

VOLUNTEER

November 2013



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.

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Volunteer

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unless otherwise stated



Cornus florida

Contents

Letter from the Editor	2
Notes from the Guides Chair	3
Tu B'Shevat Sign Up	4
Volunteer Happenings	5
Lecture Series	6
Save the Dates!	7
Work Day at Governor's Garden	8
Education News	9
New Volunteer Opportunities	10
Garden Highlights	11
Upcoming Events	12-13



Letter from the Editor

Walking through the Arboretum meadows each morning on my way to work allows me time to reflect on previous days and to ponder things to come. As the seasons turn and the color palette of the landscape shifts, I can't help but consider the energy we've expended and the investments we've made over the past growing season. For plants, energy is stored and invested in the form of seeds, fruits, and often roots. But for me I think it comes primarily in the form of relationships.

As we enter the last few months of the year, let's pay attention to the energy we store in relationships- whether we're leading tours, weeding, or chatting with neighbors- with the hope of vibrant growth in seasons to come.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm
McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

A few months ago I encouraged you to look at the sky, to imagine different images in the cloud formations. Now I would like you to prepare for an event that hasn't occurred for 1,000 years – yes, 1,000 years. The Comet ISON is coming, the best time for viewing will be the first part of December. Just think in the year 1,000 in Medieval Europe they were just beginning to use the plow, do crop rotation, and experiment with mills to process cloth and crush pulp for paper. This was the first time the horse was used widely to help make life easier. Then only the academics would have been watching for celestial bodies.

What is a comet? Comets are often referred to as “dirty snowballs”. Long-period comets (comets with long, unpredictable orbits) that we see in our solar system start out as big chunks of rock and ice just floating around in something called the Oort Cloud. When the gravity from a large passing body, like a star, becomes strong enough, some large chunks of ice get pulled away from the cloud and head toward the sun. As the ice ball gets close enough to the Sun, its heat begins to melt some of the ice that makes up the comet. The melted ice becomes a gaseous tail. What keeps the comet in motion and guides its path is the gravity from the sun and all the planets it passes.

At one time in our history, almost everyone was interested in watching for comets or other celestial bodies. Sailors circumnavigated the world by the stars; ancient cultures knew all the phases of seasons by watching the night sky. In 1761, amateur astronomers were very excited about the imminent Transit of Venus (when Venus moves between the sun and the earth), none more so than David Rittenhouse of Philadelphia. He ordered a telescope from England to watch the event. But the telescope was too slow in arriving, so Mr. Rittenhouse built one himself. Such was his excitement that when the transit began he fainted, completely missing the entire celestial show!

I don't want you to miss the opportunity of viewing Comet ISON. Depending on how the comet reacts when approaching the sun, we may be able to see it with the naked eye the first part of December. Otherwise, look for the websites of any local astronomy group or planetarium for comet watching shows prior to sunrise in the eastern sky.

Happy Viewing,

Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides



Corylus fargesii

Tu B'Shevat

The New Year of Trees

Sign up to help out with this annual program. We need help for the following times:

Sunday, January 12 | 10-11:15am & 11:30-12:45pm

Monday, January 13 | 10-11:15am

Tuesday, January 14 | 10-11:15am

Wednesday, January 15 | 10-11:15am

Thursday, January 16 | 10-11:15am

Sunday, January 19 | 10-11:15am & 11:30-12:45 pm

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 or baileyL@upenn.edu. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot!



Photo courtesy of Sara Levin

Over the past few months the Arboretum has enjoyed several visits from a bald eagle. Take a walk in the wetland and see for yourself!



Photo courtesy of Paul Meyer

Leventhal Native Plant Garden at Jeanes Library

Our very own Irv Leventhal has been honored with the creation of the *Leventhal Native Plant Garden* at the Jeanes Library in Whitemarsh Township. The 10' x 22' area is adjacent to the entrance of a new, recently constructed library wing. This tribute gift by the Friends of the William Jeanes Memorial Library recognizes Irv's many years of service as its president. Make sure you stop by the new garden next time you're in the neighborhood!



Photo courtesy of Irv Leventhal

Don't forget about our guide recruitment contest!

We are looking for new Guides and we need your help. If you know someone who is good with kids, is available during the week, and you think would make a great guide, have them contact Liza Hawley at efhawley@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 x 128, and tell them to say who sent them! You'll be increasing the Arboretum's productivity and knowledge base, as well as scoring a fabulous prize for yourself.

If you like guiding, share your fun with your friends and neighbors. Send them our way now! Contest ends March 1, 2014 (prizes TBD).



Connections Beyond Our Gardens: Talks on People, Plants, and Place

More Park, Less Way and Other Urban Design Visions

Wednesday, November 13 at 3 p.m.

Harris Steinberg, Director, PennPraxis, University of Pennsylvania

Volunteer Price: \$8

Bring a friend (member or not) for the member price: \$15

Design with nature, merge neighborhood charm with civic grandeur, make places for real Philadelphians, create parks walkable from every community, honor the river, update the meaning of park space for the 21st century. These are just a few of the concepts developed during the re-envisioning of the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, the Central Delaware, and the Philadelphia Park system by PennPraxis, the applied research arm of the School of Design at Penn founded to extend design excellence into the community. Speaker Harris Steinberg, founding executive director of PennPraxis and associate professor of city and regional planning, will share some of the visions for our most important and iconic public spaces.

A Passion for Nature: Thomas Jefferson and Natural History

Wednesday, December 4 at 3 p.m.

