

# VOLUNTEER

March 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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## Letter From the Editor

### March 2012

Spring is now officially around the corner, though it has been popping up here and there all month. An article in the New York Times this month chronicled New York Botanical Garden's experience with the warmer weather. They actually planted what they call a "global warming garden" to track the changes. It was a familiar story; crocuses in full bloom mid-February, pollinating bees sighted in the depths of winter. It's hard to predict what these changes will bring, but I am glad people are taking notice. For now, let's enjoy the fine weather and welcome spring!

Ariel Dreyfus,  
*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



The interns learned about grafting in the green house this month with Tony Aiello, our Director of Horticulture, and Bill Barnes. Bill has been in the nursery business for over 35 years, is a former President of the Eastern North American region of the International Plant Propagators Society, and knows a whole lot about grafting. Grafting is a method of propagating plants that involves imposing the vascular cambium tissues from the desired plant, onto the shoot of another plant. The plant being grafted onto or used for its roots is called the rootstock or understock. The scion is whatever is being grafted. Why would someone do this, you may ask. There are many advantages to this method of propagation. One of the most common is it allows one to propagate plants that are difficult to propagate by cutting or seed. Another is to create unique specimens, like a tri-colored *Brugmansia* we saw displayed in a nursery catalogue in the greenhouse. Most apples and other fruit trees are produced through grafting. This is fascinating work that has been in practice for thousands of years in various forms and I enjoyed the opportunity to give it a try! In a few weeks, we will know how successful our grafts were.



## around the arboretum

## Intern Project Presentation Schedule

Mark your calendars and come hear about the interesting and diverse work the interns have done this year. All presentations will take place in the **Upper Gallery of Widener** at **12:30 pm**.

Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: Lauren Fine, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*, Building a Rain Garden to Address Storm Water Management in the English Park Section of the Morris Arboretum

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Josh Darfler, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*, Updating and Improving the Visitor Experience in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>: Nina Safavi, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*, Springfield Township Tree Canopy Study

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Breck Miller, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Hass Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*, Incentivizing Land Conservation in the Mid-Atlantic States

Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>: Ariel Dreyfus, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*, Foundation for Expansion of Botany Education at the Morris Arboretum

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: Lauren Pongan, *The Hay Honey Endowed Natural Lands Intern*, Developing a Walking Guide to The Woody Edibles at the Morris Arboretum

Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dan Weitoish, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*, From the Canopy: An Arborist's Perspective

Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Charlie Nicholson, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern*, Analysis of Local Honey: Foraging Effects and Colony

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: Prima Hutabarat, *The Charles S. Holman Rose and Flower Garden Intern*, Morris Arboretum Nursery Trials: A Study of Rose Care Treatments



*Prunus mume*  
'Hanakami',  
Japanese apricot

## around the arboretum



### Welcome our new Natural Lands Section Horticulturist, Tracy Beerley!

Tracy rejoins the Arboretum staff as our McCausland Natural Lands Horticulturist. She was the Arboretum's John J. Willaman and Martha Haas Valentine Plant Protection Intern in 2010-11. She received her Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science and Ecology at Lock Haven University, where she was active in the Biology and Scuba Clubs. She is committed to land conservation and environmental science, she is looking forward to applying her interests and skills to Morris's Natural Lands. Tracy grew up locally and currently resides in Flourtown. When she is not at the Arboretum, Tracy enjoys outdoor activities especially biking and camping. When you see her around the garden, be sure to introduce yourself and help us welcome Tracy to our community.

## Attention Volunteers!

**The Cedars House** at Northwestern Avenue and Forbidden Drive is now offering a 10% discount on food purchases. Just show your valid Morris Arboretum membership card to benefit from the discount. This is a great place to dine during the winter months when the Arboretum's Compton Café is closed for the season.



**Primex**  
*The Gardener's Resource*

435 West Glenside Avenue  
PO Box 1199  
Glenside, PA 19038

[www.PrimexGardenCenter.com](http://www.PrimexGardenCenter.com)

Get ready for spring gardening at **Primex** garden center. They are offering Morris Arboretum members 10% off trees, shrubs and greenhouse foliage plants.





