

# VOLUNTEER

April 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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to the Arboretum Attn: Education Intern.



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## *Letter from the Editor*

Just when winter begins to seem like it will never end, crocuses bloom and birds begin to sing outside the window. It is hard not to feel a renewed sense of freedom when the breezes begin to bring warmth instead of snow. I often think of the poem *Barking*, by Jim Harrison, this time of year. I hope you take advantage of the energy this season brings, and get outside to watch mother nature wake up.

*Happy Trails,*

Claire Sundquist

*McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern*

### **Barking**

The moon comes up.  
The moon goes down.  
This is to inform you  
that I didn't die young.  
Age swept past me  
but I caught up.  
Spring has begun here and each day  
brings new birds up from Mexico.  
Yesterday I got a call from the outside  
world but I said no in thunder.  
I was a dog on a short chain  
and now there's no chain.





## Notes from the Guides Chair

The grass that ate Pennsylvania, or rather is eating Pennsylvania is everywhere if you just look. I first noticed this grass where we parked at the airport. When the van would take us to the terminal from the parking lot I saw area after area of this tall grass. But I didn't know what it was. I only knew it was so dense I couldn't see through it.

Then I found out the grass is called *Phragmites australis* – the common reed. Last summer while on our way to the mid-west on I-80 I saw *Phragmites* growing in wet areas all the way through Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana and into Illinois. To me it looks like a large grass that is swallowing everything in its path. Not only is it marching west but I have also seen it in vast swathes at the Jersey shore. It is characterized by its towering height (up to 14 feet). Its feathery and drooping inflorescences are purplish when flowering and turn whitish. They wave like plumes in the breeze. Flowering occurs from July-October.

It spreads by rhizomes. I know from Penn State Department of Horticulture that it can be contained but timing is everything. Various methods of control have been tried: cutting, mowing, disking, changing topography & salinity, pesticide application, burning and covering with plastic. According to Penn State you have to injure the rhizomes, most effectively done with systemic herbicides. Once herbicides are applied, it is important that you do not disturb the rhizome system.

So now we know with hard work and timing *Phragmites* can be controlled but I wondered if the plant has any benefit. I found out this reed grass has been used as food, sweetening, decoration, weapons, weaving material and for making musical instruments. In Asia, shoots were used as food and spears. The Bedouins of the Sinai use it for mats, baskets and flutes. The Italians have used the pulp for paper-making. In Great Britain, the common reed has been used to make pen points for calligraphy but my favorite usage is for thatched roofs. The Norfolk Reed Growers' Association 1972 stated, "a well-constructed roof of good Norfolk reed has a life expectancy of 60 – 70 years and is impenetrable to insects, birds, and vermin.

Now that we know the good and the bad of *Phragmites* it is too bad we don't have a good use for it today. But do keep your eyes open as you drive around the area, you can't miss it.

Happy Gardening,

Jody Sprague

Chair of the Guides



## Continuing Education

### **Walking Mindfulness Meditation**

**Wednesdays, April 8, 15, 22, 29 | 1-2pm**

*Sara Trohaugh, Yoga Instructor and Owner, Restorative Bodywork*

Volunteer Price: \$38

Mindfulness meditation is a form of mediation designed to develop the skills of deep listening to our inner and outer experiences with acceptances, patience and compassion. Amidst the beautiful setting of the Arboretum, this class will guide us to use mindfulness meditation practices to enjoy the beautiful surroundings of nature and be fully present with ourselves as we stroll through the Arboretum.

### **Look Before You Landscape**

**Saturday, April 25 | 12:30-3pm**

*Charles P. Mazza, Former Horticulture Educator*

*Brooklyn Botanic Garden and Cornell Cooperative Extension*

Volunteer Price: \$32

Landscaping doesn't start with design. It starts by carefully observing, measuring, calculating, and testing to discover characteristics of the property. Learn how to conduct a step-by-step evaluation or assessment of a site. Included in the class is a helpful reference book: *Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes*, written by the class instructor.

### **Fungi and Plants: A Love-Hate Relationship**

**Tuesday, April 28 | 7-8pm**

*Jacob Golan, Plant Protection Intern, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$10

Fungi are remarkable for their interconnectedness with other life forms, from beneficial symbioses to deadly pathogen attacks. This lecture will focus on the interrelationships between fungi and plants by exploring the unique natural history and ecology of fungi. We will discover how fungi are present in our everyday life, from issues in sustainable agriculture to renewable energy and even home gardening.

