Philadelphia Trees

I am thrilled to tell you that Philadelphia Trees: a Field Guild to the City and the Surrounding Delaware Valley has arrived. For the last six years, I have been working with co-authors Edward “Ned” Barnard and Catriona Briger to produce this easy-to-use and lavishly illustrated guide to the most commonly grown and planted tree species in our region. The book features some of the best places to see trees, highlights noteworthy individual specimens, and provides information on 168 tree species. Each species is illustrated with detailed close-ups of the leaves and other key features, as well as a portrait of an outstanding area specimen. The book is modeled on the very successful New York edition written by Ned Barnard in 2002. Philadelphia Trees is now available in The Shop at the Arboretum for $19.95.

Working on Philadelphia Trees gave us, as authors, an opportunity to study individual trees and visit places where outstanding trees grow throughout our region. While doing this, I came to realize how truly exceptional Philadelphia is horticulturally. We live in a climate well-suited to a rich diversity of trees, and our region is indeed America’s Garden Capital. The slogan of Greater Philadelphia Gardens (an organization that promotes Philadelphia’s many gardens) is “30+ gardens within 30 miles of Philadelphia,” and each of these gardens has a richness of trees, with the majority of their tree collections curated and labeled to facilitate learning.

Trees make the place! In fact, in our state, trees are so much a part of the natural history and culture, they are also part of the name. After all, they don’t call it “Penn’s Sylvan” for nothing! It is hard to imagine living here without trees.

Even in some of the most densely developed parts of Philadelphia, we truly live in an urban forest. We have inherited a wonderful legacy of trees, planted and nourished by earlier generations. But we cannot do this for granted. In many of our communities, our trees are aging, dying, and suffering from virulent pests, diseases, and years of deferred maintenance. It is time to rededicate ourselves to replanting this “green infrastructure” that is so vital to the health, quality of life, and sense of place in our cities.

We do indeed need trees—not only their beauty, but the oxygen they produce, the cooling they provide, and the protection they afford to our watersheds. And, in our communities, trees need our help. We need to plant, water, nourish, prune, and protect trees as they mature. Without our efforts, older trees will pass on and our urban forest will begin to fade away.

With Philadelphia Trees, we celebrate the diversity of trees common to our metropolitan region. Through the book’s photos and illustrations, we hope to help readers see and appreciate the distinctive character of each individual tree species. I believe if we truly see and are aware of our neighborhood trees through the changing seasons, we are more likely to be sensitive and responsive to their vital needs.

Philadelphia Trees is designed to be pocket-sized and easy to carry. Take it with you as you head out into your neighborhood, and get to know—really know, your green neighbors. And, be ready to lend them a helping hand. The simple act of planting and tending a tree can have profound and positive impact on your environment for generations to come.
Morris Arboretum in Motion -
The Kinetic Sculptures of Lyman Whitaker

SUSAN CRANE, Director of Marketing

I
n April, Morris Arboretum debuted its new 2017 exhibit, *Morris Arboretum in Motion*, featuring kinetic wind sculptures by artist Lyman Whitaker. Lyman Whitaker has been a working sculptor for more than 40 years. Since the early 1980s, he has focused on kinetic art, creating *Wind Sculptures™*—artworks driven by the wind. His constructs are organic in nature and dependent upon their natural surroundings to generate movement. They are also intended to encourage observers to think about their surroundings and their own relationship to nature.

Lyman has been fascinated by wind since he was a child. “Wind has always seemed mysterious and even a little bit scary to me,” he said. “Wind is a medium. It’s invisible, it’s tactile, and it’s a convenient power source for kinetic energy.” Lyman Whitaker’s compositions are all hand-crafted in his studio. They range in height from 5-27 feet tall and can be installed alone, in small groupings, or in *Wind Forest™*. The kinetic shapes are bold and distinctive, and are fabricated from copper, steel, and stainless steel providing beauty and strength.

When seen in motion, the wind sculptures create a mesmerizing effect for viewers. “Everything in the world is designed to amp you up,” says Lyman. “These sculptures are designed to take you down, to relax you, to make you feel comfortable.” Lyman said the question he is most asked about his sculptures is where he gets his inspiration. His answer, “I work more by intuition than by inspiration. I have faith that the process will unfold, like an author who writes a character, and then what happens can be a surprise.”

Visitors will have the chance to experience more than 50 kinetic wind sculptures throughout the garden. All of Lyman’s sculptures are available for purchase through Leopold Gallery, and 25% of all sales benefit Morris Arboretum. The addition of one of these original pieces of art to one’s garden is a gift to Morris Arboretum. Lyman says, “The garden is a perfect venue for my pieces. Since they are derivative of plant forms, they feel at home among plants.” Learn more about the work of Lyman Whitaker at www.leopoldgallery.com.

This exhibit is supported in part by the Madeleine K. Butcher Fine Arts Endowment.

Honoring Lehman Kapp

JESSICA LYNCH, Associate Director, Individual Giving

Lehman Earl Kapp, Jr., known by his friends simply as “Kapp,” was the type of person we all aspire to be in our retirement—active, engaged, and busy, doing the activities he always loved. He was a train enthusiast who could be found tinkering with models and tracks at his home in Harleysville. After years of teaching high school at Methacton Junior & Senior High, he continued to give back to young people by coaching track in his retirement.

