

VOLUNTEER

May 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.

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 Anderson, randerso@upenn.edu
or (215) 247-5777 ext 108

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

Information:
(215) 247-5777
www.morrisarboretum.org
100 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Volunteer
Ariel Dreyfus, Editor

Contributors: Marcia Steinberg, Michelle Connors, Lisa Bailey,
Liza Hawley, Herb Kestenbaum, Elaine Bell, Miriam VonEssen,
Tony Aiello, Jan McFarlan, Lauren Fine,

Question, comments and submissions can be directed to the
editor at mabxeduc@exchange.upenn.edu or mailed to the Ar-
boretum attn: Education Intern.

Front Cover: Samantha Tracey
Photos throughout: Ariel Dreyfus unless otherwise stated



Photo: Zac Brooks

Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
125th Anniversary	3
Volunteer News	4
Notes from the Guides Chair	7
Horticulture News	8
Upcoming Classes	9
Calendar	10



Letter from the Editor May 2012

Spring is in full swing here at the Arboretum! Thanks to everyone who helped spread the good tree word and make Arbor week a success. May brings more excitement with Morris's annual Plant Sale. This is a great opportunity to browse our large selection of plants and restock your garden for the spring. I hope you are all enjoying the sunshine!

Ariel Dreyfus,
The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern

Taken at Mt. Cuba



Interns Visit Mt. Cuba and Winterthur

Last Thursday the interns were lucky enough to visit two excellent gardens in one day. Though it was gray and rainy, we had a marvelous time wandering through the beautiful Mt. Cuba and Winterthur gardens. These two Delaware gardens are a stone's throw from each other, so visiting both in one trip is possible, though I'm sure I could fill an entire day at each!



125th Anniversary of Compton

This June the Arboretum will mark the 125th anniversary of the purchase by John and Lydia of their first piece of property in Chestnut Hill. Many events have been planned and a few will require volunteer assistance. I hope you will join us in celebrating this milestone.

A new Morris Arboretum exhibit will be mounted in late May in the Lower Gallery of the Widener Building. There will be nine panels with text and photos explaining our history, research and sustainability endeavors, and a couple of artifacts as well that you really must see.

On the first day of June, the plan of the mansion will be outlined in chalk at the top of the hill. The Archives and History volunteers are supplying photos of the interior to be laminated, staked and placed in the appropriate "room". This exhibit will be in place throughout June, except when the lawn is being mowed! We need a volunteer to help laminate, stake and place the photos.

The Morris Players, Victorian costumed characters imagined as friends and staff of John and Lydia, are in demand. Starting with the Garden Railway opening, Players are needed Saturday, May 26th from 1-3pm to wander through the train exhibit engaging folks with tales of the first trains coming to Chestnut Hill. The Players will have cameos during Moonlight and Roses on Friday, June 8 and end the month witnessing circus performers at the top of the hill during "Circus Comes to Compton" on Saturday, June 30.

Regular weekend tour guides should emphasize the history of the Arboretum during their 2:00 pm tours each week. To volunteer or to request additional information for speaking points during your tours, please contact Liza Hawley, Visitor Education Coordinator, at extension 128 or efhawley@upenn.edu.



Calling all Lydias!

We are looking for one or two volunteers to play the role of Lydia Morris during the children's class, "The Morris Mini-Players", an interactive theatre program for ages 5-10. There will be two, 5-week sessions, Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00pm, June 14-July 12, & July 26-August 23.

Over the course of the ten weeks, volunteers will interact with the children and facilitate the program, alongside the program leader, Steve Seyfried, Director of Family Stages, a local family theatre company, who will play the role of John Morris. Together, "John" and "Lydia" will guide the children in acting out various stories of how the Morris Arboretum came to be. On the very grounds they developed, the Morrisises recount the fascinating stories of their adventurous travels. With simple props and costumes, children take on the elements of the story as trees, shrubs, flowers, streams and animals.