### **Behind the Scenes: The Morris Archives**

**Wednesday, April 29 | 7-8pm**

*Leslie Morris-Smith, Archivist, Morris Arboretum*

Volunteer Price: \$10

We will explore the history of the Arboretum through its archives and artifacts. Ledgers, diaries, maps, letters, and even Lydia Morris's cookbook provide us with insights into life at the Arboretum one hundred years ago. Learn how, in addition to the founders, John and Lydia Morris, the Arboretum was also shaped by a whole host of employees--from Arboretum directors to gardeners and botanists--who have made it the institution we know today.

To view full descriptions visit [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

To register with a credit card call 215-247-5777, ext. 125.



## Volunteer Opportunities

### Volunteers Needed for the Plant Sale



Help make this year's plant sale the best yet. Shifts are available from Tuesday through Saturday. There is a job for everyone and plant sale volunteers earn a 20% discount coupon! Please follow this link to see the dates, times and available slots <http://bit.ly/MAPlantSale2015>

Have questions? Contact Michelle Connors at [mconnors@upenn.edu](mailto:mconnors@upenn.edu) or at x109.

### Help out at the Arbor Day Celebration Saturday, April 25, 11am-3pm

This year we will be helping Girl Scout Cadets (5th, 6th & 7th grade) earn their "Trees" badge. This program, open to all visitors, will guide the scouts through 5 activities around the garden on tree mapping, reading tree cookies, planting an urban street with trees, designing a treehouse, and learning what an arborist does. Each activity station will be manned by an Arboretum staff member or local professional. One or two volunteers are needed at each station to help explain and facilitate the activities. Additionally, one or two volunteers are needed to help greet visitors and scouts and hand out the activity sheets outside the Visitor's Center. If you can help please contact Michelle Connors at [mconnors@upenn.edu](mailto:mconnors@upenn.edu) or at X109.



## Help out at Arbor Week

April 20-24 | 10-11:15am and 11:30-12:45pm

Don't miss out on this chance to share your love of trees with children during our annual Arbor Week Program. Volunteers are needed for tours, seedling plantings, the roots exhibit, and the tree trivia game. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot!

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey  
at (215)247-5777 ext.157 or [baileyL@upenn.edu](mailto:baileyL@upenn.edu).



## Volunteers Needed for Chestnut Hill Event

We are looking for four volunteers who would like to represent the Arboretum at the Chestnut Hill Discovery Day at Jenks Elementary School. We will be making fun and easy paper bag crows and talking to kids about the corvid family of birds at this family fun event. Call Tiffany Stahl, who will be present to assist and coordinate the event at (215) 247-5777 ext. 127.



## *Volunteer Workshops*

Take advantage of two great workshops on the same day! Come early to learn all about porous paving and then stick around to learn how to lead *Secrets of Seeds*.

### **Porous Paving Workshop**

April 14 | 9:45am

*Widener Classroom*

The Morris Arboretum has one of the oldest porous asphalt parking lots in the country, thus making it an extremely important site for water resources and environmental research. Raquel Burlotos will be showing areas of the parking lot where water is still infiltrating and where it is no longer infiltrating. Additionally, she will be discussing the research findings of this project. Answering questions like: Did the rocks below trap pollutants thus improving the water quality?

