

# VOLUNTEER

OCTOBER 2012



Morris Arboretum of the  
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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Photos throughout: Sarah Bolivar unless otherwise stated



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## Letter from the Editor October 2012

It was officially the first day of autumn on September 22nd! The weather is crisp and teeming with opportunities to cozy up to . . . your favorite plant! Starting in November, come check out the Arboretum on Saturdays for Winter Wellness Walks (as well as help lead!). Before then, though, take a stroll along Oak Allée, where you will find traditional and storybook-themed scarecrows come to life. To learn about all our fantastic fall events, visit the Arboretum's online calendar [here](#).

In this edition, we'll get a glimpse of the volunteers' most recent trip to Island Beach State Park, an account on Sunshine and Roses, insight on the Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium, and reflections from someone familiar out in the garden. Enjoy your favorite pumpkin-blend drink, sit back, and enjoy the fall foliage before getting out there to rake it all! Happy October.

Cheers,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship  
Endowed Education Intern*

Intern Trip

Corrections to September's *Volunteer* newsletter:

The introduction to the article, "The International Society of Arboriculture Conference: Great Speakers + Three Days + the Fattest Trees We Have Ever Seen," should have had the full title of Rebekah Armstrong as *The Martha S. Miller Urban Forestry Intern*.



The interns visited The Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge in Wilmington, Delaware, to explore how an urban site, previously used as landfill, was transformed into a wildlife oasis. One can see critters traversing the evolving landscape. It was truly amazing to find this open space nestled within the urban fabric of Wilmington. **For more photos, view our Intern Facebook Page.**

# notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

*"Convince me that you have a seed and I am prepared to expect wonders"*

Henry David Thoreau

There are over 100,000 species of flora in the world that are threatened by extinction through habitat destruction, over harvesting, and climate change. Fortunately, in several places scientists are coming to the rescue. In West Sussex, England, the Millennium Seed Bank receives dozens of shipments of seeds from more than 50 countries. They aim to collect seeds from 25% of our planet's 400,000 plant species by 2020. The seeds are placed in one of four 516 square feet cold rooms which are maintained at -20 degrees Celsius. This is cold enough to preserve them for 500 years. This means that even if the plants are lost in the wild, they can be regenerated. As of now, the facility contains 2.2 billion seeds. Another facility in Norway contains copies of seeds stored in various banks around the world. The challenge, of course, is to get the seeds to germinate after they have been frozen. One of the ecosystems that has contributed seeds is the rare Northern tallgrass prairie of the United States where less than one tenth of one percent of the original habitat remains. One important seed from this location is the green antelope milkweed, the preferred diet of monarch butterflies. It is possible that many of the seeds collected will produce plants important to medicine or as drought resistant crops. We need to save all the seeds we can (Smithsonian, June, 2012).

A definition from Beard and McKie:

*Seed – Costly, but highly nutritious form of bird food sold in handsome packets printed with colorful pictures of flowers and vegetables.*

See you in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides

*Cyclamen hederifolium*  
hardy cyclamen



## volunteer news

### Sunshine and Roses - A Toast to All Volunteers!

Yes, we volunteers at the Arboretum know that we are appreciated. But it's nice to get formal recognition. Which is what happened at the annual Sunshine and Roses party, on September 20. About 80 volunteers and staff members gathered at the former site of the Summer Border Garden, just below the Rose Garden, on a glorious late summer evening.

After we sipped wine and were served hors d'oeuvres by the staff, we heard Paul Meyer, The F. Otto Haas Executive Director, Anthony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, and Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs, sing our praises.

Paul Meyer said that, "You are the best . . . We could not do what we do without you." He thanked all volunteers, whom he noted range from within the Advisory Board of Managers to the groups that do hands-on work in the garden. "We so appreciate all you do, but so do the 130,000 visitors that come to the Arboretum."

