

# VOLUNTEER

February 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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Arboretum attn: Education Intern.

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Photos throughout: Ariel Dreyfus unless otherwise stated



*Robinia pseudoacacia*, black locust

## Contents

Letter From the Editor	2
Volunteer News	3
Notes from the Guides Chair	6
Horticulture News	7
Around the Arboretum	8
Calendar	11



*Nandina domestica*, 'Moyer's Red' heavenly bamboo

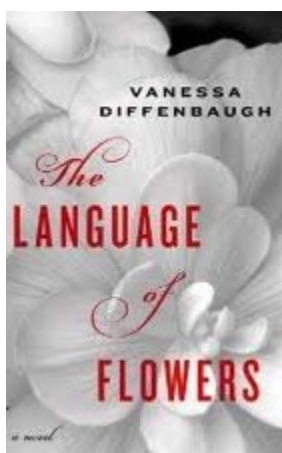
## Letter From the Editor February 2012

We are almost halfway through winter and you'd never know it! It has been unseasonably warm, and the lack of snow is quite a change from last winter. Though it can be a nuisance, I'd like to see the arboretum blanketed in a thick snow just once this winter. Meanwhile, there is still plenty to keep up with here at the Arboretum this February. Tu B' Shevat is coming up; there is another engaging lecture this month, and the Volunteer Workshop has a fantastic line up. In addition, there is a stunning new photo exhibit in the Upper Gallery of Widener, "Through the Lens of Paul Meyer". Come take a look!

Ariel Dreyfus,  
*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



## Book Corner:



*Language of Flowers*  
by Vanessa Diffen-  
baugh

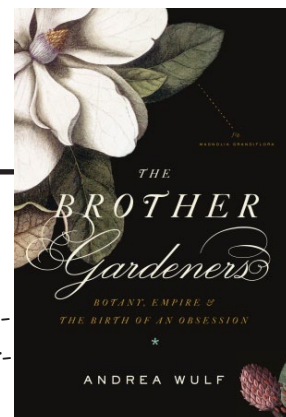
This is Vanessa Diffenbaugh's debut novel, which is elegantly written and weaves together the past and the future for a compelling nar-

rative. The book centers around a young woman who uses flowers to help change the lives of others, and overcome her own troubled past. It's a brilliant story which reminds us of the power of plants.  
-Joan Kober, *Education Volunteer*

*The Brother Gardeners*  
by Andrea Wulf

Last fall the former Education Intern, Sara Levin, spoke to my garden club and mentioned a book for all plant lovers to read. I just finished *The Brother Gardeners* and I feel so smug that I now have an idea how the "English" garden mania derived. Did you know John Bartram was a correspondent to Carl Linnaeus? Or that Bartram had a decades-long plant/seed collecting business with cloth merchant Peter Collinson? Bartram collected and shipped to Collinson, who then sold boxes of seeds or plants to subscribers in England, then in Europe. The big plant craze in England was to have an American garden. They loved white pines and tulip poplars; for the British, these were considered exotic. The book brings alive all the big plant collectors of the time.

- Jody Sprauge,  
*Education Volunteer*





## volunteer news

## Volunteer Workshop Rainforests of Costa Rica

Come listen to a presentation by your fellow volunteer Mary Ann Smith about her adventures through tropical Costa Rica. Learn about the unique properties of rainforests and why they are such significant ecosystems, as well as what makes Costa Rica's rainforests special. Mary Ann will be presenting in the Upper Gallery on **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11am.** Please note the time change!



Photos: Mary Ann Smith



## Beautiful Landscapes: The Key to Healthy Communities

Klein Endowed Lecture

Katy Moss Warner, *President Emeritus, American Horticultural Society*

For the past five years, Katy Moss Warner has been judging towns and cities for America in Bloom. She has witnessed firsthand what happens when a community focuses attention on their landscapes. Whether protecting the tree canopy, restoring native habitats, installing a new school garden, planting dramatic perennial beds, or adding colorful hanging baskets to downtown, the community pulls together and “plants pride”. The spirit of optimism and volunteerism reflects not only in the beauty of the community, but in its vitality. Communities with beautiful landscapes are the places where people want to live, work, and play. Katy will describe her experiences with America in Bloom, a not for profit organization that encourages cities and town across America to focus on what is outside in their communities in order to ensure economic sustainability and enhance the quality of life.

Sunday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m.

