



Taxodium distichum



Hydrangea quercifolia

Win – Win Situation!

Call all your friends, tell all your neighbors: We need enthusiastic, energetic guides! And we're willing to give away great prizes to whoever brings in the most recruits.

Each year people call our office to ask about becoming a guide. Most have heard about the program through friends or in the Arboretum's Seasons newsletter. 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).



Connections Beyond our Garden Lecture: Talks on People, Plants, and Place

PHS – The Year-Round Flower Show

Wednesday, October 16 at 3 p.m.

Presented by Drew Becher, President, PHS

FREE for volunteers- please call 215-247-5777 ext 125 to register

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, best known for the Philadelphia Flower Show, is now bringing beauty and inspiration to landscapes and programs in the Philadelphia region throughout the year with projects such as Pop Up Gardens, temporary sites that transform Center City Philadelphia's vacant spaces into urban oases. Drew Becher will provide an insider's preview of the grand Pop Up project planned for next spring, the 2014 Flower Show, and also the vision of the Civic Landscapes Plan, designed to transform sites in Philadelphia in the years to come.

More Park, Less Way and Other Urban Design Visions

Wednesday, November 13 at 3 p.m.

Harris Steinberg, Director, PennPraxis, University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer Price: \$8

Design with nature, merge neighborhood charm with civic grandeur, make places for real Philadelphians, create parks walkable from every community, honor the river, update the meaning of park space for the 21st century. These are just a few of the concepts developed during the re-envisioning of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Central Delaware, and the Philadelphia Park system by PennPraxis, the applied research arm of the School of Design at Penn founded to extend design excellence into the community. Speaker Harris Steinberg, founding executive director of PennPraxis and associate professor of city and regional planning, will share some of the visions for our most important and iconic public spaces.



Image courtesy of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society

Snapshots from Sunshine & Roses



Photos courtesy of Bob Gutowski

A Year in the Life of the Compton Head Gardener

As an archives transcriber assigned to transcribe the 1921-1922 daily diary kept by John Tonkin and donated by his granddaughter Gretchen Asam, I was immediately hooked. When Tonkin wrote "Very dry" almost daily from June 3 to 25, "watering all the time (3 men) not very good results", I prayed for rain. When he recorded "horse took sick on the road", I wondered if it survived.

Tonkin, Compton head gardener from 1913 to 1957, marked the seasons and weather's foibles. "Planted first crop of garden peas"; "First swarm of Bees"; "Swans laid first Eggs"; "Planted Last crop Sweet Corn...picked the last peas"; "10 degrees of Frost cut all Flowering Plants very bad"; "Heavy storm in afternoon & evening washed roads in Park very bad."

When "Miss Morris left for summer trip" Tonkin "stopped all fountains" and embarked on cutting, hauling, pointing, pruning and weeding. Then "Stopped pruning Dead wood from trees until after Miss Morris come back-lots more to prune but haven't time". Clean up ensued for 13 days until he noted, "Miss Morris came back-place in good shape."

Some entries are peculiar to 1920's farm life. "Put in set of Drinking cups for cows" surely meant neither a Dixie dispenser nor plastic ware. "Started to cut grass with horse machine in afternoon" tickles the imagination, as does "Car made trip to City-Bought 3 bags of Blood".

Documentation of pond dredging escalates for 18 days. "7 men in pond Starting Hauling...16 loads"; "24 loads Hauled"; "9 men in Pond hauled 40 loads"; "11 men in pond Hauled 45 loads"; "men worked until 10 o'clock in Pond". "Finished Cleaning Pond- 560 loads of Mud Hauled" must have been met by a loud "Amen" from those tired men.

Tonkin's pride of work clearly shines through in entries like "8 men cleaned up park- looked fine-Roads hoed and edged"; "Gang of men from Wayne Iron Works Started to take down Iron fence in Park. Made a great improvement to the beauty of the place". But did he resist modernity? "Phila Electric started to bring cable in. Lots of drawbacks"; "new pump worked 2 ½ months and then went to pieces"; "tractor couldn't plough deep enough. Horses better".

And not to be missed is this example of the wage scale: "George Whillier Finished on Farm-worked 38 hrs paid \$13.30." You do the math!

To read more about John Tonkin's diary visit Morris Archives & History online at:
<http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/archives/texts.htm>

Elizabeth Gavula

Archives & History Volunteer



Take a Class — Learn Something New!

To sign up for a class call 215-247-5777, ext. 125

Gardening for Wildlife Tuesday, October 8, 7 – 9 pm

Marc Radell, Penn State Certified Master Gardener

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Learn how to enhance your property's potential to provide food, water, and shelter for a variety of wildlife in a sustainable and aesthetic way. It will cover the backyard habitat principles developed by leading environmental organizations and recommend specific plants and practices.

Creating a Woodland Garden Thursday, October 10, 7 – 8:30 pm

Eva Monheim, Horticulture Instructor, Temple University

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Learn how to transform an area of your landscape into a woodland oasis. If you already have a grove of trees or are thinking of planting one, this presentation will help you make the proper selection of trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals.

Compost This! Saturday, October 12, 10 am – 1 pm

Lucy Dinsmore, Rosarian, Morris Arboretum

Volunteer Price: \$15

This class will demonstrate the how's and why's of making compost and compost tea for your home garden.

Putting Food Aside: Canning Basics for the Home Cook Saturday, Oct. 19, 1– 2:30 pm

Lois Fischer, Penn State Certified Master Gardener

Volunteer Price: \$16

Too many tomatoes, beans, or cucumbers? Want to make homemade jam but don't know where to begin? This workshop will teach you all of the basic techniques of water-bath canning needed to create delicious canned goods from your kitchen.

The Lure of the Labyrinth Saturday, October 19, 10 am – 12 pm

Michelle Conners, Public Programs Event Coordinator, Morris Arboretum

Janie Shields, Special Projects Coordinator, Morris Arboretum

Volunteer Price: \$10

The history of the labyrinth is as old as humanity. Through the centuries, these paths have been featured in garden and church designs, symbolizing love, rebirth, and spiritual pilgrimage.

Garden highlights:



Lonicera sempervirens
coral honeysuckle
Oak Allee



Asclepias tuberosa
butterfly weed
Swan Pond



Anemone x hybrida
'Whirlwind'
Japanese anemone
Wisteria Walk



Arisaema triphyllum
jack-in-the-pulpit
Log Cabin



Acer palmatum
'Skeeter's Broom'
Japanese maple
Wisteria Walk



Acer wuyuanense
maple
Near Swan Pond

Upcoming Events

October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	2	3	4	5 Discovery Series 11am- 3 pm Fall Festival
6 Fall Festival 10 am-3 pm	7	8	9	10	11	12 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
13	14	15 Guide Retention Committee Meeting 1:30 pm	16	17	18	19
20 Bloomfield Farm Day 12 - 3 pm	21	22	23	24 Volunteer Workshop 10:00 am	25	26
27	28	29 Guide Training Committee Meeting 1:30 pm	30	31		

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

Saturdays and Sundays: Welcome Cart 11:00am-3:00pm

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

Upcoming Events

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	6	7	8	9 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
10	11	12 Volunteer Trip to Pearl S. Buck House 9:30 am	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Holiday Garden Railway Opens	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	29	30

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