

# SEASONS

Winter/Spring 2014

Volume 43 Number 1



**Morris Arboretum**  
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

*Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*



# A Note from the Executive Director

PAUL W. MEYER, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*

## Learning to See the Ordinary... and the Extraordinary

**T**he Morris Arboretum is known for its rich collection of unusual plants. The collection offers Arboretum visitors amazing opportunities to observe the extraordinary. Often however, there are equally enticing opportunities to observe the ordinary in the natural world. Because the ordinary is with us every day, we might not take the time to notice and celebrate the details.

This spring, the Arboretum will feature exhibits, plantings, and activities centered around the theme *Our Feathered Friends*. As we have been planning and discussing plants that provide birds with food and habitat, someone raised the question, "What if special or unusual birds were not present at a particular time?" We concluded that much can be observed and learned even from the most common bird species. As I write this looking at out my office window in early winter, already the robins are beginning to feed on the American holly berries. Though plentiful, I always enjoy seeing and hearing robins with their distinctive red breast and happy chirp. The berries are beginning to ferment, and that happy chirp might be partially alcohol-fueled.

Photo: Susan Marshall



This morning as my alarm went off, a blue jay with its striking array of blue, black and white feathers was feasting outside my window on bright red crabapple fruits. I was impressed by the intricately banded pattern of colors on its feathers, and it was as though I was seeing a blue jay for the first time. When we learn to really see the ordinary, we are more alert and aware when the extraordinary appears.

All of this is a reminder that one of the most important gifts we can share with our visitors is the power of observation. To have the ability and discipline to pause and observe nature closely is a gift that pays compounding dividends throughout life. Whatever our age or knowledge level, skills of observation can be continuously practiced and improved. And there is no better way to practice than a visit to the Arboretum.

Wherever you may be, whether city or countryside, nature is all around us, and there is delight to be had and knowledge to be gleaned. As an adult, take the time to share your powers of observation with a child. Be open too, as children also have a way of helping adults to see the world with new eyes. But first, slow down and allow time for the magic to happen.

*Paul*



Photo: Nick Kelsh

Photo: Bob Gutowski



# SEASONS

## Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

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Christine Pape, Editor

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an  
educational institution that promotes an understanding of the  
important relationships between plants, people and place.

The Arboretum conducts three major activities –  
horticultural display, public and professional education, and  
botanical and horticultural research.

### *Public Garden Hours:*

Mon-Fri, 10-4

Sat/Sun, 10-5 (April - Oct.)

Sat/Sun, 10-4 (Nov. - March)

Thurs. 10-8:30 (June, July, August)

### *Information:*

(215) 247-5777

[www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

<http://www.upenn.edu/paflora>

### *Guided Tours:*

Every Sat/Sun, 2 p.m.

### *Visitor Entrance:*

100 East Northwestern Avenue between  
Germantown and Stenton Avenues in the  
Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia

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## Arboretum Rentals

Hold your special event in one of Philadelphia's most beautiful  
settings. The Widener Center and surrounding grounds are  
available for weddings, parties, and private and corporate  
meetings up to 170 guests. For details contact Adele Waerig,  
Visitor Services Coordinator, at (215) 247-5777, ext. 158.

## e-newsletter

Would you like to receive our monthly e-newsletter and  
other Arboretum updates via email? It's a great way for you  
to stay up-to-date on upcoming events, register online and  
help us save trees! Email [members@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:members@morrisarboretum.org) to  
be added. To address the problems of SPAM, many Internet  
Service Providers (ISPs) and email systems now block or  
filter email that is not from a "safe sender." Please add [info@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:info@morrisarboretum.org)  
to your list of accepted senders or friends list if you wish to  
receive this information.

Cover Photo: Judy Miller

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Photo: Judy Miller







## *Cultivating Our Future*

MORRIS ARBORETUM of the UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

With the successful completion of the *Always Growing* campaign in December 2012, the Morris Arboretum is now impacting more lives than ever. The number of participants for general visitation, school tours, and educational courses has never been greater. With these extraordinary results, this past year has been cause for great celebration and reflection. Having reached and exceeded our \$60,000,000 campaign goal, the Morris Arboretum increased its endowment by more than \$20 million, supporting critical priorities such as historic preservation, national and global research, plant exploration and evaluation, a new LEED Platinum Horticulture Center, educational programming, and much more. Each of these contributes to our enhanced capacity for greater impact.

Collectively, the Morris Arboretum staff and community at large, have worked diligently for years to reach this ambitious goal. We are well positioned to continue to strengthen our programs, provide greater outreach to youth across the region, bolster our research capabilities, and transform the native landscape through plant identification, exploration and evaluation. Every single member of the Morris Arboretum helped us to achieve this great success, and we would not be the organization we are today if not for the outpouring of generosity and support. For all of us who are invested in the mission and future of the Morris Arboretum, we celebrate our successes and look to the future with great pride.

As we cultivate the future of Morris Arboretum, we aim to engage the broader member constituency and know that together we can continue to realize our collective mission to serve and promote an understanding of the relationship between plants, people and place through programs that integrate science, art and the humanities.

On behalf of the Morris Arboretum, thank you for your role in our success!

**Endowment Funds Raised in support of  
Morris Arboretum Priorities  
2001-2013  
\$20,683,578**



# Future Priorities

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION ENDOWMENT

- Endowment for all historic garden features, including the Step Fountain, Seven Arches, Swan Pond, Log Cabin, water features and more.

## EQUIPMENT ENDOWMENT

- Support for restoration and replacement of garden machinery and equipment

## EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- Planning study and renovation of Bloomfield Barn and construction of the Education Center.
- Funding for *Partners in Education* program including scholarships and transportation for partner school students.

## NATIONAL & GLOBAL RESEARCH

- Funding for PA Flora Digitization Project
- Support of plant exploration and evaluation program.
- Funding for botanical research, rare plants of Pennsylvania and other areas of interest
- Endowment for Botany program and senior botanist position

## UNRESTRICTED SUPPORT

- Help fund all aspects of Morris Arboretum with gifts that support programs and initiatives organization wide

# Widener Renovations Underway

**R**enovations began in January on the George D. Widener Education & Visitor Center. The project includes the expansion of the building's main entrance, and the installation of automatic front doors that will comply with ADA standards for accessible design. The entrance will also be more stroller friendly, making it easier for families to navigate the building.

