

# VOLUNTEER

July 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 people, plants 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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## Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
Notes from the Guides Chair	3
Around the Arboretum	4
New Interns	5
Calendar	7



Photo: Arnold Winkler



## Letter from the Editor July 2012

Hello again!

It pleases me to be able to bring you another newsletter while your new editor and education intern is on her way. The garden looks as beautiful as ever this summer and it seems there is no shortage of events for patrons of all ages! Now we just need some mild, enjoyable summer weather.

Stay cool!

Ariel Dreyfus,  
*Former McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



## Wyck House

Here are some photos from the June volunteer trip to the Wyck Historic House, Garden and Farm. A great time was had by all. If you've never been, it is a great way to spend a summer afternoon!

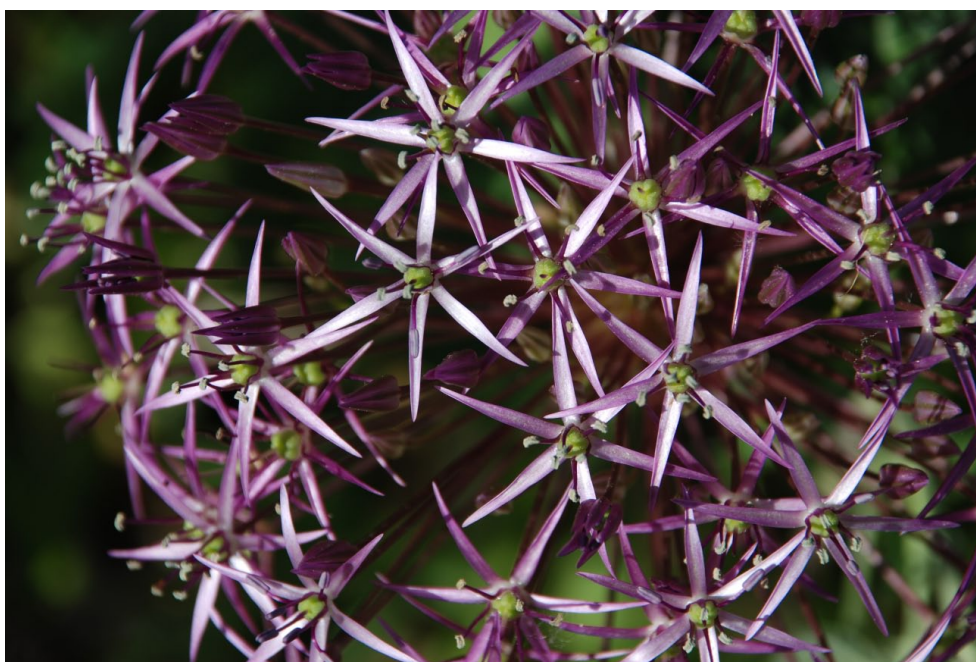


## notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

So you're telling me that your tomatoes are overrun with weeds. Well, stop complaining and just eat them – the weeds, that is. A new cookbook has come out called “Foraged Flavor: Finding Fabulous Ingredients in your Backyard or Farmer’s Market”. It was written by Tama Wong and Eddy Leroux. Weeds are thriving in the East because of the warm, wet weather. Let’s pick some Stinging Nettle leaves (wearing gloves, of course) and toss them into boiling water for a few minutes. They will wilt but remain green and Ms Wong likes them on pizza or in a risotto. So there! Chickweed is delicious with Gorgonzola. Creeping Jenny needs only tomato and Mozzarella. Bee Balm has a lemony taste and is used in spring rolls. And for desert – wild Spearmint dipped in chocolate and dusted with cocoa. Aren’t you getting hungry already?

And speaking of tomatoes (I think that’s how we started), the genome of the tomato has been decoded. It has a grand total of 31,760 genes, 7,000 more than we do. Is that fair? The large number of genes has to do with the disaster that killed off the dinosaurs. When this happened, the tomato genome tripled, which was to their great advantage. The variety that the scientists sequenced was Heinz 1706, which is used to make ketchup. Now, we botanists know that the tomato is a fruit, but the United States Supreme Court has decreed that it is a vegetable. I think that this is one of their more memorable decisions. Their reasoning was that the tomato is a close cousin of the potato, which is a vegetable. The genomes of the two plants have 92% of their DNA in common. The main difference is that the potato has a few genes that direct the plants energy away from producing fruit and into the generation of tubers. Tomatoes are also related to tobacco, peppers, eggplant and deadly nightshade. Quite a family!



