

VOLUNTEER

January 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 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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January 2012

Contents

Letter From the Editor	2
Volunteer News	3
Notes From the Guides Chair	4
Education News	5
Horticulture News	6
Around the Arboretum	9
Calendar	10



Photo: Jennifer French

Volunteer

January 2012

Letter From the Editor January 2012

I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday season! The Arboretum was a festive place to be this past month, thank you to everyone who came and made our holiday luncheons fun and delicious. Welcoming in the New Year now at the Arboretum, we have a lot to look forward to. There is plenty of winter interest in the garden, hope to see you around.

Happy New Year!

Ariel Dreyfus,

The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Here are some photos from the interns' most recent trip to Longwood Gardens. We visited this past month and were able to see all the Holiday Displays. A few staff members graciously took time to meet with us and gave us of a wealth of information about all aspects of horticultural displays at Longwood. I appreciated the uniqueness of each display room and the prevalence of themes. The natural forest and meadow areas were a nice contrast to the conservatory and great educational tools. If you haven't been, I highly recommend it!



volunteer news

Tu B'Shevat Program

Thanks to all of the volunteers who have signed up already. There are still quite a few slots left and we need your help! There will be a drop-in training for guides on February 1st at 1:30 pm in the Upper Gallery. Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at baileyL@upenn.edu or 215-247-5777 ext. 157

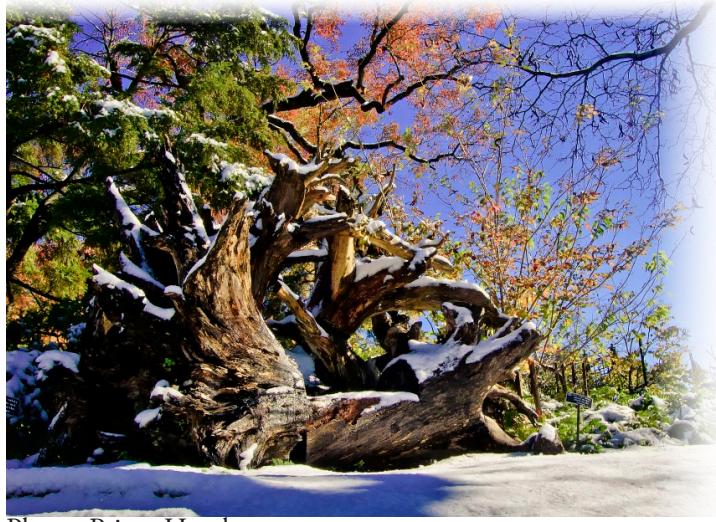


Photo: Prima Hutabarat

Sunday, February 5th 10:00-11:15 am and
11:30- 12:45 pm

Monday, February 6th 10:00-11:15am

Tuesday, February 7th 10:00-11:15am

Wednesday, Feburary 8th 10:00-11:15am

Thursday, February 9th 10:00-11:15am

Sunday, February 12th 10:00-11:15 am and

11:30- 12:45 pm



Image: <http://www.sierravistagrowers.net>

Help Celebrate Tu B'Shevat Family Day on Sunday, February 12 from 1-3pm

This year's celebration will feature four important trees of Israel and the fruits they bear. We need at least 5 volunteers to staff tables full of food for visitors to learn about and taste. We'll also have a table about the climate in Israel and why the "Jewish New Year of Trees" is celebrated this time of year. If you're interested in talking about olives, dates, pomegranates, figs or climate, we have fact sheets and lots of pictures to help you master the subject. Please let Lisa know if you would like to volunteer for this very popular program by emailing her at baileyL@upenn.edu or calling her at 215-247-5777 x 157.

-Liza Hawley, *Visitor Education Coordinator*

Family Wellness Walks



In addition to our original wellness walks, we have initiated family wellness walks to include our short legged friends. The family wellness walks are part of the national Let's Move campaign, started by first lady Michelle Obama, aimed at combating the obesity epidemic. This is a great opportunity to contribute to a national initiative! Family Wellness Walks take place on the first Saturday of every month, in addition to the regular wellness walk. We need volunteers for 10:30 am on:

January 7th, February 4th, March 3rd

Contact Lisa Bailey to sign up at
baileyL@upenn.edu or at 215-247-5777 ext 157

Volunteer

3

notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

It looks like the squirrels in the Northeast are in for a hard winter. Last fall there was a record crop of acorns, 250 lbs per tree. This fall there is a record low, less than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb per tree. On average, oaks produce between 25 – 30 lbs per year and the production fluctuates from year to year. It takes 18 months for an acorn to mature from the time pollination occurs. Oaks are pollinated by the wind and one explanation for this year's poor crop may be that the extremely rainy 2010 spring may have prevented the pollen from getting from one tree to another. Another hypothesis from scientists is "predator satiation". In bumper years, animals cannot eat them all, so the next year the oaks lower their production. I don't quite understand how the oak trees "know" the animal population is high. Let's think about that.

