

# VOLUNTEER

April 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.

Education: Liza Hawley, [efhawley@upenn.edu](mailto:efhawley@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 128

Garden Railway: Iana Turner, [iana@upenn.edu](mailto:iana@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 110

Grist Mill: Bob Anderson, [randerso@upenn.edu](mailto:randerso@upenn.edu)  
or (215) 247-5777 ext 108

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

Information:  
(215) 247-5777  
[www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)  
100 E. Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

## Volunteer

Ariel Dreyfus, Editor

Contributors: Jane Alavi ,

Michelle Connors, Lisa Bailey, Breck Miller, Bill Koons, Charlie Mazza, Larry Godley.

Question, comments and submissions can be directed to the editor at [mabxeduc@exchange.upenn.edu](mailto:mabxeduc@exchange.upenn.edu) or mailed to the Arboretum attn: Education Intern.

Front Cover: Ariel Dreyfus

Photos throughout: Ariel Dreyfus unless otherwise stated

*Magnolia 'Hong Xia'*, Red Sunset magnolia



## Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
Volunteer News	3
Notes From the Guides Chair	5
Plant Sale	6
Mill Update	7
Around the Arboretum	8
Horticulture News	10
Calendar	11



*Magnolia stella*, star magnolia

### Letter from the Editor April 2012

Happy Spring everyone! I hope that you all have had an opportunity to enjoy the pleasant weather and the gorgeous colors and smells of the arboretum. Come take a walk if you haven't lately; everyday there is something new in bloom! Make sure to join us for the last few intern project presentations and the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival later this month. Spring classes and lectures provide more learning opportunities for the plant lover, so don't miss out!

Ariel Dreyfus,  
*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



Photo: Zac Brooks

This past week the interns spent a great day with John Smithmyer and Steve Goines of Bartlett's Tree Experts, touring some local projects and seeing the experts at work. We started the day off right around the corner on Chestnut Hill Avenue, where we witnessed some truly impressive tree climbing as workers prepared to install structural support cables in a towering ash tree with limbs hanging precariously over rooftops. Next, we moved on to Wyndmoor Avenue, where Bartlett's workers performed their signature Root Invigoration procedure, which involves blowing away the soil around a tree's roots with a compressed air gun, to be replaced with an enriched mix of soil, fertilizer, and minerals tailored to the needs of the individual tree species—a very loud and very dirty job! After a great lunch at the Top of the Hill Café, we headed to Evergreen Avenue to meet with a Bartlett's client about some potential tree work on the property. Here we were able to see the assessment and proposal preparation process for individual projects, and also got to see John use a resistograph, which looks like a cross between a power drill and a seismograph, to measure heart rot in an old maple. All in all it was a very fun and very informative day.



assessment and proposal preparation process for individual projects, and also got to see John use a resistograph, which looks like a cross between a power drill and a seismograph, to measure heart rot in an old maple. All in all it was a very fun and very informative day.

-Breck Miller,  
*Plant Protection Intern*



## volunteer news

### Volunteer Opportunity

Join us for an exciting trip to the **Shofuso House and Gardens** in Philadelphia's Fairmount Park on **Thursday, April 19th**. We will be touring this traditional Japanese House and its nationally-ranked gardens. The group will head to lunch at the Crowne Plaza after the tour. Volunteers can sign up on the Google calendar, or with Lisa Bailey at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu) or ext. 157. Space in the vans is limited and first come first serve, but volunteers are welcome to meet the group there. We will leave the Arboretum from the bottom of the hill at 9:15 am and should return by 1 pm. As always, any active volunteers are welcome!



Image: www.thesecretcinema.com

### *April Means Arbor Day!*



Four volunteers are needed to help with this year's Arbor Day celebration, **Saturday, April 28 from 11am to 3pm**. This year we have designed educational activities that will allow cadet age Girl Scouts to earn their Trees badge. All Arboretum visitors are welcome to participate as well. The activities include four learning stations and one self-directed experience. Botany Director Dr. Tim Block, Urban Forestry Associate Director Jason Lubar, Arborist Ken Leroy and Landscape Architect Sarah Endriss will facilitate the learning stations. We would like a volunteer at each station as well to help orient newcomers to the activity, and to monitor the site. If you would like to sign up to help, or to get more information, please contact **Michelle Conners** at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or at **ext. 109**.

## Volunteer Opportunity!

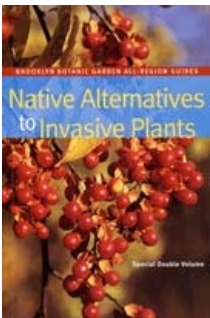
Volunteers, we need your HELP! **Arbor week** is almost here and we are overwhelmed with school groups eager to learn about trees. If you haven't already signed up or have more time to commit during the week of April 23rd-28th, please do so! Sign up on the Google calendar, or contact Lisa Bailey at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu) or ext. 157.

