

# VOLUNTEER

June 2015



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**

Claire Sundquist, Editor

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Photos: Claire Sundquist, unless otherwise stated



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## *Letter from the Editor*

Working at the Arboretum this past year has been an amazing experience. It is hard to believe my time as an intern is nearly at its end. I have treasured watching the trees bud and leaf out, the flowers bloom and fold, and snow drape the landscape only to melt. Most of all I have treasured working with so many passionate, motivated, and supportive people. Thank you for a wonderful year!

*Happy Trails,*

Claire Sundquist

*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*





## *Notes from the Guides Chair*

Last January we were given a wonderful talk by Holly Jobe (a Morris Guide) and her friend, Diana Muir. They had undertaken a 500 mile pilgrimage in 34 days. The pilgrimage is Camino de Santiago in northern Spain. It was a great talk with fabulous slides. Now I know, I will never take a 500 mile pilgrimage but I would like to think I take my own daily mini-pilgrimage. I enjoy walking in our area. I would like to share some of the walks I enjoy in southeastern PA.

Jenkins Arboretum in April or May is a visual feast as well as a good walking area.

Temple University, Ambler Campus, close to our house, is my most frequented place.

Longwood Gardens is always beautiful anytime of the year. They have also opened up meadow walking paths.

Peace Valley in Bucks County is a great way to walk around Lake Galena.

Delaware River Canal Towpath, a great excuse to go to New Hope.

John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge – close to the airport, a natural setting close to the city.

Valley Green – right down the street from Morris.

Bald Eagle State Park – close to I-80, an absolutely beautiful locale in the fall. If camping is not your interest, they have an eco-friendly lodge with stunning views of the hillside. There are miles of walking trails.

Clare Brown a long-time guide at Morris is also a veteran walker. Following are some of her favorite walks:

Walking on the west side of Chestnut Hill. Starting on Germantown Avenue walk west, passing through the beautiful neighborhoods which feature several Chestnut Hill landmarks.

Green Ribbon Trail – Flourtown to Ft. Washington.

Lower Gwynedd Trails – Twelve miles of scenic hiking trails.

Ralph Stover State Park/Tohickon Valley Park, Upper Eddy, PA.

The Delaware Water Gap National Park.

Hopefully, Clare and I have encouraged you to get out and discover your own mini-pilgrimage.



***Happy Walking and Happy Gardening,***

*Jody Sprague  
Chair of the Guides*

## Continuing Education



Photo courtesy Keith Russell

### Houston Meadows: A Unique Bird Habitat

**Saturday, June 6 | 8-11am**

*Keith Russell,*

*Audubon Urban Important Bird Area Coordinator*

Spend a morning exploring and discovering the Meadow's breeding bird species. Houston Meadows is a unique open meadow filled with native plants, a type of habitat that is rapidly disappearing in urban areas.

**Volunteer Price: \$12.50**

### Mini Radiant Yoga Retreat: Inspiring Mindfulness

**Saturday, June 13 | 10am-2pm**

*Jennifer Schelter, Founder Mindful Strategies for Living  
and The Radiant Retreat®*

This mini-retreat provides the space, safety, and the instructor's over 17 years of professional expertise to explore, create and focus on your body, mind and spirit. People with all levels of experience will enjoy this experience.

**Volunteer Price: \$50**



Photo courtesy Judy Miller

### Hydrangea Heaven: Class and Garden Tour

**Saturday, June 27 | 10am-1pm**

*Nina Schneider, Garden Designer*

For the amateur or experienced gardener no single genus provides as much variety in form and bloom color as hydrangea. Learn more about the genus, followed by a tour of the Arboretum's collection as well as a tour of the instructor's garden in nearby Chestnut Hill.

