

VOLUNTEER

February 2014



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Volunteer

Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer is a newsletter published monthly for
Arboretum volunteers.

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is a historic public garden and educational institution. It promotes an understanding of the relationship between plants, people, and place through programs that integrate science, art, and the humanities. The Arboretum conducts four major activities: education, research, outreach, and horticultural display. As the official Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania provides research and outreach services to state agencies, community institutions and to citizens of Pennsylvania and beyond.

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

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

Grist Mill: Bob Gutowski, gutowski@upenn.edu
or 215-247-5777 ext 132

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

Archives & History: Leslie Morris-Smith,
leslm@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext 175

Physical Facilities: Tom Wilson, wilsonth@upenn.edu or
215-247-5777 ext 108

Information:

(215) 247-5777

www.morrisarboretum.org

100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Volunteer

Stephanie Kuniholm, Editor

Contributors: Jody Sprague, Michelle Connors, Bob Gutowski

Questions, comments, and submissions can be
directed to the editor at mabxeduc@exchange.upenn.edu
or mailed to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.

Photos: Stephanie Kuniholm, unless otherwise stated



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Letter from the Editor

February 2014

Throughout this particularly wintry winter I have had the words of Thoreau repeating in my head,

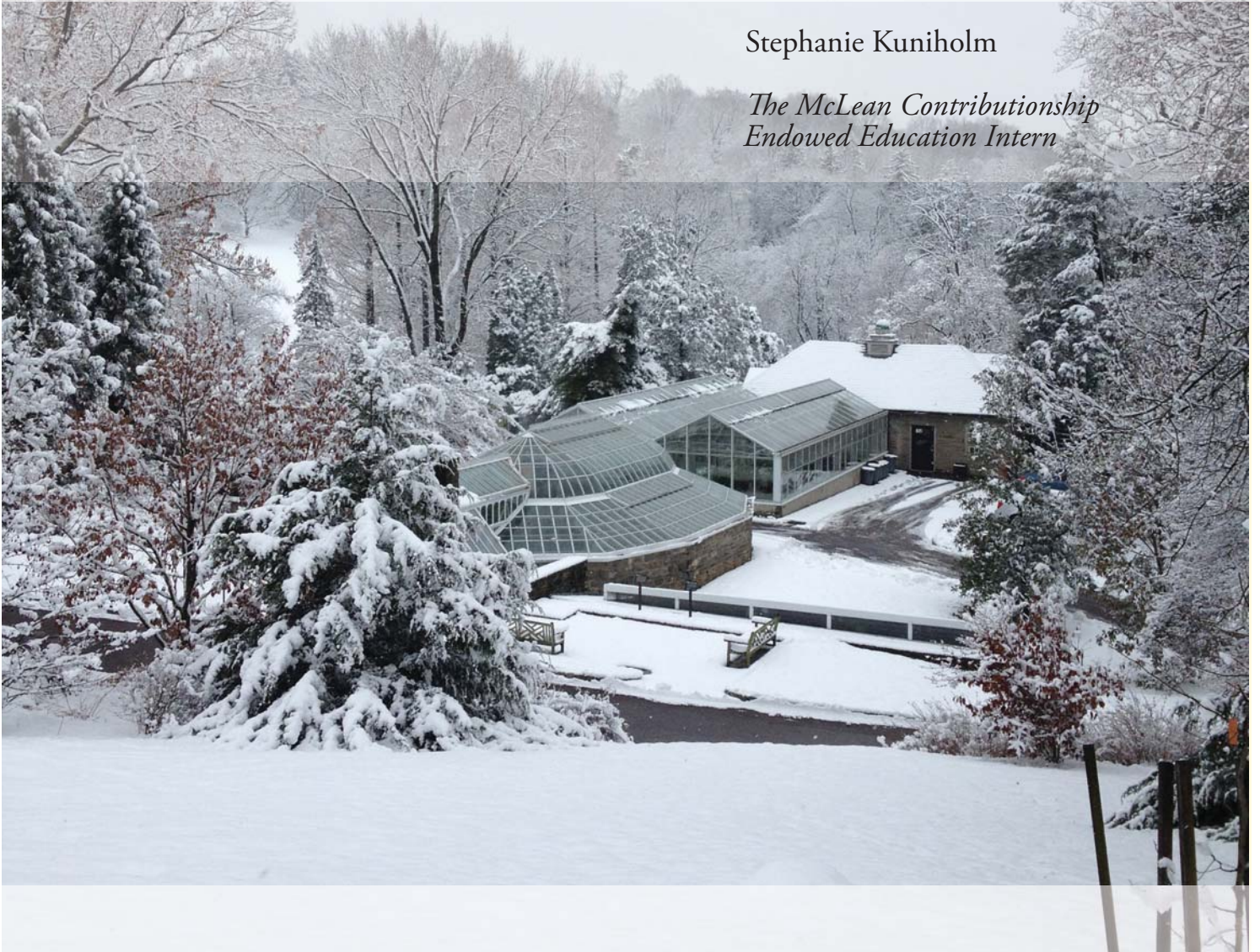
“One must maintain a little bit of summer even in the middle of winter.”