He was a cyclist and an accomplished photographer, with some of his photos appearing in *Pennsylvania* magazine. He was a gardener who could be seen buying plants most years at the Morris Arboretum’s annual plant sale.

The Arboretum staff first became acquainted with Kapp through our continuing education program. He was one of the most active students the Arboretum has ever had, participating in courses on just about every topic offered. But the subject Kapp loved most of all was birding. Season after season, he would climb aboard the Arboretum’s 11-seat passenger van and trek out to the Conowingo Dam in Maryland, to the shores of Cape May, New Jersey, or to gorges in Ithaca, New York, searching, with his Arboretum friends, for all sorts of interesting birds.

Sadly, Kapp passed away in December of 2015 at the age of 69 after complications from a cycling accident several years before. Upon his passing, the Arboretum learned that Kapp made provisions in his will for a generous estate contribution to the Morris Arboretum. As with many estate gifts, the contribution was designated for the Arboretum’s endowment, however a small portion of his gift was set aside for the purchase of a much-needed new Arboretum van. For a person who logged hundreds of hours on many a birding adventure, a more comfortable vehicle to ride in is something that would have made Kapp very happy.

“Kapp enjoyed people, and on any of those [birding] trips, whether it was a morning bird walk, an all day trip, or a weekend excursion, Kapp knew everyone by the end of the day. He was a storyteller and a good listener (what a combination!), with a great sense of humor to boot. Kapp was always the first to arrive for any trip, and through the years we became good friends.”

– Ruth Pfeffer
Morris Arboretum Birding Instructor

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Moonlight & Roses

It’s not too late to reserve a space at the most popular garden party of the year! Moonlight & Roses begins with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres in the Rose Garden at 6pm, followed by dinner and dancing in the fabulous moonlit tent. The Morris Arboretum is delighted to recognize longtime friends and supporters Patty and Binky Wurts as the 2017 Moonlight & Roses honorees. Amanda Cobb is chairing this year’s event, which takes place on Friday, June 2. Reservations are required and space is limited.

To register, please contact Kristen Casalenuovo at (215) 247-5777 ext. 418 or kcasal@upenn.edu no later than May 22.

Garden Railway - 20 Years of Loco-Motion

Morris Arboretum’s Garden Railway opens for the summer season on Saturday, May 27, Memorial Day weekend. Celebrating its 20th year, the Garden Railway 2017 theme, “In Motion,” will feature buildings and elements that incorporate movement in their construction. Come and see a replica of the Morris water mill that has a wheel that rotates; discover a windmill with blades that turn; and catch (if you can) a Train Touch-n-Go! with a sensor-activated botanical ‘pad’ that allows the train to operate.

In preparation for the grand opening, several renovations have been completed at the Garden Railway display. The 14-foot long bridge that visitors walk under has been rebuilt and replaced. The John Morris fountain, an original feature from the 1900s, has been refurbished and is in working condition. Along the Thomas the Tank Engine™ tracks, the whimsical log tunnel has been replaced and five small trestles have been rebuilt.

The Garden Railway is supported in part, through the generosity of Gwen and Ed Asplundh and by a gift given in memory of Joe Shuttleworth.

Photos: Jane Niehaus and Nathan Schwarz
Meet our Staff - Michelle Conners

What led you to the Morris Arboretum?

My husband, Joe, my daughter, Amy, and I had been living in St. Petersburg, Florida where I was working in social services. First, I was the house manager for a shelter for homeless women and their children, and then I worked in a substance abuse treatment program. When we returned to our native Philadelphia in 1994, I spent a couple of years taking care of my family, including my aging parents, and tried to figure out what I wanted to do next. A few times in my life I have experienced revelatory moments that dramatically altered the course I was on. Deciding to study horticulture was one of those moments. I didn’t even know that you could get a degree in horticulture until I went to an open house at Temple’s Ambler campus. I decided immediately that that was what I wanted to do, and I enjoyed my studies there immensely. Studying as an older adult makes you even more appreciative of the experience.

I got my Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Temple University in 2000, and came here as the Urban Forestry Intern that year. In 2002, Tony Aiello asked me to work as his curatorial assistant, a position I held for eight years before moving to Public Programs (now Education and Visitor Experience) as the Events Coordinator.

How does your horticulture background influence your work with events?

The goal of every event at the Arboretum is to incorporate an educational component. I believe my academic background in science makes it easier for me to draw upon that knowledge to build engaging and effective programming.

Do you have any favorite events?

Of the public events, I really enjoy the Japanese Cherry blossom Festival (when the weather cooperates!). Everyone is so happy it is spring and they get to be outside to enjoy it. It is no surprise that weather is the biggest challenge of my job. No matter how carefully we plan, one bad storm can lay waste to your plans. Of all the events, probably my favorite is Sunshine & Roses which is a thank you event for the Arboretum’s many devoted volunteers. I see a lot of the volunteers throughout the year, especially at Plant Sale, but when they’re working, we don’t have time to chat. Sunshine & Roses is low key and relaxing, and gives me an opportunity to catch up with what is going on with the volunteers.

What do you like to do in your time off?

I do love gardening, and I’ve got a big enough garden that every spring it seems a little daunting to get all the work done. But my favorite thing to do is to hang out with my two wonderful rescue mutts, Jamie and Toby. They’re loving and goofy, and we enjoy long walks together around our neighborhood and in the park.

