

VOLUNTEER

JUNE 2013



Morris Arboretum
UNIVERSITY 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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Front Cover: Ruth Pfeffer, orchard oriole
Photos throughout: Sarah Bolivar unless otherwise stated



Image: *Magnolia virginiana*, sweetbay magnolia

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Image: *Achillea millefolium*, 'Orange Queen'

Letter from the Editor

June 2013

Time flies by or maybe it condenses and expands. In either case, all interns would agree that the Morris Arboretum Internship has been an amazing experience. We have all learned so much from you, the Volunteers! And so, we bid our temporary farewell, but we won't be too far; this place beckons us to come back in one way or another. We are also excited for the new intern co-hort! There are many things to look forward to this summer: concerts, roses in all their splendor, trips, classes, and substantial sunshine. Thank you and have a wonderful time out in the gardens.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*



Thank you for the memories!

- 2012 - 2013 Interns



notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

Since this is my last “NOTES,” I will make it short and sweet. I have thoroughly enjoyed the last four years as Chair. The one thing I hesitated about before accepting this job was having to write once a month, but this turned out to be the most fun of all. I have tried to inform and amuse you, hoping that if I thought something was interesting or funny, you would too. So I say goodbye with a final definition by Henry Beal and Roy McKie, whom we’ve heard from before, which is quite relevant to the Morris now:

BUGS: There are a variety of methods of controlling insects, but - let’s be honest – they just don’t work. Why not “rock with the punch” so to speak and establish an insect garden? Although a bed of slugs or a curving border of shimmering Japanese beetles may not be as spectacular as more traditional plantings, and a centerpiece of grubs and larvae on the dining table might be a little alarming, you will have the peace of mind that comes from never having to worry that a sudden infestation of cabbages will kill your prize loopers, or that radishes will attack your thrips, or that a peach tree will get your borers. Best of luck to the next team!

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, *Chair Emeritus*



Mercy High School Class Practicing Yoga

events and lectures

"It will never rain roses: when we want to have more roses, we must plant more roses." - George Eliot



Image: Samantha Tracey

Join us for an enchanted evening and help us celebrate Moonlight & Roses at the Arboretum! Farm-to-table feast featuring a stunning menu by Brulee Catering's renowned Chef Jean-Marie Lacroix, music by the Janis Nowlan Band. Reservations are required and space is very limited. Opportunities are available to sponsor a table(s).

Advanced registration and payment required.

Moonlight & Roses Gala

JUNE 7 | 6:00pm

Advance purchase: \$20/car members; \$25/car non-members

Day of event: \$25/car members; \$30/car non-members

Celebrate the longest day of the year the Latin way. Salsa dance party favorites, the Café Con Pan Band, will have everyone up on their feet with their sizzling hot music. Come early and learn the moves so you can groove with the music, and sample the delicious and all-natural salsas.



WRTI Jazz Concert: Summer Solstice Salsa Party

JUNE 20 | 7:00pm

events and lectures

Free with admission. Held at Bloomfield Farm (located across from the main Arboretum entrance).

Visitors will be able to tour the Horticulture Center and the Springfield Mills. Also featuring, "Touch a Truck," Arboretum equipment, such as the backhoe and tractors, will be available for an up close experience.



Image: Morris Arboretum Staff

Bloomfield Farm Open House

JUNE 23 | 12:00 - 3:00pm



We in the Philadelphia area are so fortunate to have many world class gardens within a day's drive. One of these outstanding gardens is Chanticleer. Originally a private estate home, the grounds and home were left intact to become a pleasure garden. What is a pleasure garden? Unlike Morris Arboretum, it is not meant to be a teaching garden, some plants are tagged but not many. The intent of the garden is to simply be enjoyed. We will be visiting Chanticleer on June 26th. We depart at 9am; there is no fee for this trip.

E-mail Lisa Bailey at baileyL@upenn.edu or call at (215)247-5777 ext. 157 to reserve a spot in the van.

Volunteer Trip

JUNE 26 | 9am departure

- Jody Sprague, *Guide*

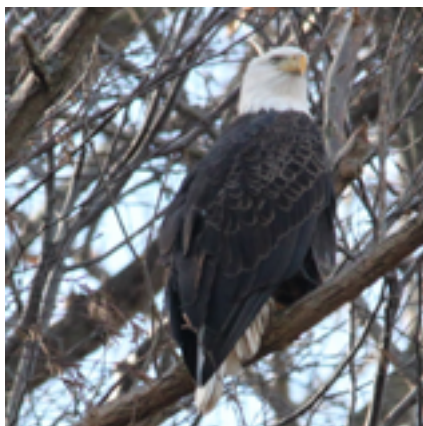
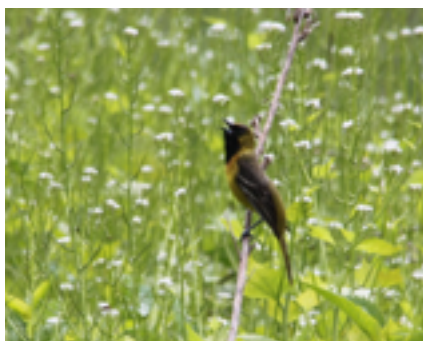
around the arboretum