Despite the extreme cold, excessive ice, piling snow, and biting wind, I regularly walk through the Arboretum noticing witchhazels in bloom, buds waiting to swell, and birds singing of warmer weather to come. But when the change of seasons seems too far away, I (and you, too) have the pleasure of slipping into the Fernery to instantly “maintain a little bit of summer.” Let’s enjoy the last of winter while waiting expectantly for warmer days ahead.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*



Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

Here we are in the middle of winter, hardly the time where we worry about our gardening chores today. However, if you were gardening in the Antarctic you would have entirely different kinds of garden chores to consider, winter or not. I recently read an interview in *Fine Gardening* which described the experience of one Antarctic garden volunteer, Darryl Seidel.

Darryl was an amateur backyard gardener when he had the opportunity to volunteer as a gardener at the Davis Station in the Antarctic. While there are many volunteer positions at the Station, the hydroponic greenhouse seems to be a volunteer favorite. Out of 21 volunteers, 14 are on the hydroponics crew. While it is -20 degrees C (-4 degrees F) outside, it is 26 degrees C (78 degrees F) in the greenhouse. It is the one spot you can take off your winter clothing, read a book or do some pruning.

To grow plants hydroponically they have a number of tubs on stands containing a couple of inches of clay balls topped with vermiculite. When traditionally propagated seedlings are roughly 2 inches high, they are transferred into larger tubs. They have a 200 liter water tank used to irrigate all the individual tubs. There is a special nutrient solution in the water tank that serves as a multivitamin for the plants. They also have a lot of UV-emitting lights above the plants. It's all artificial in the greenhouse.

The water comes from a small lake, which thaws in the summer. They draw out water and run it through a reverse-osmosis machine (because it is slightly salty and they wouldn't be able to drink it). The reverse-osmosis machine spits out clean water. They store approximately 1.6 to 1.7 million liters of it for the station. This is the only water they will have for an entire year. I read one time that the people at the station were allowed one 3 minute shower per week, you can understand why.

The entire station runs on massive generators. If the power goes out then the lights go out, the pumps stop, the water stops and eventually the building freezes. But there are no diseases and no bugs.

Would you trade your garden for a chance to garden at the Antarctic? I am afraid I am going to be happy to contend with the diseases and the bugs in my own backyard. What do you think?

Happy Winter – Happy Gardening

Jody Sprague
Guides Chair



Guiding Visitors with Special Needs

Stephanie Borton, Associate Director, ArtReach

NOTE- New date! February 27, 10 am in Widener Classroom

Stephanie Borton, Associate Director of ArtReach, will be presenting a workshop to help guides become more comfortable and familiar with techniques for leading special needs groups – visitors that are blind, or deaf, or have cognitive delays. ArtReach offers discounted admissions to arts/cultural institutions in and around Philadelphia for various special needs groups as well as for economically disadvantaged groups. Morris Arboretum has been collaborating with ArtReach as an Arts Partner for the past ten years.