### **Learn the Secrets of Seeds Tour**

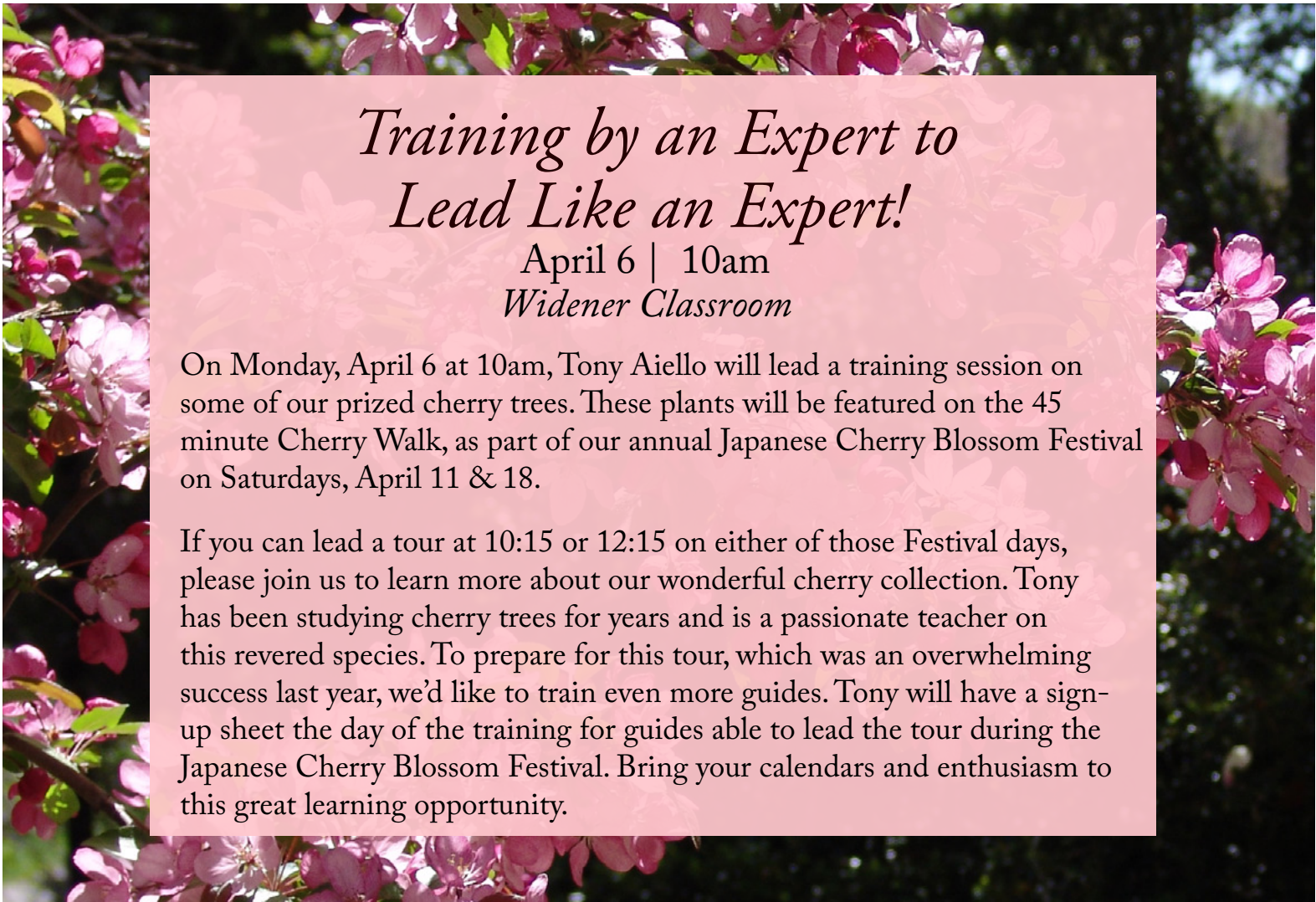
Tuesday, April 14 | 10:30am

*Widener Classroom*

This new tour is a pared down, combination of our Plant Reproduction tours (Seed Formation & Seed Dispersal). We gathered all the best parts of both for a vivid, interactive tour that describes the life cycle of flowering plants. We've made it scalable to appeal to students from middle - high school. Please join us for a refreshing take on this important tour.



## *Volunteer Workshops*

A background image of pink cherry blossoms in full bloom, with green leaves interspersed among the flowers. The blossoms are delicate and have five petals each, with some showing darker pink centers. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a garden setting.

### *Training by an Expert to Lead Like an Expert!*

April 6 | 10am  
*Widener Classroom*

On Monday, April 6 at 10am, Tony Aiello will lead a training session on some of our prized cherry trees. These plants will be featured on the 45 minute Cherry Walk, as part of our annual Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival on Saturdays, April 11 & 18.

If you can lead a tour at 10:15 or 12:15 on either of those Festival days, please join us to learn more about our wonderful cherry collection. Tony has been studying cherry trees for years and is a passionate teacher on this revered species. To prepare for this tour, which was an overwhelming success last year, we'd like to train even more guides. Tony will have a sign-up sheet the day of the training for guides able to lead the tour during the Japanese Cherry Blossom Festival. Bring your calendars and enthusiasm to this great learning opportunity.

