

# SEASONS

A large group of adults, mostly women, are gathered outdoors in a park-like setting. They are holding numerous babies of various ages and in different clothing. The scene is set against a backdrop of trees and a wooden structure, possibly a playground or a bridge. The overall atmosphere is one of a community event or a family gathering.

Summer 2010

Volume 39 Number 3



Morris Arboretum of the  
University of Pennsylvania

*Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania*



Photo: Nick Kelsh

## A Note from the Director

PAUL W. MEYER, *The F. Otto Haas Director*

### The New Horticulture Center – An Exhibit in Sustainability

This spring, we have been celebrating the completion of the long-awaited Horticulture Center at Bloomfield Farm. Staff members are thrilled with the new offices, meeting rooms, facilities workshops and storage space for their vehicles, equipment and materials. Indeed, the building is proving to be highly functional and supportive of staff operations. For the first time, we have professional facilities to match the professionalism of our staff. But, even as we celebrate the building's practical attributes, it is also important to think of the whole building complex as an exhibit in architectural sustainability.

Since the 1980s, Arboretum staff have approached design challenges as exhibits. When the George D. Widener Visitor Center was renovated in 1982, it was a study of best practices in the adaptive reuse of a historic building. Later, when

we built the main visitor parking lot in 1989, we didn't just tuck it into a corner and hide it away. It was placed in the center of the Arboretum and celebrated as an exhibit of best practices in parking lot landscape design and stormwater management. Today, 25 years later, professionals and student groups continue to visit and study our zero runoff parking lot with its innovative permeable paving.

Similarly, a visit to the Horticulture Center complex will be a study in sustainability. Beginning with their arrival in the parking lot, visitors will see ample green islands and rain gardens to catch stormwater. As they approach the buildings, two quite different examples of green roofs will be visible. The shallower roof with 4" of growing media is planted with eight different kinds of sedum, while the 8" roof is designed to support a wider diversity of drought-tolerant plant species. Many of these species are being tested and evaluated for their adaptability on a green roof. We are essentially planting a desert in Pennsylvania; imagine spending a month in the full sun during a dry July in Philadelphia.

Also vying for visitors' attention are two large cisterns catching excess water from the green roof, which can be used for watering plants in the surrounding landscape. Additional underground cisterns provide supplemental water for irrigation. Though all the plants in the landscape will eventually adapt to our unpredictable rainfall, they will benefit from watering while getting established and periodically thereafter.

Behind the green roofs, on the roofs of other buildings in the complex are banks of photovoltaic cells and a solar hot water heater. Less visible are the geothermal wells, which function like an underground radiator, taking advantage of the near constant 54°F temperature of the earth to aid both heating and cooling of the office building. In addition to the geothermal wells, the high performance envelope of the office building, renewable energy sources and daylight harvesting will bring the overall annual energy savings up to 40% less than a comparable building constructed to meet standard codes.

These are just a few of the many green features designed into the Horticulture Center by our design team of Overland Partners, Muscoe Martin and Andropogon Associates. Our goal from the beginning of this project was to achieve the Platinum LEED (Leadership in Environmental and Energy Design) rating of sustainability from the Green Building Council. As we complete construction, we believe this difficult goal is attainable.

But most important, through this building complex, the Morris Arboretum has created an exciting, functioning exhibit on the best sustainable practices. As an environmental institution, it is important that we not only talk the talk, but walk the walk!

Come join us as we walk the walk to the new Morris Arboretum Horticulture Center.

*Paul*

# SEASONS

## Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania

Published quarterly as a benefit of membership. Inquiries concerning back issues, missing issues, or subscriptions should be addressed to the editor.

Available on microfilm.

USPS: 349-830. ISSN: 0893-0546

POSTMASTER: Send form 3759 to Newsletter, 100 East Northwestern Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19118.

Christine Pape, Editor

The Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania is an educational institution that promotes an understanding of the important relationships between plants and people. The Arboretum conducts three major activities – horticultural display, public and professional education, and botanical and horticultural research.

### *Public Garden Hours:*

Mon-Fri, 10-4

Sat/Sun, 10-5 (April - Oct.)

Sat/Sun, 10-4 (Nov. - March)

Thurs. 10-8:30 (June, July, August)

### *Information:*

(215) 247-5777

[www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)

<http://www.upenn.edu/paflora>

### *Guided Tours:*

Every Sat/Sun, 2 p.m.

### *Visitor Entrance:*

100 East Northwestern Avenue between Germantown and Stenton Avenues in the Chestnut Hill section of Philadelphia

These articles may not be reproduced in any form without the permission of the editor.

©2010 Copyright by the Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania. 5500 / 510 / PM

## Arboretum Rentals

Hold your special event in one of Philadelphia's most beautiful settings. The Widener Center and surrounding grounds are available for weddings, parties, and private and corporate meetings up to 170 guests. For details contact Adele Waerig, Visitor Services Coordinator, at (215) 247-5777 ext. 158.

## e-newsletter

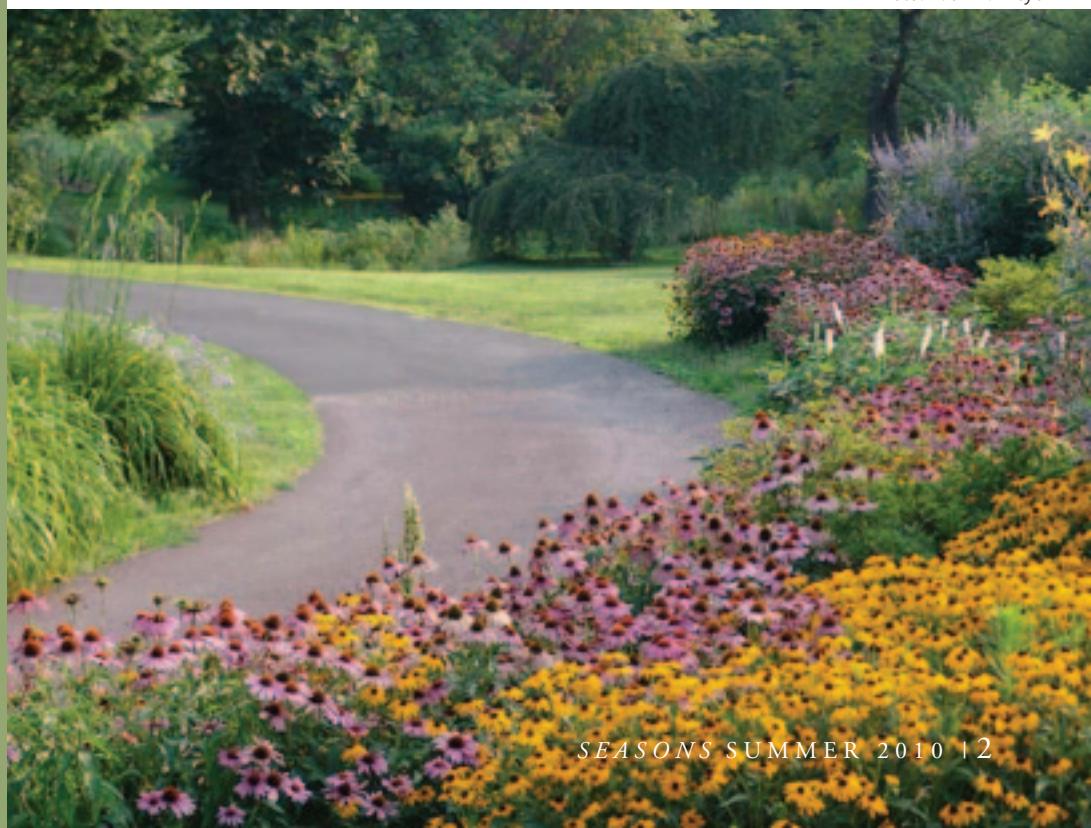
Would you like to receive our monthly e-newsletter and other Arboretum updates via email? It's a great way for you to stay up-to-date on upcoming events, register online and help us save trees! Email [members@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:members@morrisarboretum.org) to be added. To address the problems of SPAM, many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and email systems now block or filter email that is not from a "safe sender." Please add [info@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:info@morrisarboretum.org) and [members@morrisarboretum.org](mailto:members@morrisarboretum.org) to your list of accepted senders or friends list if you wish to receive this information.

