

# VOLUNTEER

DECEMBER 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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Volunteer  
Sarah Bolivar, Editor

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Front Cover: Paul Meyer  
Photos throughout: Sarah Bolivar unless otherwise stated



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## Letter from the Editor

### December 2012

Whether you had a traditional turkey feast, turducken, tofurkey, or perhaps no turkey (!), I hope you all had a fantastic time with loved ones. The Morris Arboretum is thankful for its community of volunteers, which helps make the Arboretum what it is today - an oasis where you can be surrounded by grand trees and rich wildlife within minutes. Thank you, Volunteers, for your passion and dedication to the Arboretum.

Happy Holidays,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship  
Endowed Education Intern*

## Intern Trip Corner

The interns went to Wissahick-on Charter School, where they shared their expertise on topics from roses and bees to transpiration and forest succession. The intern session was born out of a desire to reach out to the wider community and share the Arboretum mission of "connecting people, place, and plants."



# notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

Those of us of a certain age fondly remember Mel Tormé singing “chestnuts roasting on an open fire” from “The Christmas Song”. The peak of that song’s popularity was in 1946, a year in which it would have been almost impossible to find any American chestnuts to roast. All the chestnut trees had succumbed to the chestnut blight caused by a fungus that probably found its way to North America from China or Japan, whose chestnut trees were resistant to it. The loss of the American chestnut was a great ecological disaster. Billions of trees were destroyed, primarily in rural areas of this country. The American chestnuts, more flavorful than Chinese chestnuts, were a large cash crop for farmers and a great food source for wildlife. The wood was easy to work with; resistant to rot; and provided about two thirds of the tannic acid needed in tanning leather. They were huge, straight trees, up to 120 feet tall and 12 feet in diameter. They re-grew rapidly from cut stumps. And they are gone.

Several approaches to restoration have been tried. One is crossbreeding with Chinese trees. To get a tree that is 15/16 American takes decades. Chestnuts have thousands of genes and, along with the two or three genes that confer resistance, there might come others that confer undesirable traits. Furthermore, there are hundreds of strains of the blight fungus. Another approach is to place genes from wheat into American chestnuts to confer resistance. A very small number of transgenic chestnut saplings are in existence. Finally, there is the hope that somewhere in the trees’ native range, there exist trees capable of resisting the blight long enough to reproduce. It would be almost miraculous if mutation and natural selection could produce a wild, blight resistant tree. The story of the American chestnut is a sad one. But miracles do happen. Let’s hope for one.

*(American Scientist, July-August, 2008)*

“A society grows great when old men plant trees whose shade they know they shall never sit in”  
- proverb

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides

# education

## Important Reminders!

### Food Factory Tour Guide Refresher: Monday, December 3rd | 10:30 am (Meet at Widener)

The Guide Retention Committee wants to keep the Refresher momentum going by having a get together every four months. Starting in December these meetings will help guides stay on top of tours and any changes in the garden. Weather permitting, we'll meet in front of the Widener Visitor Center at 10:30am, take a tour, and end with a B.Y.O. lunch.

For the December get together, we'll take the Food Factory tour. It's lots of fun and has some great activities to get us moving! We'll end at Gates Hall to have lunch in the conference room at noon. I'll bring dessert and beverages. Please join your fellow guides for fun and exercise, and maybe learn a new tour.

- Liza Hawley, *Visitor Education Coordinator*

### Tu B'Shevat - New Year of the Trees

Volunteers are needed for the following time slots:

Sunday, January 20th | 10:00-11:15am & 11:30-12:45pm

Monday, January 21st | 10:00-11:15am

Tuesday, January 22nd | 10:00-11:15am

Wednesday, January 23rd | 10:00-11:15am

Thursday, January 24th | 10:00-11:15am

Sunday, January 27th | 10:00-11:15am & 11:30-12:45 pm

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 or [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu), and you are welcome to sign up for more than one slot!



# education

# Important Reminders!

## Lead a walk through the gardens . . .

 **Winter Wellness Walks** will run from November through March, every Saturday, at 10:30am. Guides will meet and depart from the Visitor's Center. Beat those doldrums by leading brisk (or leisurely) walks around our lovely grounds.

<b>Help is especially needed for:</b>	January 12
	January 19
	January 26
	February 2



## volunteer news

### Settling Along the Brandywine, Building an Empire: The du Pont Story

On a beautiful autumnal day, nineteen volunteers and three staff members traveled to Wilmington, Delaware, to tour the Hagley Museum and Library. Located on 235 acres along the banks of the Brandywine Creek, Hagley collects, preserves, and interprets the unfolding history of American enterprise.