## volunteer news

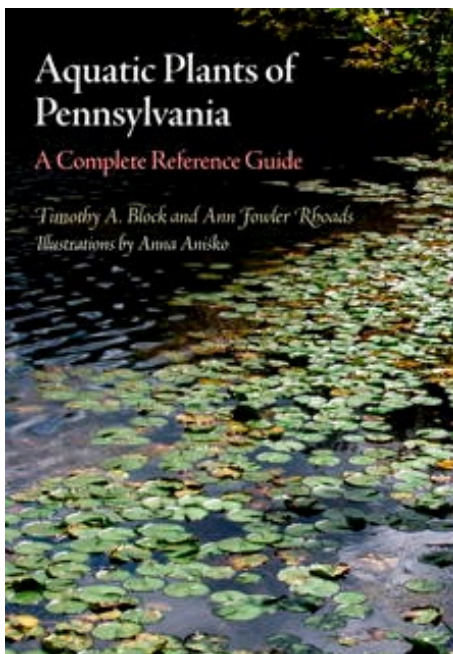
## A Winning Formula

A Spring Evening + Delicious Food + Entertainment = **Twilight and Peonies!**

This sounds like a perfect combination for our annual Education Volunteer recognition event, but one important thing is missing— YOU! So please circle May 24th from 6 to 8pm on your calendar and plan to join us (with your spouse or significant other) at this gala event being held in the tent behind Widener. Our delicious potluck dinner is always a highlight of the evening so please contribute by bringing one of the following: an appetizer, entree, vegetable, salad or dessert. Beverages will be provided for your enjoyment.

The evening will feature the presentation of awards for 100, 250, 500, 750, 1000, 1500 and 2000 hours volunteered. Additional awards for 10 years of service will also be presented. An added attraction this year will be a vocal performance by local singing group Celestia. Please RSVP to Ariel Dreyfus (at dreyfusa@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777, ext. 159). And don't forget to wear your name tags. Hope to see you on May 24th!

Joan Kober, *Education Volunteer*



## Volunteer Workshop

Join Dr. Tim Block, our John J. William Director of Botany, this month as he discusses aquatic plants. Tim, along with his colleague Ann F. Rhoads, has authored numerous publications, including the most recent *Aquatic Plants of Pennsylvania: A Complete Reference Guide*. Tim will highlight the importance of aquatic ecosystems, and present some interesting and unique aquatic plants. Tim's lecture will be on **Thursday, March 15th at 10 am** in the **Upper Gallery** of Widener. See you there!

## notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

Since the theme of the Flower Show this year is Hawaii, it seems fitting to think about orchids. Orchids have been called the world's sexiest flower. They are seducers. They trick creatures into pollinating them and give nothing in return. Bees, carrion flies, bee-eating hornets, mountain mice and humans are all pollinators. Humans? Yes, orchid breeders. The last World Orchid Conference was held in Singapore and drew 1,000 participants from 55 countries and more than 300,000 visitors. Botanist Tim Yam says "Orchids are like fashion. People get bored with the same variety and want something new all the time." There are more than 25,000 orchid species in the wild and growers have cross-bred many more to produce varieties that could not occur in nature because each species has its own pollinator. Most of the 50,000 orchids from 5,000 varieties displayed at the conference were hybrids created by humans.

An orchid breeder first decides the color, shape, size, fragrance and longevity he wants in his new flower and then searches for parents that might produce these characteristics. After pollination, the miniscule seeds are grown in tissue culture in a lab, i.e. in a sterile flask containing nutrients. They are transferred to new containers when they start to grow. It will take four years before they flower. Clearly this is not a job for impatient people. If the flower is special, it will be cloned. A growth tip or meristem is clipped off and shaken in a flask. Normally, one meristem produces one shoot but shaking "confuses" it and it produces many shoots, all clones of each other. Orchids are the most commonly sold potted flowering plant in the United States. The wholesale business reached \$171 million in 2010. Not Bad! Tom Miranda, orchid collection specialist for Smithsonian Gardens, whose magazine (February 2012) this was excerpted from says "Mankind has taken the orchid family down pathways of evolution that never would have happened in nature. The question is, are we manipulating them or are they manipulating us."

"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." Hal Borland

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides





## education news

### 2012 Arbor Week Sign Up

Share your love for trees with children during the Arbor Week Program. The Arboretum will host two sessions each day. Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling plantings, a roots exhibit, and Tree Trivia game show. Sign up soon!

We need people:

Monday, April 24th - Friday, April 28th  
10:00-11:15am and 11:30am-12:45pm

Sign up on the Google calendar or email Lisa Bailey at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu). Call Lisa at (215) 247-5777 ext 157 if you have questions.

