

VOLUNTEER

April 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

Spring is finally here! After a long, cold winter, how much more will we appreciate each small spring bloom and each warm breeze? With the snow finally melted, I am reminded of a poem by Emily Dickinson,

*...build the hillocks gaily
Thou little spade of mine
Leaving nooks for Daisy
And for Columbine—
You and I the secret
Of the Crocus know—
Let us chant it softly—
“There is no more snow!”*

Be sure to celebrate with the crocuses at the Arboretum this spring!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm

McLean Contributionship Endowed Education Intern



Save the Date for Twilight & Peonies!

June 3 at 6 pm

Details coming soon

Notes from the Guides Chair

A Conversation with Dianne Smith

Hello Everyone,

If you're like me, you enter the Dorrance H. Hamilton Fernery at the Arboretum thinking it looks great. I usually take my tours through it without giving one thought as to why it looks so good. The reason for that is quite simple - volunteer Dianne Smith. Recently, I met Dianne in the Fernery to discuss how she became involved at the Arboretum.

What brought you to the Arboretum? Dianne had worked as a computer programmer for 20 years when her company closed, moving south. Her family was not interested in relocating. She had been a visitor to the Arboretum for years when she started volunteering in the gift shop.

How did you end up in the Fernery? When there was an opening in the newly reconstructed Fernery, Dianne applied. Only a few plants from the original collection remain; all have been purchased or donated over the years.

Did you grow up in a family of gardeners? Yes, but gardening was more of a chore then. Dianne was introduced to weeding at an early age! Dianne grew up in the Chicago area, moving to Pennsylvania after marrying her husband. They met in Switzerland while they were both studying abroad. After marrying, he joined Army Intelligence and they lived in Germany for two years.

Did you study horticulture in school? No, Dianne took the route many of us have taken, gaining horticultural knowledge by taking classes at Longwood Gardens, the Barnes Foundation School of Horticulture, and the Morris Arboretum.

What kind of gardening do you do at home? Dianne has a small Norristown city garden filled with a mix of plants. Dividend plants from the plant sale are in evidence plus plants that have been recommended from the various courses Dianne has taken.

What is the temperature of the Fernery in the summer? The highest recorded temperature was 120 ° F, when the outside temperature was near 100 ° F. The plants are not happy, nobody is happy.

What are your words of advice to new volunteers? Find what you enjoy doing at the Arboretum; there are so many opportunities to volunteer. Make your commitment and follow through with it.

When you talk to Dianne, you can feel her devotion to her volunteer job and her enjoyment of the time she spends here. Dianne, thank you for being an inspiration to all of us at the Arboretum!

*Jody Sprague
Chair of the Guides*



Won't You Bee My Honey? -- April 11, 10 am

Meet in the Upper Gallery- we will travel by bus to the bees at Bloomfield Farm

Join us for perhaps the most scandalous volunteer workshop ever presented at Morris Arboretum! Jim Bobb will reveal the dating habits of the Italian honey bee. Find out firsthand where the male bees go to “cruise” for innocent female bees and what happens once a young lass chooses the lucky (or unlucky) male.

Other controversial topics include the party affiliation of honeybees. How do they choose a new leader? Are there any recounts? What kind of political organization can keep 60,000 workers laboring successfully in a two cubic foot area? Are females truly liberated in this society? Where do the males go for winter? Can a mother honey bee choose the sex of her offspring? Do all honey bees sting? What do pickles and almonds have in common?



A very politically correct insect, the bee harms no plant or animal in the production of honey. Many garden plants rely on these amazing creatures for the pollination and development of quality seeds and fruits. Why is the honey bee often the insect of choice for amateur and commercial gardeners? Can you spot the wild honey bee colony at Morris Arboretum?

Bring your best bee stories and questions as we explore these amazing insects. Bee sure to bee there!

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.



Arbor Week Sign Up

It's not too late to help with Arbor Week! If you are interested in helping out, please sign up on the Google Calendar or contact Lisa Bailey at 215-247-5777 ext. 157 or at baileyL@upenn.edu.



Photo courtesy of Morris Arboretum

Volunteer at the Plant Sale!

The Arboretum's annual plant sale is fast approaching. This year's sale will be held May 8-10 at Bloomfield Farm. Look for the announcement postcard to arrive in your mail the week of April 20th. Volunteer at the sale and receive a 20% coupon good for one time use on either the 9th or 10th.

Visit Sign-up Genius at <http://bit.ly/plantsale14> to view the available jobs and shifts. If you have any questions about volunteering at the sale contact Michelle Connors at mconnors@upenn.edu or x109.



Photo courtesy of Mia Gold

Upcoming Classes

Identification of our Spring Flora

Dr. Tim Block, The John J. Willaman Director of Botany, Morris Arboretum

Four Tuesdays: April 15, 22, 29 and May 6, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$87

The purpose of this class is to teach participants the skills needed to identify our spring flowering plants, both native and introduced. Beginners welcome!

Want a Work Free Garden? Explore the Wonderful Diversity of Ericaceous Plants

Dr. Harold E. Sweetman, Executive Director, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Wednesday, April 30, 7– 8:30 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$12.50

A garden designed with ericaceous plants will bring you close to this gardening ideal. Ericaceous plants have low nutrient demands, are acid-loving, and require drainage but are easily grown once you get to know them.

Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes

Charles P. Mazza, Former Horticulture Educator, Brooklyn Botanic Garden

Saturday, May 3, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$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 the site. This class is ideal for new home owners or those planning to expand a landscape into new areas of their property, whether they are experienced gardeners or novices.