Hagley is where the du Pont story begins. It is the site of the gunpowder works founded by E. I. du Pont in 1802. This example of early American industry includes restored mills, a workers' community, and the ancestral home and gardens of the du Pont family.

Upon arriving, we were greeted by two guides who would share their knowledge and help us learn about the du Pont family. We climbed aboard a small bus that transported us into the property with our first destination being the Powder Yard.



The Powder Yard was composed of many small buildings. Each building contained the equipment for a single component of the milling operation. It was E. I. du Pont's belief that having individual buildings would reduce the number of workers hurt if there was an explosion. Water turbines provided the power for both gunpowder milling and tool making. These turbines were similar to the one that provided power to Springfield Mills here at the Arboretum. A visit to the Millwright and Machine shop introduced the group to the transfer of power from the turbine to the tool making machines via pulleys and belts.

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## volunteer news

A tool-making specialist demonstrated how a gear was made using a variety of milling machines. Then we visited a milling hut where the components of gunpowder were ground into fine particles. Similar to Springfield Mills, the wall facing the creek was designed to easily blow out if there was an explosion. While touring the Powder Yard, we were introduced to one of Hagley's Great Trees: a 300 year old Bald Cypress. It is native to southern Delaware and the fifth largest in the state.

The Hagley grounds also include the charming Georgian-style mansion Eleutherian Mills, the first du Pont family home in America. Built by du Pont Company founder E.I. du Pont in 1803, the Georgian-style residence reflects the tastes of the five generations of du Ponts who lived there. Empire, Federal, and Victorian periods of furniture are highlighted in various room settings. Located in front of the du Pont's home, an authentically restored nineteenth century garden of French design reflects E. I. du Pont's love of botany and gardening. Our guide shared with us that if E.I. had not immigrated to the United States, he probably would have devoted his life to botany and gardening.

The tours were followed by a lovely lunch arranged by Irene Harnitcheck. Thank you, Irene!

- Nancy Kolkebeck, Volunteer

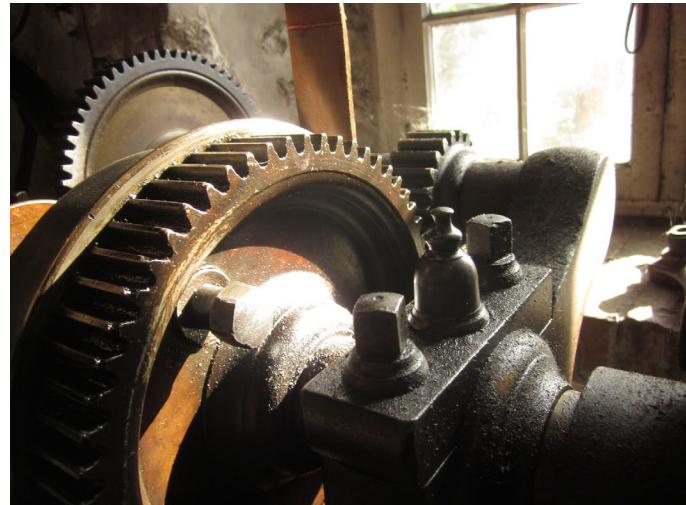


Image: Deborah Glass



# volunteer news

Join us for a holiday potluck!

## **Education Volunteer Potluck**

Tuesday, December 18th  
12pm-2pm  
Upper Gallery

(Sign up through Google Doc, in the office, or by e-mailing Sarah at [sbolivar@upenn.edu](mailto:sbolivar@upenn.edu))

## **Horticulture Volunteer Potluck**

Wednesday, December 19th  
12pm-2pm  
Upper Gallery



Image: Bekka Schultz

“There is no sincerer love than the love of food”

- George Bernard Shaw



## around the arboretum

### Mapping an Urban Forest within the Philadelphia Navy Yard

The Morris Arboretum Urban Forestry Consultants have been spending a lot of hours at the opposite end of Philadelphia recently. We've been inventorying, assessing, and mapping 2,000 trees in the Philadelphia Navy Yard (PNY), at the southernmost end of Broad Street. PNY was the first naval shipyard in the country and the U.S. Navy still operates some facilities there. Aker, a shipbuilding company, now manufactures commercial ships at PNY. Then there are companies like Urban Outfitters that have reused the old Navy buildings for their headquarters. Point being, it's a very cool place to spend time in: giant old ships and abandoned structures next to an active shipyard, constant renovation, and new construction.