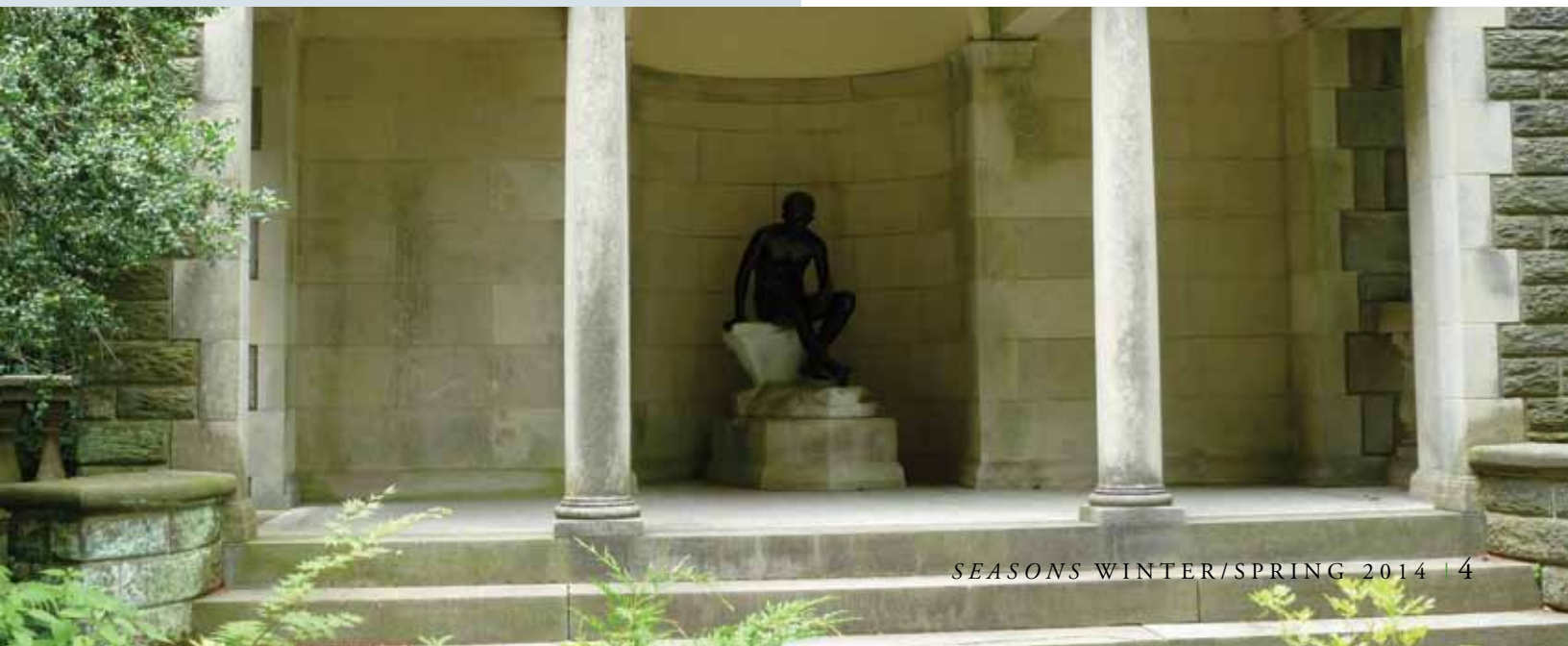
In addition to the improvements being made to the building itself, the surrounding plaza will also be enlarged and enhanced. A new 30x30 area will provide a larger gathering space for tours, and will help reduce congestion on high visitation days. The larger terrace will also have sitting walls and benches for additional seating.

The membership kiosk will be relocated within the plaza and will be expanded to enable staff to welcome visitors more efficiently. When finished, the area will provide a pleasant, relaxing space for visitors to gather and linger.

The Shop at Morris Arboretum will remain closed until construction is completed toward the end of March. Visitors and those enrolled in classes may encounter inconveniences for which we apologize in advance.

The Morris Arboretum wishes to thank longtime Arboretum friend, Edith Dixon, for making these enhancements possible. This attractive new area will allow the Arboretum to accommodate a broader audience, and its improved functioning will enhance the experience of every visitor.

Photo: Paul Meyer





Join us for three seasons of fun and learning as the Arboretum celebrates our feathered friends! Look for special bird-themed events, classes, trips and tours happening from April through October.

The Morris Arboretum is known for its beautifully maintained gardens and long, open vistas. Visitors stroll across the wide lawns and gaze down into the valley below. But step around the other side of the Widener Visitor Center, and you encounter a different kind of landscape. The woods behind Widener extend to the Wissahickon Creek in one direction, and the wetlands in the other. Although they neither demand nor receive as much attention and maintenance as the rest of the property, these woods play an integral role at the Arboretum. As plant and animal habitat disappears or shrinks due to human intervention or natural forces, these locations become important links in sustaining both migrating and resident bird species.

Thanks to the gift of a generous donor, the Arboretum has been busy making plans to improve bird habit. The planting of native trees and shrubs favored by birds has already begun by the Sculpture Garden's wooded edge with the installation of 180 plants. Some of the tree species include red maple (*Acer rubrum*), sourgum (*Nyssa sylvatica*), and swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), as well as shrubs such as winterberry holly (*Ilex verticillata*), arrow-wood viburnum (*Viburnum dentatum*)

Photo: Gerard Bailey



Photo: Joe Fuhrman



Photo: Danny Brown

and common ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*). Additions of native flowering trees like serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*) and dogwood (*Cornus florida*) will not only brighten the landscape, but will also provide birds with a nutritious food source. This past fall, the Oak Allée was enhanced with a similar mix of native plant species to increase habitat in this more trafficked area of the garden.

*Our Feathered Friends* is a seasons-long celebration of the many birds who either make their home at the Arboretum, or drop in for a visit as they migrate through the area. Check the schedule below for a partial list of the inviting opportunities to learn more about birds at the Arboretum during 2014. All activities are free for members or with regular garden admission.

### Home Tweet Home: Designer Birdhouses

*Saturday, April 5 through Monday, September 1*

Crafted by artists, talented individuals and bird lovers of all kinds, more than 30 birdhouses will be on display throughout the garden.

### Early Bird Saturdays – Garden opens at 8am

*First Saturday of each month April through October*

The early bird catches the worm and now you can watch. See the Arboretum in a new light when you visit on one of these special early opening days. Check the website for special tours.

### Birds in Their Habitats: Images from the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University

*April through October, Upper Gallery; Opening Reception Saturday, April 5, 1-3pm*

With more than 130,000 images, VIREO (Visual Resources in Ornithology), is the world's largest collection of bird images. The photos in this exhibit were selected to represent both resident and migratory birds that can be spotted at the Arboretum. VIREO Director Doug Wechsler will be on hand at the opening reception to provide more information on the project.





Photo: Christine Pape

### **Morris, the Merrie Little Owl** *April through September*

Owls quietly roost during the day in well camouflaged locations. Pick up a clue sheet at the Visitor Center and see if you can find Morris, our seasonal mascot, in

some of his favorite resting spots. These delightful sculptures are waiting to be discovered throughout the garden.

### **Garden Discovery Series**

*First Saturday of the month, April through October, 11am-3pm*

This popular series for children which focuses on learning through crafting, will be all about birds in 2014. Each month will give children a new opportunity to expand their knowledge while having fun.

### **New Tree Adventure Passport – Conservation Quest**

*Debuts Saturday, April 5*

The third edition of the Passport to Tree Adventure illustrates the vital connections between plants, animals (including humans!), and our habitats. Encouraging visitors to become backyard biologists and planet protectors, the passport features games that hone observation skills, fun facts, and activities you can do at home, too.



### **Schuylkill Center Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic presents Raptors**

*Saturday, April 5, 11am-12pm*

Get up close and personal with the magnificent birds we call raptors. Learn about the natural history and adaptations of these top predators of the sky as you observe hawks, owls and vultures. In addition to the live birds, check out samples of bones, talons, feathers, skulls, and recordings of bird calls.

Photo: Rob Curtis



Photo: Jan McFarlan

### **Spring Birding Trips with Expert Birder and Trip Leader Ruth Pfeffer**

*Friday, March 14 – Sandy Hook, One of New Jersey's Special Places*

*Saturday, April 12 – Birding at the Arboretum: The Wetlands and Tree Canopy*

*Tuesday, April 29 – Birding the Perkiomen Trail*

*Tuesday, May 13 – Horseshoe Crabs and Migrating Shore Birds*

*Sunday-Tuesday, May 18-20 – Birding Adventure: The Eastern Shore of Maryland*

*Saturday, May 31 – Birding Aboard the A.J. Meerwald, a Historic Oyster Schooner*

For pricing and additional information visit <https://morrisarboretum.org/classes> or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.

Be sure to check the website at [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org) for more about *Our Feathered Friends* happenings.