Cover Photo – Nick Kelsh

## Contents

- I** A Note from the Director
- 2** Going Green
- 4** *Out on a Limb* Wins Models of Excellence Award
- 5** Summer-Flowering Shrubs
- 6** *The Summer Palace* Renovation
- 7** Conservation Corner
- 8** The McLean Contributionship: Committed to Botany
- 9** Lydia Morris Legacy Society
- 10** Gift Annuities
- 10** Pieces from the Past
- II** A Look Back in Time
- 12** The Living Collection Catalogue Online
- 13** Natural Areas Bluebird Box Project
- 14** Membership News
- 14** Travel With the Arboretum
- 15** Woody Plants Conference
- 15** Fall Classes
- 16** *Seasons* Newsletter Wins Garden Writers Award
- 16** Volunteer Opportunities
- 16** The Shop
- 17** Summer Events

Photo: Paul W. Meyer



# Going Green

LOUISE CLARKE, Horticulture Section Leader, Bloomfield Farm

The Morris Arboretum is “always growing,” and our latest venture raised us to the rooftops of the new Horticulture Center complex, where green roofs were installed this spring. As an integral component of the Platinum LEED® certification strategy, vegetated roofs were installed on two new equipment garages.

A green or eco-roof, is a living roof, covered with plants adaptable to harsh growing conditions. Some of the benefits of eco-roofs include extending roof life, providing thermal insulation, reducing storm water runoff, filtering pollutants, reducing carbon dioxide levels, mitigating urban heat island effects, and providing invertebrate and bird habitats.

Green roofs are not a new idea; the hanging garden of Babylon is an ancient example. Scandinavian countries historically employed the same techniques to insulate homes against sub-freezing temperatures, and equatorial African cultures built soil-covered roofs to insulate against extreme heat. Europe currently leads the world in eco-roof technology, but the United States is now actively pursuing sustainable greening strategies adapted to our varied climate zones.

The Arboretum’s modern day roofs are composed of several layers. Starting from the metal roof deck, a layer of plywood was installed and then covered with a waterproofing membrane. These lowest layers act as a last defense against root penetration. The middle layer is a sandwich of fabric root barrier, a perforated drainage layer, and another stabilizing geotextile. Atop that is a porous, spun plastic mat onto which the growing medium was applied.

The first roof, which was installed in late March, is an example of an extensive eco-roof, meaning that the substrate, or growing medium, is less than four inches thick. Traditional soil is not used; instead a granular, porous, lightweight material, typically expanded shale and clay, is admixed with a minimum of organic matter. The porous surface area of the medium is designed to capture rainwater, reducing stormwater runoff by at least 50% and delaying peak flow volumes during storms, which helps to minimize the impact on existing stormwater sewers.



Photos: Paul Meyer

The plants chosen for the eco-roof are low-growing sedums, adapted to the extremes of cold, heat, poor soil, full sun, high winds, and drought. During storms, sedums absorb rain water and store it in their fleshy,

succulent leaves. Plants filter pollutants, especially nitrates, and bind them within the growing medium. Filtered water slowly leaves the plants during transpiration, cooling and humidifying the air. Excess water drains off the lower edge of the roof and is directed to a rain garden below, where ponded water can slowly infiltrate the soil or evaporate.

Preplanted sedums, grown into coconut fiber blankets with substrate, were used to green the extensive roof. The sedum mats arrived as 4' x 6' sections, rolled like sod, and stacked ten to a pallet. An articulated forklift was used to lift the pallets to roof height where teams of horticulturists off-loaded them and moved them into place. Twenty five hundred square feet of sedum mats were placed by a crew of four people in approximately 12 hours. When complete, our roof had the seamless, finished appearance of a long established planting. During planting, robins visited the roof and continue to be seen daily, foraging for insects to feed their young.

The intensive roof, which was planted in April, has a growing medium depth of eight inches, allowing a wider plant variety to be employed. Native and non-native plants, featuring grasses, woody shrubs, and forbs, were selected to complement a flowing design developed as part of the Natural Areas intern project.

The public will be able to view the new eco-roofs during prearranged tours, classes, or special events held at Bloomfield Farm. Visit the Arboretum’s website for information or call Lisa Bailey (215) 247-5777 ext. 157 to schedule your visit.



Photo: Carol Feeley

**Out-on-a-Limb Tree Adventure Team** *Left to right – first row:* Janice McFarlan; Robert F. Anderson; Paul W. Meyer; Liza Hawley; Susan Crane; Marc Steven Cooper, Facilities & Real Estate Services. *Left to right – second row:* Elizabeth Anthony Nestor, Facilities & Real Estate Services; Robert Gutowski; Leslie A. Weisser; Mariette J. Buchman, Facilities & Real Estate Services; Victoria Sicks. *Missing from Photo:* Vincent A. Marrocco.

Photo: Paul Meyer



## *Out on a Limb* wins Models of Excellence Award

In April, staff members from the Morris Arboretum were honored with a Model of Excellence Award from the University of Pennsylvania. The award was given to the *Out On a Limb* team for designing a unique experience at the Arboretum that significantly increased the number of visitors, while teaching them about the importance of environmental stewardship through play and experience. The Models of Excellence program recognizes staff member contributions to the University that are above and beyond job expectations and reflect extraordinary initiative, leadership, collaboration, and a deep commitment to service.

The public is invited to celebrate *Out on Limb's* 1<sup>st</sup> Birthday on Saturday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 11am-1pm. Join us for a very special birthday party, including cake at noon (while supplies last), balloons, magic and storytelling with Judy Tudy the Clown, all *Out on a Limb!*



In honor of its 1st birthday this summer, the Morris Arboretum invited babies who were born since last July to have their picture taken on *Out on a Limb*. Reowned photographer Nick Kelsh captured more than 30 one-year-old babies and their parents as they gathered to help celebrate this extraordinary new exhibit that has drawn thousands of visitors (of all ages!) to the Arboretum.

A gifted photographer and best-selling author, Nick Kelsh has been volunteering his talents to the Morris Arboretum for almost 25 years, creating some of the Arboretum's most enduring and iconic images. He has just released a new book, *How to Photograph Your Baby: Getting Closer with Your Camera and Your Heart*.



# Summer-Flowering Shrubs

ANTHONY AIELLO, *The Gayle E. Maloney Director of Horticulture & Curator*

Photo: Rusty Kennedy  
Inset photo: Paul Meyer

**A**s summer rolls on and the days seem to get increasingly hotter, many garden plants fade, become scorched, or simply stop flowering. During the height of summer in late July and early August, there are very few woody plants whose flowers can withstand the heat and add interest to the garden. Luckily, there are a few summer-flowering shrubs that love hot, dry weather and add interest to one's garden.

Russian sage (*Perovskia atriplicifolia*, pictured above) is a beautiful addition to any landscape. It is a semi-woody shrub with an upright habit and silver-gray stems and leaves. Russian sage grows in a dense clump, reaching three to five feet tall with an equal spread. To keep the plant looking its best, Russian sage should be cut back almost to the ground as soon as new leaves emerge in the spring, since flowering occurs on new growth.