-Herb Kestenbaum, Volunteer



Image: Christine Pape, Publications Editor



Image: Christine Pape, Publications Editor

## volunteer news

### Island Beach State Park - Exploring a Barrier Island Ecosystem

Beautiful weather, not a mosquito in sight, and the ocean waves languidly making their way to the shore – It was a perfect day to visit a barrier island ecosystem. Dr. Ann Rhoads and Dr. Tim Block led the volunteers along trails, such as the Spizzle Creek Trail, where they were able to examine changing habitats and plant communities within just a short distance from each other. Susan Marshall, an archives volunteer and trip attendee, noted, “It was nice to share this experience with experts, who broke things down to detail.”

On arriving at a bird blind, Susan was able to capture some great bird images. Perhaps a birding class with Ruth Pfeffer has helped? “I definitely learned a lot!” Susan shared. Jerry Snyder, another trip attendee, was particularly fascinated by “how much of a forest could exist so close to the ocean.” Cherry trees and blueberry trees sprawled along this forest edge. Additionally, volunteers learned more about how dunes continuously move, despite their seemingly static nature. Dunes, an integral part of barrier systems, help protect inland ecosystems from natural elements, such as salt spray and strong winds. Afterward, the volunteers headed to Rare Find Nursery, where they learned about propagation of sundew and pitcher plants, as well as other species. Keep your ear low to the ground for future volunteer trip opportunities!



Image: MaryAnn Smith



Image: MaryAnn Smith

# volunteer news

**Where would you like to go for the spring volunteer field trip?** Share your ideas with Michelle Conners at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777, ext. 109.



Image: MaryAnn Smith



Image: Susan Marshall



Image: Susan Marshall



Image: Mary Phalan



Image: Jerry Snyder

# volunteer news

## Volunteer Workshop

### Fall Color Walk

*Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturist*

Join us for an invigorating and educational autumn walk with Vince around the Arboretum. Meet at the Upper Gallery.

Thursday, October 18 | 12:30 p.m.  
Free for volunteers.

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### Orchid Workshop

*Beth Davis  
Waldor Orchids*

Learn how you can grow exquisite orchids as houseplants and pot up one to take home. By applying the proper cultural techniques to vigorous orchid varieties, you can grow these exotic plants in your home or greenhouse and have them flourish.

Tuesday, October 23 | 7 – 9 p.m.  
Volunteer Price (includes orchid): \$32

### Great Plants for Fall Color: A Tour with the Arboretum's Curator

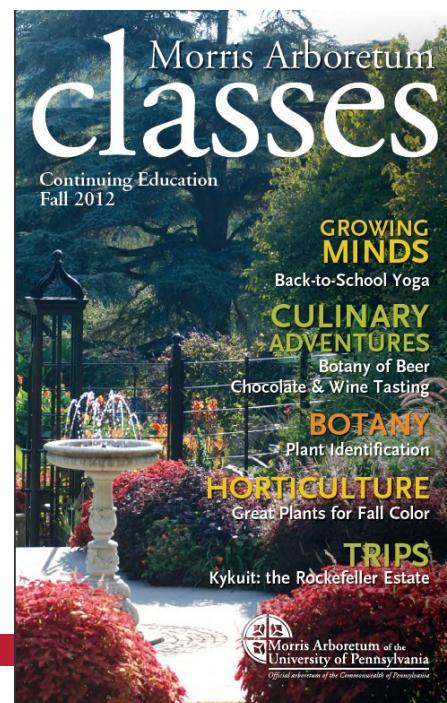
*Anthony Aiello*

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

The Arboretum comes alive in autumn with a rich palette of brilliant colors. Join Tony Aiello, the Arboretum's Curator of Plants, for a tour of the Arboretum focusing on colorful fall foliage and fruit, and interesting bark texture.

Saturday, October 20 | 1 – 3 p.m.  
Volunteer Price: \$12.50

To register for these great classes, call (215) 247-5777, ext.125.