Photo: Gretchen Dowling

# Monitoring the Eastern Bluebird

TRACY BEERLEY, *McCausland Natural Lands Horticulturist*

**D**o you enjoy spending time outdoors and have a passion for birds? Perhaps you would be interested in joining the Bluebird Monitoring Program at Morris Arboretum. This volunteer project has been organized to monitor the Eastern bluebird and the nest boxes which have been mounted throughout the Arboretum.

The Eastern bluebird is a migratory songbird in the thrush family which includes the American robin. However, the bluebird is much smaller in size compared to this relative. Male bluebirds are royal blue with warm, red-brown breasts. The females are more muted in appearance, yet maintain the similar elegance and shape of their counterparts. This energetic bird is a medium-distance migrant, following patterns of north-south migration. They remain in North America, occupying the area east of the Rocky Mountains. Bluebirds rely on insects for food. Diving from a perch, they hover over the ground to pluck beetles, caterpillars, spiders and other insects and small invertebrates. When insect food becomes scarce in the fall and winter, the birds seek fruiting trees and gulp down their juicy berries. Bluebirds perch on wires, posts, and low branches, occupying meadows and openings surrounded by trees that offer suitable nest holes. They are cavity-nesting, building loose, cup-like nests with fine grasses in cavities of trees, old woodpecker holes, and man-made nest boxes which are mounted in suitable locations.

Bluebird populations are making a comeback from decline in the early twentieth century. Contributing factors of decline included lack of suitable nesting cavities from increasing urbanization,

pesticide use, and severe weather conditions. Bluebirds also face competition for nesting cavities from the introduced European starling and house sparrow. Conservation efforts, such as the introduction of nest boxes, have been successful. The Eastern bluebird is becoming a more common sight on farmland, fence lines, open woods, swamps and gardens. They are now fairly present and a delight to see in the natural areas and Bloomfield Farm sections of the Arboretum.

The Bluebird Monitoring Program was initiated this year at Morris Arboretum as a conservation effort to monitor the activity of nest boxes. From March through July, volunteers assisted in monitoring more than 40 nest boxes within the Arboretum. Findings were then submitted to a citizen science-based program, Nest Watch, through Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The volunteers and I quickly learned of the immense nesting competition bluebirds face from house sparrows and natural predators. The results for this season are in: five nest boxes were used by the bluebirds and a total of sixteen eggs were laid and assumed to have fledged. We also enjoyed the experience of observing nesting swallows and Carolina chickadees. Thanks to volunteer efforts, the Arboretum was able to provide and monitor nesting habitat for the Eastern bluebird, a much loved and beneficial bird.

If you would like to learn more about bluebird volunteer opportunities please contact Tracy Beerley at [tbeerley@upenn.edu](mailto:tbeerley@upenn.edu).



# Getting Your Garden Ready for Spring

PAMELA OLSHEFSKI, *Curatorial Assistant*

Even though winter is in full swing, gardeners are already getting excited to get their hands in the dirt! Plans of creating raised beds, sowing seeds, pruning trees, and dividing perennials are just a few things you may be dreaming of. Organizing your tasks by month helps maximize your efforts. Here is general to-do list of some garden chores that will help you get ready for spring.

## FEBRUARY

- Dig your tools out and prepare them for the season. Sharpen pruners and shears, clean blades, and oil moving parts.
- Spend a chilly winter day on the couch, perusing catalogs, or check out websites to create your plant “wish” lists. Now is a good time to start your garden notebook too with plans for the season.
- Now is the time to prune your trees while they are dormant. Start with removing deadwood and suckers. For deciduous trees, their silhouette is easier to see during the late winter. This will help when pruning for shape.
- By the end of the month you will want to prune your cut back shrubs like *Salix* and *Cornus*. It rejuvenates the shrub and ensures great color for the *Cornus*.

Photo: Paul Meyer



- The last week of February is a good time to start some of your cool season veggies inside. Yes, spring really is on its way!

## MARCH

- Consider adding a bluebird box if you don't have one already. It's a great way to promote wildlife habitat. If you already have one, cleaning them out gets them ready for the nesting season.
- Early spring is the time to cut back and divide warm season grasses. Leaving them up through the winter helps provide habitat for birds and other animals.
- Cut back liriopse before it starts to push out new growth.
- Clean up old foliage from your hellebores and epimediums to show off the flowers and new growth.
- Direct sow some of your cold season vegetables this month.
- Welcome spring by planting some pansies for color in your garden or window box.
- Divide hostas just as they start to emerge since they are fast spring growers.

## APRIL

- Clean out garden beds by removing sticks, leaves and debris.
- Watch buddleia for tiny signs of leafing out – that's the time to cut them back.
- Time to prune your *Hydrangea paniculata* as well. Some hydrangeas need to be cut back just after they flower, but not *Hydrangea paniculata*.



Photo: Mia Gold

- Sow tomatoes inside about six weeks out from the first frost-free day (typically the end of April in Philadelphia)
- Start prepping any new garden beds by laying down newspaper or cardboard to kill grass or already emerging weeds.

## MAY

- Deadhead bulbs but keep the foliage intact to allow it to die back naturally.
- Resist the temptation to plant annuals until Mother's Day in order to avoid that last frost. Start to plant your container gardens then too!
- Wait to apply mulch until the soil warms up thoroughly. Mulch creates a finished look, but also helps retain soil moisture for your plants.
- Divide and move perennials. Don't forget to water them in.
- Last, but not least, be sure to come to the Morris Arboretum's annual Plant Sale on May 9th and 10th for the best selection of plants for any garden!

Photo: Bekka Schultz







Photos: Bob Gutowski

# Witchhazels at the Arboretum

ANTHONY S. AIELLO, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection*

No garden is complete without a witchhazel. I wrote this in a previous *Seasons* article several years ago and still stand by this sentiment. You'll find this easy to understand when you visit the Arboretum on a late winter day. The Arboretum has a very large, nationally recognized witchhazel collection, with close to 70 types of witchhazels throughout the garden. Concentrated in the English Park section along the Mercury Ravine, but also found along the East Brook, in the Widener Woods, parking lots, and near Gates Hall, our witchhazels (*Hamamelis*) give visitors a great reason to be in the garden in winter. The Arboretum has a large collection of witchhazels, and three of the more commonly grown varieties bloom in late winter: Chinese witchhazel, (*Hamamelis mollis*), hybrid witchhazel (*H. × intermedia*), and the North American vernal witchhazel (*H. vernalis*).

One of my favorite aspects of winter is watching for witchhazel flowers to emerge on warm days in late January through March. Their curious small flowers are true harbingers of spring, and their sweet and spicy fragrance is a wonderful antidote to mid-winter doldrums. The name witchhazel refers to the plant's alleged ability to be used for dowsing or divining water. There

are an array of flower colors, from bright or golden yellows through oranges, to rust and ruby reds. Often their fall color rivals their flower color, so they can also be grown for their autumn display. In general, these plants are large shrubs that prefer light shade, slightly acidic soil, and reasonably moist soils. All of them are perfectly hardy in our area.

This group of plants has become very popular recently, and an increasing number of varieties are available at local garden centers or through mail-order catalogs. With so many to choose from, here are a few of my favorites:

## *H. × intermedia*

- 'Sunburst' – bright yellow flowers, yellow-orange fall color
- 'Angelly' – yellow flowers, orange fall color
- 'Aurora' – flowers deep yellow with red tinting at base, yellow-orange fall color
- 'Jelena' – copper-orange flowers, orange fall color
- 'Diane' – red flowers, orange fall color
- 'Foxy Lady' – burgundy red flowers (pictured at right)



*H. vernalis*

- ‘Sandra’ – yellow flowers, orange and scarlet fall color

*H. mollis*

- ‘Princeton Gold’ – golden-yellow flowers, bright yellow fall color, a vigorous plant (pictured on opposite page)
- ‘Early Bright’ – golden-yellow flowers on one of the first varieties to bloom in early to mid-winter. Fall foliage is yellow.

