

VOLUNTEER

MARCH 2013



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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Questions, comments, and submissions can be
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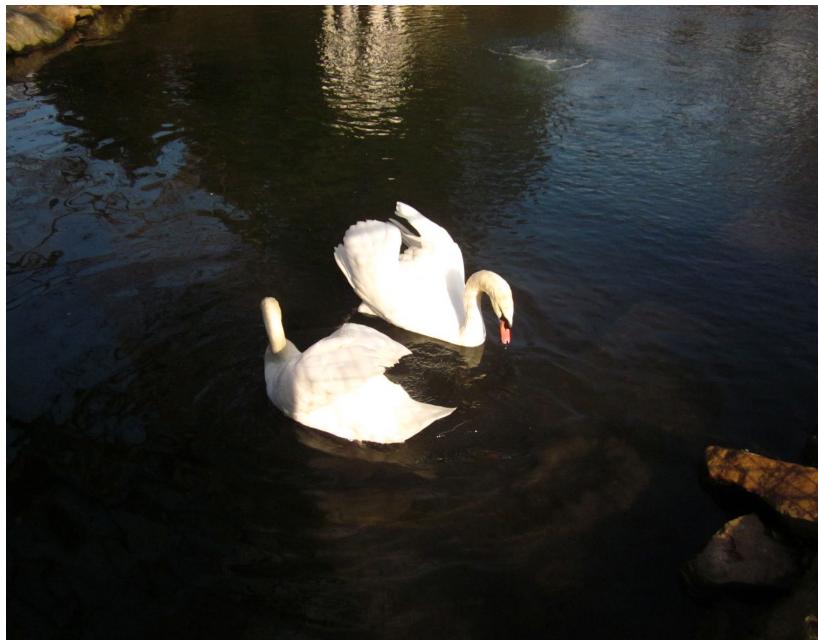
Front Cover: *Helleborus 'Pink Lady'*

Photos throughout: Sarah Bolivar unless otherwise stated



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Letter from the Editor March 2013

There are lots of flowers blooming right now though they may be small, like *Galanthus*, or hiding their petals, like *Helleborus*. Can you spot them all? As always, there are exciting lectures and events coming up. Oh yes, and it's that time of year: intern project presentations. Show your support! Also, don't forget to check out volunteer opportunities with Arbor Week, Discovery Series, and the Rose Garden. There is so much to choose from! And if you play your cards right, you may be one of the lucky few that ends up at Eastern State Penitentiary (more details in this issue).

Sincerely,

Sarah Bolivar

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*

Intern Trip Corner

Various departments within the Academy of Natural Sciences recently gave a “behind-the-scenes” tour to the interns. We were able to take a look at some beautiful grasshoppers the size of an adult palm through the Entomology Department; view specimens collected from the Lewis and Clark expedition through the Botany Department; as well as meet and converse with scientists through the Patrick Center for Environmental Research.



notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

The bugs are coming! The bugs are coming! The Big Bugs, that is. Maybe it's time we thought about little bugs and how flowering plants seduce them into pollinating. One of the most potent tools of sexual seduction is scent. This technique, used by humans today, was developed by plants at least 100 million years ago. Floral fragrance is a kind of olfactory attractor. Without their pollinators, many plant species cannot set seed and reproduce. Every plant has its own signature scent. Some 1,700 different compounds from 990 different plants have been identified so far. Pollinators are really picky about these floral scents. Native bees prefer a sweet fragrance. Moths prefer wild flowers like evening primroses, which release their perfume at night. The Datura flower, *Datura wrightii*, not only gives off a sweet scent, but keeps the insect inside its large flower by producing narcotic nectar. And you thought plants were innocent. Beetles are virtually colorblind, but have a great sense of smell and like fruity, spicy odors. Flies, on the other hand, like flowers that emit the essence of carrion or dung and look like lumps of rotting flesh. Most butterflies don't have good olfactory senses so the plants that they pollinate don't waste any energy emitting fragrances. Habitat loss and pesticides are now disrupting this reproductive duet. What can we humans do to help? Obviously, don't use pesticides. Plant dense groups of plants in drifts of 3 - 5 to make it worthwhile for pollinators. Plant in an enclosed space so that the wind doesn't take the scent away. Design your garden so that there is constant bloom to provide nonstop food sources for hungry pollinators. It goes without saying, plant native plants. Our flowers and their pollinators need all the help they can get.

(*National Wildlife*, June/July 2010)

See You in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, Chair of the Guides



Hamamelis x intermedia 'Rubin'

events and lectures

A close-up, abstract photograph of plant life, featuring soft-focus green and yellow leaves and stems.