## around the arboretum

### Reflections from Former Intern and Seasonal Gardener, Prima Hutabarat

*Though some of you may not have had the pleasure to meet Prima, he was a familiar face to those out in the gardens. Prima traveled from Indonesia to become the 2011-2012 Charles S. Holman Rose & Flower Garden Intern. He stayed on with the Arboretum as a seasonal worker and we were sad to say goodbye just a few weeks ago. Below are his insights on working at the Arboretum, meeting volunteers, and comparing horticulture practices in the United States and Indonesia.*

**Q:** What was your daily work experience like?

**A:** For the last 3 months, since I was an intern and became a seasonal, **I feel I gained more intense experience in maintaining the rose gardens and the gardens around it.** Not only because I had to work independently, but also because I had to carry on the rose garden in a good quality along the critical time without a section leader. I also really got into it since I worked with Heather Schmidt, the current rose garden intern, to keep the maintenance running smoothly. Heather is really sharp, a fast learner, and enjoyable to work with. I am really grateful that we have such a great rose garden intern this year!



Image: Prima Hutabarat

**Q:** How did the internship and time with the Arboretum influence your career goals?

**A:** My experience in working at the Arboretum was my first time working in a public garden. **I found that it not only exposed me to a deeper horticulture understanding, but also to the public relations skill, which I think was really valuable for my professional development.** Daily activities in a public garden taught me more about connecting people with plants, sharing information with the public, as well as building a positive attitude and communication skills. My experience at the Arboretum will be useful for my future career in horticulture, especially in public horticulture.

# around the arboretum

**Q:** What was it like working with the volunteers?

**A:** Working with volunteers was always such a pleasure for me. It was a nice moment to work in other areas with different people. Volunteers at the Arboretum are a great group; they are always working diligently and making significant results. They are also friendly people and love to talk, I always had such a nice conversation with them about anything. They have such broad networking and experience. **I would like to say thank you so much to them, for their time, help, and friendship.** Their break-time snacks are also good! Yum!



Image: Prima Hutabarat

**Q:** How do you think horticulture practices vary between the United States and Indonesia?

**A:** In Pennsylvania, and in temperate regions in general, people tend to really appreciate the sun, the seasons, and the plants changing. People work really hard to grow plants between spring and fall, then rest in the winter. The routine makes people more disciplined and efficient, because seasons and the plants change, the work also changes. In tropical regions, we have sun all year long, it never stops, people really get spoiled with the flexibility and growing time, which is a nice thing, but for some reason it makes us less disciplined, less efficient, and less likely to appreciate the time and plants. **Another thing I realize is that tropical regions have such a high diversity of plants and we have such a long never-ending homework to study all of them; and here, you have less diverse plants, but every single plant is such a gem.**

*We wish the best to Prima in his future endeavors!*

-Sarah Bolivar, *The McLean Contributionship  
Endowed Education Intern*

# around the arboretum

## Welcome Lucy, the new Rose Garden Horticulturist!



Image: Lucy Dinsmore

I'm really excited to join the Morris Arboretum as the Rose Garden Horticulturist, and I look forward to getting to know the volunteers that help make the Arboretum look as great as it does. I received my Master's in Horticulture from the University of Minnesota, where I developed my enthusiasm for sustainable design and native plants. I worked with a design/build company there, creating native plant gardens in the Twin Cities area for almost three years, until the winters got the better of me. Having grown up in Washington, DC, I was eager to return to the warmer mid-Atlantic climate.

I've been gardening at Chanticleer Gardens for the past two seasons, last year as an intern, and this year as an assistant horticulturist. When I'm not in the garden, I'm most likely cooking, baking, taking photographs, hiking, and learning. I just moved to Mt. Airy, and I'm looking forward to exploring the neighborhood and digging in my own garden at home.



