

# VOLUNTEER

May 2014



**Morris Arboretum**  
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 an 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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Photos: Stephanie Kuniholm, unless otherwise stated



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## Letter from the Editor

Sandwiched between the cold of winter, and the heat of summer, I have been enjoying these few weeks of absolute seasonal perfection. I've been strolling around the Arboretum with my camera more often than usual noticing and appreciating the vibrant colors- pinks, purples, yellows, and endless green. Won't you join me this season in noticing and watching the transformations happening all around us?

Sincerely,  
Stephanie Kuniholm  
*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*



## You are cordially invited to our annual volunteer recognition event, Twilight & Peonies

Featuring a delicious potluck dinner, awards, and a plant exchange\*. Please sign up to bring a dish to share on the Google calendar or contact Stephanie Kuniholm at 215-247-5777 ext. 159 or [kuniholm@upenn.edu](mailto:kuniholm@upenn.edu)

\*Bring a plant from your garden, label it, give growing requirements and place on table at back of tent. Then choose another plant to take home with you at the end of the evening.

June 3, 6-8 pm  
In Widener Tent





# Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

I have often said my husband and I have the best of all worlds: a friend with a pool, a friend with a boat and now friends from the UK with a house in Italy. Last October we were going to the UK for a trip and our friends invited us to spend a week-end with them at their home in Italy. Of course, we jumped at the chance. It was great seeing them and life in the nearby small farming communities.

After returning to England, other friends arranged a day of sight-seeing for us. First we went to Bodiam Castle, built in 1385 by Sir Edward Dallingridge, a soldier of fortune. Next, we set off for Great Dixter. I have read about Great Dixter and Christopher Lloyd for years. Great Dixter was the family home of the Lloyd family purchased in May of 1910 for the sum of 6,000 pounds. Nathaniel Lloyd, Christopher's father, immediately hired Edwin Lutyens, a young well-known architect for the restoration and enlargement of the house. Lutyens was sympathetic to traditional building traditions and the use of local materials. The medieval features of the Great Hall were restored to their original 15th or early 16th century state. The Great Hall is the largest surviving timber-framed hall in the country.

Of course, the house was fascinating, but the gardens were exuberant! Christopher Lloyd and his lead gardener, Fergus Garrett decided several years ago to remove the rose garden, replanting it with tropicals including the banana, *Musa basjoo*, a hardy Japanese species. The tropical garden has done amazingly well. Christopher Lloyd was always experimenting in all of his garden rooms.

I enjoyed the sunken garden, the medieval out-buildings, the high garden and the wall garden. But I was bowled over by the dahlias. Their vibrant fall colors were mesmerizing. Wherever you looked there were different dahlias in bloom from tiny to grandiose. Below is a picture of a casual arrangement in

the front entry of Great Dixter. I didn't realize that dahlias are native to Mexico and a member of the Asteraceae (aster family). The blooms may range in size from 2 inches across to 1 foot. I know this year I will be adding some to my garden, I just hope my resident bunny family is not partial to them. If you have an opportunity to be in East Sussex, England don't miss Bodiam Castle or Great Dixter!

Happy Gardening,

*Jody Sprague*  
*Chair of the Guides*



## Guiding Students in Spring

After the tough winter we had, our student groups want to be outside more than ever – as do their teachers! Most of our groups are as good as gold, when in your capable hands. While you have their attention,



*Photo courtesy of Liza Hawley*

could you talk a little about Arboretum etiquette? Try to impress upon your charges that the Arboretum is a museum with some very old and some very delicate pieces in it. We don't climb on trees or sculpture here, any more than we would in the Art Museum. And just like you can't take home the art at the Museum, you can't pick plants here.

Teachers and chaperones should be reminded that good groups get invited back!

*Liza Hawley  
Assistant Director,  
Visitor Education & Youth Programs*

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## Upcoming Volunteer Workshops

### **A Visit to the Archives -- May 19, 10:30 am**

*Please meet in Gates Hall*

Join us for a behind the scenes tour of the Morris Arboretum Archives! Leslie Morris-Smith will give us a 'show-and-tell' of the preservation techniques and special projects happening in the Archives department.