Sunday, March 17 | 1:00 - 3:00pm | Upper Gallery

Deep in the Weeds Opening Reception

Rob Cardillo, Photographer

Like people, plants are prone to mingling. Reaching for the sun, embracing tendrils, crossing stems, they're woven into tapestries of shifting textures and colors. In roadside weed patches, native plant communities and even well-tended garden beds, Rob Cardillo has framed nuanced gestures between twig and leaf, petal and pod, creating layered images with a photosynthetic pulse. Through his lens, we see abstract beauty in the interplay of shapes, color and light, yet the images remain fully grounded and invite us to commune with nature's silent social network. To see more of Rob Cardillo's work, visit www.robcardillo.com.

Sunday, March 24 | 2pm | Upper Gallery

A Botanist in a Botanic Garden: Field and Laboratory Adventures

Barnes Endowed Lecture

Dr. Susan Pell, Director of Science, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

People often marvel at the idea of scientists working at public gardens and arboreta. Why are they there? What are they doing? Come on a botanical journey around the globe and through the lab as I show you some of the research I have conducted at two gardens in New York City. As a laboratory manager at The New York Botanical Garden and Director of Science at Brooklyn Botanic Garden, I have had numerous opportunities to participate in international field expeditions and to conduct molecular research on a diversity of topics from cashews to lilacs. In this lecture, I will share some stories from my adventures and talk about the role of botany in public gardens.



events and lectures

2012 - 2013 intern project presentations

Tuesday, March 5

The Philly Bee's Stake in Pollination: The Bees of Philadelphia

Stephanie Wilson, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*

Tuesday, March 12

Fernery Website Update

Steve Pyne, *The Martha J. Wallace Plant Endowed Propagation Intern*

Thursday, March 14

Reading the Cookie: Tree Anatomy, Physiology, and Wood Decay

Fabrice Rochele magne, *The Walter W. Root Endowed Arboriculture Intern*

Tuesday, March 19

Composting Program at Morris Arboretum

Jamie Berlin, *The Alice & J. Liddon Pennock, Jr. Endowed Horticulture Intern*

All presentations take place from 12:30 - 1:30pm in the Upper Gallery.

Thursday, March 21

Resource Management and Stewardship Plan for Harriet Wetherill Park

Rebekah Armstrong, *The Martha S. Miller Endowed Urban Forestry Intern*

Tuesday, March 26

More Kids in the Woods: The Morris Arboretum as Outdoor Laboratory

Sarah Bolivar, *The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

Thursday, March 28

The Michaux Quercetum: A Comprehensive History and Status Assessment

Jessa Finch, *The Hay Honey Farm Endowed Natural Areas Intern*

Tuesday, April 2

Revitalization of the Pollination Garden Area

Heather Schmidt, *The Charles S. Holman Endowed Rose and Flower Garden Intern*

Thursday, April 4

A Similarity Comparison of Extant Vegetation to the Soil Seed Bank in the Natural Lands Section of the Morris Arboretum

Emma Williams, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

around the arboretum

continuing education opportunities

Saturday, March 2 | 1 - 3 p.m.

An Inside Look at the Witchhazel Collection

Anthony S. Aiello

The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture and Curator, Morris Arboretum

Join us as we tour the Arboretum's outstanding collection of witchhazels with Curator Tony Aiello.

(Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

Saturday, March 16 | 10 a.m. – 12 noon

American Idols: Native Plants to Love

Catherine Renzi

Owner, Yellow Springs Farm Native Plant Nursery

Are you curious about native plants? In this class you will have the chance to learn about great native plants.

(Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

Thursday, March 21 | 7 – 8:30 p.m.

Creating Stunning English Gardens with Yankee Practicality

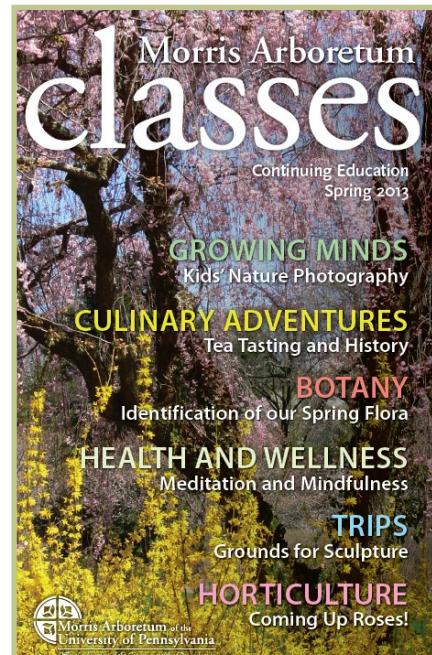
Kerry Mendez

Garden Designer and Owner of Perennially Yours

Learn great design tips and plant combinations from the gardens of Adrian Bloom, an award-winning garden designer and author from Dis, England. The lecture focuses on perennials, shrubs, bulbs, grasses, conifers, and annuals hardy for the Northeast, as well as design concepts you can use in your garden.

(Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

To learn more and to register for these great opportunities, call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125.



Friday, March 22 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Three Seasons of Outrageous Color from Perennials

Kerry Mendez

Garden Designer and Owner of Perennially Yours

Discover spectacular perennials for sun and shade that will brighten your landscape from spring through fall. Many newer varieties will be featured. As one perennial stops blooming, it 'passes the baton' to the next 'winner'. Helpful garden care tips and shortcuts to maximize color and reduce maintenance will also be covered.

(Volunteer Price: \$12.50)

education

volunteer opportunities galore

Share your love for trees with children during the Arbor Week Program. The Arboretum will host two sessions each day. **Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling planting, a roots exhibit, and Tree Trivia game show. Please sign up by March 20th!**

Arbor Week Schedule

Monday, April 22th - Friday, April 26th
10:00-11:15am and 11:30am-12:45pm each day.

Sign up on the Google calendar or email Lisa Bailey at baileyl@upenn.edu. Call Lisa at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 if you have questions.

Visitor Education Volunteer Guiding Sign Ups

You should have received the spring guiding form in your mailbox. Please fill out the form with your guiding preferences and send it by snail mail or email to Lisa Bailey (baileyl@upenn.edu) by March 20th. Please contact Lisa at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 if you have any questions.

education

discovery series - spring is a coming!

Education 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.** Please sign up on the education calendar, or call Tiffany Stahl at (215) 247-5557 ext. 127 with a specific date that works for you. All activities will be set up on *Out on a Limb* from 11am to 3pm.

Here's April's line-up of fun:

Saturday, April 6, 2012

11am to 3pm

Spiders, true bugs, and beetles may be all classified as arthropods, but are they all the same? Come to the Discovery table and learn about the similarities and differences between many of the minibeasts that roam the planet. Visitors will make their own paper plate lady bird beetle or a lollipop spider to take home!



big bugs tour prep for guides

In preparation for the school and camp tours we anticipate coming for Big Bugs, on Tuesday, April 2 at 10 we'll have a training session for big bugs' tours. There are 3 for different age levels, but they are very similar and a lot of fun. You'll learn the bee waggle dance and how to walk like an insect! There are a couple of models to help kids learn the difference between spiders and insects and some fun facts that are easy to remember (a quintillion insects roam the earth!).



Images: Arboretum Staff

volunteer news

volunteers hauled off to eastern state penitentiary!

If you have not heard the news, 25 lucky volunteers are being hauled off to the Eastern State Penitentiary for a tour on Tuesday, April 9, at 10am. Sign up now to explore Eastern State's incredible architecture, hear true escape stories, and even bear witness to Al Capone's cell (if you dare). We depart from the Kiosk at 9am. There is no trip fee. Lunch is available in nearby restaurants.

Here are some other fun facts:

From the website:

"On the long terraces that flank the front of the Eastern State Penitentiary, a wonderful border of woody shrubs, ornamental grasses and perennials thrives. This intriguing garden is truly an urban gem and is primarily maintained by volunteer efforts, all 8,000 square feet of it!"

From Historical Society of PA collections
(researched by Lisa Bailey):

John and Lydia Morris' mother's uncle, George Thompson, was warden of Eastern State Penitentiary from 1839 - 1850!



Image: Visitphilly.com

To register, please e-mail Lisa Bailey at [bailey@upenn.edu](mailto.bailey@upenn.edu) or call at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157.

meet david rogers, big bugs sculptor

The Arboretum is capturing David Rogers's Big Bug sculptures again this spring. During the last week of March, the sculptor of these magnificent creatures will put them together on site. **After all the work is done, he's agreed to speak to the volunteers on Thursday, March 28, at 10am about the logistics, materials and his production process.** Weather permitting, we'll take a walk and see as many bugs as possible that day!

- Liza Hawley, *Visitor Education Coordinator*



Image: Arboretum Staff

volunteer news

the return of our feathered friends

March is a very active time for our feathered friends at the Wetland. The Eastern Bluebirds begin nesting in March and April, where the male bluebird can be heard singing throughout the day. They sing to let other males know that they are setting up a territory and they sing to attract females. The boxes that are located at the Wetland and at Bloomfield Farm have aided the bluebirds' survival. They dropped in numbers many years ago due to the introduction of the European Starling and the English Sparrow. The male picks the box and then invites the female inside. She then gets to approve of his choice. What teamwork!