Call for Grist Mill Interpreters

The stones are turning, the oven is ready for baking corn muffins and we have a bicycle-powered corn meal grinder. Now we need a few Mill Demonstration Interpreters. Mark your calendars for the first season of Grist Mill Demonstration Days and spread the word. The mill will be open to the public and in operation for Grist Mill Demonstrations scheduled on April 13th and then every third Sunday of the month, May through November, 2014. This schedule includes events at Bloomfield Farm on June 15th and October 16th.



Photo courtesy of Bob Gutowski

Bob Gutowski is offering three interpretation workshops/training at 1 pm: Monday, March 3rd; Wednesday, March 12th; and Friday April 11th. These events differ from our guided school group tours.

Typical Mill Demonstration Volunteer Positions to be scheduled [may change as we learn what works best]

Outside Interpreter – interprets mill history and function, external features

First Floor Group Manager/Interpreter – manages group size and entry, prepares and entertains group at doorway

First Floor Mill Interpreter – manages time and interprets first floor

Second Floor Interpreter/Baker – manages time and interprets outside fence, bakes cornbread

For more information, contact Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs, at 215-247-5777 ext. 132 or gutowski@upenn.edu

New -- Spring Classes!



An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection

Anthony Aiello, The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum

Saturday, February 22, 1 – 3 p.m.

Volunteer price: \$15

Join us as we tour the Arboretum's outstanding collection of witchhazels with Curator Tony Aiello.



Klein Endowed Lecture

Victoria, the Seductress: Meet Her Aquatic Majesty

Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Curator of Plants, Longwood Gardens

Sunday, February 23, 2 p.m.

Volunteer price: Free

Join the author, Dr. Tomasz Anisko, Longwood Gardens' curator of plants to hear about the many exquisite qualities of this giant water lily which has been hailed around the world as the Queen of the Floral Kingdom.



Needle Felting: From Fleece to Fantastic

Julia Grace, Multi-media Artist

Sunday, March 2, 1 – 4 p.m.

Volunteer price: \$42.50

Learn a variety of needle felting techniques and make your very own felted ornament, brooch, sculpture, or embellishment to take home along with all the materials you need to continue felting!



Downsizing Strategies and Shortcuts for Time-Pressed Gardeners

Kerry Ann Mendez, Garden Designer, Author, and Owner of Perennially Yours

Monday, March 3, 1 – 4 p.m.

Volunteer price: \$25

This inspiring lecture provides easy-to-follow downsizing strategies, outstanding plants for smaller landscapes, design tips and maintenance shortcuts for stunning year-round gardens that will be as close to 'autopilot' as you can get.

Horticulture Volunteer Workshops

Registration required! Please contact Pam Morris Olshefski at pamela@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 188

February 12

8:30-9 am	Arrival at Horticulture Center	
9 am	Welcome & Volunteer update	Pam Olshefski
9:15-10 am	Horticulture Department Update of New Projects	Tony Aiello
10-10:30 am	BREAK	
10:30-11 am	Tracy's Visit to Windsor Gardens	Tracy Beerley
11 am-12 pm	Great & Ancient Trees	Paul Meyer
12 -1 pm	LUNCH BREAK- BROWN BAG LUNCH	
1 -1:30 pm	Public Programs Event Update	Michelle Conners
1:30-2:30	Les Quatre Vents/Atlanta Botanical Garden	Louise Clarke

February 26

8:30-9 am	Arrival at Horticulture Center	
9 -10 am	Starting Annuals and Vegetables from Seed	Shelley Dillard
10 -10:30 am	BREAK	
10:30-11am	The status & life history of timber rattlesnakes	Emma Erler
11-11:30 am	Serre de la Madone: Lawrence Johnston's secret garden	Steve Pyne
11:30-12 pm	Arborist Tree assessment team opportunity	Andrew Hawkes
12 -1 pm	LUNCH BREAK –LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED	
1 -1:30 pm	Hiking the Appalachian Trail	Andrew Kirkpatrick
1:30- 2 pm	Rose Pruning presentation	Lucy Dinsmore
2:15-3 pm	Hands-on rose pruning in the garden	Lucy Dinsmore

Calling All Birders!