Russian sage comes into its glory in mid-summer when it produces spikes of 12-inch, lavender-blue flowers that last for several weeks. The combination of fine, purple flowers with its silver-gray foliage provides great contrast to a mixed border or a mass planting. Plants of *Perovskia* can get large, so it is best to use it where it can reach its full size.

There are several varieties of Russian sage available: 'Blue Mist' has light blue flowers and blooms earlier in the season; 'Blue Spire' has darker violet flowers; and 'Little Spire' is more upright and less spreading than the species.

*Caryopteris x clandonensis* or bluebeard (inset), is another excellent summer-flowering shrub, coming into bloom even later than *Perovskia*. Its bright blue flowers are a welcome addition to the garden in late summer and attract a host of beneficial insects. Bluebeard is slightly smaller in stature than Russian sage, generally reaching four feet tall with an equal spread. This plant will also show some tip dieback after winter, so it is best to prune it thoroughly once the new leaves begin to emerge, usually in late March. I especially enjoy waiting for this plant to come into flower and love its intense blue flowers. Because of its relatively small size, it is useful in a variety of situations, especially when added to a mixed border.

There are a number of cultivated varieties on the market:

'First Choice' – excellent dark blue flowers, compact habit, excellent dark green foliage.

Grand Bleu™ ('Inoveris') – also with excellent dark blue flowers, dense habit, glossy green foliage, flowers in September.

'Longwood Blue' – a standard of the industry, larger and more vigorous than other forms.

Pink Chablis™ ('Durio') – if for some reason you don't like the wonderful blue flowers typical of *Caryopteris*, then try this variety with its pink flowers.

Sunshine Blue™ ('Jason') – a form with chartreuse-yellow flowers and light blue flowers; this is an improvement of the older variety 'Worcester Gold'.

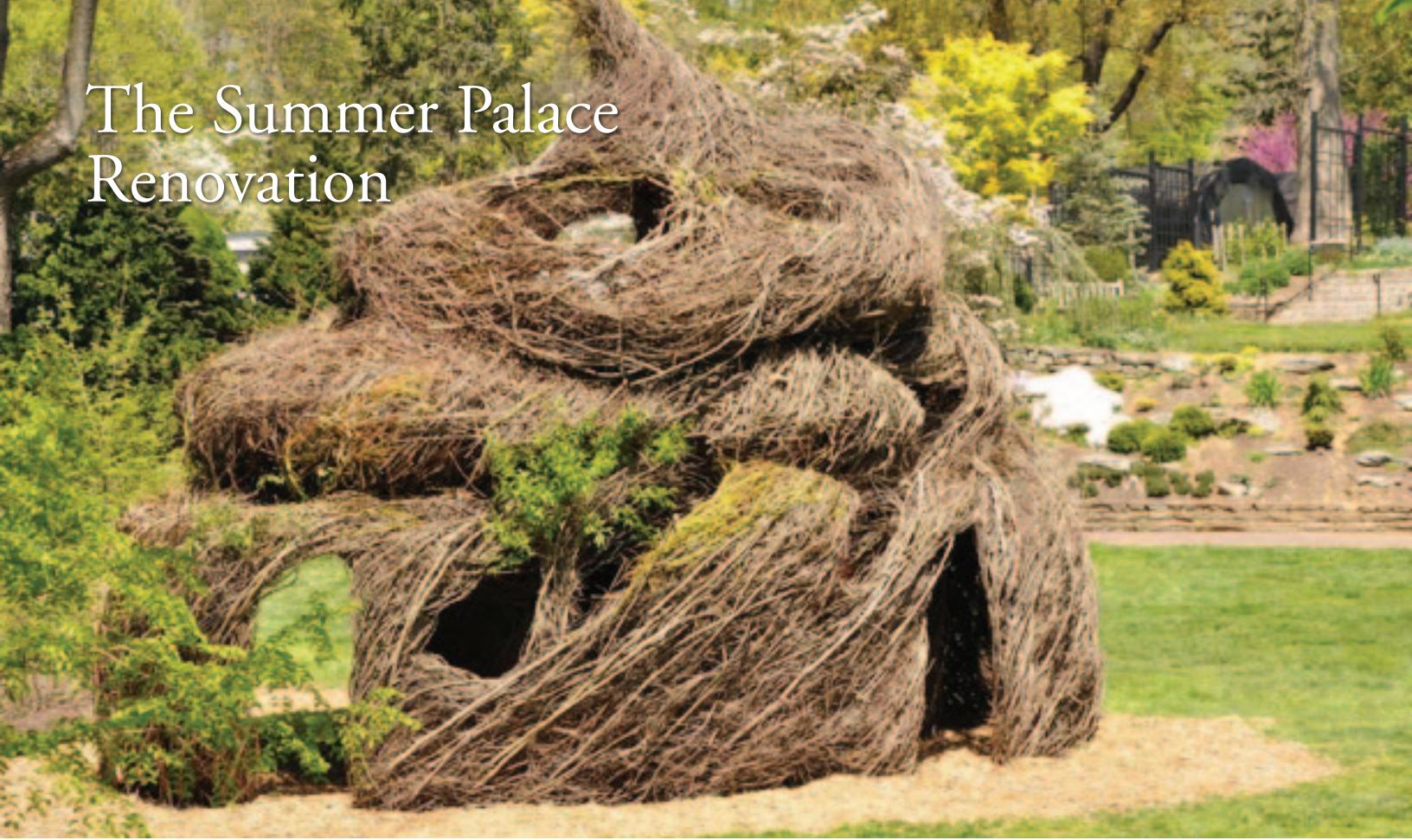
If you are looking for a larger summer-flowering shrub, then consider chastetree, (*Vitex agnus-castus*). If left unpruned, chastetree will grow to 12-15 feet tall, but if pruned in late winter, it can be maintained closer to eight feet. *Vitex* has palmately compound leaves, providing plants with a medium texture in the garden.

The large spikes of flowers bloom throughout the summer, providing interest for several weeks. There are a range of flower colors of chastetree, although plants with blue flowers are the best performing and most satisfying in the garden. Among the varieties of chastetree available are: 'Abbeville Blue', 'Mississippi Blues', and 'Shoal Creek', all with deep blue flowers; 'Blushing Spires', a light pink version of the shrub; and 'Silver Spires', a white-flowered form.

All of the plants mentioned above have similar cultural requirements. Although they can tolerate a range of soil types, they each need full sun and very good drainage. So find a hot, sunny spot in your garden for one of these plants. They will reward you by adding beauty, color and vitality to your landscape throughout the summer.



# The Summer Palace Renovation



Photos: Paul Meyer, Patrice Sutton

This past winter's record-breaking snowfall took an unforeseen toll on the Arboretum's ephemeral sculpture, *The Summer Palace*. Created last year by renowned artist Patrick Dougherty, the sculpture quickly became a favorite of Arboretum visitors who hoped it would remain in place for at least two years before succumbing to the elements.

As spring arrived and the snow melted, the damage was unmistakable. People remarked that *The Summer Palace* looked "deflated," "sat on," and "melted," but, happily, this is no longer so. For three weeks in April, Andy Lynch, Dougherty's assistant on a number of projects and an artist in his own right, teamed up with staff from the Morris Arboretum to bring *The Summer Palace* back to life. The sculpture, which is made entirely of sticks and saplings, was literally pumped up using an automotive floor jack and then reinforced in the weakened areas. According to Lynch, sticks maintain a memory of the shape in which they dried, allowing many of them to be popped back into place. Some of the main structural limbs also had to be replaced.

