Explanation and Policy of the Horticulture Volunteer Group of the Morris Arboretum

The grounds of the Morris Arboretum are divided up into six sections. Each section is managed by a horticulturist: Azalea Meadow/FranklinTown section by Bill Graham; Penn's Woods by Rich Orth; Bloomfield Farm by Chick Culp; Compton by Daniel Allier; English Park by Melinda Adams; and The Rose Garden by Judy McKeon. The horticulture volunteers assist the section managers and may find themselves pruning shrubs, dead-heading roses, dividing perennials, weeding beds, or transplanting young trees. One must be physically able, but not necessarily technically skilled, as the horticulture staff provides regular instructions. It has been our experience at the Arboretum that the staff and volunteers form a cooperative team, freely sharing skills and knowledge. One must be a member of the Arboretum to participate as a volunteer.

Volunteers meet every Wednesday morning at 8:30 a.m. at the Widener Education Center and work until 12:00 noon. Please sign in to our log book kept in the interns' office as records of volunteer hours help the Arboretum substantiate its funding. Volunteers are entitled to 1/2 price on education courses after completing 30 hours of annual service. Materials fee is applicable at full rate. There is no reduction for Branching
Out trips or the Gardening Expositions. Any questions should be
directed to Jan McFarran at extension 156. Hours are recorded
by fiscal year (July 1 to June 30).

Tools are provided by the department, but some like to
bring their own hand pruners. You should come dressed for the
weather and the work.

Don’t worry if you arrive late or leave early or are
unable to make it every Wednesday. We appreciate any time that
you can spare. If a volunteer wants to donate extra time in a
specific area, that can be arranged with the individual section
manager. Remember that you are responsible for keeping your own
time record.

The first Wednesday of each month we will hold a brown
bag lunch seminar from 12:15-1:00 to discuss a variety of topics
from pruning to perennial care. The schedule will be mailed to
each volunteer.

The volunteer schedule runs from March to mid-December.
Two Wednesdays in February the staff present educational
workshops for the volunteers. We also have informal pruning
sessions in the winter months for those who want to brave the
elements.

Inclement weather sometimes prevents us from working and
the day is cancelled. If in doubt you can call the horticulture
center at 247-4107 from 7:45 a.m.

The schedule of activities is subject to change, but you
will notice that the groups rotate through the various sections,
which we hope will provide you with varied experiences and
enable you to get to know each section and its manager. Two
field trips to local private and public gardens, and the
staff/volunteer picnic and holiday party completes the
schedule. There are many volunteer opportunities at the Morris
Arboretum and we encourage you to be a guide, or to work at the
plant sale, or in the greenhouse. However, the horticulture
volunteers are a separate group with separate agenda and
policies.

Finally, as the volunteer group develops, policy may
need to change; therefore, please speak up if you think
additions or subtractions should be made.