**H. 'Rochester'** – perhaps the most fragrant variety, with copper-colored flowers from late December through February

Although commonly available, I would caution against the well-known varieties 'Pallida' and 'Arnold Promise' because of a foliar disease problem that disfigures and saps the vigor of these plants.

In addition to the winter blooming types, the common witchhazel (*H. virginiana*), is native to eastern North America and flowers in late autumn, usually from October through early December. This native shrub grows throughout Pennsylvania, and can be found in the Wissahickon Valley as it is not a favored food of deer. This may be because the twigs of this species are the source of witchhazel oil, the astringent found in topical medications and cosmetics.

Another reason that I am so fond of witchhazels is that with proper selection, you can have one variety or more flowering for up to six months, from late October through March, a period unmatched by almost any other group of plants. So if you are looking for an outing this winter, visit our witchhazels and I am sure you will agree that you need at least one in your garden.



Country Gardens Early Spring (January) 2014

If you would like to learn more about witchhazels, be sure to pick up the Early Spring issue of Country Gardens magazine. Written by Adam Levine with photographs by Rob Cardillo, the article provides a fascinating look at this plant, and showcases the many beautiful varieties of witchhazels that can be seen at the Arboretum. Visit this winter to see them for yourself or join us at one of the witchhazel-themed events below:

## >> “Witchhazel” is your Favorite?

Saturday, February 15, 1-3pm. Pick up a self-guided map at the Widener Visitor Center and make a fun craft. This event is free with admission. Maps are available throughout the month of February.

## >> An Inside Look at the Witch Hazel Collection

**Collection** – Join Anthony Aiello, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator of the Living Collection* on Saturday, February 22 at 1pm for a tour of the Arboretum's outstanding collection of witchhazels. Learn about the different varieties of witchhazels, and why they are a terrific addition to the home landscape. The cost for members is \$25, and \$30 for non-members. To register, please visit <https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/horticulture>.



# winter/spring events

## FEBRUARY

### Winter Wellness Walks

Saturdays, thru March,  
10:30-11:15am

Meet in front of the Widener Visitor Center for a brisk winter walk on the Arboretum's paved paths. Led by an experienced volunteer guide, you'll enjoy the garden's winter beauty while getting your heart rate up.

### 4 Storytime

Tuesday, February 4, 10:30-11am  
at Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, 650 Skippack Pike, Blue  
Bell, PA

Join us for a fun and engaging reading session. Due to construction at the Arboretum, storytime will be held at area libraries for the months of January, February and March. This event is free, but advance registration is required. Registration is open one month in advance of upcoming storytime events.

### 15 "Witchhazel" is your Favorite?

Saturday, February 15, 1-3pm

Witchhazels are the first harbingers of spring. Pick up a map at the Visitor Center and take a self-guided tour of the Arboretum's witchhazel collection. You'll discover fabulous color and fragrance even in the middle of winter. Afterward, stop back at the Visitor Center and make a fun craft. This event is free with garden admission.

### 18 Storytime

Tuesday, February 18, 10:30-11am at Springfield Library, 1600 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA  
See February 4th for details.

### 23 The Klein Endowed Lecture - "Victoria: The Seductress"

Sunday, February 23, 2 pm

For more information see page 20.

## MARCH

### Winter Wellness Walks

Saturdays, thru March,  
10:30-11:15am

See February for details.

### 4 Storytime

Tuesday, March 4, 10:30-11am  
at Wissahickon Valley Public  
Library, 650 Skippack Pike, Blue  
Bell, PA

See February 4th for details.

### 18 Storytime

Tuesday, March 18, 10:30-11am  
at Springfield Library, 1600  
Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA

See February 4th for details.

### 23 The Barnes Endowed Lecture

Sunday, March 23, 2pm

For more information visit [online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures).

## APRIL

### 1 Storytime

Tuesday, April 1, 10:30-11am

Join us for a fun and engaging reading session among the trees. Storytime will be held outdoors (weather permitting) at the outdoor children's classroom, next to the Widener Visitor Center. In the case of inclement weather, storytime will be held in the Upper Gallery at the Visitor Center. This event is free, but advance registration is required. Registration is open one month in advance of upcoming storytime events.

### 5 Early Bird Saturday

First Saturday of each month  
through October. Garden opens  
at 8am

To commemorate the Arboretum's celebration of birds this season, the gardens will be opening at 8am on the first Saturday of the month from April through October. Early morning is the best time of day for bird watching, as the birds get up with the sun and start their busy day. Come see who you can spot on your next early morning visit.

### 5 Native Trees Tour at Morris Arboretum

1st & 3rd Saturdays in April  
(5 and 19), 11am

Native tree species support the rich diversity of fauna within forest ecosystems. Join us for a tour of the native trees at the Arboretum and learn about the many ways native trees can support increased biodiversity when planted in a variety of non-forest settings too.

### 5 Our Feathered Friends Kick-off

Saturday, April 5, 8am-3pm.

Three seasons of fun and learning at the Arboretum will feature a flurry of activities centered around birds! Celebrate our feathered friends and the many ways they enhance our lives. See page 5 for event details.



Photo: Arnold Winkler

### 12 Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival

Two Saturdays, April 12 & 19

Celebrate this unique aspect of the Arboretum's heritage. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities. See page 17 for more information.

### 13 Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm

Sunday, April 13, 12-3pm

Springfield Mills at Morris Arboretum has been carefully restored and made operational once again by a dedicated group of volunteers. Come visit this 18th century mill and see how corn was milled for meal and flour. This event is free for members or with regular garden admission. Mill-only admission for non-members is \$5.

#### ADMISSION

Adults (18 - 64yrs.)	\$16
Senior (65+yrs.)	\$14
Children (3 - 17yrs.)	\$8
Members	FREE

\* Please note, Arboretum events are subject to change without notice.

In the event of inclement weather, please check the website at [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org) for information or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 0.

**26 Arbor Day Family Day**  
*Saturday, April 26, 2013,*  
*11am-3pm*

This interactive family event will begin high in the tree canopy (50 feet above the forest floor) on *Out on a Limb*, where visitors will receive a Tree Adventure map. Visitors who complete the exploration will receive a seedling to take home. This event is free with admission.

**28 Philadelphia Science Festival – Science Café at Iron Hill Brewery, 8400 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia**  
*Monday, April 28, 6:30-8pm*

Arboretum staff members will speak on several bird-related topics including the bluebird conservation project at the Arboretum. This is a free event, but space is limited.

**29 Storytime**  
*Tuesday, April 29, 10:30-11am*  
 See April 1st for details.

**MAY**

**3 Early Bird Saturday**  
*First Saturday of each month*  
*May through October. Garden opens at 8am*  
 See April 5th for details.

**3 Native Trees Tour at Morris Arboretum**  
*1st & 3rd Saturdays in May*  
*(3 and 17), 11am*  
 See April 5th for details.

Photo: Bob Gutowski



Photo: Paul Meyer

**3 Garden Discovery Series – Avian Architects**  
*Saturday, May 3, 11am-3pm*  
 Fly over to the Discovery Table and learn all about the techniques that birds use to create secure and cozy homes for their babies. Be an avian architect, and learn to identify nests that you may find in your own backyard.

**6 Storytime**  
*Tuesday, May 6, 10:30-11am*  
 See April 1st for details.

**8 Plant Sale Members' Events**  
*Thursday & Friday, May 8 & 9*  
 See p. 18 for more information.

**10 Plant Sale Public Sale Day**  
*Saturday, May 10, 10am-3pm*  
 See p. 18 for more information.

**11 Mother's Day Early Opening**  
*Sunday, May 11, 9am*  
 Beat the crowds on one of the Arboretum's busiest days.

**11 Mother's Day Brunch**  
*Sunday, May 11, 10am & Noon*  
*(two seatings)*  
 Start your Mother's Day right with a delicious brunch at the Compton Café prepared by Chef Josh Hunter. Afterward, walk it off as you enjoy all spring has to offer at the Arboretum. Advance ticket purchase is required. Please look under "Events" at [morrisarboretum.org](http://morrisarboretum.org) for more information.

