

# VOLUNTEER

March 2015



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

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### Volunteer

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Photos: Claire Sundquist, unless otherwise stated



## Contents

Letter from the Editor	1
Notes from the Guides Chair	2
Continuing Education	3
Reinterpreting Roses	4
Patrick Dougherty Opportunities	6
Volunteer Opportunities	8
Accomplishments	11
Intern Project Presentations	12
From the Archives	13
Garden Highlights	14
Upcoming Events	15



## *Letter from the Editor*

I was so excited to come to work the other day to see a new series of artwork being put up on the walls in the Upper Gallery. While I will dearly miss my old avian friends of the past exhibit this new exhibit is refreshing, colorful, and fun. It is always a good idea to make new friends! The exhibition features artwork by students, faculty, and alumni of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts (PAFA). Next time you are at the Arboretum be sure to set aside some time to take a peek at these amazing pieces.

*Happy Trails,*

Claire Sundquist

*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



## Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,


For years I have grown roses. Yes, I know they are fussy and demanding but I have always loved them in my garden. But then a few years ago I became the host site for the dreaded rose rosette disease. Recently, I read an article in *Horticulture* that covered different plant diseases and pests with which we have become well-acquainted.

Boxwood blight is caused by the fungus *Calonectria pseudonaviculata* and it is really new as far as viruses go. It was first found in the UK in the mid 1990's, but it wasn't noted in the United States until 2011. Unfortunately, English boxwood, the most popular shrub in America, is the most susceptible to the fungus, with American boxwood close behind. The blight causes dark brown leaf spots with black rims, followed by leaf drop. This virus also attacks Japanese and American pachysandras.

Downy mildew has put impatiens under attack. This culprit is called *Plasmopara obducens*. In 2003, the mildew was first noticed on hybrid impatiens in England. The next year it was found in just a few greenhouses in the U.S. Then in 2009 there was a landscape problem in Saratoga Springs, NY. In 2011, the first landscape problems were seen in southeastern New York, as well as 11 other states. In 2013, the disease was seen in 38 states. The disease is fast to infect, fast to spread and thoroughly systemic. The best response is to plant an alternative, which is unfortunate since impatiens are the world's favorite bedding plant.

The last virus mentioned in the article is rose rosette. Multiflora roses were widely planted in the 1940's to 1960's in the eastern United States as a wildlife plant for erosion control. As we all know too well, multiflora rose is a noxious, invasive weed whose rose hips are profuse on each plant. Mammals and birds love these rose hips and thus spread them around rampantly through their droppings. The multiflora rose also hosts rose rosette, a North American-native virus that has spread across the country. The virus is spread by a mite. Each mite is as small as a speck of dust, easily spread by the wind.

According to the article, plants can respond to the selection process of a new disease but that natural process takes far more than one human lifetime. Meanwhile, plant breeders and plant pathologists are working to speed the resistance of ornamentals to these disease challenges. As always gardening, while being rewarding, can also be a challenge. But always worth the effort.



Happy Gardening,  
Jody Sprague  
*Chair of the Guides*



## Continuing Education News

### **Rose Pruning Basics**

**Saturday, March 14 | 9:30-12:30pm**

*Lucy Dinsmore, Horticulturist, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$18

Early spring is the time to get your roses ready for a season full of blooms. This class is held outdoors in the Rose Garden, and will provide an overview of spring rose care including pruning, planting, transplanting, fertilizing, and disease prevention. A pruning demonstration will follow, and then you'll have the opportunity to test your skills on our roses. **Be sure to dress warmly, bring your hand pruners and gardening gloves, and be prepared to get your knees dirty.**

### **Creating Beautiful Landscapes under Mature Trees**

**Wednesday, March 18 | 7-8:30pm**

*Harriet Cramer, Garden Designer and Writer*

Volunteer Price: \$15

Learn how you can create and sustain a lush, healthy, and beautiful landscape in the shade of mature trees. Limited light, compacted soil, intense competition for nutrients, and less than ideal air circulation - these are only some of the obstacles to creating a beautiful garden under large, old trees. We will discuss how to successfully deal with these obstacles while ensuring that the plants you are planting under the trees will remain vibrant and healthy.

### **New Trends in Designing in Glass: Fun Tricks for Loose Flowers**

**Saturday, March 7 | 10am-noon**

*Cheryl Wilks, Floral Educator, Florist and Owner of Flowers on Location*

Volunteer Price: \$40

Cut flowers may be a wonderful bounty from our gardens or even from the grocery store, but what do you do with them when you bring them indoors? This class will show you the many tricks of the trade to arrange flowers so that they will look their very best. You will learn techniques such as gridding and stuffing, and florist gel will be demonstrated.