**Volunteer Price: \$20**

## Volunteer Workshops

### Tour Nina Schneider's Garden

Join us for a tour of Nina Schneider's garden in Chestnut Hill which includes beautiful mixed borders, sun and shade, and has a particular emphasis on hydrangeas. The tour will include information on the garden's history as well as a discussion on the challenges of rejuvenating an old garden. Sign up for a spot in the vans on the TeamUp Calendar, and/or write on the calendar what you are bringing for the potluck lunch, which we will enjoy in Ms Schneider's garden after the tour. Coolers with ice will be available to keep food chilled during our tour. If van spots fill up you may drive and park on the street outside Nina Schneider's house. Contact Jim Kohler for the address.

**Thursday, June 25 | 10:45am-1pm**

**tour begins at 11am**

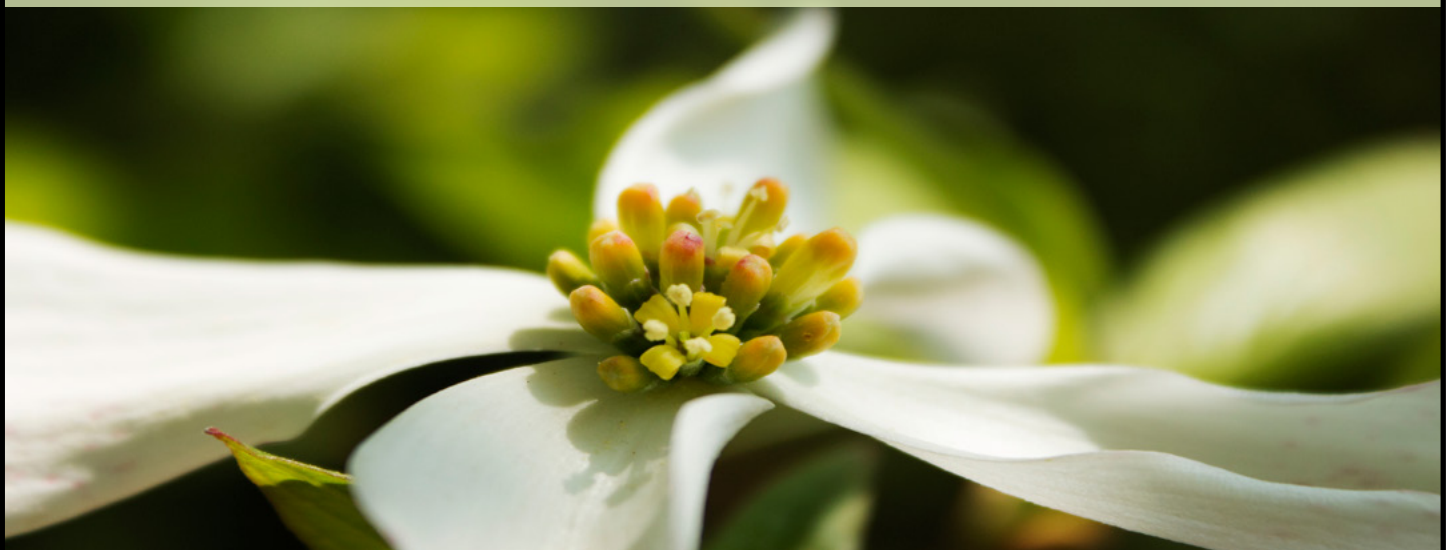
*Please park in the meadow. Vans will depart the Arboretum at 10:45am. Contact Jim Kohler with any questions or driving directions at [jkohphil@verizon.net](mailto:jkohphil@verizon.net).*

Sign-up is available through the [TeamUp Calendar](#).

### Meet our new Education Intern!

Join our new Education Intern, Pilar Rivera, as she explores the beauty and art of flowers. Learn how flowers can enhance your mood and brighten your surroundings. Then, exercise your creativity in a group floral arranging session!