Register with your course catalogue, on our website, or by calling 215-247-5777 ext. 125



## volunteer news

### Attention Volunteers:

These are classes that will count towards your volunteer hours. Sign up and learn something new!

#### **Crazy for Ferns**

*with Louise Clarke,*

*Horticulturalist, Morris Arboretum*

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 10:30 a.m. - noon

#### **Using Native Plants to Awaken the Senses**

*with Greg Tepper, Horticulturalist at Mt. Cuba*

Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> 2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

#### **Magnificent Trees of Spring: Cherries, Magnolias and Dogwoods**

*with Tony Aeillo,*

*Director of Horticulture, Morris Arboretum*

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m.- noon

#### **Appreciating Native Trees and Shrubs**

*with Ken LeRoy,*

*Horticulturalist and Co-owner, Green Earth Gardens*

Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 a.m. – noon

#### **Sacred Plants** *with Dr. Michael B. Burgess,*

*Research Botanist, Morris Arboretum*

Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup>, 10a.m.- 1 p.m.

#### **Intro to Botany** *with Dr. Tim Block,*

*Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum*

Six Wednesdays: March 14, 21, 28,  
April, 4, 11, 18

10a.m.- noon

#### **Making Sustainable Choices**

*with Melissa Miles,*

*Permaculture Designer, Sustainability  
Consultant and Environmental Biologist*

Saturday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 10 a.m. to noon



## Tu B' Shevat

Thanks to everyone who has already volunteered for our annual Tu'B Shevat program. We have a few slots left to fill, we need your help! Please sign up on the Google calendar or with Lisa Bailey at 215-247-5777 ext. 157 or [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu)

## volunteer news

***Volunteer Workshop***Wednesday, February 15<sup>th</sup>

8:30-9:00	Arrival
9:00-10:00	<b>China Revisited: Plant Exploration in Shanxi and Gansu in 2011</b> <i>with Paul Meyer, F. Otto Haas Director of the Morris Arboretum</i>
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:00	<b>Wildflowers &amp; Waterfalls of Oregon</b> <i>with Louise Clarke, Bloomfield Farm Section Leader</i>
11:00-11:30	<b>Indonesia Through My Lens</b> <i>with Prima Hutabarat, The Charles S. Holman Rose &amp; Flower Garden Intern</i>
11:30-12:00	<b>Water Features at the Morris Arboretum</b> <i>with Joe Mellon, Maintenance Mechanic</i>
12:00-12:45	Lunch- Bring a Brownbag Lunch!
12:45-1:15	<b>Horticulture Volunteer News and Ideas</b> <i>with Pam Olshefski, Curatorial Assistant</i>
1:15-2:00	<b>Sentinel Plant Network</b> <i>with Vince Marrocco, Chief Horticulturalist</i>
2:00-3:00	<b>A Morris Arboretum Story: From the Middle Colonies to Your Public Garden</b> <i>with Bob Gutowski, Director of Public Programs</i>

Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

8:30-9:00	Arrival
9:00-10:00	<b>Horticultural Explorations: 2011 Travels in England and Belgium</b> <i>with Tony Aiello, Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator</i>
10:00-10:30	Break
10:30-11:00	<b>Exploring Panama</b> <i>with Justin Jackson, Rose Garden Section Leader</i>
11:00-11:30	<b>Coast to Coast: A Tour of the Country and National Parks</b> <i>with Lauren Fine, The Alice &amp; J. Liddon Pennock Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern</i>
11:30-12:00	<b>Fern Propagation and Native Ferns</b> <i>with Josh Darfler, The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern</i>
12:00-1:00	Lunch- Will Be Provided!
1:00- 1:15	Gift Planning <i>with Lynn Malzone Ierardi, JD, Director of Gift Planning at U Penn</i>
1:15-2:00	<b>An Introduction to BG Map</b> <i>with Mark Glicksman, BG Map Developer</i>
2:00-2:30	<b>Adventures in Landscapes</b> <i>with Lauren Pongan, The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Lands Intern</i>
2:30-3:00	<b>Our Urban Forestry Team: Projects and Updates</b> <i>with Jason Lubar, Associate Director of Urban Forestry</i>



## notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

I promised to be more cheerful this month, so here goes :

I'm sure you have all noticed the beautiful Hellebores blooming near Widener. Have you ever wondered why this particular plant can withstand the cold when most other plants are shriveled, dried out or have gone underground? Scientists with the Spanish National Research Council have found the answer. It seems that strains of yeast that live in the flower's nectar warm the flowers up to 13 degrees Fahrenheit. They do this by metabolizing sugars. This allows the Hellebores to grow and flower in low temperatures and without much sun. What a novel mechanism these plants use to raise their temperatures!