### **Weeds at Our Feet**

**Saturday, March 21 | 1-2pm**

*Rachel Mackow, Co-owner, Wild Ridge Plants*

Volunteer Price: \$10

Dandelion, plantain, violets, and others are often rogued out by hand or with pesticides, though they have traditional uses as food and medicinal remedies. Many of our weeds also serve an ecological role in the garden. This hour-long presentation will weave together the ecology of common native and non-native plants with their modern and historical uses.

To view full descriptions visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

To register with a credit card call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.

# *Reinterpreting Roses: The Morris Arboretum Rose Garden*

by Jennifer Lauer, *Rose and Flower Garden Intern*



Let's face it: most of us are at least a little intimidated by the thought of growing roses. We've all heard the horror stories—roses are temperamental, prone to disease and pests, and take a ton of hard work. You might think, "Maybe an expert horticulturist can grow these, but I certainly can't."

Not necessarily. With a little bit of knowledge and the right guidance, you can go without the weekly chemical spraying and yearly pruning required of some roses. The level of care depends upon what kind of rose you choose. At the Arboretum, the rose garden is meant to display examples of roses that make excellent landscape shrubs for homeowners. Following in the footsteps of other notable gardens, including the New York Botanic Garden and the Scott Arboretum, we are re-evaluating our collection by removing disease-prone roses and replacing them with hardier, resistant roses with high landscape value.

As we begin this fascinating journey, we are intrigued by the roses that have been with us for centuries. These are the once-blooming 'species,' or wild roses, as well as the old garden roses, both of which were popular garden roses at the turn of the 20th century. Interesting specimens grace both categories, though most homeowners overlook them in their quest for the classic 'rose' standard embodied by modern roses. But for those of us who do not want to spend the hours and spray the chemicals, there are distinct advantages in experimenting with old and species roses, many of whose informal habits and disease-resistance make them very well-suited for a low-maintenance mixed border or hedge.

**Continued on page 5.**

Pictured on the left: *Rosa* 'Blanc Double de Coubert'

Pictured on the right: *Rosa* 'Oso Easy® Peachy Cream, photo courtesy Spring Meadow Nursery

## *Reinterpreting Roses: The Morris Arboretum Rose Garden (continued)*

One great example of a beautiful species rose at the Arboretum is *Rosa roxburghii*, the chestnut rose, which adorns the species rose berm along the path leading down to the fernery plaza. Its beautiful, lightly fragrant pink blooms are followed in the fall by large chestnut-shaped hips. You may also find examples of *Rosa rugosa*, a practically invincible Japanese rose with wonderful fragrance, decorating the garden. The rugosa rose ‘Blanc Double de Coubert’ is particularly enticing, its ivory double-blooms stark against lustrous, deep green foliage. Not only do you not have to spray rugosas, but they actually resent spray and will defoliate with any application. Another fantastic old garden rose—and one of my favorites—is *Rosa Belle Isis*, a Belgian rose with a strong scent of myrrh. It produces intoxicatingly perfumed blooms with dense pink petals, and has been admired by gardeners since the mid-1800s.

The roses above produce hips in the fall. Usually bright red, but sometimes orange, purple, or black; rose hips are sure to catch the eye of the passerby—and the birds! But for those who can't live with roses that don't repeat their flower display in autumn, there are many shrub roses, such as *Rosa* Oso Easy® Strawberry Crush or the Meiland introduction *Rosa* ‘Meipitac’ Carefree Wonder, which bloom all season—from June to frost! Talented breeders are also hybridizing repeat-bloom traits of modern roses with disease-resistant traits of wild roses—bringing new, never-before-seen shrubs onto the market, such as *Rosa* Oso Happy® Smoothie. Work is also being done in this area to produce new roses that will have superior resistance to rose rosette disease. In short, the world of roses is still evolving, and our garden will evolve with it. Stay alert for the roses we plant as we redesign the garden. You can find some of the most exciting disease-resistant selections we are considering for our designs at the plant sale this May! (Quantities may be limited.)



Pictured to the left: *Rosa* Oso Easy® Strawberry Crush, photo courtesy Van Belle  
Pictured to the right: *Rosa* ‘Meipitac’ Carefree Wonder, photo courtesy Yoko Nekonomania



## *Help Create a Patrick Dougherty Stickwork Installation* **Volunteer for the Construction of the Sculpture!**



Patrick Dougherty will be at the Morris Arboretum creating a new sculpture from Tuesday, March 9th to Friday, March 27th on weekdays, and on Saturday, March 14th, and Sunday, March 15th.