**Thursday, July 9th | 10:30am**





## Volunteer Workshops



# MORRIS ARBORETUM STEAMPUNK EXPO

On Sunday, June 21 Morris Arboretum is hosting a STEAMPunk Expo. We're bringing together the alternative future sci-fi genre of steampunk with Science Technology Engineering Art and Math in a day-long extravaganza. We have a lot of activities planned and need your help making the day extra special. We need 10 volunteers to help with the Power It Up activities that explore different types of power. The activities are engaging for all ages and will run from 11am-3pm.

If you are interested in learning a fun activity, helping visitors learn that fun activity, and seeing the Arboretum in a whole new light, please contact Liza Hawley at [efhawley@upenn.edu](mailto:efhawley@upenn.edu) or 215-247-5777 x 128.



## First Wednesday Workshops

Join us the first Wednesday of every month for exciting workshops, talks, and tours.  
Meet at 12:30pm at the Widener Terrace, unless otherwise noted.

June 3rd	<b><i>Garden Tour</i></b> with Paul Meyer
July 1st	<b><i>Behind the Scenes Greenhouse Tour</i></b> with Tony Aiello and Shelley Dillard <i>*meet at the Greenhouse</i>
August 5th	<b><i>Tour of Compton Section and New Plans</i></b> with Paul Orpello
September 2nd	<b><i>Garden Writer's Presentation</i></b> with Louise Clark <i>*meet in the Upper Gallery</i>
Oct 7th	<b><i>Tour of the Grist Mill</i></b> with Ted Bell <i>*park at Bloomfield Farm</i>
November 4th	<b><i>Ornamental Grasses</i></b> with Lucy Dinsmore

## *From the Archives*



Have you noticed the glass case at the back of the Upper Gallery in Widener? It is always filled with interesting artifacts and information from the Arboretum Archives. The exhibit was recently refreshed to highlight a number of hand colored photographs from the Arboretum's collection.

Morris Arboretum is fortunate to have a collection of hand colored photographs made by acclaimed botanist Dr. Edward T. Wherry. The Archives even has the retouching stand on which Dr. Wherry hand colored the hundreds of botanical images that he photographed. Professor Wherry used these slides in botany lectures while teaching at the University of Pennsylvania and the Arboretum School of the Barnes Foundation from 1930 to 1957.

The next time you are in Widener, take some time to check out the Archives exhibit and learn more about hand colored photographs and slides.

*Images courtesy the Morris Arboretum Archives*

**from top to bottom:**

Image of a cherry tree at the home of Mrs. A. Hoyt Scott, 1942 (from the collection of Dr. Wherry)

Photo of Dr. Wherry, summer 1969

Image of *Prunus x yedoensis* trees at Swarthmore College, 1940s (from the collection of Dr. Wherry)



## *From the Archives*



*John and Lydia Morris in Ceylon, circa 1889*  
Photo courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

*Because so little is known about Lydia Morris, every glimpse into her personality is a treasure. Here are some insights from the travel diary kept by Louise Kellner, Lydia's traveling companion, when she and John took their trip around the world in 1889. The original diary is in the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.*

### **January 1, 1890**

#### ***Jeypore, India***

The elephant was ordered again to take us the way the carriage could not pass, and this day the huge thing waited for us in the middle of the main street of Jeypore, right at one of the thoroughfares, where we had to climb on his back. First we were taken aback at the idea of making a public show of ourselves in this way, but there was nothing else to be done but to brave it, and courageously Miss Morris did lead the way. She mounted Jumbo as if she had done it every day of her life, Mr. Morris and I followed suit, and away we went...

### **January 16, 1890**

#### ***Lucknow, India***

And one thing I forgot yesterday, and I wonder that I did, because it made me furious, and that was that Miss Price had to inspect – carefully inspect – Miss Morris's handsome black lace dress, on which she passed the sentence "doubtful" as to whether it would be the proper cut for that ball or not and other remarks in that line, which made me boiling. But Lo and Behold! When Miss Price came upstairs – she was dressed in some flimsy grey material – to inspect Miss Morris's toilet, she was stunned, and soon became aware of the fact that Miss M. in her attire would outshine her, and she had to confess – which she did freely – that the doubtful black lace dress, and the cut and fit of it, was lovely, - the most beautiful gown she had seen for some time.