Additional Widener Renovations Planned

LESLIE WEISSER, Associate Director, Corporate, Foundation & Donor Relations

The George D. Widener Education & Visitor Center is the central hub for all of the Morris Arboretum’s events, activities, and outreach, and has welcomed more than 2.5 million visitors to the Arboretum since it was opened to the public in 1982. The wear and tear of heavy use by both staff and guests has become increasingly evident throughout the building over the past few years, and the need for remediation has become an institutional priority.

The Arboretum is therefore honored to acknowledge the extraordinary philanthropic support of Edith Robb Dixon, who has provided a new leadership gift allocated for the continued enhancement of the George D. Widener Education & Visitor Center. Mrs. Dixon’s earlier gift to the Widener Center enabled the Arboretum to plan and construct a new ADA accessible foyer into the building, an expansive welcome plaza that provides a wonderful outdoor gathering space, and additional accessible restroom facilities. The next phase of renovations will include exterior pointing of the building’s stonework, fresh paint, new flooring and carpeting, replacement of the boiler, electrical and lighting upgrades, new conference chairs, and corrective measures in the third floor Herbarium for the conservation of the Arboretum’s priceless plant specimen collection.

Through this gift, Mrs. Dixon continues her family’s long legacy of volunteer and philanthropic involvement at the Morris Arboretum. The Arboretum remains tremendously grateful to the Widener and Dixon families, and to Edith Robb Dixon for her clear vision and thoughtful leadership during a decade of unprecedented growth at this historic Philadelphia institution.

Annual Report Correction

Donor Georg U. Simon was inadvertently omitted from Morris Arboretum’s Annual Report for fiscal year 2016. We apologize for the error and thank him for his generosity in support of the Garden Railway exhibit.
Georgia on My Mind

VINCENT MARROCCO, Chief Horticulturist & Rosarian

This past fall, I had the extraordinary opportunity to represent the Arboretum on a seed-collecting expedition to the Republic of Georgia. Located at the crossroads between Europe and Asia, Georgia’s unique, rugged topography and varied climate is home to some of Europe’s most diverse flora. However, the terrain, coupled with a treacherous mountain road system, makes accessing the country’s highland forests difficult at best. As a result, Georgia has the highest percentage of virgin forests of any European country. With few collectors traveling to this region, the trip represented an unprecedented opportunity to add depth and breadth to the Morris Arboretum’s plant collection.

The trip was organized through the Plant Collecting Collaborative (PCC), a group of 12 U.S. botanic gardens. My traveling companions included Matt Lobdell (Morton Arboretum), Joe Meny (U.S. National Arboretum), Byoyce Tankenley (Chicago Botanic Garden), and Peter Zale (Longwood Gardens). Because of the complex logistics of traveling to the remote regions of Georgia, we further collaborated with botanists from the Ilia State University Institute of Botany and the National Botanical Garden of Georgia in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, and the Bakuriani Alpine Botanical Garden located in the village of Bakuriani.

Georgia is surrounded by the Greater Caucasus Mountains to the north, the Lesser Caucasus Mountains to the south, and the Black Sea to the west, geographical barriers that set the stage for tremendous speciation. As geological upheavals occurred, tremendous speciation. As geological upheavals occurred, the isolated plant populations were forced to evolve and adapt to new microclimates. The resultant flora represents a broad array of Eurasian plants and Georgian endemics (plants that are native only to Georgia).

There were numerous highlights on our three-week trek across this beautiful country. We blazed a trail to the Tusheti region in north central Georgia, becoming the first Americans to collect seed in this remote area. Here we collected Gentiana septemfida, a beautiful mid-season blooming perennial that should do well in our Philadelphia summers. We traveled south to the Tetrobi Managed Preserve. This botanical wonder sits atop a limestone ridge surrounded by the vast volcanic Tabatskuri plain. This area is home to several Georgian endemics, including Senecio kancloukweji, a member of the aster family. We were given special permission to collect the seed of this extremely rare flower. We also collected seed from Gladiolus dzavakheticus, a plant that had been recently discovered by Dr. David Chelidze, one of our botanist guides. Our seed-collaborating efforts represent the introduction of this plant into cultivation. As chief horticulturist and rosarian at the Arboretum, I was also intent on collecting roses from the wild. To my great delight, we made 12 collections of roses. Rosa warrantowiczii, Rosa oxyodon, and Rosa kozlowskyi are just some of the names we hope to add to the Arboretum’s living collection in the future.

In the end, we made 211 collections in the Republic of Georgia. This is a sizable number, and is the output of many days of trekking through remote territory and even more hours of cleaning, labeling, and preparing seeds for shipment back to the USDA. In a country with a flora as rich and diverse as Georgia’s, however, it represents only a fraction. Georgia has much to offer both in terms of its tremendously varied flora and as one of the last vestiges of wild populations of Eurasian plants. It was an honor to collaborate on this trip, helping to conserve these plants by ensuring their survival in ex-situ gardens.