**13 Storytime Nature Yoga**  
*Tuesday, May 13, 10:30-11:15am*  
 In this special session, explore yoga with your tot through nature-focused stories and songs. Class begins with circle-rhymes and centering warm-ups,

will move on to stories with songs sprinkled in, and will finish with sweet relaxation! Come prepared to stretch and learn some fun poses with your little one. Appropriate for children ages 2-4 with parent or caregiver. Pre-registration highly recommended – visit [online.morrisarboretum.org/growingminds](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/growingminds) or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 281.

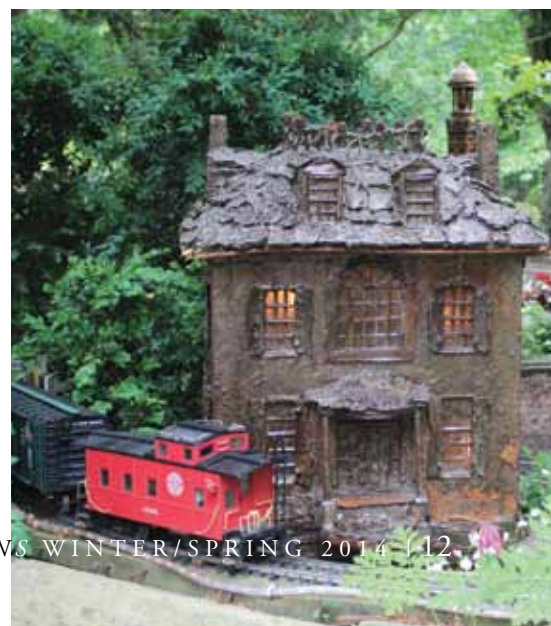
**18 Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm**  
*Sunday, May 18, 12-3pm*  
 See April 13th for details.

**20 Storytime**  
*Tuesday, May 20, 10:30-11am*  
 See April 1st for details.

**24 Garden Railway Grand Opening**  
*Saturday, May 24*  
 See page 21 for more information.

**27 Storytime Nature Yoga**  
*Tuesday, May 27, 10:30-11:15am*  
 See May 13th for details.

Photo: Mia Gold





# One of a Kind

CHRISTINE PAPE, *Editor*

This year, the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery at the Morris Arboretum will celebrate its 115th anniversary. A unique and beloved Arboretum feature, the building has a fascinating history, and today remains the only freestanding glasshouse fernery in North America.

In the mid 1800s, the cultivation of tropical and exotic plants expanded as a result of improvements in transportation. Ferns, though popular in England, were not grown widely in the U.S. As they increased in popularity, a craze erupted known as pteridomania, derived from the word pteridophyte, which represents a family of plants that is dispersed by spores, ferns among them. During the Victorian era, an interest in horticulture and travel was indicative of wealth and elevated social status. The affluent were the first to venture overseas to Europe and the Far East. There they saw exotic plants firsthand, and aspired to bring them back home as souvenirs of their journeys.

While some types of fern could be grown outdoors, many were tender, so people began constructing special glass structures in which to grow these types of delicate plants. John and Lydia Morris were no exception to Victorian infatuations. The pair took their first of seven overseas trips in 1881. John was an avid plant collector and sought to bring rare and unusual species home to Philadelphia to plant in their garden at Compton (now the Morris Arboretum). Inspired by the fern craze himself, John Morris became determined to erect a glasshouse fernery. A graduate of Haverford College with a degree in engineering and owner of J.P. Morris Iron Works, John sought to design a building that did not require interior poles for support. Told by his peers that it could not be done, he consulted with experts from England and Japan, and created a plan that utilized wrought iron roof braces to bear the weight of the frames and glass. The result was a magnificent structure that brought the outdoors in. The interior was designed with Japanese influences and reflected the naturalistic landscapes that had become so popular with the Victorians.

Lydia Morris died in 1932, willing the estate to the University of Pennsylvania. For several decades, what had become the Morris Arboretum began to decline, and restoration of the fernery was

Photo: Paul Meyer



Celebrating the newly dedicated fernery – 1994 Photo: Courtesy Morris Arboretum archives

added to the Master Plan in 1987. Thanks to the generosity of Morris Arboretum friend Dorrance Hamilton, refurbishment of the fernery began in 1993. After months of delicate and painstaking construction, the newly dedicated Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery opened on October 30, 1994.

Today, this iconic Arboretum feature is home to more than 200 varieties of fern. It is not only a visitor favorite, but provides a glimpse into the passions of the Victorian era, while serving as a tribute to the legacy of John and Lydia Morris.



# Become an Education Volunteer Now!

Education volunteers lead tours, attend workshops, lectures and field trips, and develop tours and programs. But mostly education volunteers make a difference in the lives of visitors to the Arboretum and the community at large.

No matter what your background, you can become a great education volunteer. Enthusiasm and an interest in the environment are all you need! The next training session will be held on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings in March. Please come out and join us!

For an application form or more information, please contact Liza Hawley, Visitor Education Coordinator, at [efhawley@upenn.edu](mailto:efhawley@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777, ext. 128. We look forward to having you!

Photo: Judy Miller



## Morris Arboretum's Director of Botany Receives Environmental Award

Last fall, the Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy presented Dr. Timothy Block, the Arboretum's John J. Willaman Director of Botany, with the 2013 Advocate of the Watershed Environmental Award, recognizing outstanding contributions to the local environment.

The Perkiomen Watershed Conservancy presents awards annually to ensure that community efforts to protect and improve the local environment are publicly acknowledged. The Conservancy released a statement specific to Dr. Block's award, stating, "The selection committee was impressed by Dr. Block's unwavering support and involvement with the Conservancy over a span of many years. As the Director of Botany of the Morris Arboretum, his initiative and action to identify the European water chestnut in Lake Delmont and alert the Conservancy has been fundamental in our work to eradicate the aquatic invasive plant locally. In addition, his teaching a number of *Out & About* classes has added a wonderful depth to our educational offerings for learners of all ages. Actively educating and inspiring others to appreciate and protect the treasures of the Perkiomen Creek Watershed are strong evidence of Dr. Block's commitment to the local environment and have earned him this recognition."



Photo: Megan Daw



# Plant Specimens Go Digital

CYNTHIA SKEMA, *Research Botanist*

For centuries, botanists and avid amateurs have been collecting pieces of plants they encounter in the field. They then press, dry, and affix them, and the information associated with their collection, to a sheet of paper, all as a means of recording “what’s out there”, thereby providing a sample for further study. A collection of such specimens is called an “herbarium.” Herbarium collections provide a fundamental source of primary research information on plants throughout both space and time. Unfortunately, these specimens and the information they contain, have traditionally been available only to those individuals able to travel to an herbarium to study the specimens on-site, or to those qualified to receive the material on loan. Only recently has the general problem of inaccessibility of these collections and their data begun to be remedied—through the process of “digitization.” Digitization of a specimen typically entails the capture of a high-resolution image of the specimen and transcription of the data associated with a specimen (for example, when, where, and by whom a plant was collected) into a database.

