

VOLUNTEER

December 2013



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 a 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



Callicarpa japonica

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Betula nigra

Letter from the Editor

December 2013

Although I am of strong Scandinavian descent, winter presents some challenges for me. I hate being cold, I miss the sun, and I loathe the added static electricity. Despite my cold-season sufferings, I appreciate that winter offers me a chance to see the world in new way. I appreciate the subtle variations on gray and brown, the unparalleled exposure of texture, and the expanded views and horizons. In the month ahead, I hope to once again overcome my distaste for frost, and appreciate this new and different season.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Kuniholm

*The McLean Contributionship
Endowed Education Intern*



*John and Lydia
make new
friends!*

Photos courtesy of Rick Stover

Notes from the Guides Chair

Hello Everyone,

The Holiday Garden Railway has opened once again and I have become fascinated with the history surrounding this festive hobby. Around 1860, the model train hobby was in its infancy, as was the full-size railroad industry. The first primitive models, made by craftsmen, were most often powered by steam and were fairly large in scale, necessitating their use outdoors in a yard or 'garden'.

It wasn't long before toy manufacturers in Germany and Great Britain got the notion that there might be a few dollars in model and toy trains. Unfortunately, there was no continuity when it came to the scale of the trains or to the gauge of the track until the late 1880's, when the famous Märklin company of Nürnberg developed standardized gauges and scales. These standards were soon adopted by virtually all European and some American model train manufacturers.

While European model railways were often situated in the garden, Lionel, the leading supplier of toy trains in America, marketed the railways as indoor toys. Garden railroading had little chance. World War II came along, and with it came the popularization of plastic and miniature toys. Lionel was still very much in the forefront in this size. In the late 1940's and early 1950's nearly every small boy wanted a Lionel train, and many got them. In the States, garden railroads were almost unheard of throughout the 1950's and 1960's and had fallen out of fashion in Great Britain.

In 1969 the German toy-making company, Ernst Paul Lehmann, introduced a new concept in model trains. Their all-plastic products were initially models of narrow gauge trains from Germany. They were rugged and all of the more fragile gears and motor parts were encapsulated to keep the nasty dirt away. After a while articles on the potential of these trains in outdoor environments began to appear in model train magazines. The flame was rekindled.

In 1984 Garden Railways magazine published its first issue. While covering the entire field of garden railroading, the publication stresses the importance of integrating the railway with a garden to achieve a railway-like atmosphere. It is the only model-train magazine that had regular gardening articles and its own horticultural editor.

So, when you tour our fantastic garden railway think of the over 100 year history associated with outdoor, model trains.

Have fun,

*Jody Sprague
Guides Chair*



Photo courtesy of Paul Meyer

Tu B'Shevat- Really Needs Your Help!

Our annual children's program is just one month away, and many volunteers are still needed to assist with an assortment of fun activities. Please sign on and help make this event a success! We still need help for the following times:

Sunday, January 12 | 10-11:15am & 11:30-12:45pm

Monday, January 13 | 10-11:15am

Tuesday, January 14 | 10-11:15am

Wednesday, January 15 | 10-11:15am

Thursday, January 16 | 10-11:15am

Sunday, January 19 | 10-11:15am & 11:30-12:45 pm

Sign up on the Google Calendar or with Lisa Bailey at (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 or baileyL@upenn.edu. Feel free to sign up for more than one slot!

Photo courtesy of Paul Meyer

Volunteer Workshop: A Bug's Eye View of Morris Arboretum *Presented by Tiffany Stahl & Stephanie Kuniholm* January 8, 10:30 am

Join us for a morning of interesting insects! Tiffany and Stephanie will share their photos of insects taken at the Arboretum and tell the stories about the interesting creatures on display.

Stick around after for a short refresher on Tu B'Shevat activities. Then sign up for open slots!





Staff & Volunteer Night at the Holiday Garden Railway

December 4, 4- 7 pm

It's that time of year again! Join fellow Morris Arboretum volunteers and staff to tour the festive Holiday Garden Railway.

Education Volunteer Winter Pot-Luck

December 16, 12 -2 pm

Bring a delicious dish to share and enjoy a celebration of winter with other Education volunteers and staff!

Please RSVP, making note of the dish you plan to share, to Stephanie at 215-247-5777 ext. 159 or kuniholm@upenn.edu

Horticulture Volunteer Winter Pot-Luck *December 18*

Photo courtesy of Ed Hofknecht



Rose Garden Update

Why can't I walk through the rose garden?

In order for the grass to look healthy and support the foot traffic of 120,000+ visitors each year, it needs a rest. The central axis paths in the rose garden and the path through the Wisteria Walk have been aerated, reseeded, and are temporarily closed. Please help me by minding the "Path Closed" signs.

Why is there an empty quadrant in the rose garden?