The sculpture was lifted as high as possible without causing further damage. It is now aesthetically appealing and safe to explore. Most important, visitors are able to enjoy walking in and around *The Summer Palace* once again. Many thanks to Andy Lynch for his great work on the reconstruction, Patrick Dougherty for his input and advice, Jane Korman and Patrice Sutton for spearheading the rebuild, and Arboretum horticulture staff Imogen Anderson, Drew Hawkes and Dan Church for their assistance.

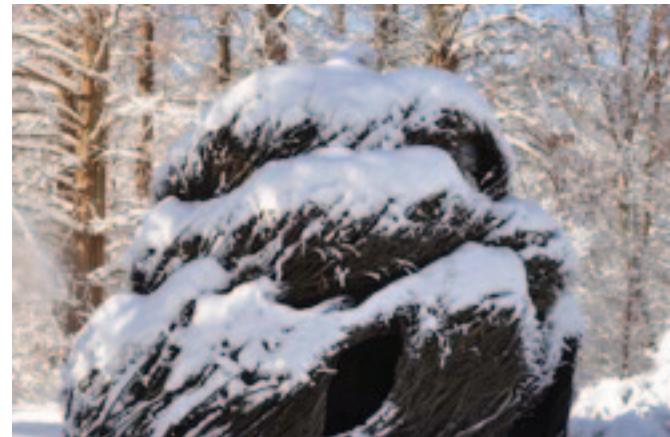




Photo: Louise Clarke

## Conservation Corner – Rain Gardens

KIM FRISBIE, Freelance Writer and Directors' Guild Co-chair

**W**ith all the rain we've had this spring, now might be a good time to consider implementing a rain garden if you don't already have one.

Whenever the topic of stormwater management comes up, rain gardens eventually enter the equation. Rain gardens, for the uninitiated, are shallow depressions located near a runoff source that are constructed with pervious soil mixes and planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. The idea is to capture, absorb, and filter rainwater runoff before it reaches the sewer system.

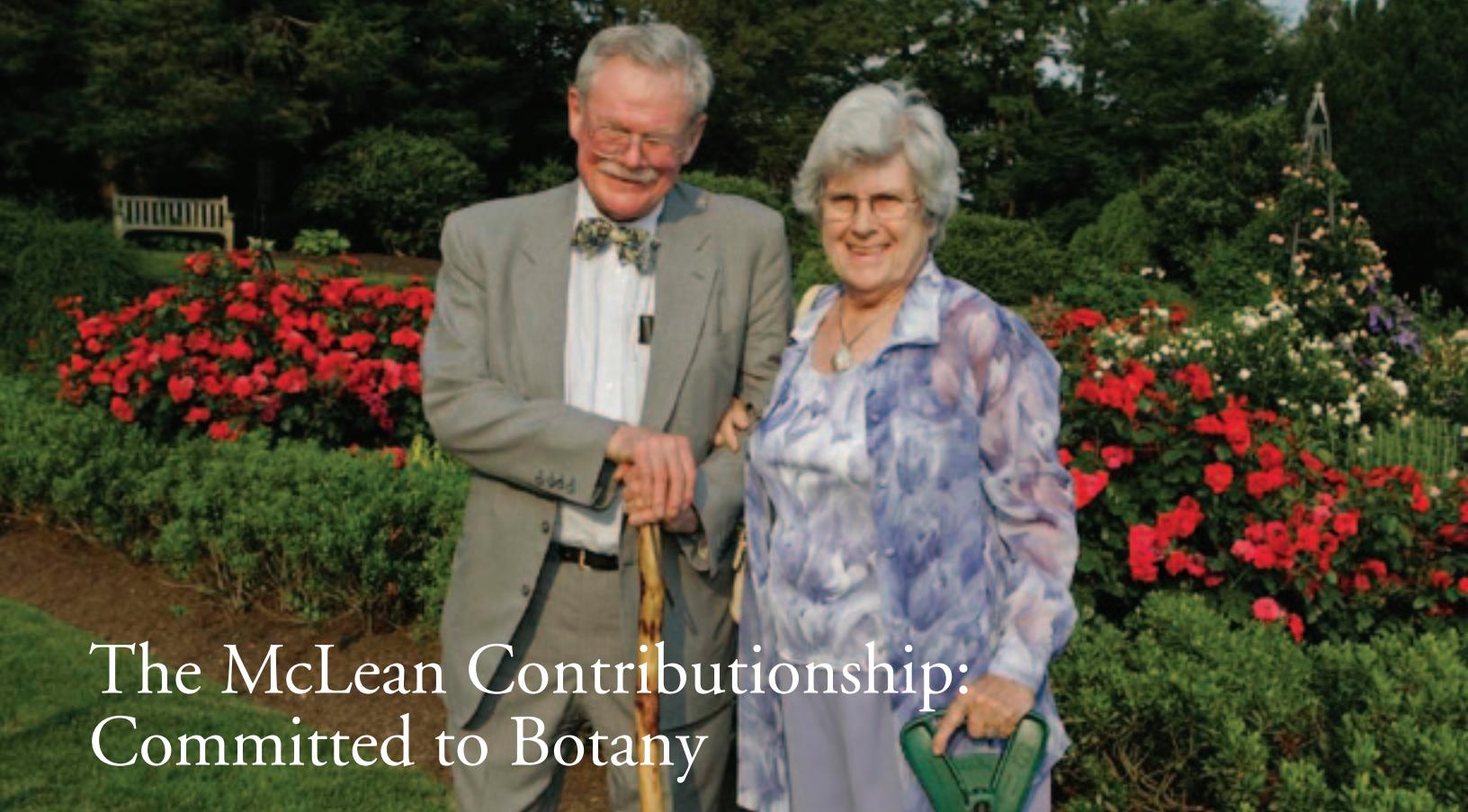
Rain and melting snow run off all impervious surfaces such as roofs, driveways and even lawns, down storm drains, and into our rivers and lakes. As this runoff is untreated, it carries with it a myriad of pollutants, including oil, grease, salt, fertilizer, pesticides, pet waste, transportation chemicals and a host of other stuff that shouldn't be in our fresh water – otherwise known as our drinking water!

Rain gardens, when properly planted and situated, will capture thousands of gallons of stormwater runoff and all its associated pollutants. Once the water is captured in the

Louise Clarke, *Horticulture Section Leader, Bloomfield Farm*, recently visited a rain garden at Glencoe Elementary School in Portland, OR to gather ideas for the new rain gardens being planted at the Arboretum's Horticulture Center.

depression, it filters deep into the earth where it is taken up by roots of the native plants there, as well as nearby plants and trees. Eventually, the pollutants are broken down and made inert by the plants' roots, mulch, and soil. If you consider the moderate amounts of water and pollutants that runoff a single property, and then multiply that by the hundreds of homes in a given area, you're talking about a lot of contamination hitting our freshwater sources.

Not only do rain gardens filter pollutants and prevent flooding and stream erosion, they also provide habitat for beneficial birds and insects, while increasing the amount of local groundwater. They can be shaped to fit any size yard, and can be constructed with a wide variety of plants, preferably natives. They're beautiful and, once established, they are extremely low maintenance. So what are you waiting for? Get out there and start one of your own, and galvanize the neighborhood while you're at it!



# The McLean Contributionship: Committed to Botany

LESLIE A. WEISSE, Assistant Director of Development

Photo: Mark Stehle

*"I desire that the [University of Pennsylvania] maintain a laboratory in charge of [scientists], for the purpose of botanical research and dissemination of such knowledge to the world..."*

—from the Will of Lydia T. Morris, 1932

In her will, Lydia Morris expressed her hope that the University of Pennsylvania would keep botanical research at the heart of the Morris Arboretum's mission. For almost 80 years as a public garden and center for research and education, the Arboretum has been faithful to Lydia's vision and continues to be committed to four major activities: research, education, outreach, and horticultural display.