The advantages of digitizing a collection of specimens are numerous. As mentioned, digitization makes collections more accessible. Remote, such as online, access may obviate the need for loans or on-site study of specimens, which both decreases shipping/travel funds required for research, and minimizes wear and tear on specimens, the latter of which is particularly important for fragile and/or historical collections. Furthermore, digitizing specimens makes their data readily available for many analyses and investigations which were not possible or not as far-reaching, previously. For example, digital specimen data enables the study of changing landscapes, such as through species invasions or declines, or the changing climate, such as through studies of phenology (time of flowering/fruitletting), and thus can inform and guide conservation and policy-making. Aggregation of digital specimen data also allow a “big picture” view of particular plant groups, or entire floras, which can improve our understanding of the

basic traits, evolution, distribution, and ecosystem relationships/functions of various plants – such as the work done with the PA Flora Database by the botany department of the Morris Arboretum over the past decades.

Major museums, including many of the world’s largest herbaria, are currently undertaking digitization projects of their collections, however, much work remains to be done. The National Science Foundation estimates that museum collections in the U.S. alone contain roughly one billion specimens, but only about 10% of those specimens have been digitized and made available online. Recently, the botany department of the Morris Arboretum, in collaboration with the botany department of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, has embarked upon The

Pennsylvania Specimen Digitization Pilot Project. This project aims to digitize a subset of the plant specimens collected from Pennsylvania that are held in the herbarium collection at the Academy. This will help determine the best digitization methods, test our digitization pipeline (i.e., imaging equipment, text-recognition software, database, and web portal) and measure our throughput (e.g., number of specimens fully databased per hour). Such information is critical to streamlining the process so that once funding is secured, we may eventually digitize the Academy’s entire PA collection, which may include up to 250,000 specimens. The PA Specimen Digitization Pilot Project will complement and significantly improve upon the current PA Flora Database of the Morris Arboretum, by filling holes in current database records and by adding new records, such as those from specimens collected since the early 1970s. Our vision is that this digitization project will grow to ultimately capture all undocumented PA specimens that



A specimen of the endangered *Chenopodium foggii* (Amaranthaceae) from the herbarium of the Academy of Natural Sciences is one of the many sheets to be digitized in the Botany Department’s upcoming Pennsylvania Specimen Digitization Pilot Project. The project will capture images of and provide greater access to these specimens, enabling a wealth of new research possibilities in botany and other fields.

exist in various herbaria. The goal is a database that can be integrated with other existing digital collections containing PA plant records in order to grant us the most complete picture of the Pennsylvania flora possible—an invaluable asset to botanical study in the Commonwealth and beyond!



Photos: Louise Clarke

# Green Roof Update

LOUISE CLARKE, *Bloomfield Farm Section Leader*

The Arboretum's intensive green roof has finished its fourth growing season and is settling into maturity. The intensive roof, installed in 2010 atop the six-bay garage at Bloomfield Farm, contains eight inches of growing medium, and was planted with a diverse mixture of woody shrubs, hardy perennials, grasses, and bulbs. Early weed problems have been minimized, as vegetation has filled in to outcompete weeds either windblown or delivered by visiting birds.

In an effort to expand the green roof's native plant palette, I visited Mt. Cuba Center to observe plants grown in the scree garden and rock outcroppings of Northern Delaware. Conditions there are well-drained on exposed, sunny sites akin to the Arboretum's green roof. Seeds and plants of *Bigelovia nuttallii* (Nuttall's rayless goldenrod) generously donated by Mt. Cuba, have thrived and added brilliant late season punctuations of golden color. Seed-grown Pennsylvania catchfly, or *Silene pennsylvanica*, is also being tested on the roof, and in its first year displayed voluptuous pink, five-petalled flowers. *Solidago simplex* (Rand's goldenrod), a native of the banks of the lower Susquehanna River, was installed last autumn. In addition, as part of his intern project, Ryan Plante is trialing hardy succulents and two more native perennials for their adaptability to green roof culture.



The living roof also hosts accessioned woody plants, among them fragrant sumac, blue-fruited creeping junipers, and

*Prunus pumila* var. *depressa* (Eastern sand cherry), which has special value to native pollinators. Its delicate, white, rose-like flowers were observed to be buzzing with activity during spring flowering.

The roof has proven to be popular with wildlife. In its first year, killdeer, a ground nesting species of plover, successfully nested and fledged four chicks. Unfortunately they have not returned, as the exposed, gravelly soil was covered by growing plants. Last spring, a pair of Canada geese briefly explored the roof as a nesting site, but fortunately decided to nest elsewhere.

Other unwelcome visitors have included stinging wasps, who built small combs under the camouflage of dense perennial foliage. They remained undiscovered until weeding, at which point the horticulturists became painfully aware of their presence. At least one unidentified species of a solitary, ground nesting bee has occupied the green roof, marked by its pencil-sized, round burrow entrances. Gaily striped Monarch butterfly caterpillars and carrot-colored aphids have enjoyed munching the native *Asclepias tuberosa*, aptly called butterfly weed.



The Morris Arboretum's now seasoned green roof contains a diverse and attractive plant palette. It also continues to provide habitat and opportunities for trialing and expanding knowledge of roof-worthy plants.



# JAPANESE cherry blossom festival

Two Saturdays, April 12 & 19

The history of the Morris Arboretum is rich with Japanese influences. Join us in April as we celebrate this history and experience the beauty of the Morris Arboretum's cherry tree collection in bloom. Both Saturdays will feature traditional Japanese cultural activities. All events are free with admission.

## Cherry Walk

**Saturday, April 12 & 19, 10:15am and 12:15pm, meet at Garden Railway entrance**

Visitors are invited to discover and appreciate the variety of cherry species planted throughout the Arboretum. This 45-minute walk will be led by an Arboretum expert. Space is limited.



Photos: Arnold Winkler

## Kyo Daiko Drumming Crew

**Saturday, April 12, 11am**

Taiko drumming has been practiced in Japan for hundreds of years at festivals, battles, and as a means of communication over long distances. A combination of choreography and drumming, taiko drumming is physically demanding and visually compelling. Kyo Daiko, Philadelphia's only Japanese-style drumming crew, is a community-based group, formed by a collaboration between the Settlement Music School and the Shofuso Japanese House and Garden in Fairmount Park.

## Origami Workshops for Kids

**Saturday, April 12, 1 and 1:30pm**

Faye Goldman of the Greater Philadelphia Paper Pholders will teach children how to construct a bird using origami, the Japanese art of paper folding. This event is free with admission, but seating is limited.

## Japanese Garden Elements Tours

**Saturday, April 12 & 19, 2pm**

Led by an Arboretum guide, this tour will highlight the Arboretum's Japanese style gardens, including the Hill and Water Garden, the Japanese Overlook Garden and the Rock Garden in the Fernery.

## Kimono Dressing Demonstration

**Saturday, April 19, 11am-12pm**

Young and old alike will delight in the beautiful kimonos exhibited by Fumiyo Batta. As a "cultural ambassador" for the Subaru Cherry Blossom Festival, Mrs. Batta has given numerous classes and demonstrations, including seminars on the art of kimono, traditional Japanese attire, since the festival's inception in 1998. As an extensive collector of kimonos, she will talk about the history of the kimono and demonstrate how to wear them. Participation from the audience will be welcomed.



## Traditional Japanese Tea Demonstration

**Saturday, April 19, 1pm, Azalea Meadow (rain location: Upper Gallery)**

The picnic tea or Chabako, is a beautiful and unique form of the Japanese tea ceremony. Featuring traditional costumes and designed to take place outdoors, there are four distinct presentations, one for each of the seasons. Weather permitting this demonstration will be outside.

# Plant Sale 2014

## Save the Date for Members-Only Plant Sale Events

Morris Arboretum membership offers a variety of special benefits during the Plant Sale. All members receive 10% off their entire purchase and can shop before the public during Members-Only Day on Friday, May 9. Special events during the Plant Sale are offered to premier members. Not a premier member and interested in the events? Call the membership office at (215) 247-5777, ext. 151 or ext. 155 or send an email message to [members@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:members@morrisarboretum.org) to upgrade your membership today.