It's that time again! Keep an eye out for your Spring Guiding Sheet. It will be arriving in the mail shortly. Please fill it out and mail it back to Lisa Bailey, via snail mail, or email at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu)



Photo:Paul Meyer



Photo: Bekka Schultz

This April, we will be offering the **Native Trees** tour every Sunday at 1pm, meeting at Widener. This exciting new tour is very informative, volunteers are encouraged to tag along and pick up some native tree knowledge!



## horticulture news

## Winter Work

Although the formal Wednesday work sessions are in limbo during January and February, a number of Horticulture Volunteers have been sighted in the underbrush during the winter break. Speaking of breaks, we have certainly enjoyed a break from bad weather this winter and there is much in bloom at the Arboretum, especially on a sunny day.

Bob Pannebianco, Wendy Willard and Bob Knisel have been working Tuesdays in the wetlands and across the street at The Farm. In the wetlands, “deer candy” defenses have been fortified with additional/replacement stakes around trees and shrubs enhanced with plastic mesh to keep the animals at bay. Pruning and general clean up continue at both sites. Word is in that we have hired a new Section Leader for the Wetland and Natural Areas, so find your Wellies and patch the holes as I expect we will be working there early in the year.

The Garden Railway will be reopening soon. Prior to Christmas, 49 buildings and structures had to be moved from the Train Site, decorated with lights and trimmings, and then placed back in the Train Site. Now, Gretchen Heebner, Lorraine Steel and Mary Ellen Post are busy un-decorating them and making repairs in anticipation of reopening of the railway in a few months. This year, the Arboretum will be increasing the number of storytime days for children, so the theme for the Garden Railway will appropriately be Storytime Rails to keep our most enthusiastic visitors amused.

Jim Proud has been pruning on Tuesdays in the Oak Allée as well as in other parts of Iana’s section as the need arises, and Eileen Lynch has been tending to the Springhouse Garden. Tonya Uffner and the train crew have pitched in to help with her mission. And, as usual, I have been in the Hill and Cloud Garden. I have been raking for the the last two months since conifers shed a lot, which leaves thick mats in the grass. Have also been removing piles of dirt from Groundhog Hill resulting from burrow maintenance by the residents. I heard that the Air Force was bringing drones back from the Middle East. Sure could use a couple for pest management.

Thinking there won’t be anything left to do come March? Did you see the “mulch word” mentioned above?

-Hiram Munger, *Horticulture Volunteer*



*Cornus officinalis*, Japanese cornel dogwood



## up coming classes

Have fun and learn something new! Here are some great learning opportunities from the spring course brochure.

### How Does Nature Inspire You?

#### An Art Series for Kids

Four Saturdays, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>  
1-2:45 pm

This is a great opportunity for the youngsters in your life! Children ages 8-12 will get the chance to learn about nature and explore their creative side. After gleaning inspiration from the arboretum, children in this course will paint, print and create sculptures with instructor Allsion Zito.

### Using Native Plants to Awaken the Senses

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 pm

Join Greg Tepper, horticulturalist at Mt. Cuba Center, as he discusses how native plants appeal to all of our senses. Discover new ways of appreciating our native flora, learn little know facts and hear entertaining stories in this fantastic lecture!

### Ecological Gardening

Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 am-1pm

Get an introduction to ecological gardening in this great class with our own research botanist, Dr. Michael Burgess. Participants will learn the fundamentals of ecology, explore what ecological gardening means, and develop their own garden design.

### Nature Inspired Note Cards

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 10 am – Noon

Put some personality into your stationary! Taking inspiration from nature, you will have a chance to make note cards, greeting cards or place cards in this fantastically fun class with our Curatorial Assistant, Pam Morris Olshefski. All materials will be provided.



### Beginning Drawing Inspired by Nature

Three Sundays, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 1-3pm

Enjoy nature in a whole new way! Learn the basics of drawing with nature as your muse. Whatever skills you have, or don't have, instructor Janice Merendino will provide a series of non-intimidating drawing exercises to bring out the artist in you! All materials will be provided.



## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am Family Wellness Walk 10:30 am
4	5	6 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	7 Horticulture Volunteers Back to Work 8:30-12 <i>Fogg Lab</i>	8	9	10 Mill Volunteers Work Day Winter Wellness Walk 10:30am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
18 "Abominable Mystery" Lecture 2 pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
25	26	27 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	28	29	30	31 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am

## Weekly Volunteer Events

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

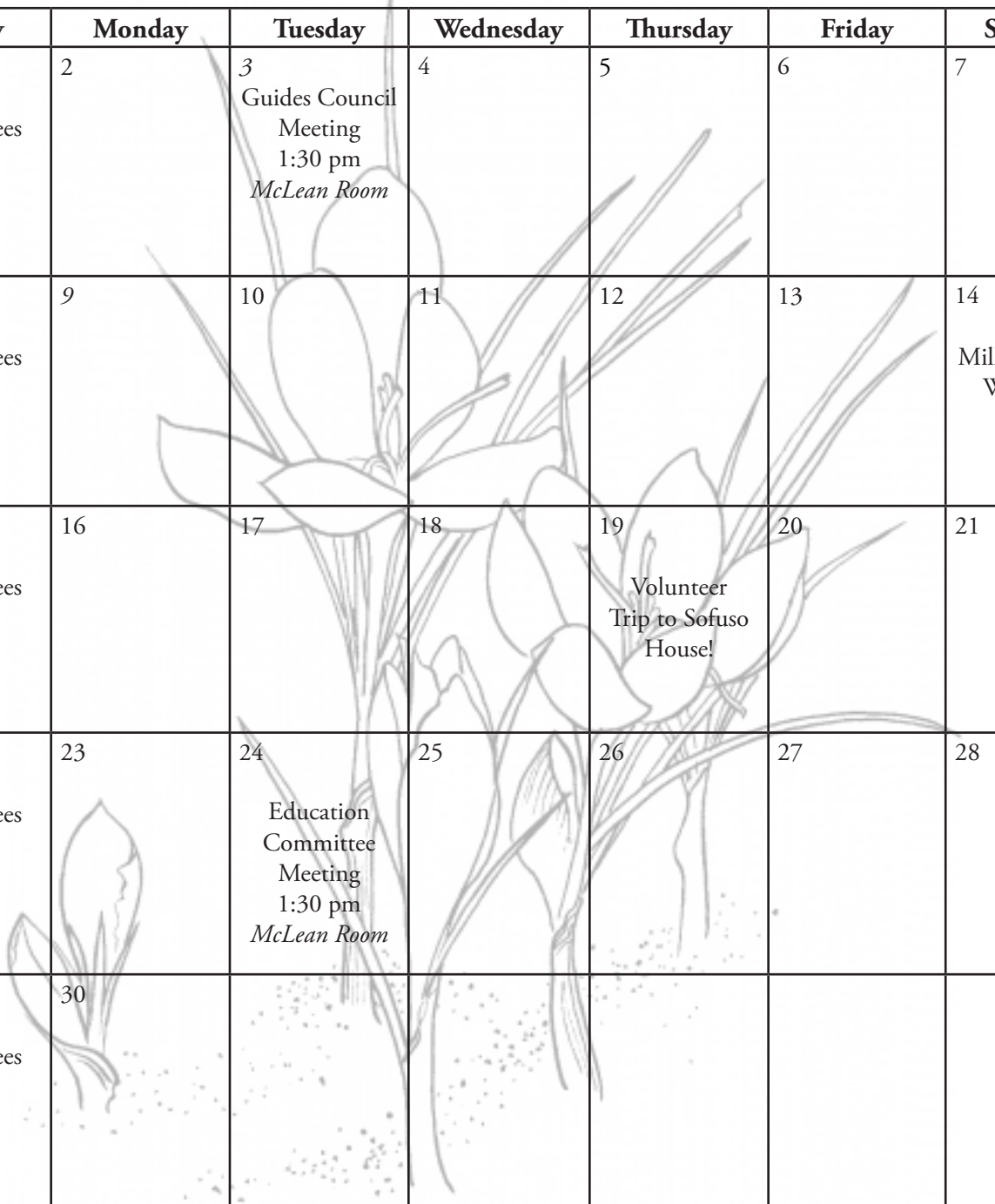
Tuesdays: History and Archive Volunteers: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am



# 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
15 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	16	17	18	19 Volunteer Trip to Sofuso House!	20	21
22 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	23	24 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	25	26	27	28
29 Native Trees Tour 1 pm	30					

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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