Well, I think I’m ready to go out and pull some weeds for dinner and see if the birds have pecked at my tomatoes yet.

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg,  
*Chair of the Guides*



## around the arboretum

**Save the Date!**

Thursday, September 13<sup>th</sup> there will be a trip to Island Beach State Park with Dr. Ann Rhoads and Dr. Tim Block. The group will leave from the Arboretum at 7:15 am and return by 5pm in a large motor coach. Please plan on packing your lunch for a beach picnic. Fee is still in negotiation, but will be approximately \$40.00. Please contact Michelle Conners at [mconners@upenn.edu](mailto:mconners@upenn.edu) or ext. 109 to reserve your seat for this great adventure!

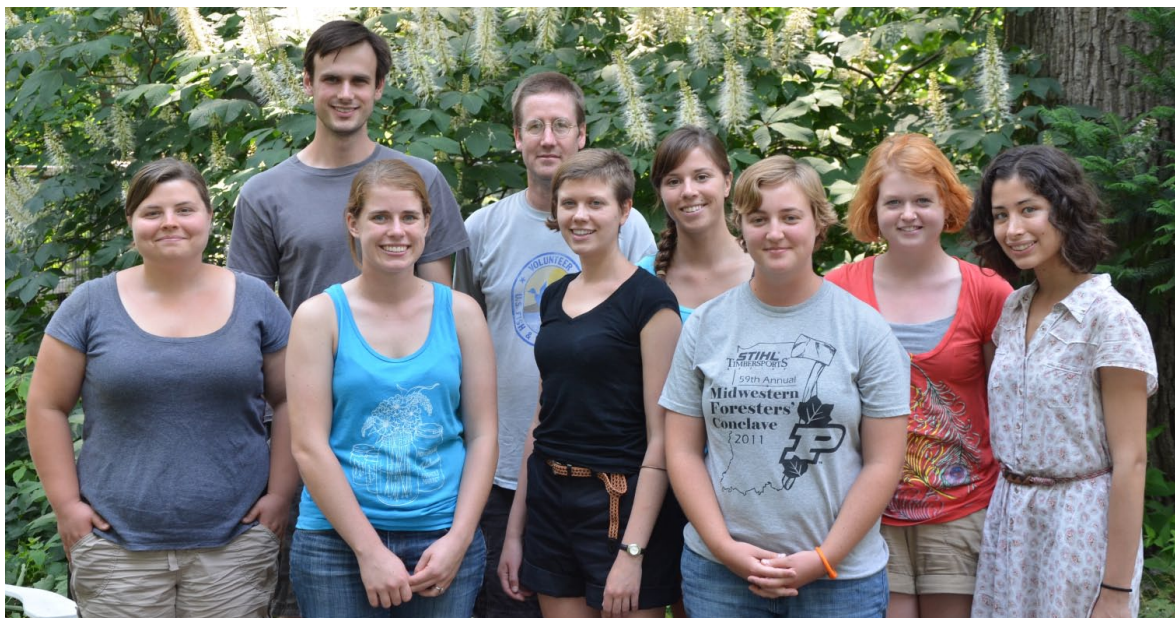
**McLean Library Annual Book Sale**  
**Wednesday, October 10, 9:30am - 5pm**  
100 North 20<sup>th</sup> Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

Mark your calendar to attend the McLean Library's annual book sale! (And if your calendar is already marked, please note that the event has been re-scheduled from October 4!) As in previous years, you'll find a wide range of used gardening classics and newer titles at exceptional prices. This year we will also be offering fiction titles, DVDs and CDs. All proceeds of this sale will benefit the McLean Library.