### PLANT SALE MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS

Invitations will be mailed to members eligible for the events listed below. Online registration will be made available in late March, or register by phone at (215) 247-5777, ext. 155. If you wish to upgrade your membership in order to attend a Premier Member event at the Plant Sale, contact the Membership Office at (215) 247-5777, ext. 151 or ext. 155 or email [members@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:members@morrisarboretum.org).

#### Plant Sale Luncheon

**Thursday, May 8, 12:30-3pm**

Oak members (\$500) and above are invited to a lunch with Paul Meyer, *The F. Otto Haas Executive Director*. Following lunch, these members will have the first opportunity to make purchases from a wide variety of plants at this year's sale.

## 2014 Rhododendron Plant Sale

The Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society will again hold its annual Plant Sale at Morris Arboretum this year. Outstanding varieties of large-leaf (elepidotes) and small-leaf (lepidotes) rhododendrons will be offered, as will azaleas, both evergreen and deciduous, and kalmias (mountain laurels). The plants are selected for their colorful floral display and interesting plant forms and foliage. All are hardy in the Delaware Valley. The rhododendron sale will follow the schedule and hours of the Arboretum's Plant Sale. For information, contact Karel Bernady, (610) 827-0113.

Would you like to take home a free rhododendron? Join the Greater Philadelphia Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society during the Plant Sale and you will receive a choice plant. The society features an outstanding quarterly journal, annual and regional conferences, and an exciting seed exchange. The Chapter meets at Morris Arboretum with informative speakers, exhibits plants in formal displays at the Philadelphia Flower Show, and maintains a plants for members program to make rarely offered rhododendrons available to members. Visit the chapter's website at [gpchapterars.org](http://gpchapterars.org).



Photos: Arnold Winkler

#### Plant Sale Preview Night

**Thursday, May 8, 5:30-7:30pm**

Chestnut members (\$165) and above will enjoy a casual evening of shopping and fun. Morris Arboretum experts will be on hand to help you choose the perfect plants for your garden. Refreshments will be served.

#### Plant Sale Members-Only Day

**Friday, May 9, 10am-7pm**

Bring your membership card, your wallet and a wagon. Shop early for the best selection. All members save 10% on their entire Plant Sale purchase and choose a free dividend plant. Holly members (\$250) and above receive two dividend plants, and Collectors Circle members receive a plant of curatorial significance.

#### Public Plant Sale

**Saturday, May 10, 10am-3pm**





# Summer Camp 2014

**D**on't let the chill in the air deter you from planning ahead to a summer of fun at the Morris Arboretum! We are offering six weeks of summer exploration with a variety of themes to satisfy inquisitive minds 6 to 10 years of age. All camp activities are guided by a staff of experienced and licensed educators from 9am to 3:30pm daily.

On-line camp registration opens on January 21. We strongly suggest that interested parents register on or before February 28th to secure a guaranteed place for your child and to receive an early bird discount of 15% off camp tuition. Go to [online.morrisarboretum.org/summercamp](http://online.morrisarboretum.org/summercamp) and register today!

This year's weekly themes taught by our engaging educators include:

**Week of June 23rd: Birding Buddies:** Enjoy a fun week of avian adventures including birding expeditions, examining bird anatomy, exploring the wetland habitats, searching for nests, creating field journals, and feeding the Arboretum's swans.

**Week of July 7th: Green Gardeners:** Visit the Arboretum greenhouse, spend time with a horticulturist, make a terrarium or fairy garden, grow veggies from seeds, sample apple varieties, taste herbs, and create no-bake culinary creations.

Photo: Zac Brooks



**Week of July 14th: Sensational Summer Science:** Campers will conduct pond water investigations, make a kite, explore force and motion at the mill, create volcanoes, study geology in the Arboretum, make bubble soap and more.

**Week of July 21st: History Crusaders:** Campers go back in time and learn about the history of the Arboretum's springhouse, mercury loggia, fountains and log cabin. They



will grind corn in the mill, make butter by hand, create sundials, and explore life during the Morris' time.

## **Week of July 28th: Habitats Hunters:**

Wildlife enthusiasts will find and explore a variety of animal habitats found throughout the Arboretum's wetlands and woodlands. Campers will locate bird nests, turtle ponds, and groundhog holes, while searching for deer, frogs and other creatures. They will also make dioramas and other creations.



Photos: Tiffany Stahl

**Week of August 4th: Arboretum Artists:** Using nature as inspiration, aspiring artists will use a variety of medium from paint and clay to create sculptures, canvas paintings, water color nature art, and scientific illustration. Camper's creative endeavors will be displayed in an art show for parents to view at the end of week.

## Spring at The Shop

Spring will arrive at The Shop in April! Celebrate the grand re-opening following the renovation of the Widener building. Find exciting, all new merchandise for the season. In conjunction with the theme, *Our Feathered Friends*, this year is all about the birds! An array of fun, functional and whimsical bird items, including birdhouses, bird books for children and adults, toys and more will make it a spectacular spring!



# Make the Most of Spring—Take a Class!

From classes in horticulture and landscape design to birding, health and wellness, and creative arts, the Morris Arboretum offers more than 75 classes with something for both children and adults. Classes begin in February.

To register, visit <https://online.morrisarboretum.org> or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125. Here are just a few offerings for the upcoming season:

## Basic Botanical Illustration

**Two Sundays, March 9 & 16, 1-3pm**

This class introduces and reinforces the idea of looking, thinking, and understanding as a fundamental part of illustration and botany. Technique instruction is provided.

## Hand-made Paper Bowls

**Saturday, March 29, 12:30-3:30pm**

Create personal and unique “paper vessels” by using hand-cast paper pulp and your own memorabilia. Your vessel can commemorate a special occasion, or simply be a



handsome receptacle for your collections of shells, dried plant materials, or other knick-knacks. No experience is necessary for this meditative process.



Photo: Arnold Winkler

## Tai Chi in the Garden

**Four Wednesdays: May 14, 21, 28 and June 4, 10-11am**

Do you want to reduce stress, quiet down, move in a slow, balanced way, and cultivate energy? In the Arboretum's beautiful outdoor setting we will share in the practice of the healing art of Tai Chi, an ancient Chinese tradition that today is practiced as a graceful form of exercise.

## MORRIS ARBORETUM SPRING LECTURE SERIES

Make plans to attend one of the upcoming winter/early spring lectures. This informative series is free for members (for non-members, free with Arboretum admission). A reception with refreshments is featured at each lecture.

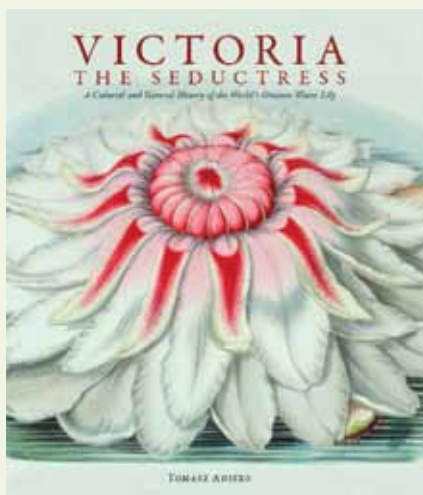
Reservations are required and space is limited. Sign up online at [online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures](https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures) or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125 to leave your name and phone number.