### *Notable Gardens of England*

April 28 | 1pm  
*Upper Gallery*

Join Sharon Richardson for a tour of some of the most beautiful gardens in southern England and the Chelsea Flower Show, and a sneak preview of the Eden project. Sharon Richardson retired from public school education in 2008 looking for a total change of pace. She found it when she started volunteering as a docent at Longwood Gardens. One thing led to another and she is now totally hooked. In addition to becoming a Master Gardener, Sharon has completed certificate programs and courses and now serves as the Chairman of Horticulture for the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania.

## First Wednesday's are back!

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.

April 1st	<b><i>Spring Ephemeral Walk in the Woods</i></b> with Tracy Beerley
May 6th	<b><i>Social Media How-To</i></b> with Stephanie McNabb, *meet in the Upper Gallery
June 3th	<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 *meet at the Greenhouse
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 *meet in the Upper Gallery
Oct 7th	<b><i>Tour of the Grist Mill</i></b> with Ted Bell , *park at Bloomfield Farm
November 4th	<b><i>Ornamental Grasses</i></b> with Lucy Dinsmore

## Intern Project Presentations

There are still two project presentations coming up that you won't want to miss! Come hear all about what Natasha and Jacob have been working on this year.

**All presentations begin at 12:30 in the Upper Gallery.**

### **Ecological Niche Modeling (ENM) Across the Tree of Life: The Effects of Climate Change on Eight Pennsylvania Natives**

Thursday, April 2

Natasha Phillips, *The Eli Kirk Price Endowed  
Flora of Pennsylvania Intern*

### **The Diversity and Community Structure of Soil Fungi of the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania**

Tuesday, April 7

Jacob Golan, *The John J. Willaman & Martha Haas  
Valentine Endowed Plant Protection Intern*





## Discovery Series

The Discovery Series is back! We need four crafty volunteers on the first Saturday of every month from April to October. Please sign up on the Google Calendar, or by contacting Tiffany Stahl (215) 247-5777 ext. 127, or by email at [tifstahl@upenn.edu](mailto:tifstahl@upenn.edu).



### **Saturday, April 4th** *Outdoor Classroom*

Calling crafty artists! Join us as we celebrate the opening of Patrick Dougherty's magnificent creation. Come and design your own eco-friendly structure using all things from nature including vines, twigs, branches, and leaves.

### **Saturday, May 2nd** *Out on a Limb*

How old is it? Discover Dendrochronology: Determine the correct age of the tree cookie by counting the rings. Afterwards, decorate a tree cookie of your own!

### **Saturday, June 6th** *Out on a Limb*

Did you know that most of the fresh food found in supermarkets comes from plants? Conduct a Supermarket Botany investigation at the Discovery table.

### **Saturday, July 4th** *Out on a Limb*

Where would we be, without trees? Rediscover your appreciation for trees and discover some important products that trees provide for us every day.

### **Saturday, August 1st** *Out on a Limb*

Discover seeds! Discover the diversity of seed varieties and how they travel from one place to another. Afterwards, create your very own seed mosaic to take with you.

### **Saturday, September 5th** *Out on a Limb*

Leaf wreath: Learn to identify some of the fall leaves that you will discover as you stroll through the Arboretum, and discover why leaves change colors. Afterwards, create your own fall leaf wreath to take home using recycled paper.

### **Saturday, October 3rd** *Out on a Limb*

Acorns, leaves, and bark, oh my! Learn how to identify a variety of tree nuts found throughout the Arboretum with the trees that they came from. Also, discover the function and purpose of bark while making bark etchings.

## *Notes from the Horticulture Committee Meeting - March 25, 2015*

### **Horticulture Department Update – Tony Aiello**

- The Arboretum has welcomed Paul Orpello as the new Section Leader for the Compton area and around the Visitor Center.
- Vince Marrocco will now assume the Rose Garden Area and Lucy Dinsmore assumes the Azaela Meadow area formerly supervised by Iana Turner.
- The Patrick Dougherty installation is making progress with help from staff and volunteers. The installation is scheduled to be completed by March 28th.
- Spring planting of new trees from the greenhouse and nursery has been delayed due to recent weather conditions and will be progressing in the next few weeks.
- As part of our program of consulting on tree care on Penn's main campus, the Arboretum will be providing wild collected and curated trees for planting on the University of Pennsylvania campus.

