

# VOLUNTEER

June 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 people, plants 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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Photos this page: Arnold Winkler



## Letter From the Editor June 2012

It is unbelievable that my year here is already coming to an end. Working with all of you has been a joy! I have a tremendous amount of respect for the work all of our volunteers do for the arboretum. Your dedication is admirable and inspiring! Thanks for a great year!

- Ariel Dreyfus,  
*The McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



The interns had a fabulous trip to the New York Botanical Gardens this month. During our visit we learned about their long history and extensive education programs. Though we were there all day, we only saw a fraction of the 250 acres of beautiful gardens. Deanna Curtis, a former Morris intern, was gracious enough to show us as much as we could see, including the beautifully restored Azalea Garden. In the conservatory, we were able to catch a glimpse of the new exhibit, Monet's Garden. The color and texture of the elaborate displays reflect that of the garden that inspired Claude Monet's stunning paintings. This exhibit will be up until October; I encourage any art or garden enthusiast to check it out!

## Memorial to Reg Tickell

The Garden Railway opened for the summer on Memorial Day Weekend, the start of its 15th year at the Morris Arboretum. On the way to reaching this milestone, the railway has grown into an increasingly complex operation, and one of the main attractions at the Arboretum. A group of dedicated volunteers shepherded the trains through this transition, but the technical demands of a big operation (there are now 16 train lines) kept growing, and new equipment became a major need.

Today, that equipment is in place, thanks to a project dedicated to the memory of a long-time train volunteer, Reg Tickell. Reg, born in England and trained as an electrical engineer, enjoyed his Sunday-morning stints at the train site. He welcomed visitors, handed out brochures, answered questions, oversaw the other volunteers on duty on those busy days, and was the problem-solver.

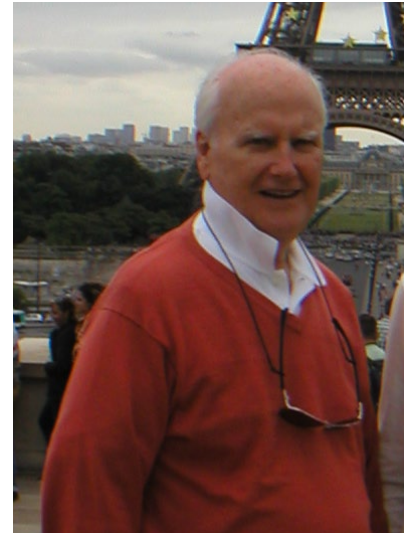
He had done other volunteer work at the Arboretum with his wife, Beryl. After she died, in 1999, Reg moved to Foulkeways, the retirement community in Gwynedd. There, he met another Arboretum volunteer, Jean Lamason. She re-

called that Reg, looking for new adventures, asked Paul Meyer for advice about other opportunities. Paul suggested that, with his background, Reg might like working at the railway. Reg tried it, and he was smitten.

Jean suggested that Reg, a passionate fan of car racing, found something appealing about the trains, which function in a much more measured way. Plus, she said, he liked fixing things. And by many accounts, he did a lot of that.

Reg died in July of last year. The memorial to him probably would have delighted him. It's a new train box, the elevated rectangular structure tucked into the center of the site, near the overhead train bridge that crosses the main path. The old one was too small to accommodate the necessary electrical equipment, which also needed to be replaced.

Donors to the memorial fund, including Reg's friends and fellow volunteers, contributed money that paid for the purchase of new, bigger transformers that convert power to 15 amps, new controls for the trains, and new wiring. The volunteers also devoted hundreds of hours of time installing



Reg Tickell

the equipment and building the new, larger train box. It has a specially treated plywood exterior and an extra (fourth) shelf, is 18 inches taller and six inches wider than the old one, and much deeper.

Jean Lamason was one of the first train volunteers and remains devoted to working there. Bruce Morrell and Jack Proud contributed huge amounts of time to the project. They were assisted by Bob Weber, Nathaniel Schwartz and Sharon Hummel.

A plaque with Reg's name on it is affixed to the new train box; for the rest of this season, a picture of Reg will be there as well.

-Herb Kestenbaum,  
*Horticulture Volunteer*



## notes from the guides chair

Hi All!

Except for a few weeks, this seemed to be the year without a winter. Bulbs bloomed two to four weeks ahead of schedule. Trees and shrubs gave us an early display of color. It might seem churlish to complain about this, but an early run of warm weather is not without a downside. Memorial Day used to be the cut off for the last frost in our area. As I write this in mid - May, we still theoretically have two more weeks to worry about. Damaged blossoms will produce many fewer seeds. With no acorns to eat, squirrels will start to dig up and eat our spring bulbs. Has anyone notified the pollinating insects about our early spring? How much fruit will we have in the fall?



Then there is the important question of climate change. The Agriculture Department has issued a new national map showing plant hardiness zones, its first since 1990. It showed clear signs of a heating up of our atmosphere. This winter may have been rare but we can expect more winters like this in the future. A good hard winter gives a garden time to rest. If warm winters become the new norm, we need to think hard about how we use and protect plants. You can explore the new Plant Hardiness Zone Map and all its online functions by visiting <http://planthardiness.ars.usda.gov/PHZMWeb/>.