Elephants in the Garden

LOUISE CLARKE, Horticulturist & Bloomfield Farm Section Leader

Have you seen elephants in the garden? Arboretum horticulturists have brought tropical foliage plants, the Alocasia or elephant ears, to Philadelphia this summer to add dramatic flair to our seasonal displays. Performing as soloists, or as part of a garden ensemble, tropicals can take you to distant vacation spots close to home. On your next garden safari, look for them by the Widener Visitor Center, Fernery Plaza, Pennock Garden, and Rose Garden areas. Originally hailing from Asia, our elephants enjoy Philadelphia’s hot, humid summers. With regular watering and proper fertilization, these plants will rocket skyward. You will not be able to miss them! Lifting to 6’ tall, Alocasia ‘Regal Shields’ sports dark green leaves with wavy margins and a purplish underside. Set off by lime green leaf veins, these elephant ears become the dominant plant in containers and provide dramatic focal points in the garden bed. Their moody color and arrow-shaped leaves provide great textural contrast to their planting partners.

Another member of the herd to spot is Alocasia ‘Portora’ or ‘Portadora’ (pictured above right). With ruffled-edged, jungle-green leaves and purple-brown stems, it overarches ‘Regal Shields’ by about two feet. When these wave in summer breezes, listen for the distant trumpeting of pachyderms. ‘Regal Shields’ and Alocasia ‘Portora’ or ‘Portadora’ will grace containers in the Wisteria Walk. Aspidistra elatior ‘Cast Iron’ (pictured below) has strappy, wide green leaves growing to 3’ tall. Once valued for its ability to endure London’s smoggy industrial revolution air, cast iron plant adds bold structure and a dark green foil for more colorful garden accents. They have enough substance to stand alone in containers as focal points. We hope you will enjoy a touch of the tropics on your summertime visits to the Arboretum. Your garden safari will take you to Asia and Africa without a passport or visas.

Photos: Courtesy Vince Marrocco

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Look for plumage of golden yellow and blue, with each flower lasting over a week. Ideal for outdoor container culture as well as garden beds, bird of paradise can happily overwinter indoors. On the Fernery Plaza, hunt for Cana‘ Bengal Tiger.’ The deep green foliage with spectacular yellow stripes evokes images of lurking jungle cats. Brilliant orange blooms erupt from 6’ tall stalks, creating an explosion of daytime fireworks. Be on the lookout for hummingbirds—they’ll be drawn to ‘Bengal Tiger’s’ apricot-colored flowers. A plant familiar to John and Lydia Morris, the cast iron plant will grace containers in the Wisteria Walk. Aspidistra elatior ‘Cast Iron’ (pictured below) has strappy, wide green leaves growing to 3’ tall. Once valued for its ability to endure London’s smoggy industrial revolution air, cast iron plant adds bold structure and a dark green foil for more colorful garden accents. They have enough substance to stand alone in containers as focal points. We hope you will enjoy a touch of the tropics on your summertime visits to the Arboretum. Your garden safari will take you to Asia and Africa without a passport or visas.

Photos: Courtesy of Excelsa Gardens

### Elephants in the Garden

**Lois Clarke, Horticulturist & Bloomfield Farm Section Leader**

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**Photos: Courtesy of Excelsa Gardens**
**Free Storytime at the arboretum**

Extended hours until 8pm, June-August.

**STEAMpunk Expo:** Mind over Matter

**Sunday, June 11, 10am-5pm**

Explore mind-blowing science at Morris Arboretum. STEAMpunk 2017: Mind over Matter challenges visitors to adopt the spirit of an adventurous Victorian. Open mindedness to new ideas, new fields of science, and new ways of looking at nature were hallmarks of the time. So grab your goggles, toss on your top hat, and come out and enjoy a full day of fun and learning in the beautiful gardens - the steampunk way.

**Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm**

**Sunday, June 18, 1-4pm**

Historic Springfield Mills at Morris Arboretum is restored and stone-grinding corn for meal and flour. Come and explore revolutionary technology, local history and a beautiful setting along the Wissahickon Creek. Guided tours.

**Late Night Wednesdays**

Extended hours until 8pm, June-August.

**J U L Y**

**Early Bird Saturdays & Sundays**

Garden opens at 8am on weekends through October.

**Late Night Wednesdays**

Extended hours until 8pm, June-August.

**Discovery Series: Fireflies in July**

Saturday, July 1, 11am-3pm

Explore fascinating facts about how these special summer insects light up our nights, and make your own firefly.

**Circus Week at the Garden Railway**

Saturday, July 1 - Sunday, July 9

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

**Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

**Fridays, July 7 & 21, 10:30-11:15am**

See June 9 for more information.

**Commonwealth Classic Theatre presents Romeo & Juliet**

**Wednesday, July 12, 6:30pm**

Enjoy summer outdoor theater as the Commonwealth Classic Theatre Company presents William Shakespeare’s classic love story, Romeo & Juliet. This event is free for members. After 4pm, admission is “pay what you will.”

**Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends at the Garden Railway**

Saturday & Sunday, August 12 & 13

Come visit the Garden Railway and see Thomas and Friends take over the tracks!

**Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm**

**Sunday, August 26 through Monday, September 4**

See July 1 for details.

**A U G U S T**

**Early Bird Saturdays & Sundays**

Garden opens at 8am on weekends through October.

**Late Night Wednesdays**

Extended hours until 8pm, June-August.

**Discovery Series: Sink or Float Science**

**Saturday, August 5, 11am-3pm**

What makes an object sink or float? Get a little wet and wild as we test buoyancy.

**Free Storytime at the Arboretum**

**Fridays, August 4 & 18, 10:30-11:15am**

See June 9 for more information.

**Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends at the Garden Railway**

Saturday & Sunday, August 12 & 13

Come visit the Garden Railway and see Thomas and Friends take over the tracks!