Volunteers will assist Patrick Dougherty in the construction process, moving scaffolding, sorting materials, assisting in the weaving process, and cleaning up the site. Volunteer shifts are each 4 hours long and are from 8 am to 12 pm in the morning and 1 pm to 5pm in the afternoon.

### **Patrick requests that volunteers will:**

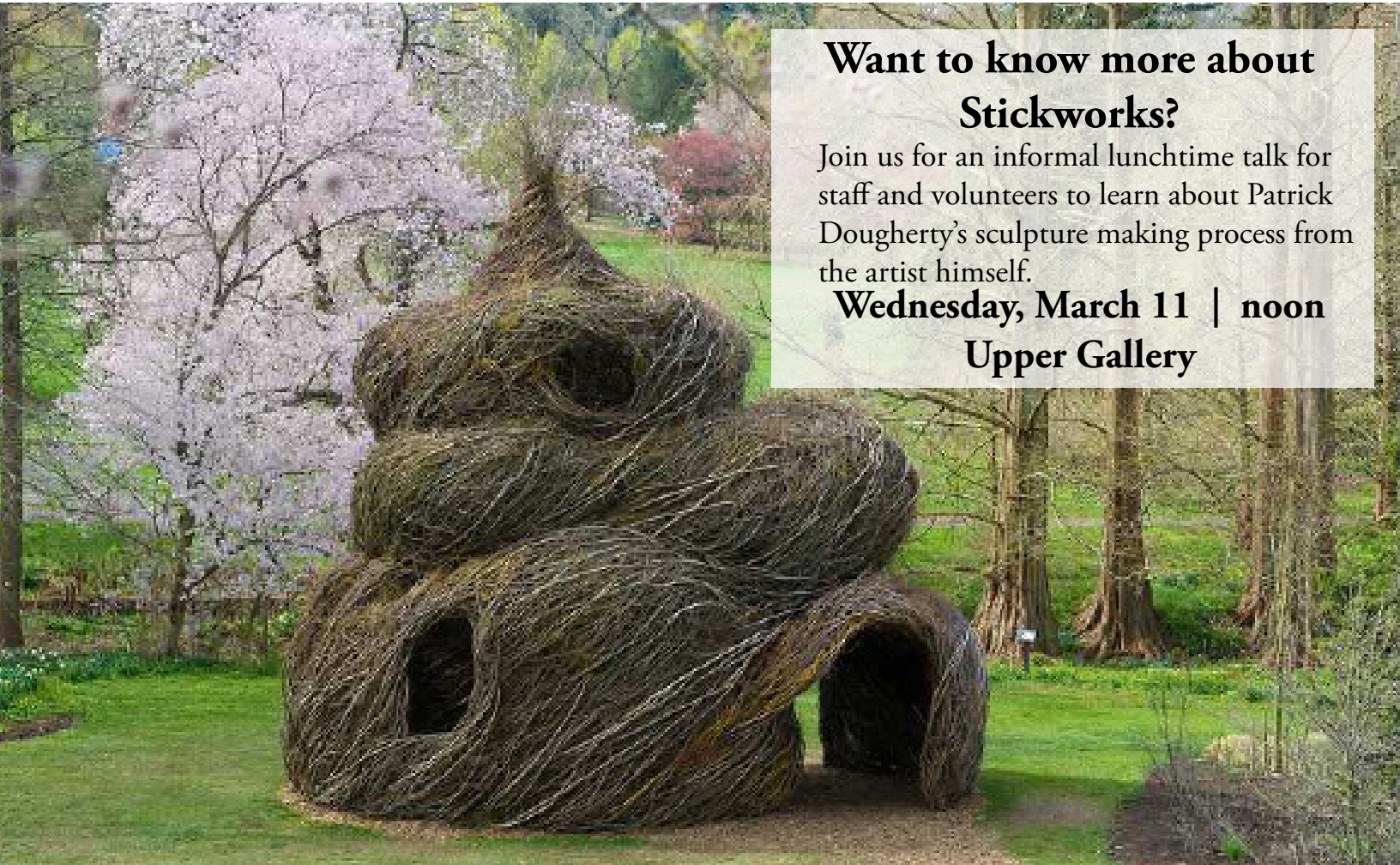
- Have enthusiasm, physical stamina, and the ability to follow directions.
- Be comfortable working on scaffolding or ladders, that is, not afraid of heights, especially in the 2nd and 3rd week of the installation.
- Be sixteen or older. Teens need to be especially dedicated and responsible, and will only be scheduled one at a time.
- Dress appropriately for working outdoors in early spring, including sturdy footwear.
- Bring work gloves, and rain gear as work goes on even in light rain.
- Bring pruners if possible, for their own use during the construction.
- Sign a waiver and release before working on the project.