Since 1933, the Morris Arboretum's Botany Department has grown to be nationally-recognized for excellence in research, teaching, public outreach, and publication, most recently through the leadership of Dr. Timothy A. Block, the *John J. Willaman Director of Botany*, and Dr. Ann Fowler Rhoads, Senior Botanist. The impact of their work reaches far beyond the Arboretum, and their scientific influence can be seen in the shaping of conservation policies at state, county, and municipal levels. Their invaluable research and data collection have resulted in growing requests for their services as botanical and ecological experts, particularly in light of the public's

concern for natural areas and the preservation of open spaces. The competing demands upon their time as researchers and teachers, however, are among the greatest challenges of the department's expanding reputation.

The McLean Contributionship recently awarded a 2:1 matching challenge grant of \$120,000 to support the expansion of the Botany department, recognizing the critical role that this department holds within the Morris Arboretum, and the extraordinary claims made upon the staff members' time. This grant provides seed funding for the establishment of a post-doctoral fellowship position within the department. The post-doctoral fellow will have a background in botany and the required technical skills needed to update, expand, and implement the Arboretum's Flora of Pennsylvania website as a comprehensive resource on the flora of our state. The fellow will also participate in the consulting projects and fieldwork of the Botany department; teach at both the Arboretum and the University of Pennsylvania; and explore new research directions as developed by the appointee. In order to meet this challenge, the Arboretum must raise the \$60,000 designated for this project.

The Morris Arboretum is honored by the McLean Contributionship's generous grant, and gratefully acknowledges the confidence in the Arboretum's work and mission that is expressed through their support.

# The Lydia Morris Legacy Society

VICTORIA SICKS – Associate Director of Development for Major Gifts



The Morris Arboretum has always benefited from its long-standing relationships with members and volunteers who take leadership roles in support of the institutional mission. John A. H. Shober and his wife Elizabeth have dedicated their time, energy and thoughtful gifts over the course of many years. Most recently, their desire to support the Arboretum has led them to create two charitable gift annuities. John and Elizabeth recognize that planned gifts such as annuities provide the stability and strength that will insure the continued growth of the Morris Arboretum well into the future.



Photo: Paul Meyer

Following graduation from Yale in 1955 and subsequent military service in Germany, John took a job with Smith, Kline & French Labs (now Glaxo Smith Kline). As a evening law school student at Temple, John remembers the “old days” at the Morris Arboretum when he would come to study in the quiet of the garden. His career eventually led to the highest levels in management in the Penn

Virginia Corporation, from which he retired in 1992. In the ensuing years, John served as CEO or director of more than 30 institutions, public and private, domestic and foreign. Locally, he has donated his time and services to the Eisenhower Fellowships, the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association and of course, the Morris Arboretum.

As a member of the Advisory Board of Managers, John has served on the Finance and Board Development Committees. Most recently, he has co-chaired *Always Growing*, the Campaign for Morris Arboretum, with Susan Oberwager (also a member of the Advisory Board), and has served on the Campaign Cabinet. His wise and steady leadership combined with his enthusiasm for the goals of the campaign, have contributed greatly to its success. Elizabeth is presently a member of the Directors’ Guild and an enthusiastic advocate for the garden.

The Shobers are very clear about the value and importance of an Arboretum annuity: “We think of the charitable gift annuity as a flexible financial product allowing us to rely on a rock-solid stream of future income (guaranteed by the University of Pennsylvania) while simultaneously building upon existing endowment funds at the Morris Arboretum.”

The Morris Arboretum is proud to offer charitable gift annuities

as a vehicle to provide guaranteed income to the donor while supporting the Arboretum’s important missions of education, outreach and horticultural display. If you would like more information about annuities or other gift planning opportunities, please call Victoria Sicks, Associate Director of Development, at (215)247-5777, ext. 152 or send an e-mail to [vsicks@upenn.edu](mailto:vsicks@upenn.edu).

# Gift Annuities

*In these challenging economic times, a gift annuity with the Morris Arboretum is a gift with many benefits...*

- Your annuity enhances the stability and growth of the Morris Arboretum for years to come
- You and/or another income beneficiary receive fixed payments for life
- You will receive a charitable deduction for a portion of your gift
- A gift of appreciated securities may reduce and defer capital gains tax
- A portion of each payment you receive is tax-free
- The payments are backed by the University of Pennsylvania

For further information, please contact Victoria Sicks, Associate Director of Development, at (215) 247-5777 ext. 152 or via e-mail at [vsicks@upenn.edu](mailto:vsicks@upenn.edu).

## Sample Rate Chart for a \$10,000 Charitable Gift Annuity on a Single Life

Annuitant Age at Gift	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70	Age 75	Age 80	Age 85
Annuity Rate	5.2%	5.5%	5.8%	6.4%	7.2%	8.1%
Annual Payment	\$520	\$550	\$580	\$640	\$720	\$810
Charitable Deduction*	\$2,471	\$3,060	\$3,802	\$4,400	\$5,006	\$5,684

\*Deduction will vary slightly with changes in the IRS Discount Rate.

Assumed rate 3.4%.

PLEASE NOTE: Charitable gift annuities are not investments or insurance and are not regulated by the insurance department of any state.

# Pieces from the Past

**VICTORIA SICKS** – Associate Director of Development for Major Gifts

**W**hen Lydia Morris died in 1932, she left a long and complicated will through which the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania was created. Lydia Morris was deeply concerned for her staff, and left each of them a monetary gift in addition to a lifetime pension.

She also gave away most of her personal effects.

The Arboretum recently received a set of beautiful Haviland luncheon dishes from Mary Turner of Margate, New Jersey, whose great aunt, Nellie Donahue, was the cook at Compton for many years. When Lydia died, Nellie received the dishes that were made in France for the J. E. Caldwell Company of Philadelphia and decorated with a delicate gold birch leaf pattern.

I recently visited with Mary, who shared with me several interesting stories of Lydia and her household. The one I liked best involved celery. Apparently, Nellie was instructed never to serve celery as Lydia did not like hearing the crunch in the mouths of her dinner companions!

Morris Arboretum volunteers are conducting additional research on the dishes which will be placed in storage until a proper area to display them has been determined.



Photo: Victoria Sicks

# A Look Back in Time



Rose Garden c.1924

**HERB KESTENBAUM, Horticulture Volunteer**

You probably remember what the Rose Garden looked like the last time you visited it. But what did it look like in 1933? What did the interior of the Morrises' mansion, Compton, look like? How spectacular must the view have been from that stately home, which stood on the hilltop next to the parking lot until it was demolished in 1968.

Thanks to a group of special volunteers, you now can find photographic answers to these and many other questions about the Arboretum's 123-year history by logging on to its website. Approximately 250 pictures have recently been posted to the linked site, but there are thousands more awaiting processing. They originate from a massive paper catalogue of thousands of historical items. Among the hundreds of images you can see are photos of Arboretum founders John and Lydia Morris, numerous garden and landscape views from Compton, as well as pictures from some of the Morrises' trips around the world. An avid photographer, a few of John Morris' original 8x10 glass plate negatives dating from 1899 survive in the archives today.



John and Lydia in the Flower Garden c.1910

Since the summer of 2008, Horticulture volunteer Leslie Smith has been leading a team of five volunteers in organizing, cataloging and processing the photos, blueprints, landscape plans and other documents into a format that is searchable and easily accessible to anyone with a computer. Much of that work remains to be done, and more volunteers

would be welcomed. The website also needs to be managed, and more research needs to be done.