Image: Mark Stehle

-Lucy Dinsmore

# around the arboretum

## Volunteer Snapshots!



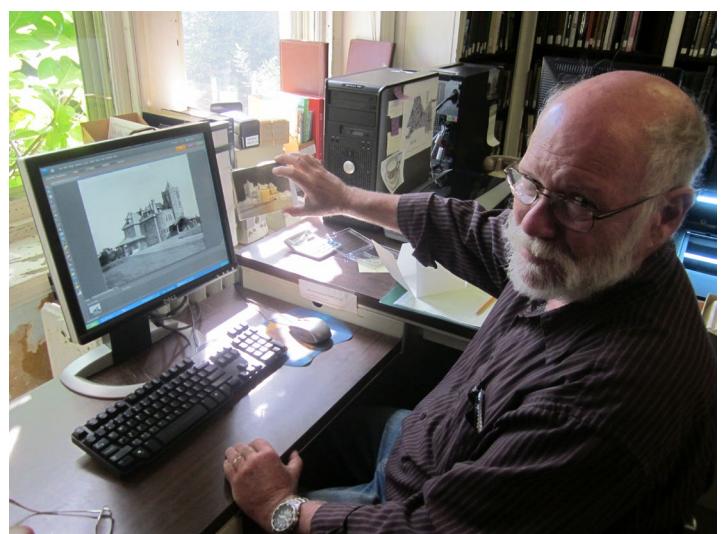
Image: Deborah Glass



Image: Deborah Glass



Image: Deborah Glass



## education

### The Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium - Providing a Voice to Docents and Guides

I sat down with Jody Sprague, a Morris Arboretum guide since 1999, who has recently become Chair of the Greater Philadelphia Area Docent Consortium Board. Since 2000, the Consortium has been providing a forum for guides and docents to exchange ideas and promote Philadelphia's rich history. The Philadelphia Museum of Art, Hagley Museum, and Philadelphia Zoo are just a few that, along with the Morris Arboretum, make up the 30 institutions that meet to discuss docent-related "hot topics." Themes may range from *The Evolving Role of Docents* to *The Unruly Visitor*. A recent topic was *How does your Organization Incorporate the Written Word?* Jody shared that the Morris Arboretum was a hit when she discussed Passport to Adventure – many docents wondered how to incorporate a similar feature into their tours!



When asked how the Arboretum compares to other institutions in terms of fostering guide relationships, Jody shared, "When people have worked 30 years plus, they are looking for something meaningful once they retire – they don't want busywork. Here at the Arboretum, volunteers can offer suggestions and they are taken seriously. If the idea is feasible, it can be implemented. We, the guides, set up committees, plan and implement tours, as well do our own evaluation. The Arboretum is a good place to be." As Chair of the Consortium Board, Jody is responsible for running meetings, determining meeting locations, and more. She then transmits Consortium information to Guide's Council. If interested in attending a Consortium meeting, please contact Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides and Recording Secretary of the Consortium Board.

-Sarah Bolivar, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

# education

## Fall Refresher Recap - Come Guide with Us!

This year's Fall Refresher sessions were a huge success. Many new and seasoned guides gathered on September 14 and 21 to sample four complete tours. Featured were: the Wetlands tour, Pollination and Seed Dispersal tours, the Horticultural Center tour and the Mill tour – thanks to Liza Hawley, Marcia Steinberg, Jane Alavi and Joan Hanby for leading these tours so expertly. Thanks also to Tim Block and Bob Gutowski for their entertaining and educational presentations. And, finally, “hats off” to the Retention Committee, and Liza and Lisa for helping to plan the events.

**Now that so many of you have gotten a chance to review these tours, we encourage you to volunteer to lead them on your own!** If you were unable to attend the Fall Refresher sessions, but would still like to review the featured tours, please feel free to shadow other guides giving these tours (see the Google calendar for tour dates).

We also strongly urge our new guides to gain experience by shadowing or partnering with other guides giving tours that are of interest to you. (Again, see the Google calendar for tour dates\*)

1. Go to [www.gmail.com](http://www.gmail.com)
2. Type in the education volunteer username
3. Type in the password
4. Click “sign in”
5. Click on calendar option at the top of the page and view calendar

If you have any questions, please contact Liza Hawley at [efhawley@upenn.edu](mailto:efhawley@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777, ext. 128.

-Joan Kober, *Retention Committee Chair*

## education

### Take your Tour on Wheels: Promoting Visitor Accessibility

Providing guided cart tours for fans of the Arboretum is an entirely rewarding experience. Guests that benefit from this service are overwhelmingly appreciative and absolutely delighted at the chance to view garden areas that would otherwise be beyond their reach. **Help us to fulfill many more cart tour requests for our disabled or elderly visitors by becoming a certified cart guide.**

Certification requires completion of an online Driver Safety course that can be completed at home or in the Education Office. Afterward, we'll go out for a spin on the cart for practice, and then you'll be officially in the wish granting business ! Please contact Lisa Bailey at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu) for more information or to sign up.