Photos courtesy Paul Meyer

Please contact Lisa Bailey at [baileyl@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyl@upenn.edu) or at 215-247-5777, ext. 157





## Want to know more about Stickworks?

Join us for an informal lunchtime talk for staff and volunteers to learn about Patrick Dougherty's sculpture making process from the artist himself.

**Wednesday, March 11 | noon**  
**Upper Gallery**

Photo courtesy Rob Cardillo

## **Volunteer Workshop:** **The History of Horticulture in Philadelphia** *Presented by Nicole Juday*

*Horticulture Education Coordinator, The Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation*

Rescheduled due to February snow, we are excited to be able to welcome Nicole Juday. The Philadelphia region has one of the richest horticultural legacies in the country going back for more than 300 years. Learn about the birthplace of American horticulture and the key developments in our area throughout the 18th and 19th centuries that resulted in Philadelphia being named America's Garden Capital.

**Thursday, March 12 | 10:30am**  
**Widener Classroom**



## The Welcome Cart is Back!

Spring is almost here, which means it's time to sign up to help with the Welcome Cart! The Welcome Cart returns the first weekend in April. Please see our Google calendar and sign up to greet visitors with directions, maps and friendly faces. Shifts are 11am to 1pm, and 1pm to 3pm – multiple sign ups welcome and encouraged!

## Welcome our newest class of guides!

Tuesday, March 31, 2015

Join us to celebrate with the class of 2015 as they complete their first phase of their training.

1:30 pm *History of Morris Arboretum*

with Bob Gutowski, *Director of Public Programs*

2:30 pm *Japanese Elements Refresher*

Brush up on your knowledge of these special features.

3:30 pm *Kick-off party*

Meet and welcome the new guides as they begin their apprenticeship.





Photo Courtesy Arnold Winkler

## Tour the Witchhazel Collection!

**Saturday, March 14 | 1pm**

Do you want to know more about our witchhazel collection? The Great Plants Committee of the volunteer guides has developed a specialized tour of witchhazels for the winter months of 2015. On Saturday, March 14 there will be a public tour lasting up to one hour.

The Morris Arboretum witchhazel collection is one of the largest in the country in a public garden. Join the tour to learn more about these fascinating winter-blooming shrubs. Learn about their history and how the plant was used as an astringent and for medicinal purposes. The Saturday tours will show 14 different species and cultivars of varying blooming times, color and fragrance.


## Spring Guiding Sign-up

Your spring guiding sign-up sheet will be arriving in the mail shortly. Please select your primary and alternate guiding days for the upcoming season. Please hold your primary day two weeks out before setting other appointments (vacations and illness excluded, of course). Once selected, return the sheet by mail or email.

***Thank you so much for making visits to the Arboretum so memorable for so many!***



Photo Courtesy Paul Meyer

A background image of pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, with green leaves interspersed among the flowers. The blossoms are in sharp focus in the foreground, while the background is slightly blurred.

## *Training by an Expert to Lead Like an Expert!*

On Monday, April 6 at 10am, Tony Aiello will lead a training session on some of our prized cherry trees. These plants will be featured on the 45 minute Cherry Walk, as part of our annual Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturdays, April 11 & 18.

If you can lead a tour at 10:15 or 12:15 on either of those Festival days, please join us to learn more about our wonderful cherry collection. Tony has been studying cherry trees for years and is a passionate teacher on this revered species. To prepare for this tour, which was an overwhelming success last year, we'd like to train even more guides. Tony will have a sign-up sheet the day of the training for guides able to lead the tour during the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival. Bring your calendars and enthusiasm to this great learning opportunity.

## **Help out at Arbor Week**

**April 20-24 | 10-11:15am and 11:30-12:45pm**

Share your love of trees with children during our annual Arbor Week Program. Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling plantings, the roots exhibit, and the tree trivia game show. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot!

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey  
at (215)247-5777 ext.157 or [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu).





## ***Congratulations Joe!***

Joseph Mellon Jr., Maintenance Mechanic, has not only been hard at work here at the Arboretum but also as a student. This December his study and dedication paid off, having completed his Masters in Administration of Human Services at Chestnut Hill College. Check out the abstract of his thesis paper below and if you see him around the garden be sure to tell him 'Congratulations!'