Their efforts are just the latest steps in a 25-year-long crusade led by Bob Gutowski, the Arboretum's Director of Public Programs, to rescue, assemble and preserve photographs, artifacts, books, furniture, journal – even buildings

– from the Arboretum's past. Gutowski says some items are likely to be displayed in the new Horticulture Center.

To see the photos, follow the link <http://morrisarboretum.pastperfect-online.com/>. If you are interested in assisting with the archival efforts, please send an email to [pstprfct@exchange.upenn.edu](mailto:pstprfct@exchange.upenn.edu).



c.1854

# Catalogue of Plants in the Living Collection Now Available Online

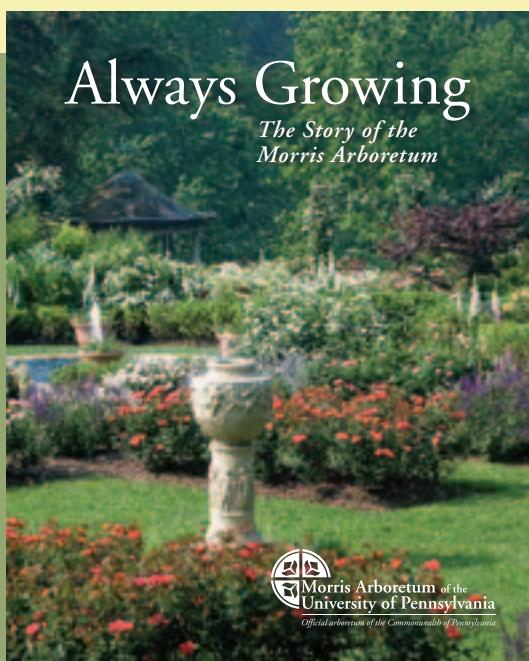
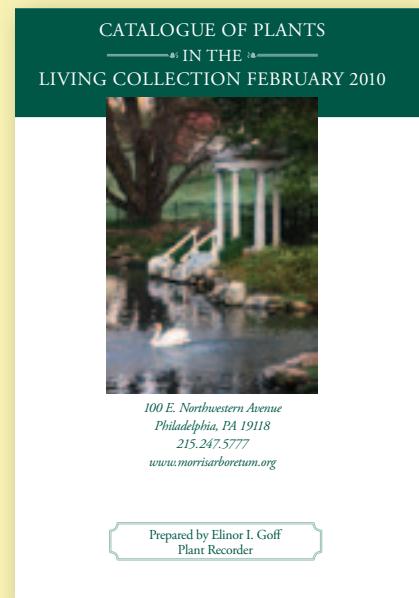
**A**re you looking for *Stewartia pseudocamellia* in the garden? Well, now you can visit the Morris Arboretum's website and download a listing of every living plant for which collection records are kept. The catalogue, which is maintained by Elinor Goff, the Arboretum's Plant Recorder, represents 7,897 records for plants and seedlots alive in the Arboretum as of February 15, 2010. Because a record may have more than one plant, our collection has approximately 13,000 accessioned plants and seedlots. These 13,000 plants represent 2,509 taxa (types of plants). Most perennials and annuals are not accessioned.

The catalogue is arranged alphabetically by scientific name. It provides the accession number, current location, scientific name, common name, provenance, source, how received, collector number, and native range for each plant or seedlot. Accession numbers ending with an “&” are seedlots or non-labeled seedlings in propagation.

A grid map of the Arboretum is included to help users locate plants throughout the garden. Plants that are located at the Greenhouse, the Nursery, or Bloomfield Farm can be viewed by appointment.

## To find the catalog:

1. Visit the Arboretum's homepage at [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org)
2. Select 'Plant and Tree Collections' from the drop-down menu under 'Gardens'.
3. Scroll down to the link at the bottom of the page. The list is arranged alphabetically by scientific name and you can locate a specific plant using the search bar. The second page contains the Arboretum's grid map.



# Always Growing Now available!

Discover the history and splendor  
of the Morris Arboretum  
in a beautiful 98-page book.  
*Available at The Shop for \$14.95*

# Natural Areas Bluebird Box Project

ANNE BRENNAN, Horticulture Section Leader, Natural Areas

Each spring, as green leaves begin to appear at the Arboretum, so do the bluebirds. Often seen at Bloomfield Farm and around the Arboretum's entrance, Eastern bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) begin looking for nest sites in late March, preferring cavities in trees near open, grassy areas. This season, 40 nest boxes offer additional housing options for the bluebirds and other cavity-nesting species.

During the past five years, Arboretum Equipment Manager Keith Snyder has built the bluebird boxes and installed them on metal posts throughout Bloomfield Farm and the Arboretum's meadows. Keith's improved design allows staff to easily open each box for monitoring and cleaning, and the vinyl roof covers (cut from discarded siding) are added to protect the wood from weather-related degradation.

Last year, recognizing that non-native house sparrows were nesting in many of the boxes intended for bluebirds, we began a program of scheduled monitoring to remove sparrow nests and record occurrences of bluebird and other nests. Throughout the 2009 nesting season, we visited each nest box approximately once per month and documented several active bluebird nests as well as nesting chickadees, house wrens, and tree swallows – all desirable species. However, we found a majority of the boxes to be hosting non-native house sparrows.

Not only do house sparrows compete with native cavity-nesting species for nesting locations, but they will violently eject a nesting bluebird, take over its nest site, and build their own nest on top of the bluebird's. Therefore, any friend of the bluebird considers house sparrows the enemy. We learned through research and experience that the uninvited sparrows can and will build a nest, lay eggs and produce hatchlings in just over two weeks, so our goal this year is to monitor the boxes at least every 14 days to prevent their successful reproduction. Our current policy is to destroy house sparrow eggs along with the nests, but to leave nests with hatchlings intact and resolve to monitor more often in the future. (This may sound contradictory, and some bluebird supporters advocate destroying house sparrows at any and all stages of development, but that's easier said than done when faced with a nest full of baby birds!)

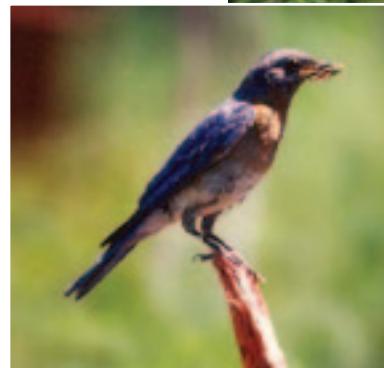


Photo: Ruth Pfeffer



Photo: Anne Brennan

Involved in and inspired by the planning of the new Horticulture Center, Arboretum Equipment Manager Keith Snyder decided to see if it was possible to add a green roof to some of the bird houses he was constructing. After adjusting the roof angle to lessen the pitch, he added a vinyl layer as a moisture barrier, and composite decking material for the sides. The roofs were then planted with sedum, making them not only attractive, but drought tolerant. One of the green roof birdhouses is located on Northwestern Avenue on the Bloomfield Farm side near the bike path.

In addition to monitoring more frequently in 2010, we believe we've improved the bluebirds' prospects by relocating 15 nest boxes to areas more likely to attract our blue-feathered friends. As insect eaters, bluebirds are known to prefer nesting sites facing lawns or other open areas where they can easily locate food while perched atop the nest box. You may have noticed the bluebird boxes we recently installed along the Arboretum's perimeter fence; these were previously located on poles surrounded by tall meadows, where they attracted only sparrows. Not only do nearby lawns provide ample feeding opportunities for bluebirds, but also the fence-mounted boxes will be easier for our staff to monitor throughout the season.