Zentangle Zendalas®

Terri Greenberg, Certified Zentangle Teacher

Two Sundays: April 27 and May 4, 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Volunteer Fee: \$32.50

The meditative art form that is Zentangle draws you into a creative zone with deliberate, repetitive patterns that form entrancing abstract designs. All levels are welcome!

Discovery Series 2014: Our Feathered Friends

The Discovery Series is back! This year, all Discovery activities will center around wonderful birds! We need four volunteers for each event on the first Saturday of the month. Please sign up on the Google Calendar, or by contacting Tiffany Stahl (215) 247-5777 ex 127, tifstahl@upenn.edu.

April 5-- Regal Eagles Come to the Discovery Table and learn all about the majestic bald eagle. Create your own pet bald eagle, and explore fascinating facts about this bird of prey that became the National emblem of the United States in 1782.

May 3-- Avian Architects Fly over to the Discovery Table and learn all about the techniques that birds use to create secure and cozy homes for their babies. Learn to identify nests that you may find in your own backyard.

June 7-- I spy a Bird! Have you ever spotted a bird on a bird feeder that fascinated you? Create your own bird watching journal so that you can draw and document your very own bird observations.

July 5-- Swan Sisters Stroll over to the Swan Pond and learn all about Flora and Fauna—the Morris Arboretum mute swans. Learn all about these graceful avians that have been the center of inspiration for ballets, musical compositions, and romantic poetry throughout the centuries.

August 2-- Songbirds: Sweet Tweets of Summer Find out which songbirds you can find throughout the Arboretum, and in your backyard. Then make your own sweet songbird as a special memento.

September 6-- Chirping Cheerios! One of the best ways to discover the birds in your backyard is to feed them! Discover the ABC's of feeding birds, while making your own chirping cheerio feeder.



October 4-- Crows, Ravens and Jays, Oh My! Discover fascinating facts about the highly intelligent group of birds belonging to the Corvid family. Learn about these clever creatures, and create your very own crow puppet to take home.

feathered friends

A T M O R R I S A R B O R E T U M

Notes from the Horticulture Committee Meeting --March 6, 2014

Horticulture Updates – Tony Aiello

- Morris Arboretum will be hosting the International Maple Society in October, 2014.
- The Arboretum had about 100 trees damaged by the February ice storm and lost 8 trees completely.
- We are presently selecting propagated trees from the greenhouse for spring planting.
- Planning a trip to China and the UK studying the *Acer griseum* (paperbark maple) to renew the genome from wild plants in China.

Louise Clark – Bloomfield Farm Section Leader

- Discussed the amount of February storm damage in her area.
- Developing and researching new plants for the green roofs.
- Researching use of a web cam to observe the green roofs.
- Will be making a presentation at the Garden Writers Association on the benefits of plants to society.

Lucy Dinsmore – Rose Garden Section Leader

- Reviewed her recent activity. Has eliminated the pollinator garden which had become overgrown and difficult to maintain. Removed many rose plants that have succumbed to rosette disease.
- Planning to replant the eastern quadrant of the Rose Garden with new species of disease resistant roses and perennials with bolder colors and less pastels.
- Planning to renew and replant the *Ilex glabra* hedge that borders the rose garden.

Tracy Beerley – Natural Lands Section Leader

- Continuing the blue bird project, will install 20 new boxes to be placed on cedar posts, there will be 10 volunteers who will monitor and report findings following the Cornell Monitoring Project. Will coordinate with the Feathered Friends Morris Arboretum marketing program.
- Planning improvement to the trail system through the woods adjacent to the rock outcropping, will have consultants to lay out safer trails and possibly new seating in the area. Plan to have a volunteer day to get more volunteer help to maintain the trails.

Shelley Dillard – Propagation, Greenhouse

- Reviewed activity in maintaining systems in the greenhouse with the difficult winter weather, maintaining heat, humidity and watering.
- Recent studies on propagating *Tsuga chinensis* (Chinese hemlock) have seen mixed success. Original seeds that have been wild collected in China will propagate successfully, seeds from second generation trees are difficult to propagate, different methods are being tried.
- The wooden bridge in the Fernery is infested with termites and must be replaced. Discussion of what wood or other material would be appropriate for use in the Fernery.

Larry Godley
Volunteer

Garden highlights:



Salix gracilistyla
var. *melanostachys*
black pussy willow
near swan pond



Helleborus orientalis
'Red Lady'
hellebore
near Out on a Limb



Cornus officinalis
Japanese cornel
near log cabin



Pieris japonica
Japanese pieris
garden railway



Rhododendron mucronulatum
Korean rhododendron
parking lot



Jasminum nudiflorum
winter jasmine
rose garden

Upcoming Events

April

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Guides Education Committee 1:30 pm	9	10	11 Volunteer Workshop 10 am	12 Mill Volunteer Work Day 10 am - 3 pm
13 Mill Demonstration Day 12-3pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22 Guides Retention Committee 1:30 pm	23 Arbor Week Program April 21- 25 10- 11:15 am 11:30 am- 12:45 pm		25	26
27	28	29	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 11 am- 3 pm

Upcoming Events

May

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6 Guides Council Meeting 1:30- 3 pm	7	8 — Plant Sale —	9	10 Mill Volunteer Work Day 10 am - 3 pm
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16	17
18 Mill Demonstration Day 1- 3pm	19 Guides Workshop 10:30 am	20	21	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day	27	28	29	30	31

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