### **Nature's Positive Impact on Human Services**

Outdoor organizations, local and regional, rely on volunteers to complete the work of their missions. As people engage in outdoor volunteer activities, they improve the environment they work in, and they benefit themselves mentally and physically through their efforts and by spending time in nature. Outdoor volunteers aid society by maintaining, improving, and providing access to natural areas for their own enjoyment and the enjoyment of others. Additionally, many volunteers provide outdoor education to the public. Education volunteers present nature's beauty and revitalizing characteristics to their students while explaining human's dependence on nature. Through their work, educators nurture future stewards of nature and natural areas.

### **Morris Arboretum Guide featured in an exhibit at Woodmere Art Museum**

The Woodmere Art Museum will be exhibiting a recently acquired photo created by Melvin A. Chappell. Melvin is not only a nineteen year veteran and volunteer worker for the Morris Arboretum, he is also an award winning photographer.

*Keeping it Real: Recent Acquisitions of Narrative and Realist Art* celebrates Woodmere's extraordinary wealth of acquisitions since 2012, focusing on realist and narrative art. The show will explore varied approaches to observing and representing recognizable subjects and constructing new depicted realities. Dating from the late nineteenth century to the present, this multi-media show will underscore the broad concept of realism.

The exhibit runs from February 14th to June 7th, 2015. For more information visit Woodmere's website at [www.woodmereartmuseum.org](http://www.woodmereartmuseum.org). You can also visit Melvin's website at [www.melvinchappellphotography.com](http://www.melvinchappellphotography.com).

# *Intern Project Presentations*

In March and April the 2014-2015 class of interns will present their projects. These presentations are open to the public. Save the dates to hear all about what they have been working on throughout the year.

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

## **Comparing IPM Programs Among Regional Rose Gardens**

Tuesday, March 3

Jennifer Lauer, *The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

## **Making Improvements in Morris Arboretum's Compost**

Thursday, March 5

Lauren Weeks, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

## **Rain Garden Revitalization at Bloomfield Farm**

Thursday, March 12

Anna Bower, *The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern*

## **Tree Management and Circulation in an Underused Section of the Natural Lands**

Tuesday, March 17

Aaron Greenberg, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*

## **Creating ArcGIS StoryMaps of the Morris Arboretum:**

### **Mapping People, Plants, and Place**

Tuesday, March 24

Corey Bassett, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*

## **Identification and Biological Control of Top Pests and Diseases in the Morris Arboretum Greenhouse Complex**

Thursday, March 26

Danielle Swanner, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*

## **An Expanded Approach to Garden Etiquette**

Tuesday, March 31

Claire Sundquist, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

## **Ecological Niche Modeling (ENM) Across the Tree of Life:**

### **The Effects of Climate Change on Eight Pennsylvania Natives**

Thursday, April 2

Natasha Phillips, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

## **The Diversity and Community Structure of Soil Fungi of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**

Tuesday, April 7

Jacob Golan, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*



## From the Archives



Photo courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

- 1 One of Lydia Morris's suitors abroad compared her charms with the charms of...**
  - a. a British royal princess.
  - b. the flowers in her garden.
  - c. hummingbirds.
- 2 In 1917 Lydia Morris loaned binoculars to the...**
  - a. Audubon Society.
  - b. U.S Navy.
  - c. local Boy Scouts.
- 3 An early position description for a Gardener/Superintendent that was Compton indicated that John Morris wanted a...**
  - a. willing and honest worker with advanced studies in horticulture.
  - b. botanist with a strong back and a critical eye for landscape.
  - c. young married man of good all around practical training in handling plants and men.
- 4 John T. and Lydia T. Morris named their Chestnut Hill mansion "Compton"...**
  - a. after their paternal great grandparents, Alfred and Eleanora Compton.
  - b. because the name put them to mind of words they hoped it would typify: comfort, calm, and good company.
  - c. after the ancestral home in England of their maternal Thompson forbearers.



## Garden highlights:





# Upcoming Events

## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm  Guides Coun- cil Meeting 1:30pm	4	5  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	6	7
8	9	10	11  Patrick Dougherty Presentation noon	12 Volunteer Workshop 10:30am  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	13	14  Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm  Witchhazel Tour 1pm
15	16	17  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	25	26  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	27	28
29	30	31 Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm  Volunteer Workshop 1:30pm				

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

**Saturdays:** Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

# Upcoming Events

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	3	4 Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
5	6 Cherry Walk Training 10am (see pg. 10)	7 Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm  Guides Coun- cil Meeting 1:30pm	8	9	10	11 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Arbor Day! 	25
			Arbor Week			
26	27	28	29	30		

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

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