birding with ruth

In May and June, the Wetlands comes alive with the singing of our nesting species: eastern kingbirds, red-winged blackbirds, warbling vireos, and yellow warblers. This year we have a new nesting species. It is the blue-gray gnatcatcher. It is about 4 ½ inches in size and feeds on little insects while flitting continuously in the treetops or the low vegetation. Yes, the color is blue and gray. The pair of gnatcatchers build their nest together. The materials they use are dried grasses and spider webs. The outside of the nest consists of layers of lichens which surrounds their little nesting cup.



There are two kinds of orioles present in the Wetlands: the Baltimore and the orchard. The male orchard oriole in his first year looks very much like the female except for the black throat. He has been singing his beautiful love song since the middle of May. The second year male has a black hood and deep burnt orange breast. Both orioles build a hanging basket nest that is woven out of dried grasses. Spotting the nest can be quite fun. If you spot a nest, please do not linger for any length of time. These birds are very busy and really have a short time to accomplish their task of breeding.



There is very big news to report about the bald eagles that are seen frequently flying over the Wetlands and also have been seen daily at the Valley Green Inn along the creek. There are a pair of bald eagles nesting just a short distance away from the Arboretum. Only a short time ago this majestic bird was on the Endangered Species list for Pennsylvania. It has since been removed. Two eaglets have been observed in their nest. The bald eagle takes 5 years to reach maturity. The young birds do not have the white feathers on their heads and tails until that time.

Please enjoy the Wetlands and the life that is going on there each day. There will be many little fledglings soon and you will hear different sounds as they are urging their parents to feed them.

Enjoy!

- Ruth Pfeffer, *Birder*

All Images: Ruth Pfeffer

around the arboretum

continuing education opportunities

Saturday, June 8 | 8 – 11 a.m.

Birding at Peace Valley Nature Center

Beginning and experienced birders are welcome on a birding adventure to Peace Valley Nature Center in nearby Doylestown. A great place to go birding, Peace Valley has as its centerpiece beautiful Lake Galena and offers trails that wind through varied habitats including woods and meadows. (Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

Saturday, June 15 | 10 a.m. – 12 noon

Introduction to Canning

Canning is a great way to preserve food you harvest from your garden or buy at the local market. Philadelphia-based canning teacher, blogger, and cookbook author Marisa McClellan will walk you through the basics of boiling water bath canning. (Volunteer Price: \$30)

Saturday, June 15 | 10a.m. - 3p.m.

Wild Urban Plants of the Northeast

Join us for this plant hunting adventure with horticulturist Ken LeRoy to see some of the plants that spontaneously grow in urban and suburban areas. Our exploration will take us along the Schuylkill River Trail in Norristown. This recreational path starts in Center City Philadelphia, runs along the Schuylkill River, and winds through Conshohocken and Norristown. (Volunteer Price: \$45)

To learn more and to register for these great opportunities, call (215) 247-5777 ext. 125 or click on the course title to be taken to the online registration portal.



Image: Deborah Glass

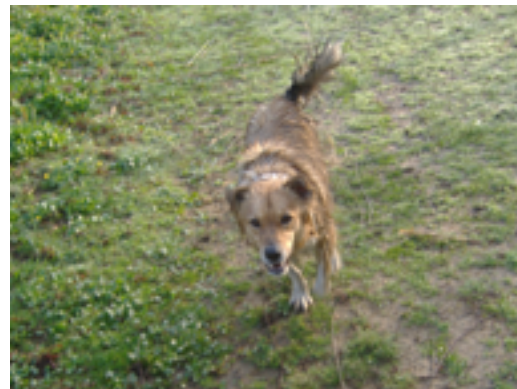
around the arboretum

chasing the geese with gulliver

How does the Arboretum control its geese population? Here are some insights from one of the Arboretum's geese chasers, Lisa Backe, and her faithful partner, Gully.

1. What do you and Gully do at Morris? Do you have a strategy for chasing geese?

Basically we try to create an inhospitable environment for gathering and nesting. We show up regularly and irregularly, so they can't get comfortable. We try to identify where they are coming from and congregating and drive them back. There are always more, but it helps considerably,



2. How did you come to find Gully? When did you start working at Morris?

I found Gully on Petfinder while I was still in Corporate, and adopted him from a rescue group called Paws of Tomorrow to be my hiking buddy and companion. I wanted a dog that would go anywhere, hence Gulliver, which he confirmed by falling asleep in the shotgun seat on the way home. He's been there pretty much ever since.



3. Can you explain what is so detrimental about geese being in the Wetlands or any body of water? Why are ducks not also a target?