This program allows children to become of a part of the beauty and history of the Morris Arboretum. After meeting the Morrisises at 6:30 the children will learn their parts, while their parents enjoy a stroll through the grounds. At 7:30 there will be a performance for the families and all the Arboretum visitors.

For more information and to volunteer, please contact Miriam Von Essen at extension 281 or miriamv@upenn.edu.

volunteer news

Shofuso House and Japanese Garden

On April 19th, the volunteers took a trip to the Shofuso House and Japanese Garden in Fairmount Park. Upon arrival, our guide Brian welcomed us and requested our compliance with the Japanese tradition of “shoes on stone, socks on wood” so we placed our shoes on shelving provided prior to entering the house. Placed around the house were beautiful Ikebana arrangements donated by local artisans.

We walked down a hallway on mat-covered floors to a lovely veranda overlooking the first of three gardens. The Viewing Garden was created to depict the entire world in the Japanese tradition of mountains, valleys, water, koi [Moby is the oldest at 25], bridge trees, rocks and also an island signifying Japan. The gardens contain shades and textures of green and must look good in every season. The azaleas are currently taking center stage now that the cherry blossoms have faded.

Moving back inside, we viewed a 15-mat guest/desk room with lovely mural panels and not one piece of furniture - in order to conserve space. Sitting and sleeping is done on pillows/mats and meals are served on trays, all of which are stored out of sight when not in use. The murals, inspired by the waterfall in the viewing garden, were designed by renowned artist Hiroshi Senju and

donated as replacements for the damaged original artwork.

Continuing outside and around the corner of the veranda, we were met with the Strolling Tea Garden – a much smaller and very quiet outside space with winding pathways and small spaces to promote the Zen Buddhism focus on the “now” and inner peace prior to entering the Tea House.

Following along on the veranda, we arrived at the third garden in the courtyard, intended to be a more urban, interior and private garden space with the house wrapping around the area. In addition to two rain chains – Brian kindly demonstrated one – the garden contains the usual rocks, water and greenery in a restful, pleasing arrangement. We continued into the low-ceilinged, 2-room Tea House where we learned about tea ceremonies and that they can last 4 hours...on one's knees! The 3-room bath house was nearby, however in reality, both would have been located away from the main house.

The tour concluded in the kitchen area – a totally different style from the rest of the house and reminiscent of a country /farmhouse style. We proceeded to the nearby Horticultural Center of Fairmount Park to visit the indoor exhibition hall and outdoor gardens. Built in 1979, the building is located



Photos: Lisa Bailey, Louise Clarke

on the site of the former Horticultural Hall, a building of the 1876 Centennial Exposition. There was a striking variety of large and small plants and an impressive cacti garden area in the hall. Outside, many of us enjoyed speaking with one of the co-founding volunteers of FHC, the Friends of The Horticultural Center at Fairmount Park, about her work there and the Hummingbird Garden she rescued and developed. Awesome weather and good company all around contributed to a marvelous trip to Fairmount Park!

-Elaine Bell, *Education Volunteer*

volunteer news

Volunteer Opportunity

Wednesday, May 30th

2:30- 6:30 pm

Education Volunteer Tom Schoonmaker has graciously offered to host a garden tour right around the corner from the Arboretum in Mt. Airy. We will meet in Mt. Airy and tour three private home gardens, including Tom's. Wear your walking shoes as that is how we will get from place to place. This is an afternoon, early evening affair; we will meet at 2:30pm and conclude around 6:30pm. Please bring dinner for yourself and we will eat on our last garden stop. This is a great opportunity to see what some savvy local gardeners have done with their space and socialize with your fellow volunteers. All volunteers are welcome and you must RSVP to receive the address for our meeting place. Please sign up on the Google calendar or with Ariel Dreyfus at dreyfusa@upenn.edu or ext. 159. See you there!