**Discovery Series: Monarch Metamorphosis**

**Saturday, September 2, 11am-3pm**

Discover the life cycle, migration patterns, and life history of the beloved monarch butterfly. Make your own butterfly creation to take home too!

**Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends at the Garden Railway**

Saturday & Sunday, September 10 & 11

See July 15 for more information.

**Grandparents Day**

**Sunday, September 10, 10am-5pm**

To celebrate Grandparents Day, kids who bring a grandparent to the Arboretum will receive $4 off admission, making youth admission $5. From 11am-1pm, families may take part in garden activity stations designed for multigenerational fun.

**Grist Mill Demonstration Day at Bloomfield Farm**

**Sunday, September 17, 1-4pm**

See June 18 for more information.

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**Admission**

- Adults (18-64yrs): $17
- Senior (65yrs+): $15
- Children (0-17yrs): $9
- Members: FREE

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

In the event of inclement weather, please visit www.morrisarboretum.org for information or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 0.
A Collection of Champions

While you may have heard of Morris Arboretum’s state champion katsura-tree (Cercidiphyllum japonicum), there are actually record-breaking trees everywhere you look! In a recent survey of the collection, more than 90 Arboretum trees were named state champions for their species, based on their height, trunk circumference, and canopy spread. Keeping records of these giants encourages us to appreciate and conserve them better.

For more than 50 years, the Pennsylvania Forestry Association has sponsored the “Big Tree Program” to maintain a database of exceptional trees in the state. While arboreta typically have their own detailed plant records, the Big Tree database compiles information from across public and private lands, as trees may be nominated by a garden, homeowner, or even an observant hiker. In discussing the program, coordinator Scott Wade explained that the main purpose is to increase awareness of the value of larger trees. This value includes many ecological benefits as well as awe-inspiring beauty in our communities.

The newly crowned champions at the Morris Arboretum include species of varying familiarity. Some are horticultural favorites, such as the dawn-redwood (Metasequoia glyptostroboides), sawtooth oak (Quercus acutissima), and silver linden (Tilia tomentosa). Others are rarely planted, but no less impressive champions, such as the dragon spruce (Picea asperata), Japanese torteeya (Torreya nucifera), and trident maple (Acer buergerianum). Arboretum staff have always appreciated these garden gems, but now there is increased motivation to monitor their health and to share information about them with colleagues and visitors.

With so many remarkable trees—more than 90 champions, and 160 in the top three for their species—one might wonder how the collection grew to such grandeur. Of course, it all started with John and Lydia Morris and their plantings at Compton around the turn of the 20th century. They designed an inviting landscape and filled it with captivating plants from around the world. Since becoming the Morris Arboretum of the University of Pennsylvania in 1932, curators have continued to seek out diverse additions to the Arboretum, and staff arborists have diligently considered the trees’ long-term preservation.

The Morris Arboretum plays a unique role in all our lives. It’s a place to learn about nature, a place to develop horticultural skills, a place for family to gather, and for kids to have fun. But underlying all of this, the strong foundation of the Arboretum is truly its trees. The next time you are visiting, for whatever reason, make sure to take a moment to look around and admire the beauty and splendor of the champions that surround us.

The Big Tree database can be accessed at PaBigTrees.com, and Morris Arboretum’s complete Catalogue of the Living Collection is available at www.morrisarboretum.org.

Photos: Anna Giesmann and Paul W. Meyer
Soak Up the Benefits -The Power of Rain Gardens

BESS TROUT, The Hay Honey Farm Natural Areas Intern

Imagine you are looking out on your yard during a pleasant spring rain. The water rushes through your gutters and drips quietly from the fence. A channel of water runs down your driveway, carrying with it months of dust and the salt of a long, cold winter. Tomorrow the streets and sidewalks will look fresh and clean in the sun.

But where does all that water go? For most towns and cities, it’s channeled into a series of drains and pipes, then shuttled along underground until it flows into our local streams and rivers. And all of that dust, chemicals from our tailpipes, and salt from our roads will go along with it. That can spell disaster for the delicate freshwater systems that critters such as tadpoles and dragonflies need to survive.

Townships and municipalities have an important role to play in stormwater management. But the everyday homeowner can help too, and grow a beautiful and rewarding garden in the process. Rain gardens are a relatively new way to manage water on your property. Rain falls on hard surfaces like a roof or driveway, and flows into a graded basin that is scaled to accommodate the average volume of runoff during a rain storm. That water slowly percolates down into the soil, filtering out sediment and pollutants. Plants growing in the rain garden basin soak up the water, using it to grow and bloom.

If this sounds complicated or overwhelming, it’s not. With some site assessment and basic calculations you could be well on your way to installing one of these beautiful gardens. Many states even offer publications that can assist with this process. The Pennsylvania Environmental Council published “Creating Your Rain Garden” to provide guidance on everything from choosing the site to picking plants. Step one is to select a location on your property where stormwater drains naturally. Step two is to do some simple math to determine the size and shape. Then comes the digging. The site should be graded so that the water will settle naturally into the basin. After that, choose your plant palette and layout, then plant away. If you plant native, pollinator-friendly flowers such as butterfly weed and bee balm you’ll also attract beneficial insects and birds to your garden.