Studies show that forests in the Eastern United States seem to be growing faster because of the rising levels of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere. Mixed hardwood stands are growing 2 – 4 times as fast as normal. CO<sub>2</sub> is, of course, a major factor in climate change. So trees are vital in counteracting global warming because they absorb and store CO<sub>2</sub>, the leading heat trapping gas. It is unclear how long this can go on as other limiting factors such as water availability and soil nutrients will come into play. But for right now, trees deserve a big round of applause.

Lemons have seeds. Oranges have seeds. Have you ever noticed that limes do not have seeds? Most citrus fruits are diploid, that is their chromosomes come in pairs, like those of humans. There are usually 9 chromosomes from the pollen parent and 9 from the seed making parent. Key limes fall into this category but the ordinary, everyday limes are triploid i.e. they have three sets of chromosomes instead of two. They have 27 chromosomes so it is impossible for them to divide in half to make pollen and eggs. This means that limes are sterile. This was a naturally occurring spontaneous mutation. There are also seedless watermelons and, of course, bananas. Breeders are working to develop seedless lemons. So, let's all go warm ourselves up with a gin and tonic with a sterile, seedless lime in it!

See you in the Garden!  
Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides



## horticulture news

## 25 Years at Morris

As PD James said “the past is not static. It can be relived only in memory, and memory is a device for forgetting as well as remembering.” This is what I remember:

In the Fall of 1986 the Horticulture volunteers began under the tutelage of Margaret Wallis and I was fortunate to be one of them. According to Margaret, there was much discussion and dissension before the idea of having volunteers was accepted throughout the arboretum. We met on Wednesday mornings (still do!) and pruned, dead-headed, divided perennials, weeded, and sometimes transplanted. All that mulching came later. Some of you may remember when we piled newspapers on the roses in the rose garden to over winter them! The rose garden has gone through many changes since then (and is splendiferous, of course!).

Margaret was followed the next year by Ken Le Roy who was well known for his mini lectures before the day's work started. Break, which has become such a big part of our current schedule, was informal and someone

had the task of going out and bringing back the coffee and, if ordered, the sticky buns or doughnuts. Melinda Haskell Adams followed Ken and a volunteer newsletter was started called The Morris Gardener...I only have the first edition from Spring 1990. Were there others? Iana Turner followed Melinda and has put up with our unending questions for many a year.

For a long time on the first Wednesday of each month we held a brown bag lunch seminar to discuss a variety of topics from pruning to perennial care. They were called “opportunity days”! Those who wanted to brave the elements sometimes worked in the winter months. I can remember standing in the snow while pruning directions were delivered (it was wet but beautiful). Hort volunteers have also given hours of labor to the plant sale and other special events. Two trips were provided each year and could range as far away as the NY Botanical Gardens or the National Arboretum in DC. When I started the Oak Allee was lined with majestic oaks. Between them was a dirt walkway that in

the spring was carpeted with daffodils and other spring flowers. The garden that Hiram Munger now tends was once a rather bare hillside. So many changes have made “our” garden the best! How lucky we are to have this beautiful place!



The horticulture volunteers' affection, loyalty and labor continues. Now, there are three times the number of volunteers as there were when I started. Can you believe, in 2014 there will be 5 more 25 year veterans!

-Maggie Funderburg,  
*Horticulture  
Volunteer*

*Volunteer*

7





## around the arboretum

### Intern Project Presentation Schedule

Mark your calendars and come hear about the interesting and diverse work the interns have done this year.

Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>: Lauren Fine, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*, Building a Rain Garden to Address Storm Water Management in the English Park Section of the Morris Arboretum

Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Josh Darfler, *The Martha J. Wallace Endowed Plant Propagation Intern*, Updating and Improving the Visitor Experience in the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery

Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>: Ariel Dreyfus, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*, Foundation for Expansion of Botany Education at Morris

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>: Breck Miller, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Hass Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*, Incentivizing Land Conservation in the Mid-Atlantic States

Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>: Nina Safavi, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*, Springfield Township Tree Canopy Study

Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: Lauren Pongan, *The Hay Honey Endowed Natural Lands Intern*, Developing a Walking Guide to The Woody Edibles at Morris

Tuesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Dan Weitoish, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arborist Intern*, From the Canopy: An Arborist's Perspective

Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>: Charlie Nicholson, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of PA Intern*, Analysis of Local Honey: Foraging Effects and Colony

Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>: Prima Hutabarat, *The Charles S. Holman Rose and Flower Garden Intern*, Morris Arboretum Nursery Trials: A Study of Rose Care Treatments



*Hamamelis vernalis* 'Orange Glow'

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Witchhazel is Your Favorite?