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### **Rose Garden Workshop -- June 12, 10:30 am**

*Please meet in the Upper Gallery*

Want to get the inside scoop on the Rose Garden and rock wall? Lucy Dinsmore, Arboretum Rosarian will give us a history of the Rose Garden as well as some of the tips and techniques for maintaining the garden's rock wall garden.



## News from the Rose Garden

*Lucy Dinsmore, Rosarian*

### Turf Maintenance:

It's that time of year again! In efforts to rejuvenate grass paths in the Rose Garden, the paths just below the staircase will be closed. Visitors are welcome to come into the Rose Garden at the upper entrance, but have to go around to a side entrance to actually enter the garden and get to the fountain. Look for signs to let visitors know how to navigate through the garden.

### New Camellia Walk:

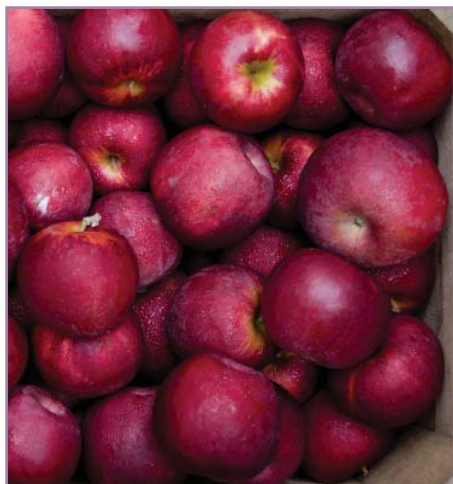
A new foot path has been created from Lydia's seat to the side opening of the Rose Garden. It takes you through the *Cephalotaxus* and *Taxus*, under the tulip poplar, and past three newly planted camellias. Additionally, there are several newly planted *Hydrangea involucrata* along this path that will be blooming mid-summer into fall. The new Camellia Walk is marked with bamboo hoops and new mulch to keep visitors on track. There is no signage for this new path as it should be a surprise for people and not a major thoroughfare. Look for these camellias on the new Camellia Walk:

*Camellia japonica* 'Korean Snow'

*Camellia japonica* 'Longwood Centennial'

*Camellia japonica* 'Longwood Valentine'

## Upcoming Education Courses



*Photo courtesy of Bob Gutowski*

### The Botany of Fruit

**Dr. Tim Block, Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum**

Thursday, May 15, 7 – 9 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$23

In this class we will talk about the various structural origins of the edible things we call “fruit.” We will discuss how and why these structures evolved and how our modern cultivated varieties came to be. You will also enjoy tasting both the common and exotic “fruits” that have enriched human culture and enhanced the world’s meals for centuries.

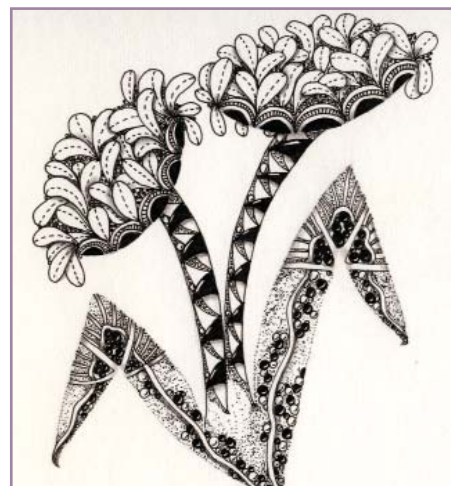
### The Art of Japanese Ink Painting

**Allison Zito, Artist and Teacher**

Saturday, May 17, 1 – 3 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$17.50

Sumi-e is the art of Japanese ink painting, a noble and time honored pursuit of the scholar. This craft teaches much more than the art of ink painting. The art is in the touch of the brush stroke, the quality of the line, appreciation of the natural world, and the beauty in asymmetry. All supplies are provided. Come to class dressed to paint.



### Edible Native Plants

**Anna Wik, Landscape Architect, Pennsylvania Horticultural Society**

Saturday, May 31, 1 – 3 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$12.50

Many of us love to munch on blackberries and raspberries, but did you know you can also make a caffeinated beverage out of Yaupon holly, jam out of chokeberry and snack on the young shoots of Solomon’s seal? We will start in the classroom with a short presentation on selected plants after which we will go on an informal hour-long walk to see these and other plants in the field.