Updates to our Plant Catalogue

We recently updated the Catalogue of the Plants in Living Collection on the Arboretum's website. The link can be found at <http://www.business-services.upenn.edu/arboretum/pdf/PlantCatalogue2012.pdf>, or by looking under the heading, The Gardens & Exhibits: Plant Collection. The most significant change in the new catalogue is the way that the common names are listed. So that these names coincide with the Arboretum's Style Sheet, common names are now shown with their correct capitalization. Many thanks to Elinor Goff, our Plant Recorder, for making these changes. If you have any questions, please contact me.

-Tony Aiello, *Director of Horticulture and Curator*

volunteer news

Volunteers Needed for Bloomfield Farm Open House

Sunday, June 3rd Noon – 3:00 pm

The LEED Platinum Certified Horticulture Center and Historic Springfield Mills will be open to the public in the afternoon of Sunday, June 3. We need two to four volunteers familiar with the Hort Center to talk about the interesting aspects of this building with visitors. Volunteers will be stationed in the staff area welcoming visitors and answering questions. We will also need three to six volunteers stationed in and around the Mill to talk about the history and all the great restoration work the volunteers have done. In addition to these areas you might be familiar with, we also need two volunteers located in the garage area to help our younger guests enjoy some of our big trucks and work equipment during “Touch a Truck”! We’re encouraging youngsters to get a close look at this cool equipment. We’ll need volunteers to talk about how we use the equipment that keeps the Arboretum looking good.

For more information or to sign up to volunteer for this fun day, please contact Michelle Conners at extension 109 or mconners@upenn.edu.

Artist: Alfred Ortega



Here Come the Chairs!

Event Coordinator Michelle Conners and Project Coordinator Janie Shields are excited to be receiving the artists’ work for this summer’s exhibit, “Take a Seat! Adirondack Chairs Re-Interpreted”. The challenge was to take a classic Adirondack chair, which the Arboretum purchased from a small family-run business in upstate New York, and paint, sculpt, or re-imagine it in any way. As a collaboration with Woodmere Art Museum, some pieces will be exhibited on the porch and surrounding grounds at Woodmere, while the rest will be found throughout the Arboretum grounds. On opening day, Thursday, May 31, members of both institutions will enjoy reciprocal admission and both institutions will be open until 8pm. Information about the artists will be on the Arboretum’s website soon, as well as a map showing where the chairs will be exhibited. The exhibit will remain up through Labor Day.

notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

One of the huge problems our world faces is the need to find alternatives to fossil fuel. Plants may just be the answer. We already make ethanol from corn which replaces 10% of gasoline in the United States. It has been estimated that 1.6 billion tons of terrestrial biomass from agricultural and forestry wastes, municipal solid wastes and energy crops could be harvested sustainably in the U. S. annually. This comes nowhere near the 200 billion gallons of fuel the U. S. uses per year. Other sources are needed and one of them might just be microalgae, unicellular photosynthetic microorganisms which are found in fresh water, sea water, hypersaline lakes and even desert and arctic ecosystems. There are two types but only one, the eukaryotic algae, which contains nuclei, chloroplasts, mitochondria etc., produces large quantities of lipids. Lipids are the starting point for the production of fuel and are produced in the chloroplasts, the organelle where photosynthesis takes place.

This work is just beginning but has had some success already. First, it has been shown that stress such as lack of nutrients causes the algae to increase the production of lipids. Harvesting the lipids and converting them to fuel is a multi-step process. The algae are grown in simple, shallow, open ponds, which is the cheapest way, or closed oval "raceways" with paddle wheels to keep the water moving. They are removed from the water, centrifuged to concentrate them and their lipid is extracted and chemically converted to biogas. Some of the biogas generates power to run the refinery and the sludge goes back into the original ponds. This recycling is essential to lowering costs.

The technical aspects have been mostly worked out, but the really big question is cost, i.e. can this process be profitable. Right now, there is no clear answer to this question. There is also the problem of sustainability. Will land be taken away from food production or will it lead to deforestation? Both of these questions are difficult to answer because many of the values needed to calculate the answers are estimates or assumptions. Commercialization is five to ten years away. However, most scientists working in this field say that the potential for algal biofuels is very great. Let's hear it for our single-celled plants!