As of mid-April, we had observed three bluebird nests, four chickadee nests, and three tree swallow nests. Numerous house sparrow nests have been removed, and no doubt we'll see many more as the season progresses. However, we're optimistic that the data we collect will, over time, clarify the preferred nesting areas for bluebirds so we can continue to welcome them back each spring.



## Membership News

Photo: Paul Meyer

### CHESTNUT MEMBERSHIP – The “Deluxe” Family Membership

Chestnut membership benefits have been expanded. Members at this level may now bring two guests free of charge every time they visit. All membership levels offer complimentary one-time use guest passes, but if you are looking for greater flexibility and would like to bring guests regularly when you visit the Arboretum, consider a Chestnut membership today. This new benefit allows you to share our gardens and exhibits with guests, and your children and grandchildren will love it because they can bring a friend anytime. Consider a Chestnut membership next time you renew your membership, or upgrade today by calling (215) 247-5777 ext. 151. For more membership information, please visit our website [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org).

#### Memberships Levels Offering Guest Benefits:

##### *Bring Two Guests Any Time:*

Chestnut (\$165)

Holly (\$250)

Oak (\$500)

##### *Bring Four Guests Any Time:*

Laurel (\$1,000)

Katsura (\$2,500)

# Travel with the Arboretum

## *Gardens, Wine and Wilderness: A Tour of New Zealand*

**January 8-30, 2011**

Imagine ... the trip of a lifetime. Under balmy skies we'll visit some of nature's most spectacular scenery, interspersed with wonderful examples of human creativity ... gardens, architecture, artistic creations, fine cuisine and wine. Learn the history and culture of a land from those who love and care for it. Imagine ... a tour designed with the same care and passion as a great piece of music or a celebrated garden. The concepts of sequence, contrast, surprise, rhythm, repetition, theme and variations apply equally to music, gardens and to travel.

For 15 years, Garden Adventures, Ltd. has been designing and leading tours to New Zealand. In January, 2011, we are proud to offer, for the fifth time, an opportunity to experience the mystery, beauty and hospitality of New Zealand. Join Richard Lyon, R.L.A., and Paul W. Meyer, *The F. Otto Haas Director* of the Morris Arboretum, on a winter escape where you will explore, learn and relax in the gardens and natural wonders of this extraordinary destination. This trip is offered exclusively to Morris Arboretum members and Penn alumni. The approximate price per person at the double occupancy rate is \$9,750. For further information, please visit our website: [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org), or contact Victoria Sicks at (215) 247-5777, ext. 152, or [vsicks@upenn.edu](mailto:vsicks@upenn.edu).

Photo: Victoria Sicks



# Woody Plants Conference

The annual Woody Plants Conference, scheduled for Friday, July 16, is the place to go for cutting-edge information on trees and shrubs. Held each year on the beautiful campus of Swarthmore College, home of the Scott Arboretum, the conference is co-sponsored by Chanticleer, Longwood Gardens, the Morris Arboretum, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Scott Arboretum and Tyler Arboretum.

The conference is popular among both amateurs and professionals, and it is a great place for networking with fellow gardeners. Included with the registration is a free admission pass to Chanticleer, Longwood Gardens, Morris Arboretum and Tyler Arboretum for the weekend following the conference.

This year's speakers and topics include:

Well-known nurseryman, author and lecturer, Dan Hinkley will discuss seed collection and plant evaluation of some of his favorite genera. He will offer tips on propagation as well as successful cultivation.

Tim Boland, executive director of the Polly Hill Arboretum on Martha's Vineyard, will highlight the challenges faced by forests today including habitat fragmentation, invasive plants and animals, and climate change. He will emphasize the role humans have played in shaping the landscape and review new approaches to forest conservation.

An exciting project in New York City, the High Line, a former elevated freight railway on the west side of Manhattan, will be the focus of Patrick Cullina's talk, "Trees, Shrubs and Vines on the High Line: Past, Present and Future." Patrick is the vice president of horticulture and park operations for Friends of the High Line. With its opening in June of 2009, the High Line has become one of the country's most celebrated parks.

Gary Johnson, Professor of Urban and Community Forestry at the University of Minnesota, will discuss the problem of girdling roots that can cause premature plant death due to a decline in health or a sudden failure during high winds. Gary maintains that the problem is predictable, preventable and in many cases, treatable.

To receive a brochure, please contact Longwood Gardens at (610) 388-1000, ext. 507 or visit [www.woodyplantconference.org](http://www.woodyplantconference.org). No phone registrations.

# Fall Classes

Learn something new, do something different. The Arboretum offers an interesting line-up of classes on topics ranging from arts and crafts to nature adventures. Look for your Fall Course Brochure to arrive in early August. For more information or to register for classes call (215) 247-5777, ext. 125 or 156.

## Digital Photography

*Five Wednesdays beginning September 29, 6:30-8:30pm and one Saturday, October 16, 10am to 12 noon.*

This class covers digital camera terminology, photography basics including exposure, aperture, shutter speed and depth of field, and techniques for uploading images into your computer and organizing them for easy access. The instructor will also discuss the basic features of Adobe Photoshop.

## Create a Rain Garden

*Saturday, October 23, 1-3 pm*

Rain gardens are an excellent way to absorb rainwater runoff from roofs, driveways, sidewalks and lawns so that it can soak into the ground. Learn how to add rain gardens to the landscape where they will be effective. See examples of rain gardens and suitable native plants. We will also cover selecting and preparing a site, determining the size of the garden, choosing native plant species appropriate for conditions, and using rain barrels together with rain gardens.

## Two Birding Classes Offered:

### Birding at Manasquan Reservoir

*Monday, September 21, 7:45am-3:30pm*

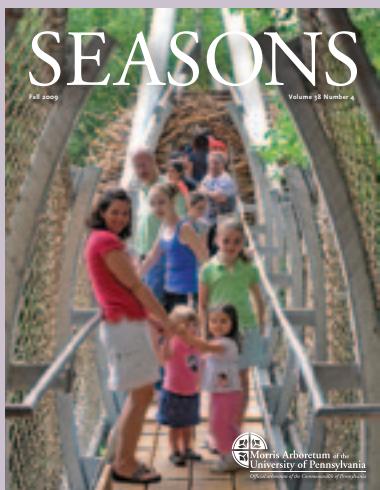
### Birding at Bombay Hook in the Delaware Bay

*Thursday, October 28, 7:45am-4:30pm*



Join us for two trips to areas perfect for birdwatching. Groups for each trip will meet at the Arboretum and travel by small bus.

**Starting this October – A new mid-week afternoon series to stimulate and enrich. Speakers will take you beyond our garden, connect you to their worlds in the arts, sciences, ornithology, travel, urban design, sustainability and humanities and...back home again to our world of plants! Topics, speakers and dates will be listed in the Fall Course Brochure and on the Morris Arboretum website.**



## *Seasons* newsletter wins Garden Writers Award

The Morris Arboretum has been recognized with a 2010 Silver Award of Achievement from the Garden Writers Association for the Fall 2009 issue of *Seasons* newsletter. Chosen from more than 230 entries, *Seasons* was given the award in the category of "Best Overall Product – Newsletter".

The award automatically qualifies *Seasons* as a semi-finalist for a Gold Award for "Best Talent" or "Best Product". The Gold Awards will be announced in September at the Annual GWA Symposium in Dallas, TX.

## Hospitality Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers with a passion for the Arboretum who will enjoy the energetic connection of welcoming members and guests. Working collaboratively with Arboretum staff in three to six hour, fun and high impact assignments, volunteers will help significantly enhance the visitor experience. A two-hour training will be done by appointment. For more information or to set up a training appointment, please contact Jo Anne Miller at [jomill@upenn.edu](mailto:jomill@upenn.edu) or (215) 247-5777 ext.184.