The Arboretum is going to conduct its very first Monitoring Bluebird Box Project this year. When you are out with your groups, you may see a team of monitors. They will have name tags on and will be carrying supplies to aid them with the project. Please feel free to ask them about this very important activity.

Another species to look for this month are the Red-winged Blackbirds. They are returning from their southern winter grounds as far south as Mexico.

The males will return first and begin singing "Honk-ereee." The females will return by the end of March. The males begin looking for a suitable nesting site among the reeds at the Wetland. While strolling through in the next few weeks, you may see 4 or 5 males showing off their Epaulettes to each other as if to say that "I am the most handsome male here." Those shoulder patches look like they are made of velvet.

The Red-wings are present at the Wetland throughout the spring and summer. They make a loosely woven nest of grasses somewhat tucked in among the reeds about 3 or 4 feet above the water.

The migration of ducks begins in late February into March. You will see the Wood Ducks return. There are boxes at the Wetland for them to use. The Wood Duck, like the bluebird, is a cavity nester. You may also see a Green-wing Teal stop in on their way north. This is a puddle duck (does not dive for food) and enjoys aquatic plants and small fish.

I hope you get to enjoy observing our feathered friends who seem to be very content on their return to the Arboretum.

- Ruth Pfeffer, *Birding Guide*



Image: Susan Marshall



Image: Ruth Pfeffer



Image: Ruth Pfeffer

volunteer news

archives on the front page

The Arboretum gained new attention last month after it was mentioned in a blog post from the Pennsylvania Historical Society. The subject was not the trees, flowers, or many other attractions here. It was the Arboretum's archives.

Project consultants from the society visited the History and Archives staff to evaluate the conservation and cataloguing of the photographs and unpublished documents by the archives volunteers. The society is assessing archival holdings at small historical collections in the county. The intent is to help raise the profiles of little-known collections among researchers and scholars in the region, the nation, and around the globe. By guiding the Arboretum's Archives Department and similar institutions to use universal standards of conservation and classification, the project team will help make the collections more accessible to a wider research audience.

The experts also will assess the relative importance of the original documents at the Arboretum to guide researchers. Correspondence with President Dwight D. Eisenhower about boxwood shrubs at his Gettysburg farm, for instance, might be of regional interest; detailed ledgers showing purchases of seeds and equipment for the Morris estate would likely be of quite local interest.

The blog says the story of the Arboretum's "transformation from private estate to educational institution and public garden is a fascinating one told through sizeable archival holdings." It describes those holdings and provides a link to the Arboretum's digital image collection: <http://morrisarboretum.pastperfect-online.com>. The original post can be found [here](#).

on exhibition

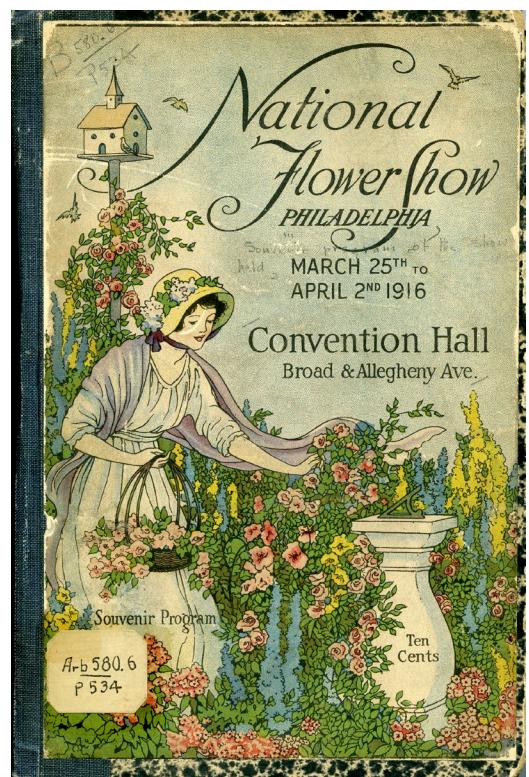


Image: Archives - Property of John Morris

- Herb Kestenbaum, *Horticulture Volunteer*



Terry Foss is an Archives and History volunteer who has digitized the Arboretum's historic photos, negatives, and slides. He has spent many hours scanning and enhancing hundreds of historic photos. But his expertise with photographs is not limited to the work of others. He takes photos, too – really good ones. You can see some of them on display at the Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley where his wife, talented artist Roberta Foss, is exhibiting her paintings. The exhibit, which continues through March 31, is on the top floor corridor at Wesley Enhanced Living at Stapeley, 6300 Green St.

volunteer news

rose garden working party

Volunteers are needed in the Rose Garden and the rock wall, cottage garden, herb garden, meadow garden, hardy fern garden and stumpery, and sculpture garden. The group will work alongside Lucy Dinsmore, the Rose Garden Horticulturist, to tackle a number of seasonal maintenance projects. These physical tasks include weeding, mulching, pruning, planting, deadheading, and more. We'll meet the first and third Saturday mornings of the month from April through December.