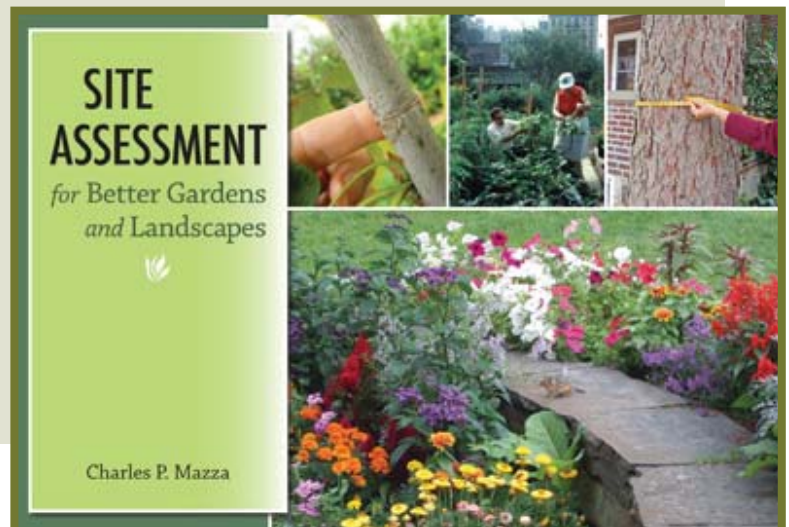
The horticulture staff has been busy ripping out the plants in one section of the rose garden and are in the process of redesigning, with planting to begin next spring. The section was about 13 years old, and many of the roses didn't look their best after we stopped using fungicides in the garden. The perennials planted there were not looking their best either; some were getting too aggressive, while others were fine food for the resident groundhogs and deer.

Lucy Dinsmore, Rose Garden Horticulturist

Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes

Dedicated Arboretum volunteer, Charlie Mazza, recently published a book, *Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes*! Charlie's new book helps homeowners read the characteristics of their gardens and landscapes in order to pick the right plant for the right place. Congratulate Charlie next time you see him, and pick up a copy for yourself!

Want to learn more? Join us for a class:
Site Assessment for Better Gardens and Landscapes
 taught by Charlie Mazza
 Saturday, May 3, 12:30—3:30 p.m.
 Members: \$45; Non-members: \$50
 For more information or to register, call
 215-247-5777 ext. 125



Education News

Gift-Making Workshop (Ages 6-12)

Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15, 1- 2:45 pm

Allison Zito, Artist and Teacher, Harcum College

Members: \$50, Non-members: \$60

During this two-day workshop students will have fun painting, printing, and creating sculptures and toys. Kids will experience the magical holiday season at Morris Arboretum and will feel proud knowing that they've created their own unique, one-of-a-kind holiday gifts. All supplies are provided. Come to class dressed to paint.

Informing Land Preservation through Science:

The Botany Department of the Morris Arboretum

Lukens Endowed Lecture

Sunday, January 26, 2 pm

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

Volunteer Price: Free

The reasons for preserving land range from biodiversity protection to tax benefits. Whatever the reason, most people agree that land preservation is a good idea. To effectively protect land, the questions that need to be addressed include what land should be preserved, and how should land be managed on it is preserved? For many years, the Botany Department at the Morris Arboretum has been actively engaged in science-based studies that help inform decision makers on issues concerning conservation and land protection. In this talk, we will discuss the importance of land protection, the public perception of preserved land, and the history of the Arboretum's involvement in helping shape conservation priorities in Pennsylvania and beyond.

Call 215-247-5777 ext. 125 for more information or to register

Bluebird Monitoring Program at Morris Arboretum

Do you enjoy spending time outdoors and have a passion for birds? Perhaps you would be interested in joining our Bluebird Monitoring Program at Morris Arboretum. This volunteer project has been organized to monitor the eastern bluebird and the nest boxes which have been mounted throughout the Arboretum.

The Bluebird Monitoring Program was initiated this year, as a conservation effort to monitor the activity of nest boxes. From March through July, volunteers assisted in monitoring over forty nest boxes within the Arboretum. Their findings were contributed to a citizen science based program, Nest Watch, through Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Staff and volunteers quickly learned of the immense nesting competition bluebirds face from house sparrows and natural predators. The results for this season are in; five nest boxes were used by the eastern bluebird and a total of sixteen eggs were laid and assumed to have fledged. Volunteers also enjoyed the experience of observing nesting swallows and Carolina chickadees. Thanks to volunteer effort, the Arboretum was able to provide and monitor nesting habitat for the eastern bluebird.

For the full article please visit <http://morrisarboretum.blogspot.com>, keyword search: bluebird

For information about bluebird volunteer opportunities contact Tracy Beerley, tbeerley@upenn.edu



Photo courtesy of Susan Marshall

Garden highlights:



Ilex opaca
'Morris Arboretum'
holly slope



Hydrangea quercifolia
oakleaf hydrangea
near *Out on a Limb*



Magnolia sprengeri
var. *elongata*
Sprenger magnolia
garden railway



Ilex verticillata
'Red Sprite'
winterberry holly
garden railway



Ilex verticillata
winterberry holly
sculpture garden



Styx obassia
fragrant snowbell
Pennock garden

Upcoming Events

December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Guides Council Meeting 1:30 pm	4 Volunteer & Staff Night at Holiday Garden Railway 4 - 7 pm	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
15	16 Education Volunteers Winter Potluck 12- 2 pm	17	18 Horticulture Volunteers Winter Potluck	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	25 Christmas Day <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	26 <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>	27 <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>	28 <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>
29 <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>	30 <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>	31 New Year's Eve <i>Garden open; offices closed</i>				

Weekly Volunteer Events

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

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

Saturdays: Winter Wellness Walks 10:30am

Upcoming Events

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
v			1 New Year's Day <i>Arboretum Closed</i>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Volunteer Workshop 10:30 am	9	10	11 Mill Volunteer Workday 10 am - 3 pm
12 Tu B'Shevat Program 10- 11:15 am	13 Tu B'Shevat Program 10- 11:15 am	14 Tu B'Shevat Program 10- 11:15 am	15 Tu B'Shevat Program 10- 11:15 am	16 Tu B'Shevat Program 10- 11:15 am	17	18
19 Tu B'Shevat Program 10am- 1pm	20 MLK Holiday <i>Offices closed</i>	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Guides Education Committee Meeting 1:30 pm	29	30	31	

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