At any rate, what does this have to do with us? Well, the populations of squirrels, jays, deer, field mice and bears will plummet this winter. Deer will wander out of the woods onto highways looking for food. Expect automobile accidents. More importantly, there was an explosion in the field mouse population this summer which in turn caused a huge increase in the tick population. When the number of field mice crashes this winter because of no acorns, the ticks will be looking for new hosts. We humans make good hosts. Expect Lyme disease. 2012 has been predicted to be the worst year ever. Well, I guess that's enough bad news for one day. I'll try to be more cheerful in February.

See you in the Garden in long sleeves and long pants!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides

Volunteer Workshop

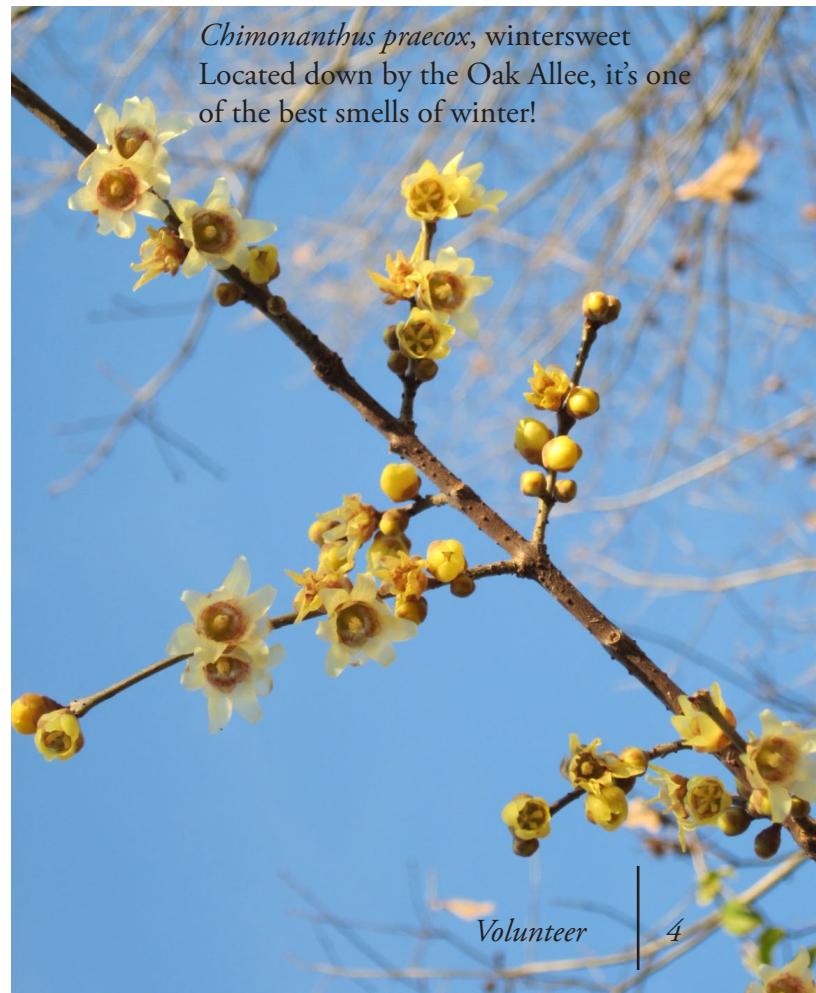
Bringing Native Plants into your Garden

Join the Green Revolution and learn the how's and why's of growing our native plants in your garden. Robin Potter will help us discover the best and easiest – most ornamental and weather-tolerant plants, where to plant them and what birds, butterflies and other wildlife they may attract. This is a practical course – learn how to incorporate our beautiful native plants without turning your garden upside down. As a Camden County Master Gardener, Robin Potter lectures throughout the County and the Philadelphia area on gardening and garden design. She is a regular speaker for the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, trains Master Gardeners on trees and shrubs and writes occasional articles on garden techniques. A graduate of the Barnes Arboretum Horticulture school, one of Robin's recent projects was the landscape design for the gardens around The Solitude, John Penn's 1784 house on the grounds of the Philadelphia Zoo. Robin gardens in Haddonfield and is a member of the Haddonfield Shade Tree Commission and the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society Council.