Sunday, February 19<sup>th</sup>

1-3pm

Two volunteers needed to help with a craft activity in conjunction with our annual celebration of the witchhazel collection. A provided map will invite visitors to take a self-guided tour of selected specimens in the collection after which (or before) they are invited to stop by the visitors center to participate in a craft that focuses on the witchhazel flowers. If you are able to help please contact Michelle Connors at [mconnors@upenn.edu](mailto:mconnors@upenn.edu), or by calling 215-247-5777 ext. 109.



*Hamamelis intermedia* 'Marble



around the arboretum

## 2012 Pennsylvania Farm Show

On January 11th, the interns had the opportunity to explore the 96th annual Pennsylvania Farm Show. We left from the Morris Arboretum early in the morning for our drive out to Harrisburg and arrived before the large rush of visitors. Before heading into the main exhibits we took a brief stop in the food court to enjoy some late breakfast and snacks including delicious honey waffles from the PA Bee Keepers Association, and fried mozzarella cubes from the PA Dairymen's Association. We then quickly rushed over to the cooking demonstration stage to catch a honey extraction demonstration with local beekeepers and the state Honey Queen. From there we started to split off from each other to go explore the many different halls and the various attractions. There were rooms of chickens, ducks, cows, goats and sheep along with numerous arts and crafts vendors. Erdenheim Farm, a neighbor of the arboretum, was exhibiting in the

sheep barn with some of their livestock, but there were farmers showing from all over the state all with interesting stories to tell. In the small arena we were privilege to observe some of the youth wool-to-shawl competition where teams of youth worked to spin, spool and weave wool into

a decorative shawl. The results were not announced until later in the afternoon, but it was very impressive to watch. In the main exhibit hall we saw the horticultural competitions including floral design, landscape design and hanging baskets. After many hours of walking around and seeing all the sights we returned to the food court for lunch and to see some of the tractor exhibit. Overall it was a wonderful day and a very unique experience for many of us new to Pennsylvania. If you haven't visited the farm show I highly recommend it but you'll have to wait until next year.

-Joshua Darfler





## around the arboretum

### Get Ready for Spring; Meet New People and Enjoy a Class at the Arboretum.

#### Landscape Design Studio

##### Core Course

Peter Godfrey, Jr., *Landscape Architect/Planner*

Gain a basic understanding of the design process and develop a conceptual design for a residential garden in this course. No previous drawing or design work is necessary. The class meets seven times.

Seven Thursdays: March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, April 5, 12  
7 – 9:30 p.m.

#### The Art of Japanese Ink Painting

Allison Zito, *Artist and Teacher, Harcum College*

Sumi-e is the art of Japanese ink painting, a noble and time honored pursuit of the scholar. Learn unique techniques to create beautiful Japanese ink paintings in this course.

Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>

1 – 3 p.m.

#### And the Winner is...

Kerry Mendez, *Garden Designer and Owner of Perennially Yours*

Want fabulous flowers but don't want to spend all your time nurturing them? Take this course to learn which blue ribbon annuals, perennials, and flowering shrubs outshine the competition with their extensive bloom time and easy-care requirements.

Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup>

10-11:30 a.m.



Photo provided by Grace Asperin

Catch the Aloha Spirit... one week before the Flower Show!

Grace Asperin, *Former Arboretum Intern and current staff member, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society*

Indulge your creative side and experience the spirit of Aloha by crafting your own beautiful fresh floral lei.

Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

1 – 3 p.m.



## February

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

## 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

## March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am Family Wellness Walk 10:30 am
4	5	6 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	7	8	9	10 Mill Volunteers Work Day Winter Wellness Walk 10:30am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
18 "Abominable Mystery" Lecture 2 pm <i>Upper Gallery</i>	19	20	21	22	23	24 Winter Wellness Walk 10:30 am
25	26	27 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	28	29	30	31

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