## *Hickory Run State Park*

*by Debbi Carr*

As a new guide, experiencing many new things at the Arboretum, I was asked to write a brief description of the Arboretum's May 19 trip to Hickory Run State Park in the western foothills of the Pocono Mountains. The trip was fantastic, like a mini vacation. With Jan McFarlan as van pilot and Liza Hawley as co-pilot, nine of us drove up to the Poconos where we met Tim Block at the small park office in Hickory Run.

The first thing we noticed as we stepped out of the van was the rich smell of the forest. We hiked an easy pine needle covered trail that follows Hawk Run, a narrow stream that widens into a cascading waterfall just before it reaches Mud Run. Having a knowledgeable guide like Tim Block (actually a renowned botanist!) point out the plants, explain forest composition, and talk about the glacial and logging history was a wonderful opportunity. It was interesting to compare the forest at Hickory Run with our urban forest here in the Wissahickon and see what the forest stratification of canopy, understory, shrub and herb layer looks like in a more undisturbed forest. So here are just a few of the things we saw and learned:

It was wonderful to see so many small trees and shrubs in the understory and shrub layer. One of these was the lowbush blueberry (*Vaccinium angustifolium*), the same one grown in Maine that produces the tiny blueberries that make Maine's berry pies so famous. Others were mountain maple (*Acer spicatum*), *Amelanchier arborea*, and alternate-leaved dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*). Rhododendrons formed thick, impenetrable stands, but unfortunately weren't in bloom yet.



At the Boulder Field, which was an immense area of boulders and nothing else, we learned that the Wisconsin glacier stopped just to the north about 18,000 years ago. As the water melted from the glacier and poured out, so did the boulders that formed the field. The big question on our minds was 'Why hadn't it become covered with soil and vegetation in all these years?' Tim explained that water is still running under the field. As sediment falls between the rocks, the water washes it away.



## Garden Highlights



*Rosa 'Louise Odier'*  
**Louise Odier rose**  
Rose Garden



*Cornus kousa*  
**kousa dogwood**



*Illicium floridanum*  
**Florida anise tree**  
Log Cabin



*x sinocalycanthus raulstonii 'Hartlage wine'*  
**Hartlage wine Raulston allspice**



*Viburnum plicatum*  
**Japanese snowball viburnum**  
Pennock Garden



*Phlox subulata*  
**creeping phlox**

# Upcoming Events

## June

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm  Twilight and Peonies 6pm	3  First Wednesday (see pg. 5)  Hort Volunteers with Paul	4	5 Moonlight and Roses 6-11pm	6 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
7	8	9	10  Hort Volunteers with Louise	11	12	13  Mill Volunteer Work Day 10am-3pm
14	15 New Interns Arrive	16	17  Hort Volunteers with Kate	18	19	20
21  Mill Demo Day 1-4pm  STEAMPunk Expo 10am-8:30pm	22	23  Retention Committee 1:30pm	24  Hort Volunteers with Tracy	25  Schneider Garden Tour (see pg. 4) 11am-1pm	26	27
28	29	30				

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

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



# Upcoming Events

## July

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Wednesday (see pg. 5)  Great Plants Committee 1:30pm  Hort Volunteers with Lucy	2	3	4 Discovery Series 11am-3pm
5	6	7 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	8 Hort Volunteers with Paul	9 Volunteer Workshop (see pg. 4) 10:30am	10	11 Mill Volunteer Work Day 10am-3pm
12	13	14	15 Hort Volunteers with Louise	16	17	18
19 Mill Demo Day 1-4pm	20	21	22 Hort Volunteers with Tracy	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Hort Volunteers with Vince	30	31	

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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