Keith Thomson, Executive Officer, American Philosophical Society

Volunteer Price: \$8

Bring a friend (member or not) for the member price: \$15

Thomas Jefferson once wrote to a friend that politics was his “duty” but natural history was his “passion.” Despite his demanding public life Jefferson somehow had time to be one of America’s first serious students of fossils, botany, climate, geology, and anthropology, becoming a leading American scientific intellectual of his time. Our speaker, author Keith Thomson will introduce us to Jefferson’s fascinating world, exploring our third president’s passion for natural history, and highlighting how it related to everything he did—as a farmer, as a philosopher, and as a citizen. Author of more than a dozen books on evolution, paleontology, and the history of science, in recent years Thomson has focused more on writing for a popular audience.



Photo courtesy of psbi.org

Volunteer Field Trip Pearl S. Buck House

November 12, 9:30 am

Don't forget to mark your calendars to join fellow Arboretum volunteers on a trip to the Pearl S. Buck House. Along with on-going exhibits, our tour of the house will feature Holiday decorations, and a stop at the expansive gift shop. To RSVP, please email Lisa Bailey at baileyl@upenn.edu or call 215-247-5777 ext. 157.



Photo courtesy of Paul W. Meyer

Staff & Volunteer Night at the Holiday Garden Railway

December 4, 4- 7 pm

It's that time of year again! Join fellow Morris Arboretum volunteers and staff to tour the festive Holiday Garden Railway.



Education Volunteer Winter Pot-Luck

December 16, 12 -2 pm

Bring a delicious dish to share and enjoy a celebration of winter with other Education volunteers and staff!

Please RSVP, making note of the dish you plan to share, to Stephanie at 215-247-5777 ext. 159 or kuniholm@upenn.edu



Horticulture Volunteer Winter Pot-Luck

December 18



Snapshots from Another Great Work Day at the Governor's Residence!

This past September, Morris Arboretum staff and volunteers once again spent a morning working at the Governor's Residence and Garden. The Arboretum staff have served as the Governor's garden advisors since 1997 and have coordinated Arboretum volunteer work days for many years. Want to see the Governor's Garden for yourself? This Commonwealth facility is frequently open to visitor tours- or you can join us next time we spend a morning working in the Governor's Garden!



Photos courtesy of Paul W. Meyer

Take a Class-- Try Something New!

Creating Beautiful Landscapes Under Mature Trees

Thursday, November 7, 7 – 8:30 pm

Harriet Cramer, Gardener Designer and Writer

Volunteer Price: \$12.50

Learn how to 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. Gain the insight you need to successfully deal with these obstacles while ensuring that the plants you are planting under the trees will remain vibrant and healthy.

Thanksgiving Harvest Centerpiece

Sunday, November 24, 12:30 -3 pm

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

Volunteer Price: \$44

During the Thanksgiving holiday season, mixing flowers and dried materials along with fruits and vegetables creates stunning arrangements. Learn some tricks when working with these natural materials and create a fabulous centerpiece for your Thanksgiving table or to give as a hostess gift. Success is guaranteed. You will take home a unique and beautiful arrangement. Everything is included. Bring a rectangular box to transport your finished arrangement home.

Holiday Wreath Workshop

Section A: Sunday, December 1, 10:30 am- 12:30 pm

-OR- Section B: Monday, December 2, 10 am- 12 noon

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

Volunteer Price: \$42

This workshop is designed for those who want to make their holiday wreath from fresh, loose boughs of greens. You will work with a wire ring and spool wire to construct your wreath. There will be a selection of ribbons and decorations to make it festive. All supplies will be provided. Bring a pair of pruners and a box to take home your wreath.

NEW - Volunteer with Physical Facilities

Are you handy with a hammer? Do you love to paint? Did you miss your calling as a carpenter? Want to learn the ins and outs of fountain maintenance? The Physical Facilities department at the Arboretum is looking for volunteers to help with a variety of maintenance tasks throughout the year.

Please contact Tom Wilson at 215-247-5777 ext. 108 or email at wilsonth@upenn.edu

Volunteer Opportunity at the PHS Flower Show

The Philadelphia Flower Show Early Morning Tour Committee is looking for knowledgeable garden guides during Flower Show week, March 3 through 7, and the few days preceding the opening, February 26 through 28. These tours are an important fundraiser for PHS community garden programs, giving tours to garden clubs, donors, and Flower Show aficionados who want to get onto the floor before the crowds. Tour guides are required to attend training sessions on the morning of February 10 and the afternoon of February 26. Most importantly, as an Early Morning Tour volunteer, you will get access to the Flower Show floor any time before, during and after the Flower Show!

For more information or to sign up, contact Robin Potter at 856-397-1131 or rmpotter@verizon.net



Pinus densiflora



Asclepias syriaca



Pennisetum alopecuroides
'Cassian's Choice'

Garden highlights:



Aronia arbutifolia
red chokeberry
Wetland



Malus 'Indian Magic'
crabapple
Near Garden Railway



Symphyotrichum novi-belgii
New York aster
Above Rose Garden



Hamamelis virginiana
common witchhazel
Near Swan Pond



Cornus florida
flowering dogwood
Above Rose Garden



Enkianthus perulatus
'J.L. Pennock'
Garden Railway

Upcoming Events

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	6	7	8	9 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
10	11	12 Volunteer Trip to Pearl Buck House 9:30 am	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22 Holiday Garden Railway Opens	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	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 11:00am-3:00pm

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

Upcoming Events

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	4 Volunteer & Staff Night Holiday Gar- den Railway 4:30- 7 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
15	16 Education Volunteers Winter Potluck 11:30 am	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	26	27	28
29	30	31 New Year's Eve <i>Arboretum Closed</i>				

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