### **Project Updates – Alan Summers**

- Several proposals have been considered and discussed regarding the redesign of the proposed path system connecting the Rose Garden and Garden Railway to the Swan Pond. The current proposal shows a path from the Rose Garden accessible through the crabapples loop to a terrace area directly below the lower entrance of the Garden Railway.
- A proposed Germantown Avenue entrance will allow access for people coming by public transit. The current proposal sets the entrance at the intersection of Hillcrest and Germantown Avenues. It would have a paved entrance plaza with benches, signs and stone pillars flanking the gates. In order to be less obtrusive, the Admission gate house will be behind the entrance gate.

### **Rose Garden Update– Vince Marrocco**

- Renewal of the Rose Garden will be started this spring with the replacement of plants in the northeast quadrant.
- All of the plants will be replaced with new species of roses and perennials.
- The beds need to be renewed with fresh soil and composted manure to invigorate the roses.
- Renewal of the Herb Garden will also be done this spring. The original Herb Garden was first planted in 1995 and redone in 2004 and needs to be rejuvenated with a variety of herbs.

### **Fernery - Tony Aiello and Tom Wilson**

- The Fernery heating system, installed in 1995, began to fail in 2012. These cast iron pipes need to be replaced with a reliable heat source to ensure the fern collection is protected from cold weather. We are investigating options for the replacement.
- Paul Meyer and Alan Metcalf recently received the Buidy Award by the Mid-Atlantic Association of Museums for the Out on a Limb project. This annual national award recognizes the most outstanding recent museum construction project. The purpose of the Buidy Award is to increase awareness within the field, and by the public at large, of the value of museums and the need for their ongoing rehabilitation and expansion to serve future generations.

*contributed by Larry Godley*



## From the Archives



John Morris (top), Lydia Morris (middle left) and Louise Kellner (middle right) riding an elephant in Ceylon in 1889.

*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.*

Photo courtesy Morris Arboretum Archives

### November 6, 1889

#### *Arrival at Southampton, England*

We wanted to make a certain train for London, but were informed that it had gone, and in it Miss Morris, who had been separated from us... If she had merely been alone on her way to London it would not have been so bad, because she is perfectly able to take care of herself, but she happened to have not one cent of money in her pocket, and I shall never forget our anxiety... At some junction...we were coupled on to the train that had left before us, in which we found our brave Miss Morris, who, like a sensible woman, had sat perfectly still, and never lost courage. She received us with a merry laugh, saying, "I knew you would come see me as soon as you could." as if nothing has happened – and then we all could afford to laugh.

### November 24, 1889

#### *Naples, Italy*

...we were raked out of our beds at 4 A.M... At 6 A.M. the train started, and if there ever was a good traveler it is Miss Morris. She takes everything as it comes along, is ready for anything and everything at any time either day or night, and as dainty a morsel as she is in her own handsome home and surroundings, as willing is she to rough the most unpleasant things while travelling. [However]...in the afternoon Mr. Morris behaved very badly – he grumbled and growled when he was awake, and snored when he was asleep.


## Garden highlights:





# Upcoming Events

## April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Wednesday (see pg. 8)  Hort Volunteers with Lucy	2  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm	3	4  Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
5	6  Cherry Walk Training 10am (see pg. 7)	7  Intern Project Presentation 12:30pm  Guides Coun- cil Meeting 1pm  Retention Committee Meeting 2pm	8  Hort Volunteers with Paul	9	10	11  Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm
12	13	14  Secrets of Seeds Guide Workshop 10:30am	15  Hort Volunteers with Kate	16	17	18
19	20	21	22  Hort Volunteers with Vince	23	24  Arbor Day! 	25
26	27	28  Notable Gardens of England 1pm	29  Hort Volunteers with Louise	30		

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

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

# Upcoming Events

## May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Discovery Series 11am - 3pm
3	4	5 Guides Council Meeting 1:30pm	6 First Wednesday (see pg. 8)	7	8	9 Mill Volunteer Work Day 9 am - 3pm
					Plant Sale	
10	11	12 Guides Retention Meeting 2pm	13 Hort Volunteers with Lucy	14	15	16
17 Mill Demonstration Day 12 - 3pm	18	19	20 Hort Volunteers with Vince	21	22	23
24	25 Memorial Day <i>Arboretum open, offices closed</i>	26	27 Hort Volunteers with Vince	28	29	30
31						

### Weekly Volunteer Events

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