Two new opportunities to help our feathered friends:

Volunteer for Early Bird Saturdays

The Arboretum is trying something new in 2014 with Early Bird Saturdays. The first Saturday of each month, April through October, the Arboretum will open at 8 am. Many of you already appreciate what a great location the Arboretum is for birding and we are trying to get others to appreciate it too by inviting them to come early and see who they can spot. We are in need of volunteers to help get visitors excited about birding by acting as greeters and facilitators on these early Saturday mornings. One or two volunteers needed each first Saturday from 8:15 am to 10:15 am to greet and sign in those interested in taking a bird walk, hand out bird lists and binoculars, and walk around with visitors in a quest to spot birds. If you can help or have questions, please contact Michelle Conners at 215-247-5777 ext. 109 or mconners@upenn.edu

Recycle

In late March, the Girl Scouts visit the Arboretum to earn their habitat badge. During their visit they will build nesting bags – small pouches of materials birds can pull from to line their nests. If you have any plastic net bags that produce like lemons, onions, etc. come in, save them! We would love to have them for our activity!

Drop off bags with Michelle Conners or Stephanie Kuniholm, Education Intern, through March 28, 2014.



Intern Project Presentations

Thursday, March 6	<i>Three Year Strategic Plan for the Urban Forestry Consultants and School of Arboriculture</i>	Andrew Kirkpatrick, Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern
Thursday, March 13	<i>Weed Identification and Management at the Morris Arboretum</i>	Emma Erler, Alice & Liddon J. Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern
Tuesday, March 18	<i>Membership Retention through Continuing Education</i>	Stephanie Kuniholm, McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern
Thursday, March 20	<i>Review and Propagation of the Holly Slope</i>	Laura Sweeney, Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern
Tuesday, March 25	<i>Trialing of New Green Roof Plants</i>	Ryan Plante, Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern
Thursday, March 27	<i>Resource Recovery Plan: Bidens bidentoides, a Rare Pennsylvania Plant</i>	Chelsea Smith, Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern
Tuesday, April 1	<i>Resource Recovery Plan for Parker's Pipewort (Eriocaulon parkeri) in Pennsylvania</i>	Alex Seglias, John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Plant Protection Intern

All presentations will begin at 12:30 pm in the Upper Gallery.



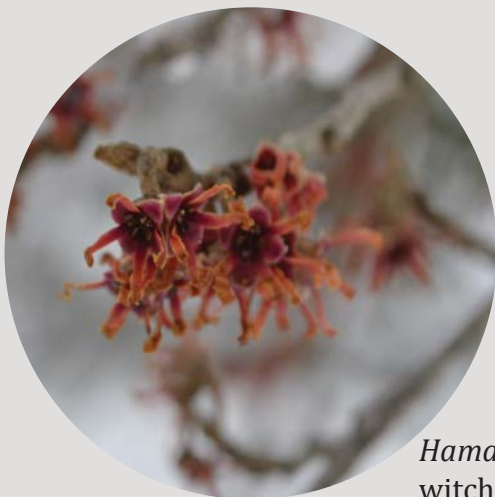
Garden highlights:



Chimonanthus praecox
wintersweet
oak allee



Corylus fargesii
Farges filbert
near swan pond



Hamamelis vernalis
witchhazel
English park



Hamamelis mollis
Chinese witchhazel
English park



Comptonia peregrina
sweet fern
across from Fernery



Matteuccia struthiopteris
ostrich fern
Out on a Limb

Upcoming Events

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am-3 pm
9	10	11 Guides Training Committee 10 am	12 Horticulture Volunteer Workshop* 9 am- 3 pm	13	14 Valentine's Day	15
16	17 President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Horticulture Volunteer Workshop* 9 am- 3 pm	27 Volunteer Workshop 10 am	28	

Weekly Volunteer Events

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers 8:00 am-12 pm

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 am

*REGISTRATION REQUIRED. We will meet in the Magnolia Room in the Horticulture Center; space is limited

Upcoming Events

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Mill Interpreters Training 1pm	4 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	5	6 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	7	8 New Guides Training 9:30am-12pm
9	10	11 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	12 Mill Interpreters Training 1pm	13 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	14	15 New Guides Training 9:30am-12pm
16	17	18 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	19	20 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	21	22 New Guides Training 9:30am-12pm
23	24	25 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	26	27 New Guides Training 1:30 - 4 pm	28	29

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