### Victoria, the Seductress: Meet Her Aquatic Majesty (Klein Endowed Lecture)

Dr. Tomasz Aniśko, Curator of Plants, Longwood Gardens

**Sunday, February 23, 2pm**

This beautiful book tells the fascinating story of the Victoria water lily and its



discovery and introduction into cultivation. It also details the adventures of countless people around the world who attempted to grow and understand this aquatic marvel. Join

author Dr. Tomasz Aniśko of Longwood Gardens to hear about the many exquisite qualities of this remarkable plant. The Klein Endowed Lecture is presented annually in memory of Dr. William M. Klein, who served as the Arboretum's first full-time director from 1977-1990.

### Barnes Endowed Lecture

**Sunday, March 23, 2pm**

The Barnes Endowed Lecture is presented annually in memory of Laura L. Barnes, founder of The Barnes Foundation Arboretum. Please visit [online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures](https://online.morrisarboretum.org/classes/endowedlectures) for more information.



# The Garden Railway Continues to Delight

CHRISTINE PAPE, *Editor*

The history of garden railways dates back to the late 19th century. The railroad industry was booming, and builders began creating scale models of potential projects in order to experiment with track layouts and attract investors with their designs. A century later, smaller electric trains were developed, and began being used in parks, gardens and even backyards.

In 1996, Arboretum Executive Director Paul Meyer was visiting New York Botanical Garden and spotted a garden railway display created by Applied Imagination, a Kentucky landscape design firm. Realizing the impact this type of exhibit could have on attendance, Meyer approached owner Paul Busse about creating a similar display at the Morris Arboretum. When it was first installed in 1998, the Garden Railway Display was intended to be a temporary summer attraction. Fifteen years later, it has become a mainstay for both summer and holiday visitation.

The display proved to be an immediate success, with attendance more than doubling during the first year. As the exhibit moved toward becoming a more permanent feature at the Arboretum, the space was expanded and the entrance path was paved. Later, additional track was added, and the landscape was enhanced with woody plants, perennials and annuals.

Today, it is a garden area unto itself, with more than 14 train lines running on a quarter-mile of track. Fifty historic Philadelphia buildings form the backdrop of the garden, each handcrafted entirely of natural materials, meticulously detailed with leaves, bark, vines and twigs. Each summer, additional buildings designed with a changing theme are added. Previous themes have included *Architectural Wonders of the World*, *Fairy Tale Rail*, and *Great Lighthouses*.

In 2001, the Garden Railway Display began reopening during the holiday season. The historic Philadelphia buildings are

decorated with wreaths and greenery, thousands of twinkling lights are added to the garden, and holiday trains zoom along the tracks.

Photo: Freddy Clark



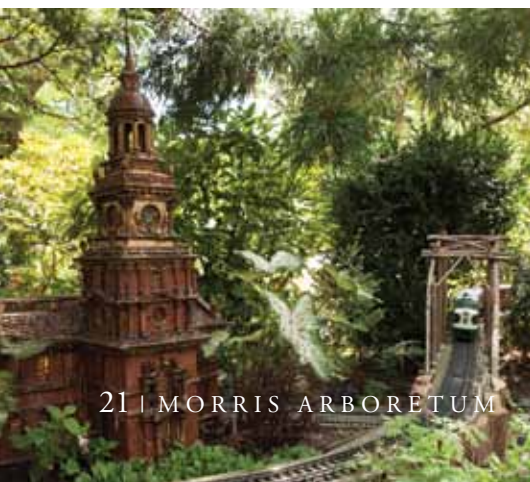
Photo: Arnold Winkler

The display has retained its popularity 15 years later, and each season attracts new generations of fans. Children are mesmerized by the motion of the trains and a garden that is accessible to even the most pint-sized viewer. Adults recapture the essence of their childhood and the spirit of adventure and travel the trains represent.

Behind the scenes, much work is involved in maintaining the display. Trains need to be replaced each year, plantings are assessed, and after years of withstanding the heat of summer, rain, and the occasional snowfall, many of the historic houses (which can cost upwards of \$5,000 each) also need to be replaced. Other enhancements to the site are also needed, such as a more formal area where volunteers can greet visitors and train supplies can be housed.

This year's theme "Who Lives Here?", will utilize the houses as a fun way to get kids involved by using their imagination, with clues built into the houses. The buildings will be fanciful dwellings, such as an overly tall giraffe's house offset by a tiny little home for a hummingbird. A coiled house for a snake will feature shingles that resemble scales, and a possum will reside in a home that hangs upside down from a tree. This year's display will again surely delight visitors both young and old.

The Garden Railway display will open on Saturday, May 24th. A grand opening event will take place from 1-3pm and will include a fun kids craft and free ice cream (while supplies last). If you love trains, volunteers are always needed to welcome visitors or help with the display. Please contact Iana Turner at (215) 247-5777, ext. 110 for more information.





# Growing Minds classes for kids and families, better than ever!

MIRIAM VON ESSEN, Education & Penn Outreach Coordinator

Last year was the biggest yet for *Growing Minds* at Morris Arboretum! Coming off a successful fall season with several sell-out series, some of the most popular offerings have been expanded, and new exciting classes have been added for the upcoming spring and summer. The *Seeds to Sprouts* nature adventure series has quickly become a favorite among toddlers, parents and grandparents. If you have a two to four year old and haven't yet checked out this class, fun and learning is awaiting you and your child on magical Monday mornings at the Arboretum! This series fills up quickly and is limited to 15 children, so be sure to sign up early. Stroller Strides is a stroller-based fitness program that offers a total body workout for moms in a gorgeous setting while babies are also kept engaged and entertained. For older kids, a second offering of the popular *Nature Photography Workshop* has been added so that children (ages eight-12) can capture the beauty of the Arboretum—while learning photographic techniques—for an extended spring season. Finally, a partnership with Family Stages will once again cultivate children's imagination and acting skills with the brand-new *Tree Time Theatre* series in April and May, as well as an encore presentation of *Mini-Morris Players* series this summer. These classes are just a sampling of the many spring and summer *Growing Minds* classes! To learn more and reserve a space in these engaging upcoming classes, visit <https://online.morrisarboretum.org/GrowingMinds>.

Photo: Arnold Winkler



Photo: Mark Stehle



## Moonlight & Roses 2014

On September 23, 2013, more than 200 people gathered at the Arboretum to celebrate *Moonlight & Roses* and Nina Schneider, the 2013 honoree, following the cancellation of the June event. The 2014 *Moonlight & Roses* gala will be held on Friday, June 6. Join us and our co-chairs, Jessie Deming and Bob Boyer for an evening of cocktails and hors d'oeuvres followed by dinner and dancing under the stars.

Jessie and Bob are actively involved with the Morris Arboretum. Bob is a current member of the Horticulture committee and both he and Jessie are Directors' Guild members.

This year's honoree is Jessie Hill, a 1976 University of Pennsylvania graduate. Jessie has been visiting the Arboretum since she was a child living nearby. She and her family have been steadfast friends of the organization for decades. Jessie was a volunteer guide who led tours for many years and served as a member of the Morris Arboretum Advisory Board of Managers from 2000–2006. She is passionate about youth education and has supported the Morris Arboretum in strengthening these programs over the years. Jessie and her husband, Ming Fang, reside in Hawaii but remain actively involved.

Reservations are required for *Moonlight & Roses* and space is limited. Invitations will be mailed to all Holly-level members and above, as well as previous *Moonlight & Roses* attendees. Opportunities are also available to sponsor a table, become a corporate sponsor, or to place an ad in the event program book. For more information or to request an invitation, please contact Kristen Casalenuovo at (215) 247-5777, ext. 418 or [kcasal@upenn.edu](mailto:kcasal@upenn.edu).

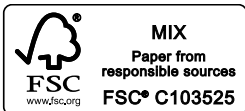
Proceeds from this year's event will support all aspects of programming at the Morris Arboretum, strengthening the organization's most critical priorities.





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## *The Lydia Morris Legacy Society*

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