## Upcoming Trip

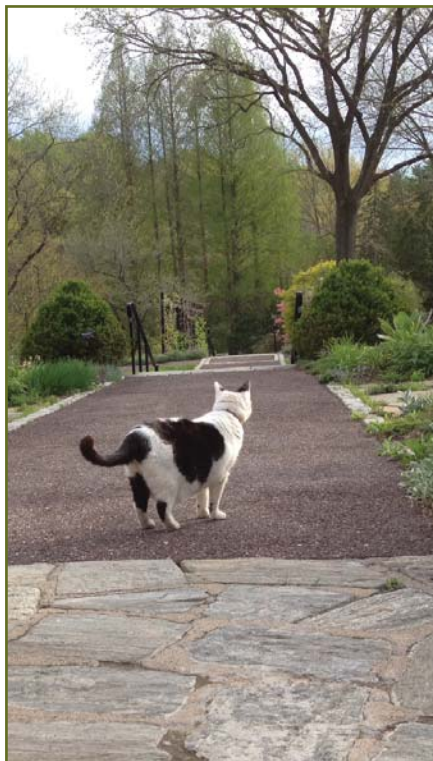
### **A Visit to Dumbarton Oaks: The Gardens and Collections**

Thursday, May 22, 7:15 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Volunteer price: \$110 (includes transportation, admission, and lunch)

We will spend the day at Dumbarton Oaks, located in Washington D.C.'s Georgetown and originally the home of Robert Woods Bliss, an American diplomat, art collector, and philanthropist and his wife Mildred. Join us to tour the gardens, view collections of Byzantine and Pre-Columbian art, and enjoy lunch at a nearby restaurant, Cafe Divan.

*For more information or to register call 215-247-5777 ext. 125*





## Garden highlights:



*Dicentra spectabilis* 'Alba'  
bleeding heart  
Japanese overlook garden



*Geranium maculatum*  
wild geranium  
log cabin



*Polemonium reptans*  
Jacob's ladder  
near Out on a Limb



*Fothergilla major*  
'Mt. Airy'  
large fothergilla  
ravine garden



*Rhododendrom schlippenbachii*  
royal azalea  
near Mercury Loggia



*Syringa vulgaris*  
'Sensation'  
common lilac  
Rose Garden

# Upcoming Events

## May

| Sunday                                       | Monday   | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday            | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|--|---|-----------|---------------------|--------|---|
|  |  |   |           | 1                   | 2      | 3   |
| 4  | 5  | 6<br>Guides<br>Council<br>Meeting<br>1:30- 3 pm             | 7         | 8<br>— Plant Sale — | 9      | 10<br>Mill<br>Volunteer<br>Work Day<br>10 am - 3 pm |
| 11<br><i>Mother's Day</i>                    | 12   | 13  | 14        | 15                  | 16     | 17  |
| 18<br>Mill<br>Demonstration<br>Day<br>1- 3pm | 19<br>Guide<br>Workshop<br>10:30 am<br><i>*Meet at<br/>Gates Hall*</i> | 20<br>Guide<br>Education<br>Committee<br>Meeting<br>1:30 pm | 21        | 22                  | 23     | 24  |
| 25   | 26<br><i>Memorial<br/>Day<br/>Garden Open<br/>Offices Closed</i>       | 27  | 28        | 29                  | 30     | 31  |

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

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



# Upcoming Events

## June

| Sunday  | Monday | Tuesday  | Wednesday | Thursday                          | Friday                          | Saturday                                   |
|---|--------|--|-----------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1   | 2      | 3 Guides Council<br>1:30 pm<br>Twilight & Peonies 6 pm | 4         | 5                                 | 6 Moonlight & Roses<br>6 -11 pm | 7  |
| 8   | 9      | 10   | 11        | 12 Volunteer Workshop<br>10:30 am | 13                              | 14 Mill Volunteer Work Day<br>10 am - 3 pm |
| 15 <i>Father's Day</i><br>Mill Demonstration Day 1- 3pm | 16     | 17 Guides Retention Committee<br>1:30 pm               | 18        | 19                                | 20                              | 21   |
| 22  | 23     | 24   | 25        | 26                                | 27                              | 28   |
| 29  | 30     |  |           |                                   |                                 |  |

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