During our inventory and assessment, we saw beautiful examples of big healthy spreading trees in lawns and then some sad cases: new trees battered by construction equipment and rubbed to death by deer.

In general, when we do field work, the urban forestry consultants look for hazardous trees – trees with branches that might fall, trees that are splitting – and then look at the overall health of the trees. We also measure the trunk and canopy, record the species, and map the trees' locations. We then make recommendations for our clients and provide them with a complete map and inventory of their trees to help them manage their portion of the urban forest.

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



# around the arboretum

## Lydia's Gilded Plates and Wine Goblets

Most volunteers, when they think of the Arboretum, think of the katsura-tree, metasequoias or lacebark pinesbut, but not Lydia Morris' wine goblets or luncheon plates – unless they work with Leslie Smith archiving and preserving some of the rich heritage of the Arboretum.

In September, several volunteers and I spread out two dozen pieces of dinnerware and glasses on the conference room table in Gates Hall. They represented all 165 dishes and glasses that had been given by the Morris household to their doctor, John McCloskey, and his wife, passed on to their grandchildren, and, recently, back to the Arboretum. Terry Foss photographed each piece; the photos then were linked to a master list of the dinnerware that includes an identifying number, description, trademarks and provenance of each piece.

Some of the pieces date to 1887, and all were imported before 1910. Many were gilded in gold leaf. Others have deep-red-and-gold decoration in a floral pattern. Most of the items were made at the Haviland porcelain factory in France, and some were manufactured expressly for markets in the United States, such as J.E. Caldwell jewelers in Philadelphia and were decorated for the Morrises.



This collection adds a new dimension to the Arboretum's large inventory of photographs, letters, maps, architectural drawings, diaries and ledgers in the Archives. Inventories of the trees and plants in the early days of the garden are housed with the Curator in the Horticulture Department.

Photos of the varied parts of the collection and information about specific items and their place in the history of the Arboretum are being posted to the Web site for staff, members, researchers and the public at large. Beyond digital publication on the Web, volunteers focus on assembling the results of their work for publication or exhibits.

(continued on next page)

## around the arboretum

This is a painstaking and lengthy task. Early on, significant work was done with the help of several summer interns from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Undergraduate Research and Fellowships. Arboretum volunteers arrived about four years ago and accelerated the project. At first there were four; today, there are eight. They are, in addition to Terry and me, Deborah Glass, Debbie Grill, Joan Kobar, Susan Marshall, Bani Paul and Nancy Trexler. Bob Gutowski, who has been overseeing the archives since 1985, was pleased to have Leslie join the staff in August as the part-time Archivist with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



Lydia Morris within the gardens

In the first year of their work, the volunteers contributed 240 hours of their time, according to Leslie's records. In subsequent years, the hours totaled 417, then 702, then 641 in 2011-2012. Over that time, Terry has scanned more than 3,600 images and documents. Leslie's crew indexed, for searching on the Web, 285 documents and manuscripts, 1,658 images and 61 objects, with many more available off-line to visiting researchers.

Though this project is ongoing, you can see the significant progress made so far by visiting:  
<http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/archives/index.html>

- Herb Kestenbaum, Volunteer

# around the arboretum

## Continuing Education Opportunities

### Keepsake Ornaments for the Holidays

Dyan Krajnikovich

*Artist, Art Teacher, and Owner of Pottery Works Mobile*

Join in this workshop and make holiday ornaments from clay to keep or give as a gift. Hand-building techniques will be used that are quick and easy to learn. We will cut your ornaments from clay by hand or use cookie cutters and then decorate them with paint and pattern tools. Finished projects will be ready for pick up at the Morris Arboretum Visitor Center on Saturday, December 15. Each participant may make up to three ornaments.

**Saturday, December 1 | 10:30 a.m. – 12 noon**

**Volunteer Price: \$30**

### Holiday Tabletop Tree with Lights

Cheryl Wilks

*Floral Educator, Florist, and Owner of Flowers on Location*

You will create a special centerpiece that is sure to put you into the holiday spirit. We will also use fresh flowers to decorate this spectacular holiday centerpiece that is 22 to 24 inches tall. Your tree arrangement will last four to five weeks. Bring a pair of pruners and a box to take home your tree.