The average rain garden located on private property requires little care beyond simple weeding. If the area draining into the garden is especially high in sediment like a dirt or gravel road, you may need to dig out the garden every so often to keep it from filling in. But for the most part, your rain garden will delight you with beautiful flowers and plants throughout the season and help keep our streams and rivers clean, with only the most basic garden maintenance. So consider adding a rain garden to your property. Together we can keep our neighborhoods beautiful and our rivers clean.

Move Your Way Toward Better Health

AMANDA DELEO, Web Manager & Yoga Instructor

Everywhere you look, the Arboretum is in motion this year and it’s a great reminder about how vital motion is for the health of our bodies and minds. As a part-time web manager and a yoga instructor, I am in the fortunate position of incorporating movement into my daily life through my work. Most of us have jobs that require us to sit at a desk for eight hours working on a computer. Gradually, without noticing, our posture puts a great deal of strain on our lower backs and shoulders, causing them to become overly stretched, and our chests to become tight and weak.

Posture, the position of our spine, affects our entire body. Good posture is defined as a balance of your spinal curves that allows your head to rest comfortably over your shoulders, your shoulders over your hips, and your hips over your heels. When our posture is ideal, our bones are aligned, which means that our muscles, joints, and ligaments can work in concert. With good posture, our vital organs work at peak efficiency, contributing to a healthy nervous system.

Movement of any kind, from walking, to sports, to yoga, helps to reset the alignment of our bones and changes the chemistry in our brains. Motion and deep breathing releases hormones that relax us. Paying attention to how our body feels activates the parts of our brain that manage our impulse control, decision making, and our ability to process external sensory signals.

Children reap great benefits from movement due to the rapid growth they are undergoing. Sustained free-form physical activity such as playing on a playground can keep children from developing injuries during sports later in life. There are also psychological gains associated with movement. Learning how to play with others develops the limbic system in the brain which helps manage emotions.

It’s up to adults to model healthy lifestyle habits for children. Good habits instilled at a young age will hopefully set a foundation for holistic growth throughout their lifetime. If we spend most of the day sitting in a tight contracted position, it signals our brain, that reinforces this behavior and the psychological aspects associated with it. Adding movement into every day of our life, as little as 30 minutes, has a profound effect on not only our bodies but more importantly, our minds.

The Arboretum is a great place to get moving. Paved paths with gentle grades are perfect for beginners, but depending on your goals, at one mile long, you can loop through the garden three or four times and give yourself a good workout! The key is to find a kind of movement that you enjoy and that feels good!
Exploring Houston Meadows
Saturday, June 3, 10am-1pm
Members: $36, Non-members: $45

Part of Fairmount Park, Houston Meadow is the most biologically diverse ecosystem in the Wissahickon Valley. Native grasses and herbaceous plants form a matrix of sod that stabilizes the meadow. Ericaceous shrubs thrive in the acidic barren-like soils. Colonizing trees border the meadow. Many bird and insect species thrive in this diverse and open meadow. We will explore the geographical boundaries and the plants, animals, and insects of this wonderful little world. Be prepared to walk. Bring a snack and something to drink. Meet at the Houston Playground. Directions will be sent upon registration.

Aerial Photography with UAVs (Drones)
Saturday, June 3, 1-4pm (raindate June 10)
Members: $40, Non-members: $45

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly called drones, are changing the world of photography. In this class, we will navigate the basics of what it will take to get you up and running with a UAV system to capture aerial photographs or record videos. Topics covered will include safety, necessary equipment, and regulations. The workshop will also include a short outdoor demonstration at the Arboretum. This course meets at the Arboretum’s Horticulture Center. Enter the road opposite the public garden entrance. Park in the lot and follow the signs to the Horticulture Center.

Digital Garden Photography
Saturday, June 10, 9:30am-12:30pm
Members: $54, Non-members: $60

This workshop for beginners to advanced beginners will focus on using your camera to capture extended or fleeting moments in your personal landscapes. This example-driven workshop provides understandable information to create beautiful images. We will focus on the impact and exploitation of prevailing light, elements of photographic composition, and developing personal style. The class format includes both classroom lecture and shooting outside, with a final class review of selected images. You should be familiar with the operation of your camera, and both compact and DSLR types are welcome.

Spring Pizza Class
Saturday, June 24, 1-3pm
Members: $36, Non-members: $45

Do you want to use your fresh garden veggies in a way everyone will enjoy? Pizza to the rescue! This class will be the perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Cookbook editor and writer Peggy Paul Casella will guide you through all the steps for making outstanding pizzas at home and will offer a variety of ideas to use fresh garden veggies in ways you have never dreamed of. Samples will be available throughout the class for you to try. Peggy is the author of the new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle Pizza Cookbook, and the creator of www.ThursdayNightPizza.com. Children ages 10 and up are welcome.

Art Explorations in Nature (Ages 3-5)
Four Thursdays, July 6, 13, 20, 27, 10:30-11:30am
Members: $85, Non-members: $100

Encourage your child to engage with the outdoors through discovery and creativity in this four-week art series. We will observe the natural world and draw, paint, print, build, and play. Each session will include a walk through the Arboretum, a story or an introduction to an artist’s work, and time for making art with your child.