Image: Arboretum Staff

An informational orientation and walk-through of the garden is scheduled for Saturday, March 23rd, from 9 – 11am. All subsequent volunteer work days will occur on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month, 9am – noon, starting April 6th. Space is limited. If you are interested, please contact Pam Olshefski for an application at pamela@upenn.edu or (215) 247-5777 ext.188.

Thank-You Notes For Special Service

Bill Barnes, Thank you for coming in all day and grafting so many plants for us. We couldn't do it without you! Nyssa, various Japanese maples, and witchhazels are now in the propagation room!

- Shelley Dillard and Steve Pyne

Thanks to Ethel Baker and Elaine Bell for braving the cold winter winds to help with "Witchhazel is Your Favorite?"

- Michelle Connors

I'd like to thank the handful of guides who let me use them to test our background check process. Laura Axel, Mary Pat Boyle (who really tested the system!), Larry Godley, Mary Ann Smith, Marcia Steinberg, and our newest volunteer, Terry Cinque, found out how long it takes to go through the process and discovered that you actually can write your name using your mouse! Thank you all.

- Liza Hawley



for fun

recipe best served by fire

Winter Spiced Tisane (for 2)

The spices in this infusion are known for their healing properties. They have anti-inflammatory effects, aid in respiratory health, and promote circulation, thereby warming the body in winter. Brew a cup or two to protect from colds, coughs, aching joints and other winter woes.

4 cups water
1-inch piece of fresh ginger, sliced
2 star anise
1 stick cinnamon
4 whole cloves
4 cardamom pods
2 teaspoons honey
Milk to taste

Heat water in a saucepan with spices. Cover and simmer for about 10 minutes. Strain the liquid into two large mugs, and add honey and milk as desired. Enjoy!

- Lucy Dinsmore, *Rose Garden Horticulturist*



Image: Devitea.com



Image: Water Droplet

Do you have recipes that take advantage of certain plant properties? Please share with us by e-mailing Sarah at sbolivar@upenn.edu.

upcoming events

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30am
3	4	5 Plant Protection Intern Project Presentation Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm McLean Room	6 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Iana)	7	8	9 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30am
10	11	12 Plant Propagation Intern Project Presentation	13 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Vince)	14 Arborist Intern Project Presentation	15	16 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30am
17	18	19 Horticulture Intern Project Presentation	20 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Tracy)	21 Urban Forestry Intern Project Presentation	22	23 Winter Wellness Walks 10:30 - 11:30am Rose Garden Working Party (registration required) 9 - 11am
24 Barnes Endowed Lecture 2:00pm Upper Gallery	25	26 Education Intern Project Presentation Edu. Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm McLean Room	27 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Louise)	28 Meet David Rogers 10am Natural Lands Intern Project Presentation	29	30 31

Weekly Volunteer Events

Select Tuesdays and Thursdays: Intern Project Presentation 12:30 - 1:30pm in Upper Gallery

Saturdays and Sundays: Regular Tour 2 - 3pm

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

Second Saturday of the month: Mill Volunteer Workdays 10:00am

upcoming events

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Rose and Flower Garden Intern Project Presentation	3 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Lucy)	4 Flora of PA Intern Project Presentation Philadelphia Rose Society Meeting 7:30 - 9:30pm	5	6 Garden Discovery Series 11am - 3pm Big Bugs Grand Opening 11am - 2pm
7	8	9 Volunteer Trip 10am Guides Council Meeting 1:30 - 3:00pm <i>McLean Room</i>	10 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Iana)	11	12	13 Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
14	15	16	17 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Vince)	18	19	20 Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival
21	22 Bugs a-Brewing (Off-site Event at Iron Hill Brewery) 6:30 - 8pm	23	24 Hort. Volunteer Work Party (Tracy)	25	26	27 Arbor Day Family Day 11am - 3pm
28	29	30 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 - 3pm <i>McLean Room</i>	ARBOR WEEK			

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