This workshop will be held on **Tuesday, January 10th at 10 am in the Upper Gallery.**

Chimonanthus praecox, wintersweet

Located down by the Oak Allee, it's one of the best smells of winter!



Volunteer

education news

Happy Holidays Education Volunteers!

The potluck was such a great way to get into the holiday spirit! Thanks for coming and bringing all of those delicious goodies.



January 2012



horticulture news



At the annual horticulture volunteer holiday luncheon, the Arboretum honored ten volunteers for their service:

For 25 years (a quarter of a century!): Maggie Funderburg and David Kronick.

For 20 years: Alice Charles.

For 15 years: Jack Soloski, Ollie Williams and Marsha Shanker.

For 5 years: Deborah Glass, Leslie Morris-Smith, Nancy Trexler – and me.

-Herb Kestenbaum, *Horticulture Volunteer*



horticulture news

Summer Border Garden

Gardens wax and wane with the seasons, but over time that cycle is disrupted by another powerful force that can drive you crazy. That would be invasive vegetation, especially the most pernicious weeds (think thistle and pinellia). For most gardens, regular weeding is the solution. But for high-profile, public gardens, sometimes a more drastic approach is needed: digging up the garden and starting anew.

That's what Justin Jackson, the Arboretum's rosarian, is up to these days. His focus is the Summer Border Garden, which sits just below the Rose Gar-



The Summer Border Garden, outside of the Rose Garden

den and the Wisteria Walk. On this project he is working with Nina Schneider, a member of the Arboretum's Advisory Board of Managers and a landscape designer specializing in residential gardens. She was instrumental in the design of the original border garden in 1994.

Accession plants in today's garden were potted and stored in the greenhouses; they will be replanted in the new garden. Many plants were removed permanently, and others were dug up, bare-rooted and transplanted to a temporary garden spot. The only plants left in place were a Father Hugo rose bush (*Rosa hugonis*), from China, and a canary weigela, a member of the honeysuckle family.

The ground was then excavated down to the clay in order to remove weeds and particularly to find and rip out as many of the deep-rooted thistle rhizomes

and the pinellia bulbs as possible. Clean soil was spread. The now-open space, resembling a half-moon in shape and measuring about 80 feet wide by 35 feet deep, will be covered by black plastic for an indefinite time. That covering, along with herbicides, will help to eradicate more weeds before new plants are installed.

According to Justin, the garden has always been intended to be a guide for home gardeners, presenting a range of plants that offer a variety of colors and textures and a flowering schedule that ensures that something is always in bloom from spring through fall. The old garden had bulbs, lilies, peonies and roses, among other plants. The new garden may in addition contain some of the new plant varieties coming to market. As a design element, the garden is the transition between the Rose Garden and the Wisteria Walk. To soften that transition and link the surrounding gardens, the replanted Summer Border Garden will incorporate some subtle repetitions of the Rose Garden design, Justin said.

-Herb Kestenbaum,
Horticulture Volunteer



Cirsium arvense



Pinellia ternata

horticulture news

Horticulture and Physical Facilities Committees Meeting December 8, 2011

- Paul Meyer reported that a major donor has agreed to endow the Natural Lands section leader position.