Butterfly Walk at the Arboretum
Tuesday, June 20, 10am-12 noon (raindate June 22)
Members: $25, Non-members: $30

Welcome summer by exploring the Arboretum’s wildflower meadows and wetlands in search of butterflies. During our walk, we will enjoy observing how male butterflies patrol and chase away others as they wait for females to emerge. We will have the opportunity to inspect specimens (netted with special permission and released unharmed) and we will use viewing jars to get a closer look. We will discuss the host plants required by various butterfly caterpillars for food. Meet at the Morris Arboretum. Park in the meadow to the left of the entrance kiosk. Wear long pants and sturdy shoes. Bring water and a camera. This class is suitable for adults and children 10 years and older.

More Summer Fun - Classes for Kids!
A Block Party (of sorts) at Springfield Mills
ROBERT GUTOWSKI, Director of Education, Visitor Experience and Outreach
THOMAS WILSON, Director of Physical Facilities

We could have used about half-a-million Lego blocks to build the near eight-foot tall wall we needed at the Arboretum’s Springfield Mills. Instead, only 75 Lego-looking, concrete construction blocks (Redi-Rock), most weighing over 2,300 pounds each, arrived by tractor trailer loads in March.

Steve Scott, owner-operator of Scott Contracting and a member of the Arboretum’s Physical Facilities committee, recommended the product while advising on the restoration of the mill’s tail race. The tail race sounds like something a dog does in a circle, but it is a miller’s term for the lower portion of the mill race where the outflow from the turbine pit returns to the Wissahickon creek. Scott Contracting generously donated their time, expertise, and heavy construction equipment to the project. Recreation of the mill’s tail race included the removal of collapsed retaining walls, and then measuring, ordering and installing the new retaining walls. In addition, Scott oversaw the pouring of concrete for the tail race floor, pulling out the water turbine (installed about 1890), and regrading and installing a new crushed stone access drive around the grist mill.

The Restoration Mill Volunteers have also been active advising and preparing for this project, getting the turbine ready for extraction and modifying the spillway at the turbine pit’s sluice gate, which they also restored to operation. John Miller moved the turbine to his Oreland shop where he is refurbishing it for exhibition at the mill. Our next step is to restore the flow of water from the mill dam to the mill.

Visit and learn more about Springfield Mills at Grist Mill Demonstration Days, which will be held one Sunday per month throughout the summer (check the Events Calendar on pages 11-12 for more information). Come and experience the mill in action. Grist Mill Demonstration Days are free for members and included in regular garden admission.

Seasonal Delights at the Compton Café
CHRISTOPHER DORMAN, Assistant Director, Visitor Experience, Rentals & Retail

If it’s been awhile since your last trip to the Arboretum’s Compton Café, you’re due for a return visit. Chef Josh Hunter, who trained at the Restaurant School and has worked in some of Philadelphia’s finest restaurants, has introduced seasonal menus. These exciting menus changes correspond with locally available ingredients, meaning not only more variety, but also a more sustainable approach to dining. In line with the Arboretum’s dedication to sustaining our natural resources, the Compton Café is also Green Restaurant Certified. That means that Chef Hunter and the rest of his team have taken action to decrease waste, conserve resources, and reduce the impact on the environment.

You’ll find something here for everyone, including some classics (with a healthy spin) on the menu for the sprouts in your family. Plus, the addition of “grab and go” options means you can pop in for everything from fruit, to a salad or a sandwich without a wait.

The Compton Café is open weekends only in April and October, and daily May through September.

Morris Arboretum Lecture Series

What’s Hot! What’s Not! with The Perennial Diva

We’ve all witnessed trends in clothes, furniture, and even movies. There are also trends in horticulture. Retro flowers and vegetables become hot and new plants and garden techniques become passé. On Wednesday, October 11 at 7pm, Stephanie Cohen, The Perennial Diva, will dish the dirt on all kinds of trends waxing and waning in the garden. The diva doesn’t mince words, so be prepared to learn and laugh at her presentation. Stephanie has a BS in Horticulture and an MS in ecological studies. She was an instructor at Temple University for more than 20 years where she helped start the campus arboretum. She has received awards from the Pennsylvania Horticulture Society, Perennial Plant Association, American Nursery and Landscape Association, and was named an Alumni Fellow by Temple University. A garden media magazine picked Stephanie as one of the 25 most well-known people in the perennial plant industry. She is also the co-author of Perennial Gardeners Design Primer, Fallscaping, and The Non-Stop Garden. The lecture is $15 for members and $20 for non-members.

The Natural History of Edward Lear

Join us on Wednesday, November 15 at 2pm for an fascinating lecture with Robert Peck, Senior Fellow of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia and the author of a new book, The Natural History of Edward Lear. Edward Lear (1812-1888) is best known and much loved for The Owl and the Pussycat and other nonsense poetry, but Lear was also a fine painter of birds, mammals, reptiles, and landscapes, and an adventurous, worldwide traveler. Mr. Peck will detail the remarkable life and natural history paintings of this beloved children’s writer, who abruptly and mysteriously abandoned his scientific work soon after he achieved preeminence in the field. Mr. Peck is the curator of art and artifacts at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Drexel University, and was a guest curator of a bicentennial exhibition of Edward Lear’s natural history paintings at Harvard University’s Houghton Library.

The Barnes Endowed Lecture is presented annually in memory of Laura L. Barnes, founder of The Barnes Foundation Arboretum. This lecture will be held at the Ambler Theater, 108 E. Butler, Ave., Ambler, PA. The cost of the lecture is $15 for members and $20 for non-members. Copies of The Natural History of Edward Lear will be available for purchase and Mr. Peck will be available for a book signing following the lecture.
Tributes & Memorial Gifts

The Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following individuals who made tribute and memorial gifts between October 1, 2016 and March 31, 2017.