Geese are big, and their droppings are too. The average adult resident Canada goose drops one to two pounds of waste a day. They are also prolific reproducers who molt and get grounded with their young for nearly two months of the summer, grazing down young grass, contributing to erosion and the pollution/suffocation of water features with their waste. Ducks drop less, are less aggressive and territorial, and don't congregate in as large and stationary groups. They also eat more aquatic vegetation, so erosion is less of an issue.

All Images: Lisa Backe

5. What is your favorite thing about chasing geese at Morris?

I love my dog and I love Morris, working there with him to keep it beautiful and diverse makes us both happy.



education

welcome the new guides!



Image: Liza Hawley

Left to Right: Clive Latham, Jim Kohler, Nancy Kolkebeck, Ed Matakas, Joan Sax, Beth Johl, Terry Cinque, Jim Diamond

discovery series

The Education Department is looking for Discovery Series Volunteers to engage with families for hands-on fun. **We need four volunteers to take on (2) two hour shifts on the first Saturday of every month beginning in April and ending in October. All activities will take place on *Out on a Limb* from 11am to 3pm.** Please sign up on the Education Google calendar, or call Tiffany Stahl at (215) 247-5557 ext. 127 to volunteer.

Saturday, July 6, 2013

Discover Fireflies

Visit the Discovery Table and learn all about fireflies. Explore fun facts about these insects of summer, and learn all about what makes them glow! Read the book, *The Very Lonely Firefly*, and make your very own firefly craft to take home.

Saturday, August 3, 2013

Clever Camouflage

How do insects protect themselves? How do they hide from predators? Discover how and why these very important adaptations help insects hide from predators and catch their prey. Kids will also create their very own walking stick craft to take home.

volunteer news

volunteer snapshots



Call for Short-term Volunteers:

Readers and transcribers are needed in Gates Hall Library to tackle about twenty Bloomfield Farm diaries written between 1911 and 1928. Please email at leslm@upenn.edu or leave a message at ext. 175. Orientation and guidelines for the transcribers will take place mid-month in June, July and August.

- Leslie Morris-Smith, *Archivist*

for fun

Got Sunburn? A Natural Tea Remedy

Ingredients:

2 bags of black tea

Calming essential oil (like lavender or peppermint) OR fresh mint leaves
OR bag of mint tea (optional)

Brew some black tea just below boiling point. If using fresh mint, rub the leaves between your fingers to release the essential oils. Add the mint (or essential oils) and tea to the hot water and steep for 20 minutes. Use a soft washcloth or cotton balls to apply the tea directly to skin. Let dry and moisturize. The sooner you do this, the better and more quickly you will heal!

- Tiffany Cheng, Education Assistant



Image: Tiffany Cheng

Thank You for Special Service

I'd like to give a big Thank You! to Jody Sprague, Mary Ann Smith and Barb Murray for agreeing to lead the guides for the next 2 years. I also want to thank Genie Esser and Gert Pottichen for agreeing to be the new Chairs of the Day on Wednesday and Friday.

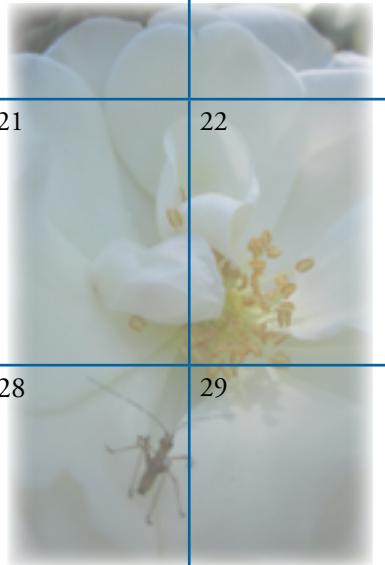
- Liza Hawley



upcoming events

June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Garden Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
2 Philadelphia Rose Society Rose Show 1 -4pm <i>Widener Area</i>	3	4 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	5 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Vince)	6	7 Moonlight & Roses Gala 6:00pm <i>Rose Garden</i>	8
9	10	11	12 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Tracy)	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Iana)	20 WRTI Jazz Concert & Summer Solstice Salsa 5:30pm	21	22
23 Bloomfield Farm Open House 12 - 3pm <i>Bloomfield Farm</i>	24	25 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	26 Volunteer Trip to Chanticleer Leave at 9am (Kiosk) Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Louise)	27	28	29



Weekly Volunteer Events


Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2 - 3pm

First and Third Saturdays: Native Trees Tour 11am - 12pm

Second Saturday of the month: Mill Volunteer Workdays 10am

upcoming events

July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	3 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Kate)	4	5	6 Garden Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
7	8	9	10 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Lucy)	11 Commonwealth Classic Theatre: William Shakespeare Abridged (Azalea Meadow) 6:30 - 8:00pm	12	13 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Weekend 7pm
14 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Weekend 7pm	15	16	17 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Tracy)	18	19	20
21	22	23 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	24 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Vince)	25	26	27
28	29	30	31 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Iana)			

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