Image: Lisa Bailey



Image: Lisa Bailey

**Save The Date!**  
**Education Volunteer Holiday Potluck**  
**Tuesday 12/18, 12-2pm**

Start signing up for what you would like to bring by accessing the Google calendar.

# garden highlights



*Cotinus coggygria*  
'Velvet Cloak' common  
smoketree

(Rose Garden)

Did you know this plant is part of the *Anacardiaceae* or the cashew family? This family produces fruits that are drupes.



*Clerodendrum*  
*trichotomum*  
harlequin glorybower

(Between Oak Allée and the Springhouse)

Besides mesmerizing colors, the glorybower's leaves are said to smell like peanut butter.



*Ilex verticillata*  
'Winter Gold'

(Around Butcher Sculpture Garden)

These berries' orange color "pops" in any garden until late fall. Fortunately for us, birds feast on other berries first!



*Ganoderma*  
*applanatum*  
artist's bracket

(On downed log at end of Oak Allée)

Keep an eye out on all the interesting mushrooms at the Arboretum!



*Colchicum autumnalis*  
autumn crocus

(In front of Rose Garden)

This fall-blooming bulb brightens up any rainy, gray day.



*Cercidiphyllum*  
*japonicum*  
katsura-tree

(Around Holly Slope)

Come smell the "cotton candy" scent while the leaves change color!

## upcoming events

### Upcoming Events and Volunteering Opportunities

#### Fall Festival

**Sunday, October 7, 11am-3pm**

Don't miss this afternoon of autumn fun that has become an annual tradition for many families. Make your own scarecrow, paint a pumpkin, and sample different varieties of apples. Free with admission. Some activities have an additional fee.

**Volunteers are needed to help out at the scarecrow building and pumpkin painting tables.** Shifts run 9:30am-12:30pm or 12:30-3:30pm. Please contact Michelle Conners at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777 ext. 109 if you can help.

#### Bloomfield Farm Day

**Sunday, October 28, 12-3 pm**

Tour the Springfield Mill and enjoy games, a kids' concert, and more! Springfield Mill, which dates back to 1760, is located on the Bloomfield Farm side of the Morris Arboretum. The Mill is one of the oldest architectural features at the Arboretum and contains the most complete inventory of original mill works and related machinery of any mill in the area. The content of the mill provides a unique opportunity to interpret 19th and early 20th century agriculture and milling. Free with admission. Contact: Michelle Conners at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777 ext. 109.

# upcoming events

## October

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	3	4	5	6 Garden Discovery Series 11am-3pm  Native Trees Tour 11am-12pm
7  Fall Festival 10am-3pm	8 <b>Columbus Day</b>	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 Volunteer Workshop 12:30pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	19	20 Native Trees Tour 11am-12pm
		Scarecrow Walk throughout Oak Alleé, October 6-21				
21	22	23 Education Committee Meeting 1:30-3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	24	25	26	27
28  Bloomfield Farm Day, 12-3pm	29	30	31			

## Weekly Volunteer Events

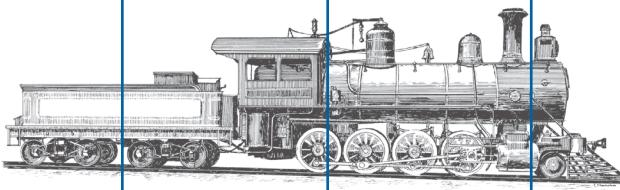
**Wednesdays:** Horticulture Volunteers 8:00am-12:pm

**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 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am  Native Trees Tour 11am-12pm
4	5	6  Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	7	8	9	10  Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
11  <b>Veteran's Day</b>	12	13	14	15	16	17  Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am  Native Trees Tour 11am-12pm
18	19	20	21	22  <b>Thanksgiving Day</b>	23	24  Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
<b>Holiday Garden Railway Display November 23-December 31</b>						
25	26	27  Education Committee Meeting 1:30-3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	28	29	30	

## Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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