Photo: Paul Meyer

## The Shop at Morris Arboretum has a new look!

Stop by and see The Shop's new layout and a cornucopia of new items. Check out our beautiful vases, jewelry, gardening items, and Arboretum logo wear. The Shop also has lots of great items for kids, including fun toys, books, games and trains. The Shop is open 7 days a week from 10am-4pm during the week, and until 5pm on weekends.



# Summer events



## SUMMER CONCERT INFORMATION

On summer concert evenings, ALL CARS ENTERING AFTER 4 PM will be charged a per car parking fee instead of per person admission in order to encourage carpooling and accommodate more visitors with the Arboretum's limited parking.

**Beech, Chestnut, Holly, Oak, Laurel, and Katsura members** – Free parking for summer concerts is a benefit of premier level memberships. A valid membership (Beech and above) card and photo ID must be shown at kiosk to park for free.

**Individual, Dual, Family, and Far-Away Friend members and Penn Card holders** – Present a valid membership or Penn card at the entrance kiosk to receive a discounted parking rate of \$10 per carload.

**Please note:** If you purchase a membership the night of the concert, and have already paid the non-member admission fee, you will be reimbursed in full. Simply present your receipt when you sign up for membership. This is applicable only on concert nights.

### General Concert Parking Fee Information

A single member in a car qualifies it as a member car and makes it eligible for the \$10 fee. Per person admission fees will not be collected from non-members in the vehicle. Cars with no members will be charged a \$30 parking fee in lieu of per person admission fees.

### Walk/Bike/SEPTA Fees

Non-member fees for concert nights: \$5 per individual, 3 years of age and up (after 4 pm). No other coupons or discounts apply. Members who walk, bike or take SEPTA will not be charged a fee.

### To expedite service at the kiosk on concert nights:

- There will be a cash and members-only lane. Cash is much faster to process than credit cards.
- Membership cards will be required to receive discounted rates or free entrance.
- Gate attendants will not be able to look up your name if you do not have your membership card on hand for concerts.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation!

Photo: Arnold Winkler



### JULY Garden Railway Display – American Roadside Attractions Through September 6

#### Garden Railway presents Circus Week

June 26 through July 5,  
10am-4pm daily, Thurs. until  
8pm, 5pm on weekends

The first circus was held in Philadelphia in 1793. Come see the Big Top and the circus trains, learn the history of the circus and watch for a few surprises.

### 3 Out on a Limb's Birthday Celebration

Saturday, July 3, 11am-1pm  
See p. 4 for more information,

#### Summer Concert Series – Groovin' in the Garden

Two Thursdays, July 15  
and 22, 7pm

Bring a picnic dinner and sit back and relax to the sounds of classical and jazz in the summer garden. Free beer tastings, sponsored by Flourtown Beverage from 6-7pm. Concerts begin at 7pm. Blankets or chairs are recommended.

### 15 "To The Max"

Thursday, July 15, 7pm

This multi-talented, multi-faceted group pays tribute to a variety of musical genres, playing music of the 50s, 60s, 70s, 80s, as well as today's top music. "To The Max" has performed worldwide including in Japan, Africa, Turkey and United States. <http://www.myspace.com/keepittothemax>.

### 22 Cintron

Thursday, July 22, 7pm

Latin soul band, Cintron, is back by popular demand and will take the stage with a cast of 16 high-octane musicians who blend a Latin percussion section with a screaming and powerful big band brass section, topped off with smooth bilingual vocals. <http://www.cintronband.com>.

## 17 Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends™ weekend

Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18, 10am-4pm

Come visit the Garden Railway and see Thomas & Friends™ as they take over the tracks.

## 28 Members-Only Bring a Friend for Free Night

Wednesday, July 28, 5-8pm

Members of all levels are invited to pack a picnic dinner or dine at the café. This is a great opportunity to introduce a friend, family or neighbor to the Morris Arboretum for free on one special evening. Members are welcome to bring more than one guest, but are asked to accompany their guests to the Arboretum. Registration is NOT required.

### Great Trees Tour

Each Sunday in July at 1pm

Unusual and magnificent trees have flourished at the Morris Arboretum for more than 100 years. On this tour, you will see champion trees, old trees, trees from far away continents, and trees native to Pennsylvania.

## AUGUST

### Summer Concerts Series – WXPN Kids Corner Concerts

Two Thursdays, August 5 and 12, 6:30pm

## 5 Steve Pullara and His Cool Beans Band

Thursday, August 5, 6:30pm

Back by popular demand, this group includes a Parents Choice award-winning three-piece band. Their fun and hip music draws from jazz, swing and pop for all ages. These are tunes for the whole family, that will bring out the animal in you. <http://www.coolbeansmusic.com/>

Photo: Arnold Winkler



## 12 Miss Amy's Fitness Rock & Roll

Thursday, August 12, 6:30pm

Miss Amy® is on a mission to teach children about being fit! As a mom, a certified fitness instructor and an acclaimed singer/songwriter with a collection of four Grammy cataloged children's CDs, her programs appeal to youngsters by engaging imagination to teach basic fitness. [www.MissAmyKids.com](http://www.MissAmyKids.com).

Prior to each concert, from 5:30-6:30pm, the Little Treehouse of Chestnut Hill ([www.treehouseplaycafe.com](http://www.treehouseplaycafe.com)), will be in the garden to introduce their play café with discount cards and to host a tots sing-a-long session. Please see box at left for important information regarding Summer Concerts.

## 7 Garden Discovery Series

August 7, 11am-3pm

### Create a Leaf Picture

Using various leaf shapes and colors, make a one-of-a-kind picture or collage. This activity will take place near the entrance to the Garden Railway.

## 28 Garden Railway presents Circus Week

August 28 through September 6, 10am-4pm daily, Thurs. until 8pm, 5pm on weekends

Lions, tigers & bears on the rails? Oh my! Catch the circus trains before they leave!

### New Members Lecture and Tour

Saturday, August 28, 10:30am

Please join us for *The Morris Arboretum – Past, Present, and Future* with Director of Public Programs, Bob Gutowski. The talk will be followed by tours of the gardens led by volunteer guides. Registration is required and space is limited. Kindly reply by August 25. Register online at [www.morrisarboretum.org](http://www.morrisarboretum.org) or by calling (215) 247-5777 x170.

The Garden Railway Display will close on Labor Day. Don't miss the trains this summer!

The Holiday Garden Railway returns Nov. 26.

### ADMISSION

Adults (18 - 64yrs.)	\$14
Senior (65+ yrs.)	\$12

Children (3 -17yrs.)	\$7
Members	FREE

\* Please note, Arboretum events are subject to change without notice.

Unless noted, all events are held rain or shine. In the event of rain, performances will take place under the tent at the Widener Visitor Center.



Morris Arboretum of the  
University of Pennsylvania

Official arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

100 East Northwestern Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Periodicals Postage  
Paid at Philadelphia, PA

Photo: Judy Miller



Seasons newsletter is printed on FSC (Forest Stewardship Council) certified paper, which supports the growth of responsible forest management worldwide through its international standards.

## It's *Out on a Limb's* First Birthday!

Join the Morris Arboretum on Saturday, July 3 as we celebrate *Out on a Limb's* 1st Birthday! Stop by from 11am-1pm and enjoy birthday cake (beginning at noon, while supplies last), balloons, magic and storytelling with Judy Tudy the Clown, all *Out on a Limb!*

Photo: Paul Warchol