Horticulture Update – Tony Aiello

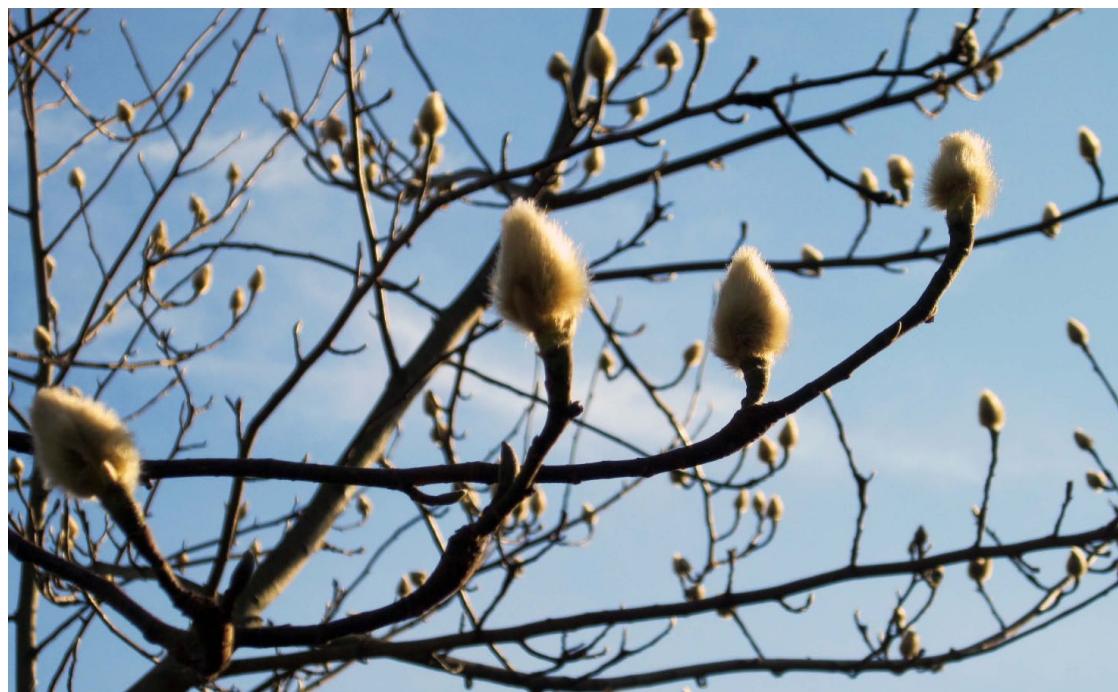
- Fall planting has been completed. The Garden Railway opened for Thanksgiving holiday and we had over 4000 visitors during that weekend.
- Tony attended the International Maple Society convention in Brussels in October. Morris Arboretum will be hosting the International Maple society in 2014.
- Seedlings from Paul Meyer's trip to China are presently being grown in the greenhouse.

Facilities Department – Bob Anderson

- Fernery heating system has been temporarily repaired but needs to be replaced. A backup electric system will be installed in case the heating system fails.
- The Mechanic's Bay has been renovated as a part of the Horticulture center project with new space created in the interior and new roofing and exterior walls to be compatible with the surrounding buildings.
- Bob introduced Joe Mellon the new Maintenance Mechanic.
- Run of the Mill volunteers have completed much of the work to make the mill accessible to visitors.

• Discussion of the problem of storm water management throughout the arboretum which needs to be addressed since we continue to suffer much damage from excessive flooding. We continue to study the problem and will

develop further plans hopefully to manage flooding especially on the East Branch where the water is channeled. The arboretum has received credit for fees charged by PWD for storm water management plans.



Larry Godley,
Volunteer Liaison

Volunteer

January 2012

around the arboretum

Look out for the 2012 Spring Course Brochure in your mail boxes and online.

Help ring in the new year by learning something completely new, or continuing to learn about the things that you love.



Forces of Plant Evolution: Insights from *Amelanchier* The Byron W. Lukens Endowed Lecture

Using DNA sequencing, and other modern techniques, researchers have revolutionized our understanding of plant evolution. This research has revealed that two major forces- genome duplication and hybridization- have been instrumental in creating the spectacular diversity of the plants we admire. *Amelanchier*, also called shadblush, juneberry, or Saskatoon berry, is a genus of native shrubs and small trees of the Rose family. Prized by horticulturalists for its brilliant spring blossoms and by wildlife for its delectable fruit,

Amelanchier exemplifies the evolutionary role genome duplication and hybridization play in driving species diversification. Our very own research botanist, Dr. Michael B. Burgess will summarize our current understanding of plant evolution, and will explore the research investigating speciation in *Amelanchier* in this enthralling lecture.

Sunday, January 29th at 2 pm in the Upper Gallery of Widener.



Volunteer

January 2012

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 New Years Day Garden Closed	2 Garden Open Offices Closed	3	4	5	6	7 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am Family Wellness Walk 10:30 am
8	9	10 Guide Workshop 10 am <i>Upper Gallery</i>	11	12	13	14 Mill Volunteers Work Day Winter Wellness Walk 10:30am
15	16 Martin Luther King Day Offices Closed	17	18	19 Retention Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	20	21 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
29 Michael Burgess Lecture 2 pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	30	31 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>				

Weekly Volunteer Events

Tuesdays: History and Archive Volunteers: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am

February

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am Family Wellness Walk 10:30 am
5 Tu B' Shevat	6	7 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	8	9	10	11 Mill Volunteers Work Day Winter Wellness Walk 10:30am
12 Tu B' Shevat Tu B'Shevat Family Day 1-3pm	13	14	15	16	17	18 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
19 Witchhazel Is Your Favorite 1-3pm	20	21	22	23	24	25 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
26 Beautiful Land- scapes Lecture 2 pm Upper Gallery	27	28 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	29			

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