In memory of J. R. McAllister “Mac” Borie
Evamarie Maloob
J. Randall Rosenstiel
William Scott

In honor of Jeff Clark
Kevin Duffy

In memory of Betty Davis
Toni & Herbert Kenstenbaum
Marylyn & Stephen Leonard
Deborah & Robert Panebianco

In memory of Judith H. Davis
Donna Wells

In honor of Phoebe A. Driscoll’s 85th Birthday
Maryellen Forrest

In memory of Molly Durkin
Florence & Richard Maloumian

In honor of Moses & Susan Feldman
Donna Gunia

In memory of adeline Wachman
Lillian Finnell
Jayne Antonowsky & Deborah Wolfe

In memory of Howard Field
Thomas Pasch

In honor of Jay Flaherty
Katherine Flaherty

In memory of Joseph P. Flanagan III
Lee Laden

In memory of Dr. George Z. Heimbach
Elizabeth W. Heimbach

In memory of Joan Logueino
Elizabeth Osborne & “The Ladybugs”

In memory of Warren Johnson
Felice Kruse
Lynda G. Lewis

In memory of Robert Rodgers, Jr.
Sabra Gatti

In memory of Ronald Pieringer
Joyce M. Arnould
Sandra Beaumont
Patricia Schumacher
Deborah & Robert Panebianco

In memory of Robert Shoeniger
Jennifer & Thomas P. Schultz
Millie & Michael Shoeniger

In memory of Elizabeth F. Somers & Lewis S. Somers, 3rd
Elizabeth & Robert Stutzman

In memory of Arthur Steidl
Elizabeth & Cllland Green
Marlyn & Stephen Leonard
Nancy Olsen
Deborah & Robert Panebianco
Tonia Uffner

In memory of Eileen Lynch
Gretchen Heebner
Toni & Herbert Kenstenbaum
Deborah & Robert Panebianco
Marlyn H. Pollick
Tonia Uffner

In memory of Joan F. McCracken
James C. McCracken

In memory of Ann Mellor
Nicolette Goldfarb
Joanie & Murray Goodman

In memory of Thomas Wait
Sanda Wills

Augusta Leininger
Florence & Richard Maloumian

In memory of Dr. Henry S. “Rusty” Miller, Jr.
Nancy & James Bowman
Mary Buckman
Sahina Gatti

In memory of Ronald Pieringer
Joyce M. Arnould
Sandra Beaumont
Patricia Schumacher
Deborah & Robert Panebianco

In memory of Robert Shoeniger
Jennifer & Thomas P. Schultz
Millie & Michael Shoeniger

In memory of Eileen Lynch
Gretchen Heebner
Toni & Herbert Kenstenbaum
Deborah & Robert Panebianco
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Tonia Uffner

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Lynda G. Lewis

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Sabra Gatti

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Sandra Beaumont
Patricia Schumacher
Deborah & Robert Panebianco

In memory of Robert Shoeniger
Jennifer & Thomas P. Schultz
Millie & Michael Shoeniger

In memory of Elizabeth F. Somers & Lewis S. Somers, 3rd
Elizabeth & Robert Stutzman

In memory of Arthur Steidl
Elizabeth & Cllland Green
Marlyn & Stephen Leonard
Nancy Olsen
Deborah & Robert Panebianco
Tonia Uffner

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Gretchen Heebner
Toni & Herbert Kenstenbaum
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Tonia Uffner

In memory of Joan F. McCracken
James C. McCracken

In memory of Ann Mellor
Nicolette Goldfarb
Joanie & Murray Goodman

In memory of Thomas Wait
Sanda Wills

The Morris Arboretum is grateful to the following individuals who have made a gift to the Paul Meyer and Debbie Rodgers Historic Preservation Endowment Fund in honor of Paul Meyer’s 40 years of service.

Anonymous (2)
Martha & Williams Agate
Jane & Abass Alavi
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J. Kenneth Nimblett

To make a memorial or tribute gift, please visit www.morrisarboretum.org or call (215) 247-5777, ext. 161. You may also send your gift to the address below:

Morris Arboretum
Development Office
180 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19138

Susan & Washburn Oberwager
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Development Office
180 E. Northwestern Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19138
Grab Your Membership Card - and Go!

Your Morris Arboretum membership card offers benefits you may not be aware of. Beyond unlimited visitation to our garden all year long, it’s light and travels easily. A valid membership card gets you in to more than 300 gardens across the country for free or with discounted admission through the Reciprocal Admission Program (RAP). Whether you want to stay closer to home to visit local favorites like Tyler Arboretum or Winterthur, or go further afield, there are so many garden experiences awaiting you. Create new memories with your Morris Arboretum membership card. Then, share your garden experiences with us via email at info@morrisarboretum.org, or on social media, using the following hashtags:

#morrisarboretum  #morrismemberonthego
#morris memberrap  #ahsrap

For a complete list of participating organizations, visit http://www.ahs.org/gardening-programs/rap. Or, you may purchase a hard copy of the RAP Directory at The Shop for just $2.

Morris Arboretum staff member Leslie Crane visited Mendocino Coast Botanical Gardens with her son, James Popov, and his friend Maeve Harris (pictured at left), and used her reciprocal membership privileges to receive free admission.