**Thursday, December 13**

**Section A: 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Section B: 6 – 8:30 p.m.**

**Volunteer Prices: \$45 (materials included)**

### Tales of Compton: Exploring Morris Arboretum History

*Lukens Endowed Lecture*

Bob Gutowski

*Director of Public Programs, Morris Arboretum*

What today is the Morris Arboretum began as Compton, the summer home and garden of John and Lydia Morris. Who were these founders whose vision and legacy has spanned 125 years? How does the Compton they created nurture our experience? Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs and our garden historian, will share some images, stories, and insights of the people, place, and times that shaped the Arboretum of today.

**Sunday, January 27 | 2 p.m.**

**Free for members.**

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



# garden highlights



*Hamamelis mollis*

Chinese witchhazel

(Beside Visitor Center)

The witchhazel flowers withstand the cold by closing in relation to the temperature.



*Corylus fargesii*

Farges filbert

(Step Fountain)

Ten filbert trees from a 1996 expedition to China can be found throughout the gardens.



*Camellia oleifera*

tea-oil camellia

(Orange Balustrade)

The seeds of this evergreen shrub can be pressed and used as seasoning or cooking oil.



*Skimmia japonica*  
'Wisley Red'

Wisley Red Japanese skimmia

(Overlook Garden)

This evergreen shrub's leaves have a sweet fragrance when crushed or bruised.



*Mahonia x media*  
'Charity'

Charity mahonia

(Orange Balustrade)

Bright yellow foliage and an upright habit make this plant quite attractive during the winter.



*Stewartia*  
*pseudocamellia*

Japanese stewartia

(Bark Park)

Camellia-like flowers, red and yellow foliage during the autumn, and exfoliating bark give this tree year-round interest.

## upcoming events



### Penn Glee Club Holiday Concert Cookies, Cocoa, and Holiday Cheer!

Saturday, December 8 | 2:00pm  
Free with admission.

A winter tradition, the Penn Glee Club will return to Morris Arboretum on Saturday, December 8, for their 3rd Annual Holiday Concert. Come and enjoy the Glee Club's fun and diverse holiday repertoire, while enjoying hot cocoa and cookies in the garden.

### Holiday Hat Parade

Saturday, December 15 | 4:00 - 5:00pm  
Free with admission.  
Meet at Widener Visitor Center

Dig out your favorite hat, or create one just for the occasion. Join in the fun as we parade from the Widener Visitor Center down to the Garden Rail to celebrate the start of extended viewing hours. From December 15 - 31, the garden will be open until 5pm for visitors to enjoy this magically lit special attraction. The Garden Railway will close for the season after December 31.

Holiday Garden Railway Open until December 31st

# upcoming events

## December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
2	3 <i>barb clarke</i> Tour Refresher 10:30am <i>Widener Entrance</i>	4 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	5	6	7	8 Penn Glee Club Holiday Concert by the Sugarman Sculpture noon-5pm
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 Holiday Hat Parade 4pm <i>Widener Entrance</i>
16	17	18 Education Volunteer Holiday Potluck 12:00-2:00pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	19 Horticulture Volunteer Holiday Potluck 12:00-2:00pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	20	21	22 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
23	24 <i>Garden Closed</i> <i>Offices Closed</i>	25 <b>Christmas Day</b> <i>Garden Closed</i>	26 Garden Open <i>Offices Closed</i>	27 Garden Open <i>Offices Closed</i>	28 Garden Open <i>Offices Closed</i>	29 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
30		31				

## Weekly Volunteer Events

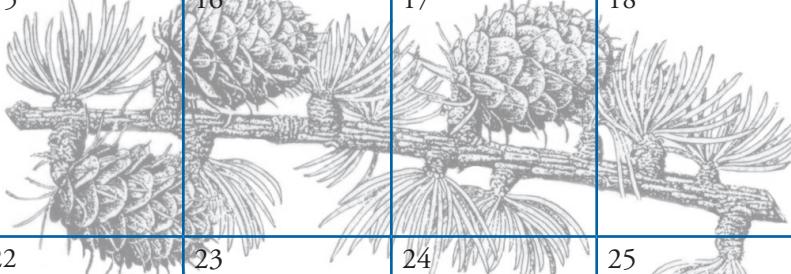
Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2:00pm-3:00pm

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

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

# upcoming events

## January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 <b>New Year's Day</b> <i>Offices Closed</i>	2	3	4	5 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
6	7	8 Guides Council Meeting 1:30-3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	9	10	11	12 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
13	14	15 	16	17	18	19 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
20 Tu B'Shevat Program Begins	21 <b>Martin Luther King Day</b> <i>Offices Closed</i>	22	23	24	25 	26 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30-11:30am
27 Tu B'Shevat Program Ends	28	29 Education Committee Meeting 1:30-3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	30	31		

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

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