We appreciate your participation!

## Books on Native Plants

The Brooklyn Botanic Garden has published three great handbooks on the theme of native plants in the last six years. I have found these particularly informative and useful and wanted to share.

-Charlie Mazza, *Education Volunteer*

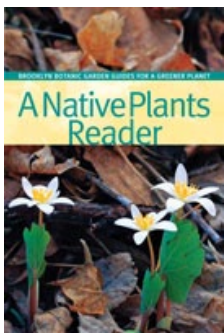
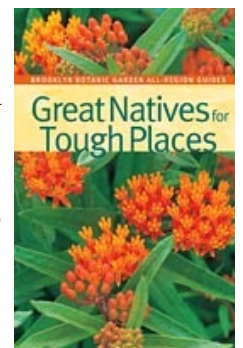


### Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants (2006)

There are 178 pages in this 239-page handbook devoted to native alternatives to invasive trees, shrubs, vines, herbaceous plants and grasses. For each invasive species, between one and four regional natives are described. The alternatives are matched, to the extent possible, by the plant's desirable characteristics, such as flowers, fruit, fall color, and ease of care. The remaining part of the handbook include sections on preventing plant invasions, the role of (public) roadside managers, invasive plant questions and answers, and native plant questions and answers.

### Great Natives for Tough Places (2009)

"The right plant for the right place" and "sustainable gardening" meet in this handbook. Comprised of seven articles by six different authors, it focuses on tough, adaptable garden-worthy plants that are also indigenous to the continental United States and Canada. The tough places considered in this handbook are sunny and dry sites, sunny and wet sites, shady and dry sites, shady and wet sites, alternating wet and dry sites, sites with compacted soil, sites with alkaline soil, and sites with nutrient deficient soil.



### A Native Plants Reader (2012)

This handbook is comprised of four sections: Defining and Collecting, Native Plants in Nature, Native Plants in Gardens and Native Plants in Public. A departure from the how-to of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden handbook series, but more a "collection of narratives extolling the virtues of natives, outlining their fundamental contributions to our natural ecosystems, detailing our connections with them, describing the perils they currently face, and advocating for their preservation in the garden and larger landscape," as explained by the editor.

## notes from the guides chair

## Letter from the Vice-Chair

Recently at the Flower Show, I saw a lovely specimen of a laurel tree, a small tree grown in a pot, with shiny dark leaves. This plant should be familiar to any cook. It is *Laurus nobilis*, also known as bay laurel, or sweet bay, and we recognize it as the source of the aromatic bay leaves, used as spice, alone or as an ingredient in bouquet garni. It is an evergreen shrub native to the Mediterranean area, especially Greece and Italy, as it thrives in a subtropical climate. In our region, it must be grown indoors. It is not related botanically to our mountain-laurel (*Kalmia latifolia*), a totally different family of plant, which as we know is hardy in the Northeast. But the leaves of the two plants do look quite similar.

Image: [www.lib-art.com/](http://www.lib-art.com/)

The laurel was famous in ancient lore, and has enriched our vocabulary. It was a sacred tree, linked to Apollo in ancient Greece, related to the myth that the god fled into a grove of laurels for purification. The leaves were thought to protect against lightning, and Apollo's temple was said to have had a roof made of the leaves for this reason. Apollo was the god of poetry, so his emblem, the crown of laurel leaves, was used to decorate the brow of poets, and famous or successful men, such as Caesars and victorious athletes. You will see laurel crowns on statues of Roman emperors. In images, Dante is usually shown with a laurel wreath on his head, a mark of distinction. Even today we use the term "poet laureate" for our most revered poet.

In Latin, the term for berry is *bacca*, so *baccalaureate* means decorated with the berried branch of laurel. Wreaths of laurel and its berries were used to honor scholars. This custom is still observed today in Italy – in the city of Bologna, the home of one of Europe's oldest universities, recent graduates walk around town with fresh laurel wreaths on their hair. Our universities use the term, but have lost the custom, probably because the tree is not found on most American campuses. But our language does retain some expressions related to the ancient distinction of laurel leaves, for example, "to rest on one's laurels", "to win laurels".

See you in the garden!