Gardeners, this is a great opportunity to recycle your used books in good condition by donating them for the sale. Others will gladly reuse them! We are seeking books on gardens, plants, the landscape, and natural history, as well as general fiction. We also welcome high-quality DVDs and CDs (no videotapes, please). Drop items off at the McLean Library between 9 am and 5 pm, Monday through Friday. Call 215-988-8772 or send email to [pbecroft@pennhort.org](mailto:pbecroft@pennhort.org) with any questions.

## Welcome 2012-2013 Interns!

Back row, left to right: Fabrice Rochelemagne, Steve Pyne, Emma Williams, Stephanie Wilson, Sarah Bolivar  
Front row, left to right: Heather Schmidt, Jessamine Finch, Rebekah Armstrong, Jamine Berlin



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

Rebekah graduated from the University of Virginia and is working on a masters in landscape architecture at Harvard University. During the past semester she worked on a rammed earth structure and used seed bombs as part of an exhibit on mud as a material. A seed bomb is a ball of clay, compost, and seeds in a 5:1:1 ratio. They can then be put somewhere hard to reach or in an empty tree pit and where rain can break it down. After her internship Rebekah plans to finish her master's program and return to Philadelphia to practice. Rebekah enjoys bicycling and camping.

**Jamie Berlin,** *Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

Jamie graduated from Michigan State with a BS in forestry and forest resource management. Jamie is excited to learn more about plants and public garden management. She spends her free time baking bread and geocaching. Jamie hopes to continue working in the area of public gardens after her internship.

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

Sarah graduated from the University of Virginia with a Bachelor's degree in urban and environmental planning. She is passionate about working with community members to address environmental challenges in creative, holistic ways. As the Education Intern, she's excited to promote the Arboretum's mission of engaging the public and fostering stewardship. In the future, she hopes to pursue landscape architecture and travel the world, especially Socotra and other regions with alien-looking plants!

**Jessamine Finch,** *Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern*

Jessamine graduated from Smith College as a biology major with a focus in plant sciences and a minor in landscape studies. Jessamine worked at the Smith Botanic Garden and quickly fell in love with the world of public gardens. She also worked in a plant ecology

lab where she completed her senior honors thesis on range disequilibrium in dispersal limited forest herbs. In her free time Jessamine enjoys playing ultimate frisbee, hiking, baking, and reading. This year she hopes to gain proficiency in public garden management, expand and refine her knowledge of plant care and identification, and pursue an independent project on the rich history of the Arboretum landscape.

**Steve Pyne**, *Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*

Steve graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology with a BS in electrical engineering, and from Penn with an MS in international development and appropriate technology. His childhood interest in gardening was reawakened when he moved to Philadelphia and became active in community gardening and Philly Green. He started volunteering at the Arboretum in 2009, and was hired as a seasonal gardener in the Rose Garden the following year. After his internship he hopes to continue working in public horticulture.

**Fabrice Rochelemagne**, *Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*

Fabrice graduated from the City University of New York's Hunter College with a BA in English. He received the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Horticulture Certificate. Fabrice is interested in trees, trees, and trees! After the internship, he plans to use his new International Society of Arboriculture certification and climbing skills to begin working as an arborist for a private tree care company in Philadelphia.

**Heather Schmidt**, *Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

Heather graduated from Temple University with a BS degree in landscape architecture and horticulture. She comes to the Arboretum to gain further experience and advance her skills in the areas of landscape management and plant care, particularly of roses. During her internship Heather hopes to gain experience in plant collections management, outdoor display design, and compost tea experimentation. Heather loves to travel, visit botanical gardens and arboreta, read, hike, garden, cook, and bake. She is also interested in historic landscapes and their restoration and preservation.

**Emma Williams**, *Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

Emma grew up among the coast redwood groves of northern California and received a BS in land resources and environmental science at Montana State University. She majored in land rehabilitation and has a passion for ecological restoration. She comes to the Arboretum from the San Bernardino National Forest in southern California, where she was conducting rare plant surveys for habitat conservation projects. Emma is an avid bike rider.

**Stephanie Wilson**, *John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*

Stephanie graduated with a BS in biology from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. Her hometown is Forest, Virginia. Her concentration is in pollination biology and she is a fanatic about bees. She enjoys playing wiffle ball, hiking any mountain she can find, and playing music of any and all sorts, especially of the bluegrass flavor.

## July

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

**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



## August

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

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