Apropos of the season:

“We can complain because rose bushes have thorns or rejoice because thorn bushes have roses”  
-Abraham Lincoln

See you in the Garden!

Marcia Steinberg, *Chair of the Guides*

## Volunteer Opportunity

Lunch & Learn!

All volunteers are welcome to join us on June 14th for a fascinating afternoon! First we will hear a presentation from our fellow volunteer, Drew Ells, about his carnivorous plant collection. Bring a lunch and learn about these unique plants at 11am. Then we will visit what is regarded as the oldest rose garden in America, Wyck Historic House, Gardens & Farm in Germantown at 12:30pm. These are two great learning opportunities you won't want to miss. Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu) or ext. 157.

## around the arboretum

### Take A Look, and A Seat!

Here are some highlights from our *Take a Seat! Adirondack Chairs Re-Interpreted* exhibit, a collaboration with Woodmere Art Museum. These chairs are scattered around the garden and will be up through September 3rd. Come by and check them out!



Murrie Gayman,  
*Tropical AdironDeco*



Margie Thompson, SSJ,  
*Chestnut Hill College Through the Trees*



Kathrine Abbott & Christel Hoffmann,  
*By Land or By Sea, Revere Nature!*

## Annual Meeting of the Advisory Board of Managers

June 13th at 9 a.m.

Arboretum volunteers are invited to the Annual Meeting of the Advisory Board of Managers on Wednesday, June 13th at 9:00 a.m. at the Widener Center tent. Highlights of the meeting will include the announcement of new Board members and officers, and a year-end report by Paul Meyer, the F. Otto Haas Executive Director. Light refreshments will be served.

Kindly register by June 8th at 215-247-5777 x 170 or online at <http://online.morrisarboretum.org/annualmeeting>



## education news

### Wetlands Workshop

June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am

Guides! Our wetlands tour is in high demand for this fall, and since there are many of you who have still not given it, we are hosting a workshop to get everyone more comfortable with leading this great tour. Come learn more about the wetlands and the nuts and bolts of this tour. If you

are at all hesitant about your ability to lead a wetlands tour, please attend and we will provide you with the knowledge to do so! Fellow guide Rick Stover will be leading this workshop on Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am, down in the wetlands. No need to RSVP, see you there!

-Lisa Bailey, *Education Assistant*



Photo: Paul Meyer

## Nature Haiku's

After a tour at the Arboretum, some students from Mercy Vocational High School were inspired to write these lovely Haiku poems. We enjoy their creativity and thank them for sharing!

*the laceback pine tree  
it was camouflaged in colors  
what a catching sight*

*high up in the trees  
held by the hands of a net  
here, i'm supported*

## horticulture news

### Horticulture Committee Meeting Notes

May 21, 2012

New members of the Horticulture committee were introduced.

#### Horticulture Department update – Tony Aiello

- Plant Sale was successful with good sales in all categories and fewer left over plants after the sale.
- Horticulture staff is very busy with cleaning up after the plant sale and preparation for Moonlight and Roses with four weeks between these events.
- Tony Aiello published an article in the Arnold Arboretum's journal *Arnoldia* on the history and care of Japanese flowering cherry trees.
- Justin Jackson, our Rosarian, has resigned and is leaving in July to pursue a Master Degree in Landscape Architecture at Harvard University.

#### Rose Garden Perimeter Design – Alan Summers

- Proposed plan shows new entrance gates at the top and bottom of the garden with folding panels, which will run on tracks and fold back for better visibility. Perimeter fencing would be placed between the existing plants which would be less intrusive. At the lower part of the garden a low stone retaining wall will be constructed from the Summer House parallel to the existing balustrade with the gates and fencing above the fence. There was discussion regarding various fencing materials to be used and the best options for screening the utilities and catering area. The conceptual plans have been completed.

#### Widener Center Renovations – Tony Aiello and Bob Anderson

In order to accommodate increased visitation, feasibility studies have been completed and cost estimates are being developed for proposed renovations to the Widener Center.



- Update and change in location of the air conditioning units, present location is very noisy for guests using the terrace in summer.
- Restroom facilities: present facilities are inadequate and temporary trailer is expensive to maintain on a continuing basis.
- Catering kitchen is inadequate for larger parties; needs to be modernized and expanded.
- Entrance needs to be expanded and made wheelchair accessible with larger entry plaza to accommodate more people.

-Larry Godley, *Volunteer Liaison*



## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm <i>McLean Room</i>	6	7	8	9 Mill Volunteers Work Day
10	11	12	13	14 Volunteer Trip to Wyck 12:30 pm	15	16
17	18	19 Wetlands Tour Workshop 9 am <i>Wetlands</i>	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm <i>McLean Room</i>	27	28	29	30

**Weekly Volunteer Events:**

Wednesdays: Horticulture Volunteers: 8:30 am- 12:00 pm

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

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

Saturdays and Sundays: Welcome Cart 11:00 am- 3:00 pm

## July

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

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