Jane Alavi,  
*Vice Chair of the Guides*



# 2012 Plant Sale Volunteer Sign-Up

It's that time again, and we need you! If you are able to volunteer this year, please fill out the form and return it by email or snail mail to Michelle Connors [mconnors@upenn.edu] by April 24. The sale will be over at Bloomfield Farm and volunteers will receive a 20% one-time use discount coupon good for May 11 & 12.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

## Pre-sale Set-up

Tuesday, May 8:      \*Unloading plants from trucks (able to lift 25#)      ☐ 9am-noon      ☐ 1-4:00pm  
                                 Labeling plants for sale      ☐ 9am-noon      ☐ 1-4:00pm  
Wednesday, May 9:      \*Unloading plants from trucks (able to lift 25#)      ☐ 9am-noon      ☐ 1-4:00pm  
                                 Labeling plants for sale      ☐ 9am-noon      ☐ 1-4:00pm  
Thursday, May 10:      Final Sale prep/miscellaneous tasks      ☐ 9am-noon

\*We do not know exactly when the trucks will arrive.

*In plant sales, you need some plant knowledge. In the holding area, you need to be tenacious and organized. For checkout, you need an eye for detail and a little tech savvy. In the loading area, you have to be able to lift 25 pounds. We will make every effort to place you where you wish to work, but if possible, please check more than one area you would be willing to work, so we can place you where we most need coverage. Please check in at the volunteer cart when you arrive for your exact assignment.*

Thursday, May 10      12pm-3pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Thursday, May 10      5:30pm - 8pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Friday, May 11      10am-1:30pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Friday, May 11      1pm-5:30pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Friday, May 11      5pm-8pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Saturday, May 12      10am-2:00pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

Saturday, May 12      1pm-4:30pm  
☐ Annuals      ☐ Perennials      ☐ Woodyes  
☐ Membership      ☐ Holding Area      ☐ Checkout  
☐ Loading Area

# Volunteer

## mill update

April 2012

Have you visited the Springfield Mill lately? Schedule a tour today; you'll be amazed at how much a largely volunteer work force has accomplished.

It has taken several years to stabilize the building and make it safe for your visit. One corner of the mill was threatening to fall into the Wisahickon Creek. That has been repaired and reinforced. A new roof has been installed along with new windows and a new, safer stairway to the second floor; interior beams and rafters have been reinforced; and a new viewing platform by the mill race has just been completed. All the work that has been done meets code requirements.

Attention has now turned to the interior operations of the mill, beginning with the all-important "Hurst frame." A Hurst frame is a cage of heavy timbers that support the great gear and shaft that drives not only all the grinding stones, but all the machinery in the mill. The frame sits on its own foundation and absorbs the vibrations of the machinery. Without the Hurst frame, the mill would have fallen down long ago.

John Basinski of Run of the Millers reports: "The first step in restoring the Hurst frame was to stabilize the frame outside its existing structural foundation, which had deteriorated and needed to be replaced. Our engineer Sam Harris produced a set of drawings and specifications for the elaborate structural shoring required, which includes fabricated structural steel and complex bracing. Earl Jenkins donated the time and skills of himself and his three man crew and promptly completed the job assisted by Bob Anderson and Craig SanPietro." Joseph Manero and his crew from Manero Masonry donated their time and materials to pour a new foundation.

The frame then had to be raised (jacked up) inch by inch, aligned and leveled on its new foundation. To do that required leveling the milling platform that supports the grinding stones on the second floor, and that required removing the runner stones (one ton each) and that required repairing the stone crane that would lift the stones.

Meanwhile, Craig SanPietro and Carl Ewing did "the long and tedious work" of freeing up the great gear and shaft and a line shaft on the second floor. Basinski reports that these "are now plumb and running freely."

All this was accomplished by volunteers who, in Bob Gutowski's words, "have fallen in love with the mill." Besides Bob and the names already mentioned, these are Linda Berger, Joe Donahue, Phil Eckel, Tim Ernst, Tom Evans, Doug Fredericks, Tom Illick, Guillermo Torres and Linda Weiner. Thanks are also owed to Frank Reed whose generous donation has largely funded the Hurst frame project.



Photos: Robert Gutowski

-Bill Koons, *Education Volunteer*,  
*Run of the Millers*



## around the arboretum

### Newest Members of our Family

The Swan Pond can officially retain its name; we have acquired two lovely new birds! These two female swans are actually sisters and a generous gift to the Arboretum from Nicholas and Athena Karabots. Help us give the pair proper names by entering the contest on our website, [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org). The prize is a personally signed copy of *Through the Lens of Paul W. Meyer*. If you haven't already, take a trip down to the Swan Pond to meet them!