American Scientist, Nov, Dec, 2011

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, *Chair of the Guides*

Twilight and Peonies

Education Volunteers Recognition Banquet

May 24th 6-8pm

Join your fellow education volunteers as we celebrate your service to the Arboretum! This year, in addition to the awards and tasty food, there will be a special performance by local singing group Celestia. Please RSVP with a dish to bring on the Google Calendar, or with Ariel Dreyfus at dreyfusa@upenn.edu or ext. 159. See you there!



horticulture news

Special Garden Opportunities

Horticulture volunteers now have a new opportunity to broaden their skills and vary their workload. Volunteer coordinator Pam Olshefski asked section leaders to cite particular places in their areas where they could use extra volunteer help. Kate Deregibus listed the Mercury ravine and the metasequoia grove; Vince Marrocco listed the Pennock Garden and the woods near the Widener Building; Justin Jackson listed Taylor Woods; Louise Clark listed the Bee Garden, and Iana Turner just said, in essence, “anywhere and everywhere.”

Here’s an example of the work to be done: Taylor Woods lies just beyond the greenhouse, across the road from the public restrooms. Justin says the area is intended to appear natural and to include only native plants. But it is rife with invasive plants, and removing them will be a main goal for a volunteer. Justin says some of the invasives are small, some big and some “seemingly impossible to get rid of.” Justin points out that the woods provide plenty of shade on hot days and ultimately, he hopes to introduce new shade-loving natives that can withstand the periodic flooding of the nearby Wissahickon Creek. Other needs in the area are cleaning up debris and maintaining the nature path leading to the wetlands.

Volunteers will get one-on-one training from the leaders for the specific work they would do. That training will enable them to work mostly independently, giving the section leaders more time to work elsewhere. Work schedules will be flexible.

This “special garden” opportunity is intended to enrich current volunteers’ experience and to attract new volunteers. It is intended as a supplement to the Wednesday group operation, not as a substitute.

As we all know from years of experience, caring for 92 acres of gardens and landscape will always require large-scale mulching, weeding, pruning, dead-heading, planting and replanting. If the new program interests you, contact Pam at pamela@upenn.edu and 214.247.5777 x188.

-Herb Kestenbaum,
Horticulture Volunteer



upcoming classess

Creating Healing Gardens

Time spent in the garden has been proven to reduce stress, speed recovery times, and improve mood. Jeanine Johnson will discuss the unique design considerations for healing gardens at home and within institutional settings as well as look at some healing gardens that are currently in use.

Saturday, May 5th

10 – 11:30 a.m.

Adding Fabulous Color to Your Landscape

Is your garden in need of more color? Learn how to incorporate spring perennials and flowering shrubs that will give your garden that extra pop. Curatorial Assistant, Pam Morris Olshefski will lead student around the Arboretum as they learn to identify and grow these colorful plants.

Saturday, May 19th

10:30 a.m. – Noon

Spring Plein Air Painting

This class focuses on outdoor painting at the Arboretum, with attention to natural light and the spectacular vistas.

Sunday, May 6th

1 – 3 p.m.



Photo: Lauren Fine

Backyard Beekeeping for Beginners

Raising honeybees may seem intimidating to beginners, but is an incredibly fun and rewarding venture. In this class the instructor, Don Shump, will explain how he got started and how you can too!

Saturday, May 12th

10 a.m. – Noon

Annual Plant Sale

Our annual Plant Sale is coming up on May 10-12th

Thursday, May 10th: Oak Level Members and Above

Friday, May 11th: Members Only

Saturday, May 12th: Open to the Public

Volunteers are still needed! Contact Michelle Connors at mconnors@upenn.edu or ext. 209.

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12 Mill Volunteers Work Day
				PLANT SALE!		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Twilight and Peonies 6-8 pm	25	26
27	28	29 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	30 Volunteer Trip Mt. Airy Garden Tour 2:30pm	31		

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

June

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

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