Photo: Paul Meyer

### Japanese Cherry Blossom Celebration



#### **Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>**

11 am- 12 pm

Kyo Daiko Drumming Crew

1-2 pm

Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration

---

#### **Saturday April 21<sup>st</sup>**

11 am-12 pm

Samurai Arts Group

1- 2 pm

Kimono Dressing Demonstration

## around the arboretum

### Spring Class Highlights

#### **Staying Fit and Healthy in the Garden**

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup> 7-9:30 pm

Learn how to protect yourself from injury and turn your garden labors into beneficial physical exercise with physical therapist and master gardener Eli Glick!

#### **The Art of Ikebana**

Two Saturdays: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> 1-3 pm

Create beautiful and unique flower arrangements by using the principals of Ikebana with instructor Janet Solomon.

#### **Planting Design for the Home Landscape**

April 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> 7-9 pm

Learn everything you need to know to create a residential garden design in this five session Landscape Design series core course with Landscape Architect, John Shandra.

#### **Magnificent Trees of Spring:**

##### **Cherries, Magnolias, and Dogwoods**

Two Saturdays: April 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> 10 am- 12 pm

Discover the diversity of springs most beautiful flowering trees with Director of Horticulture, Tony Aiello.

## Upcoming Lecture

Join us for a lunchtime lecture on **Thursday, May 3 at 12:30 pm** with **Tim Tomlinson**, Associate Director Emeritus of the Morris Arboretum. The title of his talk is **“Elsah in Bloom: Landscape, Plants, the River as Art, and History.”** Elsah is a small village on the Mississippi, flanked by majestic limestone bluffs. The village is an historic district, one of four in the immediate area. The area was the setting for 19th century landscape artists of the Mississippi River School, and continues to attract similar interest today.

Tim Tomlinson was Assistant/Associate Director of the Morris Arboretum, 1979-1996, participating in much of the architectural restoration and adaptive reuse activity that brought about today's world class garden. He played a leadership role in educational development and programming. He now lives with wife Rose in an historic Chautauqua community on the Mississippi River, north of St. Louis, MO. His book on the history of that community and the Riverbend area was published in 2010--The Western Chautauqua. He is currently president of Historic Elsah Foundation and the editor and publisher of the Chautauqua Historical Society's newsletter.



Image provided by: Tim Tomlinson



## horticulture news

## Horticulture Committee Meeting March 8, 2012

**Rose Garden Perimeter Design**

Tony Aiello introduced Rodney Robinson and Alan Summers, Landscape Architects who have been planning a new perimeter fence for the Rose Garden. The present fence has aged and is sagging and not visually enhancing the garden.

The new design proposal is to use the same kind of steel posts that are existing with the swags at the bottom of the rose garden to construct an attractive permanent fence at the top and bottom of the garden with wire mesh or invisible fencing between the posts. Invisible fencing will be placed around the garden where it will be hidden in the existing screen plantings.

Entrance gates will be placed at the top and bottom of the Rose Garden with folding steel panels that will fold back and be screened by plantings to be less visible. The gates will be six folding panels 30 feet wide and will be placed on wheels for ease in opening. The gates around the summer house will fold outward against a stone retaining wall to be built flanking new stone steps in front of the summer house.


**Horticulture Committee Update**

- Paul Meyer reviewed the proposal for renovations of the Widener Center which includes adding rest rooms in the building where the Café kitchen exists and moving the kitchen into the former Fogg lab room. Entrances need to be updated to accommodate wheelchairs and strollers access. Plans have been submitted and are contingent on securing funding.
- Tony Aiello announced that the Natural Lands section leader position has now been fully funded through a generous donor grant. Tracey Beerley has been hired for the position; she was formerly the Plant Protection intern
- The Fernery heating system will be renovated with a permanent solution by Harris heating consultants who specialize in historic buildings.
- The pathways and rock walls in the Overlook garden are being restored. New retaining walls and improved pathway will improve access to the garden.
- Intern projects are now being presented over the next few weeks.

Larry Godley, *Volunteer Liaison*



## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	2	3 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	4	5	6	7
8 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	9	10	11	12	13	14 Mill Volunteers Work Day  Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
15 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	16	17	18	19 Volunteer Trip to Shofuso House!	20	21 Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
22 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	23	24 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	25 <b>Arbor Week!</b>	26	27	28 
29 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	30					

### Weekly Volunteer Events:

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers: 8:30 am- 12:00 pm

Tuesdays: History and Archive Volunteers: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

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



## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Mill Volunteers Work Day
				Plant Sale!		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Twilight and Peonies 6-8 pm	25	26
27	28	29 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	30	31		

### Weekly Volunteer Events:

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers: 8:30 am- 12:00 pm

Tuesdays: History and Archive Volunteers: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

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